

# Current Affairs MONTHLY



SEPTEMBER 2022

By  
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For HPAS & Other  
Competitive  
Exam in  
Himachal Pradesh

Prelims

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## NATIONAL NEWS

### 1.1. PRESIDENT OF MALDIVES IBRAHIM MOHAMED SOLIH ARRIVES IN NEW DELHI ON FOUR-DAY VISIT TO INDIA.

- President of Maldives Ibrahim Mohamed Solih arrived in New Delhi on a four-day visit to India.
- He was received by Union Minister Dr Sanjeev Balyan. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold talks with Mr Solih.
- Several agreements are expected to be signed after the talks. Mr Solih is also scheduled to meet President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar called on the Maldivian President.
- In a tweet, Dr Jaishankar said India's Neighbourhood First and Maldives' India First policies are complementary. He added that these policies take the special partnership between India and Maldives forward.

### 1.2. PM MODI HOLDS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT OF MALDIVES IBRAHIM MOHAMED SOLIH IN NEW DELHI; SIX AGREEMENTS EXCHANGED.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of Maldives Ibrahim Mohamed Solih held one on one, restricted and delegation level talks in New Delhi.
- High Commissioner of India to Maldives, Munu Mahawar said many flagship projects were inaugurated and reviewed after the leaders' meeting.
- He said the leaders reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral ties and focused on next steps that can be taken to keep enhancing the ties.
- **Six agreements** were exchanged following the delegation level talks in areas including **cyber security, disaster management, and infrastructure**. The India Maldives development cooperation including **Addu roads** and reclamation, **water and sanitation in 34 islands** and Friday **Mosque restoration projects** was reviewed.
- The High Commissioner said that development cooperation has evolved as a central pillar and large and mid-level projects are being executed which are benefiting the people of Male.
- **Trade** has **grown** tremendously by **31 percent** despite COVID.

### 1.3. COMMEMORATION DAY OF MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MARKS 101ST YEAR ON 2ND AUGUST.

- The Commemoration Day of the Madras Legislative Council falls on the second of August.
- This year 2022 marks the 101st year of the Council, which was abolished in the year 1986 by the then State Government.
- The first election for the Madras Council was held in November 1920 and the first sitting of the Council was inaugurated by the Duke of Connaught on 12th January 1921.
- The Government of India Act of 1935 created a bicameral legislature in the Madras province and the Council eventually became the upper chamber of a bicameral legislature in 1937.
- It was renamed as the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council when the state was renamed as Tamil Nadu in 1969.
- The council was later abolished on 1st November, 1986 by the then Government headed by M.G. Ramachandran.
- Under the Indian Council Act of 1861, the council was given the role as an advisory body. In 1892, the act given some expansive power without elected members.
- The scope for limited election was given by the Morley-Minto Act of 1909.

#### 1.4. GOVT. SETS TARGET OF INCREASING NATURAL GAS IN PRIMARY ENERGY MIX BY 15% BY 2030.

- The Government has set a target of increasing Natural Gas in the primary energy mix by 15 per cent by 2030.
- Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Rameshwar Teli said, **at present**, the use of **Natural Gas** is only **6.3 percent**.
- To increase the Natural Gas usage, Mr. Teli said **initiatives** like the expansion of **National Gas Grid** to 33 thousand 500 kilometres, expansion of **City Gas Distribution network**, setting up of **Liquefied Natural Gas terminals** and allocation of domestic gas to CNG for transport and PNG for domestic purposes are taken.
- He said, by the end of May this year a total of Four thousand 531 CNG stations have been established by the authorised entities.

#### 1.5. PM MODI TO CHAIR NITI AAYOG'S GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the seventh meeting of the Governing Council of Niti Aayog at Rashtrapati Bhawan Cultural Centre in the national capital on 7th August 2022.
- This was the first in-person meeting of the Governing Council since July 2019. The agenda of the meeting includes crop diversification and achieving self-sufficiency in oilseeds and pulses and agri-communities; implementation of the National Education Policy-school education; implementation of the National Education Policy-higher education; and urban governance.
- In the drive toward building a steady, sustainable and inclusive India, the seventh governing council meeting of the government think tank Niti Aayog is expected to pave the way for synergies towards a new era of collaboration and cooperation between Centre and states and union territories.
- As part of preparations for this meeting, the National Conference of Chief Secretaries was held in Dharamshala in June 2022 which was the culmination of the six-month-long rigorous exercise by the Centre and States.
- The conference was chaired by the Prime Minister and attended by the Chief Secretaries of all States and UTs, along with senior officials of the Central and State Governments.
- The statement said that the meeting is particularly important as the country enters Amrit Kaal against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic and in light of India hosting the G20 Presidency and summit next year. The meeting would also lay emphasis on the importance of the Presidency for India for the federal system and the role that states can play in highlighting their progress at the G-20 Platform.
- The governing council comprises the Prime Minister of India; Chief Ministers of all the states and union territories with the legislature; Lt Governors of other UTs; Ex-Officio Members; Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog; Full-Time Members, NITI Aayog; and Union Ministers as Special Invitees.
- Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has boycotted the meeting.

#### 1.6. N KALAISELVI CSIR'S 1ST WOMAN DIRECTOR GENERAL.

- Lithium-powered battery expert N Kalaiselvi has been appointed **first woman Director General** of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (**CSIR**).
- Kalaiselvi, who was heading council lab Central Electrochemical Research Institute, Tamil Nadu, is the first woman chief of the CSIR in the institution's 80 years of history and will lead a network of 37 national laboratories, 39 outreach centres, three innovation complexes and five units with a pan-India presence.
- The CSIR has 3,460 active scientists supported by 4,350 scientific and technical personnel.
- Kalaiselvi's area of research interest includes lithium-powered batteries, a key to the achievement of India's pledge of net zero carbon emissions by 2070 the PM made at the COP26 in Glasgow recently.
- She is expected to lead the transition, with the government mulling changes to the Mines and Minerals Act to permit private players to mine a range of atomic minerals, including lithium.

### 1.7. FIRST FLIGHT OF AKASA AIR FROM MUMBAI TO AHMEDABAD INAUGURATED.

- Union Minister of Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia and Minister of State for Civil Aviation Gen (Retd) V.K Singh inaugurated the First Flight of Akasa Air from Mumbai to Ahmedabad virtually.
- Mr Scindia added that over the last eight years India's Civil Aviation industry has been completely transformed. Under Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik- UDAN scheme, there are 425 routes and the government aims at increasing it to 1000 routes and the number of airports will go up to 100 from 68 airports.
- Akasa Air is the **7th schedule airline** with brand name of SNV Aviation having Corporate Headquarters at Mumbai with Boeing Max - 8 aircraft.
- Akasa Air plans to be a low-cost carrier with single fleet and all economy seats.
- Akasa Air is planning to expand its activities to 72 aircrafts in next five years which will significantly enhance the domestic aviation services in India.

### 1.8. PARLIAMENT PASSES CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 2022.

- Parliament has passed the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill 2022 with the Rajya Sabha with a voice vote. The Lok Sabha had already passed the Bill. The Bill seeks to amend the Central Universities Act, 2009, which provides for establishing central universities in various states.
- It also seeks to convert the **National Rail and Transportation Institute at Vadodara into the Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya which will be a central university.**
- The National Rail and Transportation Institute was declared a deemed university. The Bill provides that Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya will take measures to provide quality teaching, research and skill development in disciplines related to transportation, technology and management.
- Speaking on the Bill, Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw highlighted its importance, saying that the transport sector is an important sector in the economy. He said, railways, highways and waterways infrastructure will be pushed through the Gati Shakti master plan. The Minister said, a talented, well-trained and focused cadre is required to promote the vision of PM Gati Shakti.
- He said, the jurisdiction of the University is not only confined to Gujarat as it will cover the entire country. Mr. Vaishnaw said, Railways has made provision of 166 crore rupees for this University along with additional funds for infrastructure development. He said, over three lakh 50 thousand recruitments have been done in the Railways in the last eight years.

### 1.9. EDUCATION MINISTRY HOLDS MEETING ON NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY, 2020 CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK.

- Ministry of Education held a meeting with senior officials and representatives of all Ministries and Departments of Government of India and important bodies including NCERT, Election Commission of India, ICAR, DRDO, etc, to take forward the process of widespread consultation for the development of the new National Curriculum Framework (NCF) based on the National Education Policy, 2020.
- The meeting was chaired by Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy in Ministry of Education Anita Karwal and focused on how ministries and organisations can contribute in developing a curriculum framework that is responsive and relevant to the developmental needs and interests of learners at different stages of their development.
- In the meeting, the key deliverables of NCF were discussed in detail. It includes, Early Childhood Care and Education, Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, Competency Based Education, Flexibility in Choice of Subjects in Secondary Classes, Reduction of Curriculum to Core Essentials, Reimagining Vocational education, Identification of Core Skills and Content, Inclusive Education, Multilingualism, Integrating Knowledge of India, citizenship, values like-appreciation of national heritage, respect for public property, taking care of elders, spirit of service, needs of Gifted Children, Experiential learning, Integration of arts

and craft, toys, health and well-being, sports and physical education Guidance and Counselling, Community involvement etc.

#### About:

- The Ministry of Human Resource Development formed a committee chaired by Dr K. Kasturirangan for preparing the National Education Policy. The Committee was constituted in June 2017. The Committee submitted its report on May 31, 2019.

#### Curriculum Framework

- Reforms in the framework of the current curriculum of school education are based on the development needs of the students.
- The NEP recommends the 5-3-3-4 pattern explained in the table below:

Years	Stage	Curriculum
5	Foundational	3 years of pre-primary followed by class 1 and 2
3	Preparatory	Classes 3 to 5
3	Middle	Classes 6 to 8
4	Secondary	Classes 9-12

### 1.10. 26 JUDGES APPOINTED TO 6 HIGH COURTS; 127 HC JUDGES APPOINTED SO FAR THIS YEAR.

- Twenty-six judges were appointed to six high courts, bringing the total number of HC judges appointed so far this year to a record 127.
- The previous record was achieved in 2016 when 126 high court judges were appointed.
- Of those elevated as additional judges and judges, 20 were judicial officers and six advocates. While two judges each have been appointed to the high courts of Orissa, Himachal Pradesh and Gauhati, five have been appointed to the Karnataka HC. Six judges have been appointed to the Telangana High Court and nine to the Allahabad HC.

#### How is a High Court Judge Appointed?

- A High Court Judge is appointed by the President of India.
- Article 217 of the Constitution deals with appointment of Judges in High Courts.
- President of India may consult the Governor of the State, the acting Chief Justice of India and Chief Justice of that particular state's High Court.
- A High Court judge is also liable to get transferred to other High Courts. Transfer of judges is done with an aim to ensure proper and just trial for every case fought in the court of law.
- Both appointment and transfers are done based on the recommendations of Collegium.

#### Eligibility Criteria for High Court Judge:

- Given below are the set of eligibility criteria mandatory for the appointment of High Court judges:
- Any of the given qualifications must be fulfilled:
  1. The person should have been a Barrister for more than five years
  2. Has been a civil servant for over 10 years along with serving the Zila court for at least 3 years
  3. A person who has been a pleader for over 10 years in any High Court.
- No judge should be of more than 62 years of age.

### 1.11. WORLD'S HIGHEST SINGLE ARCH RAILWAY BRIDGE- CHENAB RAIL BRIDGE IN J&K GETS GOLDEN JOINT.

- In Jammu and Kashmir, the world's highest rail bridge over the Chenab River in the Kouri area of Reasi district achieved another milestone when the overarch deck of the bridge was completed with a **golden joint**.
- The golden joint shall now pave the way for engineers to lay tracks on the bridge. With tracks over it, Kashmir will be linked with the rest of India via rail network for the first time since Independence.
- According to the chief administrative officer of the USBRL Konkan Railways said, to achieve this feat, we had sought technical expertise from IIT-Roorkee, IIT-Delhi, Indian Institute of Sciences, Bangalore, DRDO, national remote sensing agency, GSI and other agencies.
- This is the highest railway arch in the world. The bridge is 35 meters higher than Eiffel Tower.
- Afcons is building 16 additional railway bridges for Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) in the dangerous terrain of Jammu and Kashmir in addition to the Chenab Bridge.
- The bridge comprises 93 deck segments, each weighing around 85 tonnes, launched simultaneously from both ends of the valley over the massive steel arch and work on joining five segments in full progress on the single line linking Katra (Jammu) with Qazigund (Kashmir), some 75 km away.
- The project is part of the ambitious 272-km long railway line from Udhampur to Baramulla joining Jammu with the Kashmir valley as an all-weather highspeed alternative, named the '**Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project'(USBRL)**.

#### What is the term 'golden joint'?

- The term 'golden joint' was coined by civil engineers. This joint is aptly named the Golden Joint. Launching of the 785 m deck over the Chenab arch bridge was carried out by joining prefabricated portions and then launching them from both ends.
- The golden joint is the last joint of the bridge deck, which connects both sides of the deck at the arch, to make it into a continuous structure. After aligning the two sections of the bridge in place, it will be fastened by means of HSFG (High Strength Friction Grip) bolts.

### 1.12. PM MODI GIVES 5 PLEDGES 'PANCH PRANS' TO FULFIL DREAMS OF COUNTRY IN NEXT 25 YEARS.

- On India's 76th Independence Day Prime Minister Narendra Modi called on the people of India to take "panch pran" (five pledges) for a developed nation and aim to fulfil the dreams of the freedom fighters by the year 2047- the 100th year of India's Independence.
- He mentioned these 'pran' while addressing the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort and talked about the five pledges the country needs to focus on for the next 25 years.

#### The Five Pledges:

1. The first pran is to move forward with bigger resolves and resolve of developed India.
  2. The second pran is to erase all traces of servitude. Even if we see the smallest things of servitude, inside us or nearby us, we have to get rid of them.
  3. The third is to take pride in our legacy.
  4. Four is the strength of unity for our dreams of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'.
  5. The fifth pran is the duties of citizens which include the Prime Minister and the Chief Ministers also.
- This is a big pranshakti for fulfilling the dreams of the country in the next 25 years.

### 1.13. THE PIN CODE TURNS 50 THIS INDEPENDENCE DAY.

- The 75th Independence Day coincides with another milestone in the country's history — it was on August 15, 1972, that the Postal Index Number (PIN) was introduced in India.

#### **Why was the PIN code introduced?**

- According to the Department of Posts, there were 23,344 post offices, primarily in urban areas, in India at the time of Independence. But the country was growing rapidly and the postal network had to keep pace.
- The PIN code was meant to ease the process of mail sorting and delivery in a country where different places, often, have the same or similar names, and letters are written in a wide variety of languages.

#### **How does the PIN code work?**

- The PIN is made up of six digits.
- The first number indicates the postal region — Northern, Eastern, Western, Southern; and number 9, which signifies the Army Postal Service.
- The second number denotes a sub-region,
- The third represents the sorting district.
- The remaining numbers narrow the geography further to the specific post office making the delivery.

#### **The person behind the initiative:**

- The person behind the initiative was Shriram Bhikaji Velankar, additional secretary in the Union Ministry of Communications and a senior member of the Posts and Telegraphs Board.
- Velankar was also a Sanskrit poet of eminence who had been conferred the President's Award for Sanskrit in 1996, three years before he died in Mumbai.
- Velankar was also the chairman of the World Philatelic Exhibition, called Indipex, which was held in New Delhi in 1973 and featured 120 countries.

#### **Some parallel systems followed world over:**

- Globally, in the US, the Zone Improvement Plan (ZIP) code was introduced July 1, 1963, under the aegis of the Postal Service Nationwide Improved Mail Service plan to improve the speed of mail delivery.
- Japan created its postal code address system in July 1968.

### **1.14. DELHI WILL BE THE FIRST IN THE COUNTRY TO BRING A FOOD TRUCK POLICY.**

- Delhi will be the first in the country to bring a food truck policy on the lines of US and the UK.
- The government is in the process of finalizing the hotspots where food trucks will be allowed to park for the public.
- Even though business related to food trucks is not new to India, no state in the country has, however, made any policy to streamline this business and increase employment opportunities in this sector.
- He asserted that Delhi will be the first to do so on the lines of US and UK.
- In its Rozgaar Budget, Delhi govt. has announced various projects that can foster growth of the economy and generate 20 lakh jobs in the next five years.
- Of them, Delhi Shopping Festival and Food Truck Policy are two priority projects which will be launched soon.
- While the shopping festival will be a big opportunity for traders, shopkeepers, tourism and hospitality industry to increase their business and revenue.
- The Food Truck Policy will open avenues for growth of the capital's night time economy.
- The Delhi Shopping Festival which is scheduled to be held from January 28 to February 26, 2023.

### **1.15. GOVT PREPARES DRAFT INDIAN PORTS BILL, 2022 TO CONSOLIDATE, AMEND THE LAWS RELATING TO PORTS.**

- The government has prepared the draft Indian Ports Bill, 2022 to consolidate and amend the laws relating to ports.

- The draft bill seeks to repeal and replace the existing the Indian Ports Act, 1908. Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has issued Draft Indian Ports Bill, 2022 for Stakeholder Consultation.
- The proposed bill will homogenize and streamline the development of the maritime sector, along with, promoting ease of doing business by eliminating unnecessary delays, disagreements and defining responsibilities.
- It will incorporate State Maritime Boards in the national framework.
- India has a 7,500-kilometre-long coastline, 14,500 kilometer of potentially navigable waterways and strategic location on key international maritime trade routes.
- About 95 per cent of India's trade by volume and 65 per cent by value is done through maritime transport facilitated by ports.

#### **1.16. UNION MINISTER NITIN GADKARI UNVEILS INDIA'S FIRST E-DOUBLE DECKER AIR-CONDITIONED BUS IN MUMBAI.**

- Highways and Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari said that ethics, economy, ecology and environment are the four important pillars of the country. Mr. Gadkari said this while unveiling India's first E-Double Decker air-conditioned bus in Mumbai.
- Switch mobility limited a subsidiary of Ashok Leyland has manufactured this unique electric double-decker bus called as Switch EiV 22. The bus is equipped with the latest technology, ultra-modern design and highest safety and best in class comfort features.
- Stressing on prioritising pollution-free country, he said 35 percent pollution in the country takes place because of petrol and diesel. He underlined that the size of the automobile industry is 7.5 lakh crore, and it is an important industry for the country as it has huge employment potential.
- Besides, he mentioned that automobile industry gives highest GST to state and central governments. He pointed out at import of crude oil as a main challenge which country faces at present. Mr Gadkari highlighted the most important thing for India is knowledge is power and conversion of knowledge into wealth is future.

#### **1.17. 17TH PRAVASI BHARTIYA DIVAS 2023 TO BE HELD AT INDORE.**

- The 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas 2023 will be held at Indore in January next year.

##### **About**

- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated on 9th January every year since 2003 to mark the contribution of Overseas Indian community in the development of India. January 9 was chosen as the day to celebrate this occasion since it was on this day in 1915 that Mahatma Gandhi, the greatest Pravasi, returned to India from South Africa, led India's freedom struggle and changed the lives of Indians forever.
- Since 2015, its format has been revised to celebrate the PBD once every two years and to hold theme-based PBD Conferences during the intervening period with participation from overseas diaspora experts, policy makers and stakeholders.
- These conventions provide a platform to the overseas Indian community to engage with the government and people of the land of their ancestors for mutually beneficial activities.
- These conventions are also very useful in networking among the overseas Indian community residing in various parts of the world and enable them to share their experiences in various fields.

#### **1.18. UNION MoS FOR TEXTILES DARSHANA JARDOSH INAUGURATES SILK MARK EXPO IN NEW DELHI.**

- Union Minister of State for Textiles Darshana Jardosh inaugurated the Silk Mark Expo in New Delhi. The expo is being organised by the Silk Mark Organisation of India under Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles



- The Silk Mark Expo which will run till 28th of this month, is aimed at protecting the interests of not only the silk consumers, but all the stakeholders of silk value chain.
- These include farmers, reelers, twistors manufacturers and traders of pure silk. This time, 39 exhibitors from 12 states are participating in the expo.

**About**

- Central Silk Board (CSB) is a Statutory body established in 1948 by an Act of Parliament.
- It is working under the administrative control of Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.
- Address of headquarter of the Central Silk Board is at Bangalore.

**Vision**

- See India emerge as the leader in the world market for silk.

**Mission**

- Make continuous efforts in Research and Development and Technology Transfer
- To create greater opportunities for gainful employment and improved levels of income .
- in sericulture through spread of scientific sericulture practices
- To improve productivity in all stages of silk production
- Strengthen levels of efficiency through a commitment to quality.

**1.19. SC STRIKES DOWN PROVISION OF 1988 BENAMI LAW**

- The Supreme Court has struck down one of the provisions of the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act of 1988, which provides for the punishment of a maximum jail term of three years or a fine or both for those indulging in benami' transactions.
- The apex court termed the provision unconstitutional on the ground of being manifestly arbitrary. A bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justices C T Ravikumar and Hima Kohli said.
- The court hold section 3(2) of the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988 as unconstitutional.
- The verdict came on the appeal of the Centre challenging the Calcutta High Court judgement in which it was held that the amendment made in the 1988 Act in 2016 would be applicable with prospective effect.

**1.20. UNION HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH ATTENDS FIRST CONVOCATION OF NATIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCE UNIVERSITY IN GANDHINAGAR, GUJARAT.**

- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah attended the first convocation of the National Forensic Science University (NFSU) in Gandhinagar.
- More than one thousand students were conferred master's degrees during the ceremony. He also laid the foundation stone for the new southern campus of the University.
- The minister also inaugurated the Training and Skill Development Centre, an International Guest house at NFSU, and three centres of Excellence in Cyber Security, DNA Forensic and Investigative and Forensic Psychology.

**About National Forensic Science University (NFSU)**

- National Forensic Sciences University, the erstwhile Gujarat Forensic Sciences University is the brain child of Govt of Gujarat.
- It was established by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri. Narendra Modiji, then Chief Minister of Gujarat in 2009 with a sole objective of creating professional experts in the field of Forensic sciences.
- The National Forensic Sciences University with the status of an Institution of National Importance is the world's first and only University dedicated to Forensic, behavioral, cybersecurity, digital forensics, and allied Sciences.
- It was established by the Government of India through Act, 2020 (32 of 2020) with the objective of fulfilling the acute shortage against the increasing demand for forensic experts in the country and around the world.

## INTERNATIONAL

### 1.21. JAPAN PM TO ANNOUNCE NEW U.N. FUND TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO VISIT ATOMIC BOMBING SITES.

- Prime Minister Fumio Kishida is set to announce the creation of a \$10 million (¥1.33 billion) U.N. fund to encourage young people around the world to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki, where atomic bombs were dropped in 1945.
- PM Kishida will detail the plan during a speech at a review conference of the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.
- He will also express his desire for early enactment of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and host summit-level talks in September geared toward that purpose.
- Kishida is scheduled to attend the conference during a three-day trip to the United States, becoming the first Japanese prime minister to do so.

### 1.22. MYANMAR EXTENDS EMERGENCY BY 6 MONTHS.

- The Military govt of Myanmar has extended the state of emergency by 6 months till February 2023.
- Head of the military government General Min Aung Hlaing said that elections could be held only when the country was 'stable and peaceful'. General Hlaing requested the National Defence and Security Council to 'allow him to serve for an additional 6 months', which was approved by the acting president Myint Swe.
- The state of emergency in Myanmar was first declared in February 2021.
- General Hlaing said that the Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
- The Election Commission has organised four meetings with the political parties during the last 18 months for the review of the Election Law and election system.
- The military deposed the elected government headed by State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi February last year, immediately after the national elections in which Suu Kyi's party National League for Democracy (NLD) won a massive majority.
- Accusing Aung San Suu kyi of mismanagement and fraud in the elections, the military government had promised to hold elections within a year.
- However, it later extended the time for lifting the emergency. In his broadcast, head of the military government Gen. Hlaing did not give any specific date for holding elections.

### 1.23. KHULNA-MONGLA RAILWAY LINE TO OPEN BY DECEMBER: BANGLADESH RAILWAY MINISTER.

- Bangladesh Railway Minister Md. Nurul Islam Sujan has said that the Khulna-Mongla railway line will become operational by the end of this year.
- Minister Sujan said most of the work of around **45 kilometres railway line** has been completed.
- The **Mongla-Khulna railway line is funded by the government of India Line of Credit (LOC)**. The project is scheduled to be over by the end of this year.
- The Khulna-Mongla railway project is part of the first Line of Credit extended by India to Bangladesh in 2010.
- According to the **IRCON International Ltd**, a total 31 bridges and 108 culverts have been built for the train link.
- The **Rupsha bridge** was completed on 25 June this year. The Minister said that the main challenge in the project was the construction of the Rupsha bridge which has been completed now.
- Outlining the benefit of the Khulna-Mongla line, Nurul Islam Sujan said that it will lead to enhanced trade through the Mongla port to foreign destinations.

- Speaking about other railway projects, the minister said that the construction work of the **Padma Bridge Railway project from Dhaka to Bhanga** will be complete by June 2023 after which the **Kushtia-Khulna railway communication** will commence.

#### **1.24. IOCL SIGNS MOU WITH BANGLADESH FOR EMERGENCY SUPPLY OF PETROLEUM GOODS.**

- The Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) on signed an MoU with the Bangladesh Roads and Highways department in Dhaka for the emergency supply of petroleum goods via Bangladesh territory to India.
- This is an interim set up to facilitate urgent supply of petroleum products due to damage caused by the flood in Assam this year.
- The petroleum tankers will enter from Meghalaya and will go to Tripura crossing through the Bangladesh territory.
- The IOCL will bear all the administrative fees, charges and local taxes including road usage fee for use of the Bangladeshi territory.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) of Bangladesh in a statement said that the MoU has been signed in a spirit of good neighbourly relations to allow Indian vehicles for transportation of the fuel from Assam to Tripura by Road which has been severely disrupted due to the recent floods in Assam and Tripura.

#### **1.25. US SENATE APPROVES FINLAND AND SWEDEN'S ACCESSION TO NATO.**

- The United States Senate approved Finland and Sweden's accession to NATO. The vote on easily surpassed the two-thirds majority needed to back the ratification of the accession documents, with 95 Senators voting in support.
- US President Joe Biden in a statement said that this historic vote sends an important signal of the sustained, bipartisan US commitment to NATO.
- He said, it is also to ensuring the Alliance is prepared to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.
- The Nordic countries, which had long maintained neutrality, launched a bid to join the 30-member alliance in light of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- Earlier, France's National Assembly voted in favor of Finland and Sweden's NATO memberships. The French Senate had also approved it two weeks ago.
- Several countries, including Germany, Canada and Italy, have already approved the ratification.
- All 30 NATO member states must approve the accession protocols.

#### **1.26. SINGAPORE'S PADANG FROM WHERE NETAJI MADE 'DELHI CHALO!' CALL TO BE DECLARED NATIONAL MONUMENT OF SINGAPORE.**

- Singapore's iconic green site Padang from where Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose gave the slogan of 'Delhi Chalo' in July 1943, will be declared a National Monument of Singapore on the city state's National Day.
- The iconic site will be the first green, open space to join a list of 74 other national monuments of Singapore.
- According to the National Heritage Board (NHB), the monument will be preserved and accorded the highest level of protection in Singapore under the Preservation of Monuments Act in view of its strong national, historical and social significance.
- The historic site is associated with key milestones in Singapore's history, including the victory parade celebrating the formal surrender of the Japanese in Singapore on September 12, 1945; the victory rally of the first fully elected Legislative Assembly on June 3, 1959; the installation of Yusof Ishak as the first Malayan-born Yang di-Pertuan Negara (head of state) and the unveiling of National Symbols on December 3, 1959 as well as the inaugural National Day Parade on August 9, 1966.

- The Padang is also one of Singapore's oldest spaces for public recreation and celebrations, and has been hosting sporting events from the early colonial period. Professor Rajesh Rai, Head, South Asian Studies at the National University of Singapore, elaborated on the Padang's link to Indian National Army (INA).

### **1.27. RUSSIA TEMPORARILY SUSPENDS ON-SITE INSPECTIONS OF STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS UNDER ARMS CONTROL TREATY ' NEW START'.**

- Russia has temporarily suspended on-site inspections of its strategic nuclear weapons, under an arms control treaty known as New START.
- The Russian foreign ministry in a statement said, the US was seeking advantages and had deprived Russia of the right to carry out inspections on US territory. It also said, US sanctions imposed on Russia over Ukraine had changed conditions between the countries.
- The treaty came into force in 2011. It is the last remaining arms reduction agreement between the two countries. It caps at 1,550 the number of long-range nuclear warheads that each country can deploy.
- The suspension comes a week after US President Joe Biden said that US was ready to work on new nuclear arms deal with Russia. The current one will expire in 2026.

### **1.28. INDIA-UK TRADE SET TO DOUBLE BY 2030:**

- Trade between India and the UK is expected to double by 2030 driven by the proposed free trade pact, investment in technology, diversification of global supply chains and ease of doing business.
- India's trade in goods and services with the UK increased to USD 31.34 billion in 2022 from USD 19.51 billion in 2015.
- The second edition of the Britain Meets India Report 2022, launched by Grant Thornton Bharat in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), supported by the UK's Department of International Trade, also revealed that 618 UK companies have been identified in India that together employ approximately 4.66 lakh people and have a combined turnover of Rs 3,634.9 billion.
- "The UK remained the sixth-largest investor in India, with a cumulative investment of approximately USD 31.92 billion in 2000-22. This constituted around 5.4 per cent of the total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India," according to the report.
- In June, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal expressed hope that the free trade agreement between India and the United Kingdom will be concluded by Diwali.
- "The FTA is also expected to result in significant benefits for both countries through tariff concessions on alcoholic beverages and the movement of professionals," the report said, adding that the proposed pact is expected to boost Indian exports in labour-intensive sectors such as leather, textile, jewellery, processed agri-products and marine products, IT/ITES, education, pharma and healthcare (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy).
- According to the report, the UK is likely to look at reducing tariffs on products such as apples, UK-manufactured medical devices and machinery.
- "The report has highlighted several new emerging sectors and I hope we will derive qualitative outcomes that nurture opportunities for companies in India and the UK.
- "Trade between India and the UK is expected to double by 2030 from current levels - based on dynamic connections between people of both countries, investment in technology, diversification of global supply chains and overall ease of doing business," said Vishesh C Chandiok, CEO, Grant Thornton Bharat.

### **1.29. KUWAIT NAMES FIRST AMBASSADOR TO IRAN SINCE 2016.**

- Kuwait has appointed an ambassador to Iran. It comes after more than six years after Kuwait recalled its top envoy to Tehran in solidarity with Saudi Arabia after it severed ties with the Islamic Republic in 2016.

- Ambassador Bader Abdullah Al-Munaikh handed his credentials to Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian in Tehran.
- Kuwait's Foreign Ministry confirmed that Munaikh was appointed envoy to Iran.
- Iran already has an ambassador in Kuwait. The move comes as Saudi Arabia works to improve its ties with Iran.
- Riyadh broke off ties with Tehran in January 2016 after Iranian protesters stormed the Saudi embassy in Iran after Saudi Arabia executed a prominent Shi'ite cleric.

### **1.30. CHINESE SPY VESSEL YUAN WANG 5 ARRIVES IN SRI LANKA DESPITE INDIA, US CONCERNS.**

- The controversial Chinese research ship Yuan Wang 5 arrived and docked at Sri Lanka's Hambantota Port.
- The vessel is capable of tracking satellites and intercontinental missiles.
- The research and survey vessel, which has been dubbed as 'spy ship' was earlier scheduled to dock at the Chinese-leased Hambantota Port on August 11.
- But after India raised its concerns, Sri Lanka confirmed that it has communicated to China to defer the visit of the Yuan Wang 5 vessel to Hambantota Port.
- India had expressed its security concerns over the docking of the vessel at the Sri Lankan port as it was shown as a research vessel with the capability of mapping the ocean bed, which is critical to anti-submarine operations of the Chinese Navy.
- The ship could conduct satellite research in the north western part of the Indian Ocean region, prompting security concerns for India.
- Designated as a research and survey vessel, Yuan Wang 5 was built in 2007 and has a carrying capacity of 11,000 tonnes.
- Hambantota Port, located around 250 km from Colombo was built with high-interest Chinese loans.
- The Sri Lankan government struggled to repay the debt they had taken from China following which the port was handed over to the Chinese on a 99-year lease.

### **1.31. INDIA TO HANDOVER DORNIER AIRCRAFT TO SRI LANKA ON ITS 76TH INDEPENDENCE DAY.**

- India on the occasion of its 76th Independence Day will hand over maritime surveillance aircraft Dornier 228 to Sri Lanka on a gratis basis for two years.
- The aircraft is being provided for an interim period of two years till a plane being manufactured in India for Sri Lanka is ready. The aircraft comes as a sequel to the dialogue between India and Sri Lanka that took place on January 9, 2018 in New Delhi, when the Sri Lankan government sought the possibility of obtaining two Dornier Reconnaissance Aircraft from India.
- Notably, handing over of the Dornier aircraft by India comes a day before the Chinese ship 'Yuan Wang 5' will dock at the southern port of Hambantota.
- Sri Lanka's Foreign Affairs Minister confirmed that the Chinese vessel 'Yuan Wang-5', widely believed to be a spy ship, has been given clearance to arrive at Hambantota Port on August 16, 2022.
- Hambantota port, located around 250 kms from Colombo was built with high-interest Chinese loans. The Sri Lankan government struggled to repay the debt they had taken from China following which the port was handed over to the Chinese on a 99-year lease.
- The Indian Naval Dornier (INDO – 228) is basically a Short Take-Off and Landing (STOL), multirole light transport aircraft used by the Indian Navy for electronic warfare missions, maritime surveillance, disaster relief and other work with a turboprop twin-engine, produced since 1981.
- The Sri Lankan Air Force intends to effectively employ the Dornier aircraft specifically to conduct Maritime and Coastal Surveillance Operations within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), Search and Rescue Operations (SAR), Casualty Evacuation (CASEVAC) and Maritime Pollution Monitoring and Control within

Sri Lankan Search and Rescue Region (SRR) to attain SLAF ultimate vision of “Ensuring the National Security through Effective Employment of Airpower” within Sri Lankan Airspace.

### 1.32. NASA’S NEW MOON ROCKET ARRIVES AT LAUNCH PAD AHEAD OF DEBUT FLIGHT.

- NASA's giant new SLS rocket arrived at its launchpad in Cape Canaveral ahead of a planned flight to the Moon in less than two weeks.
- It will be the maiden voyage of the Artemis program -- America's quest to return humans to the Moon for the first time since the last Apollo mission in 1972.
- **Artemis 1** is aiming to send an uncrewed spacecraft around the moon using a combination of the never-flown Space Launch System rocket, along with the once-flown Orion spacecraft.
- It will propel the Orion crew capsule into orbit around the Moon, and the spacecraft will remain in space for 42 days before returning to Earth.
- Starting in 2024, astronauts will travel aboard Orion for the same trip, and the following year, at the earliest, Americans will once again set foot on the Moon.
- The SLS rocket, in development for more than a decade, is 98 meters (322 feet) tall.
- The Orion capsule will fly to the Moon and 64,000 kilometers (40,000 miles) beyond it -- further than any previous crewed spacecraft.
- On the way back through Earth's atmosphere, traveling at 40,000 km per hour (25,000 mph), Orion's thermal shield will have to withstand a temperature that is half that of the surface of the sun.
- Liftoff for the Artemis 1 mission is scheduled for August 29 at 8:33 am (1233 GMT). If it has to be postponed due to bad weather, the backup dates are September 2 and 5.
- After the 42-day trip, the capsule is supposed to splash down in the Pacific and be picked up by a US Navy vessel.
- In 2024, an Artemis 2 mission is scheduled to take astronauts up to orbit the Moon but without landing on it and Artemis 3, a mission scheduled for 2025 at the earliest.
- The last time people walked on the Moon was with the Apollo 17 mission in 1972.
- While the Apollo program featured only white male astronauts, NASA says the Artemis missions will land the first woman and first person of color on the Moon.

#### About

- NASA’s Artemis mission is touted as the **next generation of lunar exploration**, and is named after the **twin sister of Apollo from Greek mythology**.
- Artemis is also the goddess of the moon.
- It is the **first in a series of increasingly complex missions** that will enable **human exploration to the Moon and Mars**.
- **Space Launch System (SLS) rocket:** It is the most powerful rocket in the world — and travels 2,80,000 miles from the earth for over four to six weeks during the course of the mission.

### 1.33. INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT FORUM (ITF)

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, was apprised of the signing of Contract between the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), France on behalf of the International Transport Forum and the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), India to support the International Transport Forum (ITF) activities on the Indian Transport Sector.
- The Contract was signed on 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2022.

#### The activities to be carried out under this Contract will lead to:

- New scientific results
- New policy insights

- Capacity building through increase scientific interaction
- Identification of technology options for decarbonization of transport sector in India.

#### About

- The International Transport Forum at the OECD is an intergovernmental organisation with 64 member countries.
- It acts as a think tank for transport policy and organises the Annual Summit of transport ministers.
- ITF is the only global body that covers all transport modes. The ITF is administratively integrated with the OECD, yet politically autonomous.

#### 1.34. GREECE EXITS EU'S 'ENHANCED SURVEILLANCE' FRAMEWORK

- Greece has announced that it has exited the European Union's enhanced surveillance framework. Country's Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis made this announcement.
- Mr. Mitsotakis said, it ends 12 years of pain and allows the country greater freedom in policymaking. EU officials had confirmed yesterday's exit earlier this month, saying Athens had delivered on the bulk of its commitments.
- Greece was hit with waves of pension cuts, spending constraint, tax increases and bank controls after it was forced to seek its first bailout in 2010. The economy shrank 25 per cent during the bailouts.
- Greek economic developments and policy have been monitored under the framework since 2018, after Athens exited three international bailouts, totaling more than 260 billion euros, from the European Union and the IMF between 2010 and 2015.

#### 1.35. OCEAN SAILING EXPEDITION ON NSV TARINI TO MAURITIUS.

- Cmde Sanjay Panda Commanding Officer, INS Mandovi flagged off a sailing expedition from Goa to Port Louis, Mauritius at early hours of 20 Aug 22. The expedition is being undertaken by a crew of six (incl three women officers), onboard INSV Tarini.
- Covering a distance of almost 2500nm (approx 4500 km) one way, the crew, over a period of 20 - 21 days is expected to face extreme weather and rough sea conditions of monsoons.
- In addition to sailing in these conditions the crew will also be undertaking boat upkeep, machinery routines and preparing their meals. The passage would be nonstop once they leave the Indian shores.
- The Indian Navy has six ocean going Indian Naval Sailing Vessels (INSVs) viz Mhadei, Tarini, Bulbul, Hariyal, Kadalpura and Neelkanth in her inventory.

#### 1.36. BANGLADESH GOVT DECIDES TO RESCHEDULE OFFICE TIMINGS TO SAVE ELECTRICITY IN COUNTRY

- The government of Bangladesh has decided to reschedule the office timings to save electricity in the country. Briefing media after the regular Cabinet meeting in Dhaka on Monday, Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam announced that all government and autonomous offices will function from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. from Wednesday, August 24. The banks will remain open from 9 a.m. to 4 a.m. At the same time, the schools will now have a 5-day week.
- The Cabinet Secretary also announced that government offices and autonomous institutions have been asked to minimise the consumption of electricity by removing curtains to allow natural light and air as well as reduce the use of air-conditioning. Khandker Anwarul Islam said that rescheduled timings will also help in reducing traffic jams by distributing the flow of vehicles during the working days.
- The new set of instructions came in line with government efforts to reduce the electricity consumption and save foreign exchange revenue in the country. Earlier, the government had directed the shops, shopping malls and kitchen markets to close by 8 p.m. to save energy.

### 1.37. TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN MULTI MODAL LOGISTICS PARKS UNDER BHARATMALA PARIYOJNA SIGNED.

- Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal and Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways V K Singh witnessed signing of tripartite agreement for swift development of modern Multi Modal Logistics Parks MMLP under Bharatmala Pariyojna across the country.
- The **objective** of the agreement is to centralize freight consolidation and reduce logistics cost from 14 per cent to less than 10 per cent of GDP at par with International Standards.
- The tripartite agreement was signed by National Highways Logistics Management Limited NHLML, Inland Waterways Authority of India IWAI and Rail Vikas Nigam Limited RVNL.
- MMLP will be a freight handling facility with rail and road accessibility, comprising of container terminals, cargo terminals (bulk, break-bulk), warehouses, cold storage, facilities for mechanised material handling and value-added services such as customs clearance with bonded storage yards, quarantine zones, testing facilities and warehousing management services etc. along with other associated facilities.

### 1.38. I&B MINISTER ANURAG THAKUR LAUNCHES AZADI QUEST APP.

- Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur launched 'Azadi Quest', a series of online educational mobile games developed in collaboration with Zynga India
- Azadi Quest is a set of online games designed for players of all ages for interactive learning with fun gameplay.
- The Initiative is inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to 'Engage, Entertain and Educate' the people through toys and games. On the occasion, Publications Division and Zynga India have signed an MoU to mark year-long partnership to commemorate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' through series of mobile games.
- Zynga is a global leader in interactive entertainment and it is headquartered in California
- Mr Thakur said, gaming sector has grown by 28 per cent in 2021. He said, the number of online gamers has increased to 40 crores last year and expected to touch 45 crores by 2023.
- The first game in the series is Azadi Quest: Match 3 Puzzle, a simple and easy-to-play casual game presenting the players with the colorful journey of India's independence from 1857 to 1947.
- As players progress through the gameplay, spread across 495 levels they can collect 75 trivia cards, each showcasing key moments in history. While Azadi Quest- Heroes of Bharat is about the heroes of India's independence.
- Launched in English and Hindi, for android and iOS devices in India, the games will be available globally in September 2022.

### 1.39. CENTRE SIGNS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT WITH CDRI, ENABLES INTERNATIONAL STATUS.

- The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and the Government of India (GoI) signed a headquarters agreement in New Delhi.
- The agreement will enable the status of an 'Independent and International Legal Entity' for CDRI.
- The agreement was signed by Amit Prothi, Director General, CDRI and Noor Rahman Sheikh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, and will enable the institution to pursue functions internationally with all rights, immunities, and privileges, as per the United Nations (Privileges & Immunities) Act, 1947.

#### About

- The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) is a partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector,



and knowledge institutions that aims to promote the resilience of new and existing infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks in support of sustainable development.

- CDRI promotes rapid development of resilient infrastructure to respond to the Sustainable Development Goals' imperatives of expanding universal access to basic services, enabling prosperity and decent work.

**The following are CDRI's strategic priorities:**

- **Technical Support and Capacity-building:** This includes disaster response and recovery support; innovation, institutional and community capacity-building assistance; and standards and certification.
- **Research and Knowledge Management:** This includes collaborative research; global flagship reports; and a global database of infrastructure and sector resilience.
- **Advocacy and Partnerships:** This includes global events and initiatives; marketplace of knowledge financing and implementation agencies; and dissemination of knowledge products.

#### **1.40. AAI, SWEDEN'S LFV AIR NAVIGATION SERVICES JOIN HANDS FOR DEVELOPING NEXT GENERATION SUSTAINABLE AVIATION TECHNOLOGY.**

- Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Sweden's LFV Air Navigation Services have joined hands for developing and operationalizing the next generation sustainable aviation technology to explore smart aviation solutions.
- AAI and Sweden's LFV signed a Memorandum of Understanding today in New Delhi in this regard. Civil Aviation Ministry informed that the MoU will pave the way for bilateral exchange of aviation knowledge, expertise and technology transfer between the two countries.
- It will also allow the Indian companies to accelerate growth while leveraging Swedish innovation and expertise. MoU aims to expand technical cooperation in airports and support the development of a safe, secure, sustainable and efficient aviation sector.
- On the occasion, Chairman of Airports Authority of India, Sanjeev Kumar expressed confidence that the mutual exchange in civil aviation between AAI and LFV Sweden will go a long way in building and operationalization of next generation smart and sustainable aviation technology.
- Ambassador of Sweden in India, Klas Molin said, he is looking forward to seeing how the MoU can foster more opportunities for Sweden and India to explore climate-smart solutions within the aviation sector.

#### **1.41. INDIA VOTES IN FAVOUR OF PROPOSAL SEEKING TO ALLOW UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY TO ADDRESS UNSC VIRTUALLY.**

- India was among the 13 countries who voted in favour of a proposal seeking to allow Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to address the United Nations Security Council virtually.
- As the UNSC meeting began, the Russian ambassador to the United Nations Vassily A Nebenzia requested a procedural vote concerning the Ukrainian president's participation in the meeting through video conference.
- Russia voted against while China abstained from voting. The result of the voting was 13 was in favour, one vote against, and one abstention. The proposal to invite Volodymyr Zelenskyy, President of Ukraine to participate in today's meeting via VTC, has been adopted.
- Earlier, India announced that it is ready to dispatch its 12th consignment of humanitarian aid to Ukraine consisting of twenty-six types of medicines on a special request from the Ukrainian side. Addressing a United Nations Security Council briefing, the country's.
- Permanent Representative to the UN, Ruchira Kamboj said that the humanitarian aid includes 'hemostatic bandages' which are meant to stem the bleeding of deep wounds in children and adults and are included in the aid on the specific request by the Ukrainian side as the members meet to mark 6 months since the beginning of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

- This comes as the Ukrainian authorities by requested assistance from the govt of India to tackle the looming crisis in the country.
- The ambassador said that India's approach will be to promote dialogue and diplomacy with an aim to end the conflict to mitigate the economic challenges emerging from the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine seeking an early resolution.

#### **1.42. VENEZUELA, COLOMBIA STARTS TO REBUILD RELATIONS; MAY REOPEN BORDER BETWEEN COUNTRIES.**

- Venezuela and Colombia have dispatched ambassadors to each other's capitals yesterday to rebuild relations between the two countries that have been broken for more than three years.
- Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro appointed former Foreign Minister Felix Plasencia as his country's next ambassador to Colombia two weeks ago.
- On other hand, the new Colombian ambassador, Armando Benedetti, was welcomed in the Venezuelan capital of Caracas by Deputy Foreign Minister Rander Pena Ramirez, as media reported.
- According to reports, the normalization process will also include the full reopening of the border. The borders have remained closed to vehicles. The relationship between the two South American neighbors soured during the 2015 migrant crisis.
- In 2019, Colombia's former President Ivan Duque cut off ties with Caracas altogether after refusing to recognize Maduro's election. Embassies and consulates in both countries were closed, while flights between the two countries were also grounded.

#### **1.43. WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORG REMOVES CHINA'S 'NINE-DASH LINE' AFTER VIETNAM'S REQUEST.**

- World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has removed the "nine-dash line" from a heatwave map posted on its Facebook page.
- UN organization edited its post about the ongoing heatwaves in China and removed the "nine-dash line" while only showing the mainland part of the country.
- This call was taken after Vietnam had asked WMO to remove the infamous nine-dash line to respect its sovereignty in the East Sea.
- Vietnam Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Le Thi Thu Hang called for WMO's attention on the matter and dismissed the "so-called nine-dash line."
- Vietnam has repeatedly dismissed the so-called nine-dash line as well as other maritime statements that go against international laws and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982).
- The Foreign Ministry spokesperson said nations and organizations around the world must "remove and edit unsuitable content" that violates Vietnam's sovereignty.
- The nine-dash line, at various times also referred to as the ten-dash line and the eleven-dash line has been used by China to illegally claim huge swathes of the South China Sea, known in Vietnam as the East Sea.
- Beijing's self-claimed line has been internationally condemned and rejected as it has no legal basis internationally.
- With the growing assertiveness of China in the South China Sea region, the discontent of South East Asian countries has amplified.
- Owing to Beijing's imperialistic attitude in the region, the resentment in these ASEAN countries has been on the rise since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Writing for Inside over, Italian expert Federico Giuliani contended that there are reasons for South East Asian countries to be wary of China as Beijing stepped up its hegemony in the region and mounted pressure on littoral countries.

- According to Giuliani, the grievances of the ASEAN nations are not only limited to their sovereignty. Chinese encroachment on the vast reserves of natural gas and oil strips them of valuable marine resources that can boost their economic development.
- The author points out how Beijing issues direct threats of military attack if ASEAN countries do not stop their activities of oil drilling or exploration. China sends its vessels across the South China Sea, often violating maritime boundaries, and takes over disputed islands to build military bases.
- Chinese aeroplanes also carry out incursions in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of these nations
- It has even threatened countries like Malaysia, Indonesia, and Vietnam for even carrying out economic activities such as drilling in their own maritime territories that are authorised by The Hague's international arbitration court,
- Exerts believes that Beijing is fast losing trust among the South East Asian countries.

#### **1.44. TWO U.S. NAVY WARSHIPS SAILED THROUGH INTERNATIONAL WATERS IN THE TAIWAN STRAIT.**

- Two U.S. Navy warships sailed through international waters in the Taiwan Strait, the first such operation since a visit to Taiwan by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi enraged China which regards the island as its territory.

##### **About:**

- Pelosi's Taiwan trip in early August infuriated China which saw it as a U.S. attempt to interfere in its internal affairs.
- China subsequently launched military drills near the island which have since continued. China has never ruled out using force to bring Taiwan under its control.
- The Taiwan Strait is a 180-kilometer-wide strait separating the island of Taiwan and continental Asia. The narrowest part is 130 km wide.
- The strait is part of the South China Sea and connects to the East China Sea to the north.
- Former names of the Taiwan Strait include the Formosa Strait or Strait of Formosa, from a dated name for Taiwan; and the Strait of Fokien or Fujian, from the Chinese province forming the strait's western shore.

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## DAYS TO REMEMBER

### 1.45. INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP DAY 2022 OBSERVED GLOBALLY ON 30 JULY.

#### Significance

- **The International Day of Friendship** is an initiative that follows on the proposal made by UNESCO defining the Culture of Peace as a set of values, attitudes and behaviours that reject violence and endeavour to prevent conflicts by addressing their root causes with a view to solving problems.

#### History

- The International Day of Friendship was proclaimed in **2011** by the **UN General Assembly** with the idea that friendship between peoples, countries, cultures and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities.
- The resolution places emphasis on involving young people, as future leaders, in community activities that include different cultures and promote international understanding and respect for diversity.

### 1.46. WORLD WIDE WEB DAY: AUGUST 1

- World Wide Web Day is observed on **1st of August** every year.
- The day is marked in honour of the ability of people to browse information freely using the Web. The Web is the tool that billions across the globe use every moment to interact with the global system of interconnected computer systems that is the Internet.
- The **WWW** was **created** by English computer scientist **Tim Berners-Lee in 1989**, while he was working for the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Switzerland.
- **Berners-Lee** developed the essentials of the web - HTTP, HTML, the WorldWideWeb browser, a server, and the first website - while working at the organisation.
- The day aims to highlight the importance of the web in improving people's lives by facilitating communication, access to information and resources, education and empowerment.

### 1.47. 8TH NATIONAL HANDLOOM DAY CELEBRATED IN MANIPUR.

- In Manipur, the Directorate of Handloom & Textile celebrated the 8th National Handloom Day on 7th August at the City Convention Centre, Imphal. During the occasion, the State Textiles, Commerce & Industry Minister Nemcha Kipgen launched the Cluster Development Program in Manipur.
- The State Minister also distributed State Awards to outstanding handloom weavers and handicrafts artisans in recognition of their contribution to handloom and handicrafts in the State.
- The financial assistance of Rupees 2 lakh to Rupees four lakh forty thousand were handed over to State and National Awardees for producing their award-winning items on a commercial scale.
- The three Padma Shree Awardees were also felicitated and handed over with a cash award of Rupees one lakh and a shawl each.
- Minister Nemcha Kipgen said that under the National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP), twenty-one Cluster Development Programme (CDP), and one Mega Handloom Cluster have been sanctioned for Imphal East district of Manipur.
- It will create employment and a total of 46897 handloom weavers will be covered in these projects within the project period of 3 years.
- She said that the Yarn Scheme initiated by the State Government in 2018-19 will be continued further till 2026-27 and the State Government has registered some unique and indigenous handloom designs like WangkheiPhee, ShapheeLanphee, and MoirangPhee under Geographical Indication of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 in 2014.

### 1.48. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.

- The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is celebrated every year on **9th of August** to acknowledge the contributions and achievements of the indigenous communities around the globe.
- The **United Nations General Assembly** on 23rd of December in **1994** decided to observe International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples annually on 9th of August in recognition of the inaugural session of the UN working body on Indigenous Populations held on this day in **1982**.
- This year, the **theme** for the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is '**The Role of Indigenous Women in the Preservation and Transmission of Traditional Knowledge**'.
- This theme emphasises the role that women of indigenous communities play in carrying forward their traditions and cultures.
- Indigenous peoples are inheritors and practitioners of unique cultures. Indigenous peoples' conceptualization of health and well-being is generally broader and more holistic, with health frequently viewed as both an individual and a collective right, strongly determined by community, land and the natural environment.

### 1.49. WORLD SANSKRIT DIWAS 2022

- **World Sanskrit Day** is celebrated on **SawanPoornima in the Hindu calendar**. As per the calendar, August 12 marks the occasion. World Sanskrit Day honours the **Sanskrit language and promotes its global acceptance**.

#### History

- Sanskrit language is said to have originated in India around 3,500 years ago. World Sanskrit Day or Sanskrit Diwas was first observed in 1969. The day aims to spread awareness about and promote the revival of Sanskrit. It acknowledges the place Sanskrit holds in Indian history and culture.
- Sanskrit, in literary terms, is divided into two different periods- the Vedic and Classical. Vedic Sanskrit is mainly a part of the Rig Veda, the Upanishads and the Puranas. The Vedas were composed from 1,000 to 500 BCE.
- Centuries later, some Europeans were impressed by Sanskrit. Among them was Sir William Jones, an English scholar who visited India in 1783 as a judge of the British Supreme Court in Calcutta. He later founded the Asiatic Society.

#### Significance

- The language still holds a very prominent position in Hindu religious rituals and practices. Most of the Hindu rituals are performed in Sanskrit only. Many Sanskrit institutions and universities have been opened and consequently many young students have been learning Sanskrit.

### 1.50. WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY: HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE WITNESSED A SIGNIFICANT RISE FROM 2021

- World Humanitarian Day (WHD) is being observed on **19th August**.
- The day aims to spread awareness about the need for humanitarian assistance worldwide.
- **WHD is a campaign** by the United **Nations Office** for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and humanitarian partners.
- On 19 August 2003, a bomb attack on the Canal Hotel in Baghdad, Iraq, killed 22 humanitarian aid workers, including the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello.
- Five years later, the General Assembly adopted a resolution designating 19th August as World Humanitarian Day.
- Each year, WHD focuses on a theme, bringing together partners from across the humanitarian system to advocate for the survival, well-being and dignity of people affected by crises, and for the safety and security of aid workers.
- This year, WHD Organisation is highlighting the immediate human cost of the climate crisis by pressuring world leaders to take meaningful climate action for the world's most vulnerable people.

- As per data projected by the United Nations, 274 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection in 2022. The number has witnessed a significant rise from 2021 when the figures were 235 million, the highest figure in decades.
- The United Nations and partner organizations aim to assist 183 million people most in need across 63 countries, which will require 41 billion dollars.

### 1.51. AKSHAY URJA DIWAS 2022: INDIA OBSERVES RENEWABLE ENERGY DAY.

- Every year on the 20th of August India observes **Akshay Urja Diwas or Renewable Energy Day**. Akshay Urja Diwas 2022 or Renewable Energy Day aims to spread awareness about the **development and adoption of renewable energy** in India.
- Akshay Urja Diwas 2022, marks its importance by promoting and lining up the alarming rate of depletion of Natural resources. This day makes people aware of the use of natural resources like **wind energy, solar energy, and hydropower**.

#### HISTORY

- Akshay Urja Diwas was first established in **2004** to support renewable energy development programs in India and promote the usage of natural resources. In 2004, the first event was facilitated by then **Prime Minister Manmohan Singh**, where he released a stamp with 12000 children forming a human chain to promote the use of green energy sources.

### 1.52. INTERNAUT DAY BEING CELEBRATED TO MARK INVENTION OF WORLD WIDE WEB.

- Internaut Day is being celebrated around the world today to mark the invention of the World Wide Web.
- An "internaut" is a person who possesses a thorough knowledge of how to use the Internet and its history.
- August 23 marks the day when the World Wide Web was opened to the public back in the year 1991 for the first time by WWW inventor Tim Berners Lee as he allowed its access, CERN announced that internet would be free to everyone and there would be no fee for its use.
- Lee, an English computer scientist had invented the World Wide Web in 1989, while working at the CERN.
- He had initially proposed an information management system on 12th of March in the year 1989 and thereafter was able to implement the first successful world wide web communication through the Internet around November in the same year.
- He also devised and implemented the first Web browser and Web server and helped foster the Web's subsequent rapid development.
- In 1990, with Robert Cailliau, the British scientist prepared 'hypertext project' which was called 'WorldWideWeb.'
- In 1991, Tim published a short summary of WWW and internet was made accessible to the public.
- The British genius was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II for his pioneering work in the year 2004.
- Presently, he is a Professorial Fellow of Computer Science at the University of Oxford and a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

### 1.53. INTERNATIONAL WHALE SHARK DAY BEING CELEBRATED TO SPREAD AWARENESS ABOUT IMPORTANCE OF WHALE SHARKS.

- International Whale Shark Day is observed on August 30.
- It is celebrated to spread awareness about the importance of whale sharks and their conservation. Started in 2008, at the International Whale Shark Conference in Isla Holbox, International Whale Shark Day has grown popular over the years.
- On the International Whale Shark Day, Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) is launching 'save the whale shark campaign' in Karnataka, Kerala, and Lakshadweep.

- The campaign aims to bring together marine fisher folks, village communities and students for conservation awareness on the whale shark. Additionally, a mobile app has also been developed to further the conservation efforts.
- Whale sharks are the largest shark species of fish on the planet. They usually prefer to swim in shallow depths and are known for their slow and gentle behavior. This makes them an easy prey to humans.
- The whale shark market has led to an approximate 50% decline in the fish's population, leading them to be placed in the endangered species list. 'Save the whale shark' campaign aims to reinstate the beautiful creature to its former glory.



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## PERSON IN NEWS

### 1.54. AUROBINDO GHOSE

- The 150th birth anniversary of Aurobindo Ghose was observed on 15th August.

#### About Aurobindo Ghose

- **Birth:** August 15, 1872.
- Popularly known as yogi **Rishi Aurobindo**. He was a **revolutionary, nationalist, poet, educationist and philosopher**.
- He became a state service officer on his return to India in **1893**. He worked as a professor at Baroda College.
- He also joined a revolutionary society and took a leading role in secret preparations for an **uprising against the British Government in India**.
- He was the **first political leader in India** to openly put forward, in his **newspaper Bande Mataram**, the idea of complete independence for the country.
- He was the **first proponent of 'Purna Swaraj'** more than 20 years before the Indian National Congress' declaration in 1930.

#### Literary works:

- He was also a journalist and his first philosophical magazine called Arya was published in 1914.
- Among his many writings are The Life Divine, The Synthesis of Yoga and Savitri.
- **Death:** Aurobindo Ghose died on December 5, 1950.

### 1.55. VIKRAM DORAISWAMI APPOINTED AS NEXT HIGH COMMISSIONER OF INDIA TO UK.

- Mr. Vikram Doraiswami has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom.
- Mr. Doraiswami is presently the High Commissioner of India to the Bangladesh.
- The External Affairs Ministry of India in a statement said that he is expected to take up the assignment shortly.
- Mr. Doraiswami is an Indian Foreign Service officer of the 1992 batch. Earlier, the ministry had announced the appointment of Mr. Pranay Kumar Verma, an IFS officer of 1994 batch as India's next High Commissioner to Bangladesh.
- He is currently serving as India's Ambassador to Vietnam.

### 1.56. GOOGLE DOODLE CELEBRATES PHYSICIST AND METEOROLOGIST ANNA MANI'S 104TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY.

- Google Doodle celebrated physicist and meteorologist Anna Mani's 104th birth anniversary with a special graphic.
- She was one of the country's first female scientists.
- Her life's work and research made it possible for India to make accurate weather forecasts and laid the groundwork for the nation to harness renewable energy.

#### About

- Anna Mani was born on August 23 in 1918 in Kerala (known as Travancore then). She was an avid reader and by the age of 12, Mani had read almost every book at her public library!
- After high school, she did her Intermediate Science course at Women's Christian College (WCC) and went on to complete a Bachelor of Science with honours in physics and chemistry from Presidency College, Madras.



- After graduation, she taught at WCC for a year and won a scholarship for post-graduate studies at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. Here, under the guidance of Nobel Laureate Sir C V Raman, she studied spectroscopy, specializing in diamonds and rubies.
- Between 1942 and 1945, she published five papers, completed her PhD dissertation, and began a graduate program at Imperial College, London, where she learned to specialize in meteorological instrumentation.
- She began working for the India Meteorological Department upon her return to India in 1948, where she helped the country design and manufacture its own weather instruments.
- She performed so well that by 1953, she became head of the division. Under her leadership, more than 100 weather instrument designs were simplified and standardised for production.
- Mani later became Deputy Director General of India Meteorological Department, and held several key positions in the United Nations World Meteorological Organisation.
- In 1987, she won the INSA KR Ramanathan Medal for her noteworthy contributions to science.
- After her retirement, she was appointed as a Trustee of the Raman Research Institute in Bangalore.

### 1.57. DRDO GETS A NEW CHIEF: DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST SAMIR V KAMAT

- Distinguished scientist Samir V Kamat was appointed as Secretary of the Department of Defence Research and Development and Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), according to a Personnel Ministry order.
- Kamat, who is Director General, Naval Systems & Materials, at the DRDO will succeed G Satheesh Reddy who has been named as scientific adviser to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

#### About

- Dr Samir V. Kamat, a distinguished scientist, has on 1 July 2017 assumed charge as Director General Naval Systems & Materials (NS & M) at DRDO.
- He obtained **B. Tech. (Hons)** in Metallurgical Engineering from in **1985 IIT Kharagpur** and in 1988 he completed his **PhD in Materials Science and Engineering from The Ohio State University, USA**, specialising in the area of mechanical behaviour of materials.
- In 1989, he **joined DRDO at DMRL, Hyderabad, as Scientist 'C'** and elevated to the position of OS/Sc 'H' in October 2013. Later, he took over as the Director of the lab on 17 August, 2015.
- In 1986, Dr Kamat received the Indranil Medal by the Mining, Geological and Metallurgical Institute of India, in 1998 **he got DRDO Young Scientist Award**; Binani Gold Medal (jointly) of the Indian Institute of Metals in 2006; the National Metallurgists' Day Metallurgist of the Year Award by the Ministry of Steel in 2008; the National Science Day Oration Silicon Medal in 2009, the DRDO Scientist of the Year award in 2012, and IIT Kharagpur Distinguished Alumni Award 2018.

#### What is the DRDO?

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is the premier agency under the Department of Defence Research and Development in Ministry of Defence of the Government of India, charged with the military's research and development, headquartered in Delhi, India.
- It **was formed in 1958** by the merger of the Technical Development Establishment and the Directorate of Technical Development and Production of the Indian Ordnance Factories with the Defence Science Organisation.
- Subsequently, **Defence Research & Development Service (DRDS)** was constituted in **1979** as a service of Group 'A' Officers / Scientists directly under the administrative control of Ministry of Defence.
- With a network of **52 laboratories**, which are engaged in developing defence technologies, covering various fields, like aeronautics, armaments, electronics, land combat engineering, life sciences, materials, missiles, and naval systems, DRDO is India's largest and most diverse research organisation.
- The organisation includes around 5,000 scientists belonging to the DRDS and about 25,000 other subordinate scientific, technical and supporting personnel.

- As part of Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, DRDO under Development cum Production Partner programme (DCPP) allowed handholding of domestic private sector industries to improve their development and production cycle of complex defence systems.
- VL-SRSAM (Vertical Launch - Short Range Surface to Air Missile) and Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) became some of the successful projects of this programme.

**1.58. FORMER CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISER (CEA) KRISHNAMURTHY V SUBRAMANIAN WILL TAKE OVER AS THE NEXT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (ED) FOR INDIA AT THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF).**

- Former chief economic adviser (CEA) Krishnamurthy V Subramanian will take over as the next executive director (ED) for India at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) from November 1. He will replace economist Surjit Bhalla.
- According to an order by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, Subramanian's term will continue for a period of three years or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- Bhalla was appointed in 2019 after then ED for India and former RBI deputy governor Subir Gokarn died in July that year.
- After completing a three-year tenure as the CEA in December 2021, Subramanian returned to ISB Hyderabad where he is serving as a professor.
- A PhD in financial economics from the Booth School of Business, University of Chicago, and an alumnus of IIM Calcutta as well as IIT Kanpur, Subramanian is an expert in banking, corporate governance and economic policy.



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## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### 1.59. NATIONAL VIRTUAL LIBRARY OF INDIA HAS A TOTAL OF ABOUT 3.04 LAKH DIGITAL ARTEFACTS, INFORMS UNION MINISTER G. KISHAN REDDY.

- The National Virtual Library of India has a total of about 3.04 lakh digital artefacts and more than 34.91 lakh bibliographic entries.'
- This information was provided by Union Minister of Culture, G. Kishan Reddy in the Rajya Sabha on August 4.
- The Union Minister further informed that the Ministry ensures that all its organizations hand over both bibliographical and digital resources to the National Virtual Library of India for integration on the Indian Culture Portal regularly.

#### About National Virtual Library of India

- The National Virtual Library of India (NVLI) was launched as the Indian Culture Portal (ICP) on December 10, 2019, to showcase all forms of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of India.
- One of the major **objectives** of NVLI is to collect, standardize and collate all available digital assets and/or digital information about physical assets in an easily searchable form.
- The portal, <https://indianculture.gov.in>, is available in the public domain. The content on the portal is presented in 18 curated categories, namely, Rare Books, E-Books, Archives, Gazettes and Gazetteers, Manuscripts, Museum Collections, Paintings, Audios, Intangible Cultural Heritage, Photo Archives, Images, Videos, Content from UNESCO, Research Papers, Indian National Bibliography, Reports & Proceedings, Union Catalogues, and other Catalogues.
- Additionally, the portal also has 12 categories of created content, namely, Stories, Snippets, Photo Essays, Forts of India, Textiles, and Fabrics of India, Historical Cities of India, Musical Instruments of India, Food and Culture, Virtual Walkthroughs, Freedom Archives – Unsung Heroes, Ajanta Caves and The North- East Archive.
- Some of the other features of the portal include – the availability of portal in English and Hindi; can be accessed through an App called Indian Culture, available on both Android phones and iPhones. Further, it is also available through the **Umang App**.

### 1.60. "YANAM", WORLD'S FIRST SCIENCE-SANSKRIT FILM ON 'MANGALYAAN', SET FOR PREMIER IN AUGUST.

- The first science-Sanskrit film in the history of world cinema, 'Yanam' that revolves around India's successful Mangalyaan mission, is all set to reach audiences in August, 2022.
- The much-awaited science documentary in the classical language, revolving around the success story of India's historic 'Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) alias 'Mangalyaan', would be premiered before a selected audience on August 21 in Chennai.
- MOM was successfully launched in 2013 by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- ISRO Chairman S Somanath would launch the premier in Chennai at a function, which would also be attended by former chairman of the space agency K Radhakrishnan and the present VSSC Director S Unnikrishnan Nair.
- Ravi Kottarakkara, secretary, South Indian film chamber, would also take part in the programme, said national award winning filmmaker Vinod Mankara, who helmed the docu-film.
- He said 'Yaanam ' is based on Radhakrishnan's book "My Odyssey: Memoirs of the Man Behind the Mangalyaan Mission".
- The objective of the documentary is to project the potentials of the ISRO and the capabilities of its scientists before the world.

- It explains how the Indian scientists have overcome all the limitations and made the complex Mars mission a huge success in the first attempt itself.
- Mankara said the movie was made with the complete support of the ISRO.
- He said the 45-minute documentary is a complete Sanskrit film by all means as the entire script and dialogues are in the ancient language.
- Majority of the ancient texts of the sub-continent including that of space and astronomy were compiled in Sanskrit.
- Besides screening it for the scientists community and in universities and colleges in the country, the director also plans a global premier of his documentary.
- The 4K digital DTS movie is produced by AV Anoop under the banner AVA Productions.

### **1.61. ISRO'S LAUNCH OF SSLV FAILS TO PLACE SATELLITES IN INTENDED ORBIT DUE TO SENSOR ANOMALY.**

- The Indian Space Research Organisation Chairman S Somanath has said that the maiden launch of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle, SSLV failed to place the satellites in the intended orbit due to sensor anomaly.
- SSLV-D1-EOS 02 launched from Sriharikota launch pad had placed the satellites into 356kmX76 kms elliptical orbit instead of 356 km circular orbit. Due to which the two satellites remained unstable and are no longer usable.
- The ISRO Chairman has said the launch vehicle took off majestically at the intended time from the launch pad in Sriharikota. Its propulsion stages, overall hardware, aerodynamic design and new generation electronics, the separation system used for the first time performed very well.
- However, after reaching an altitude of 356 kms there was a failure of logic to identify sensor failure and go for the salvage motion. Hence the launch vehicle developed an anomaly.
- The ISRO Chairman has said that a team of experts will go deeper to find out the reason for this isolation. He emphasised that after a small correction and revalidation, SSLV-D2 will be launched very soon.
- The SSLV was carrying an Indian Earth Observation Satellite EOS-02 weighing 145 kg and AzaadiSat, made by 750 school girls to celebrate the 75 years of independence under SpaceKidz India, weighing 8kg.

### **1.62. INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU) REGIONAL STANDARDIZATION FORUM FOR ASIA AND OCEANIA BEGINS IN NEW DELHI.**

- Minister of State for Communications Devusinh Chauhan has said that **country's telecommunications network** is the **second largest in the world** with the most cost-effective rates.
- Mr. Chauhan addressed the inaugural event of International Telecommunication Union's Regional Standardization Forum for Asia and Oceania region in **New Delhi**.
- Mr. Chauhan stressed that India's policy in the field of telecommunications formulated is based on **three pillars of Ease of Doing Business, Ease of Living and Aatmanirbhar Bharat**.
- He said, Government has laid down a clear roadmap to address the digital divide. It includes taking optical fibers to all six lakh villages of the country and also covers all these villages with 4G mobile communications.
- Mr. Chauhan highlighted that around one lakh seventy-five thousand villages are already provided with the optical fibre while around five lakh sixty thousand villages have 4G mobile facilities.
- He said, a multi-billion-dollar comprehensive plan has been made, which will ensure optical fibre and mobile communications in all six hundred thousand villages by 2025.
- More than 250 delegates from 20 countries are taking part in the forum.

### **1.63. IIT- BOMBAY OPENS 2 MICRO FACTORIES TO PROVIDE HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE TO STUDENTS.**

- As part of its larger Makerspace initiative, the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay opened its first micro-factories 'Kadayam S. Srinivasan' and 'Harivallabh Nagar' which will expose undergraduate students to state-of-the-art thematic labs and the latest design and manufacturing practices.
- The two micro-factories, which were formally inaugurated on the IIT-B campus, provide advanced facilities on par with those found in real-world industrial setups to enable the students to have hands-on learning and transform their academic experience. In addition to core academic activities, students will also use these micro-factories for a wide range of co-curricular projects.
- The micro-factories are a first-of-its-kind initiative at the undergraduate level by the Institute and form an integral part of IIT Bombay's overall Makerspace initiative.
- The micro-factories are equipped with 3D printers, laser-cutters, forming machines, advanced mechanical tools, electronics setups and the latest modelling software that students can leverage to enhance their research studies.
- The two new facilities will be accessible to students, as well as faculty across various departments and will be multi-disciplinary.

#### **1.64. INDIA UNVEILS FIRST SALINE WATER LANTERN USING SEA WATER TO POWER SPECIALLY DESIGNED LED LAMPS.**

- Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh today unveiled **India's first Saline Water Lantern** which uses the sea water to power the specially designed LED lamps.
- The Minister visited the SAGAR ANVESHKA, a Coastal Research Vessel, operated and used by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai to review the progress of the implementation of the Deep Ocean Mission of India.
- The saline Water Lantern will bring "Ease of Living" to the fishing community living along the 7500 Kilometres long coastal line of India. Saline water-powered Roshini LED lamps will also boost and supplement Prime Minister Narendra Modi's UJALA scheme.

#### **1.65. DoT ALLOCATES SPECTRUM TO TELECOM OPERATORS; ASKS TO PREPARE FOR 5G LAUNCH LIKELY BY NEXT MONTH.**

- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has allocated spectrum to telecom operators, paving the way for launch of 5G services.
- Airtel paid 8312.4 crore rupees towards spectrum dues and was provided the allocation letter for the designated frequency bands within hours.
- E band allocation was given along with spectrum.
- With the assignment of frequencies, telecom operators can start the work for rolling out 5G networks.
- Telecoms have already placed orders for buying telecom equipment and now will start distributing radios to the identified sites for 5G.
- The government as well as telecom operators are rushing to launch 5G services at the earliest, probably by next month.
- The Centre netted 150,173 crore rupees from the sale of 51,236 MHz in the seven-day auction.
- In all, it had put 72,098 MHz of airwaves on sale. Market leader Jio was the largest bidder in the 5g airwave auctions that ended on August 1, spending 88,078 crore rupees, while Airtel and Vodafone Idea brought airwaves worth 43,084 crore and 18,799 crore rupees, respectively.
- First time bidder Adani Data Networks had won airwaves for 212 crore rupees.

#### **About 5G Technology:**

- 5G is the 5<sup>th</sup> generation mobile network. It is a **new global wireless standard after 1G, 2G, 3G, and 4G networks.**
- It enables a new kind of network that is **designed to connect virtually everyone and everything together including machines, objects, and devices.**

- Internet speeds in the high-band spectrum of 5G has been tested to be as high as **20 Gbps (gigabits per second)**, while, in most cases, the maximum internet data speed in 4G has been recorded at 1 Gbps.

#### Different Bands of 5G:

- 5G mainly works in **3 bands**, namely low, mid and high frequency spectrum — all of which have their own **uses as well as limitations**.

#### 1. Low Band Spectrum:

- In terms of coverage and speed of Internet and data exchange, **the maximum speed is limited to 100 Mbps** (Megabits per second).
- This means that **telecom companies can use and install it for commercial cellphone users** who may not have specific demands for very high-speed Internet.
- However, the low band spectrum may not be optimal for specialised needs of the industry.

#### 2. Mid Band Spectrum:

- It offers **higher speeds compared to the low band**, but has limitations in terms of coverage area and penetration of signals.
- This band may be **used by industries and specialised factory units** for building captive networks that can be moulded into the needs of that particular industry.

#### 3. High Band Spectrum:

- It offers the highest speed of all the three bands, but has extremely limited coverage and signal penetration strength.
- This band **greatly enhances futuristic 5G technology applications** like **Internet of Things (IoT)** and smart technology but will require considerable infrastructure.

### 1.66. NATIONAL AUTOMATED FINGERPRINT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (NAFIS)

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) on August 17, at the two-day National Securities Strategies (NSS) Conference 2022 held in New Delhi.
- It is conceptualized and managed by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) at the Central Fingerprint Bureau (CFPB) in New Delhi.
- NAFIS project is a country-wide searchable database of crime- and criminal-related fingerprints.
- The web-based application functions as a central information repository by consolidating fingerprint data from all states and Union Territories.
- According to a 2020 report by the NCRB, it enables law enforcement agencies to upload, trace, and retrieve data from the database in real time on a 24×7 basis.
- In April 2022, Madhya Pradesh became the first state in the country to identify a deceased person through NAFIS.

### 1.67. INDIA'S FIRST OBSERVATORY TO MONITOR SPACE ACTIVITY.

- India's first situational awareness observatory to monitor space activity is going to be set up in Uttarakhand by Digantara.
- Digantara (which means space in Sanskrit) is a Bengaluru-based firm.

#### About Observatory

- The space situational awareness (SSA) observatory will assist in tracking any activity in space including that of space debris and military satellites hovering over the region.
- It aims to track objects as small as 10 cm in size orbiting the earth.

- **Significance:** It will fill the **crucial gap in SSA observations** in the region as there is a lack of such facilities between **Australia and southern Africa**".
  - The observatory will help to monitor events occurring in deep space, especially in the **geostationary, medium-Earth, and high-Earth orbits**.
  - The observatory will give India indigenous capabilities to monitor space activity over the subcontinent providing a strategic advantage.
- **Global Scenario:** At present, the United States is a dominant player in monitoring space debris. It has observatories in multiple locations with commercial companies providing additional inputs from across the world.

### 1.68. IIT GUWAHATI DEVELOPS NEW METHOD TO PRODUCE SUGAR SUBSTITUTE 'XYLITOL' FROM SUGARCANE WASTE.

- Researchers at IIT Guwahati have created a fermentation process that uses ultrasound to safely generate Xylitol from sugarcane bagasse, the byproduct of crushing sugar cane.
- This approach gets over the operational constraints of chemical synthesis and the time lags of traditional fermentation.
- The use of ultrasound during the fermentation process not only reduced the time of fermentation to 15 hours, but also increased the yield of the product by almost 20%.

#### Xylitol: Requirement for Safe Sweeteners

- There has been an increase in the use of safe alternative sweeteners as awareness of the negative effects of white sugar (sucrose) on individuals with diabetes and general health has grown.
- A sugar alcohol generated from plants called xylitol may have anti-obesogenic and anti-diabetic properties in addition to being a mild prebiotic and guarding teeth against caries.

#### Xylitol: Research Team

- The research team includes Dr. Belachew Zegale Tizazu and Dr. Kuldeep Roy, who co-authored the research articles, and was headed by Professor VS Moholkar of the Department of Chemical Engineering at IIT Guwahati.
- Two peer-reviewed publications, Bioresource Technology and Ultrasonics Sonochemistry, both published this research.
- **Advantages of this new procedure:** The use of ultrasound during the fermentation process not only reduced the time of fermentation to 15 hours (as opposed to almost 48 hours in conventional processes), but also increased the yield of the product by almost 20%, according to Professor VS Moholkar, Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Guwahati.

### 1.69. NASA POSTPONES LAUNCH OF ARTEMIS 1 MISSION TO MOON DUE TO MALFUNCTIONING CORE STAGE ENGINE

- NASA) postponed the test flight for Artemis 1 spacecraft. The launch was postponed owing to the fuel leak and an engine problem, which was reported during the lift-off.
- Once launched, Artemis 1 will test the Orion spacecraft, a capsule that will orbit the moon and one day carry human crew members there.
- However, the launch was scrubbed off and the next launch will not take place until Friday, i.e September 2, at the earliest.

#### What is Artemis 1?

- Named after Apollo's mythological twin sister, Artemis, the spacecraft is, according to NASA, the world's most powerful rocket, which is capable of carrying more payload into deep space than any other vehicle.
- The first flight of the new Space Launch System (SLS), Artemis 1 is a heavy-lift vehicle. Nearly 100-metre tall (a few metres taller than the Statue of Liberty), the rocket can deliver 4 million kg of thrust.
- A first in the series of increasingly complex missions to the Moon, Artemis 1 is an uncrewed mission.

- There will be three test dummies --Helga, Zohar and Moonikin Campos --- fitted with sensors to measure vibration, cosmic radiation, and other conditions.
- During the six-week-long mission, Artemis 1 and the capsule will travel a distance of around 65,000 km to the moon and was scheduled to end with the capsule's splashdown in the Pacific Ocean in October.

#### **Why was the launch postponed?**

- The launch was postponed due to a malfunctioning RS-25 engine, which was to be bled with liquid hydrogen and oxygen to condition it, before launch.
- However, the team engineers noticed that one of the engines was not bleeding as expected. While the countdown clock was put on hold at T minus 40mins, the launch team was unable to resolve the issue.
- A crack also seemed to appear in the inner tank's flange, however, after a thorough inspection, the launch team was able to confirm that there were no structural cracks in the tank.

#### **Artemis 1 mission**

- The launch of Artemis 1 represented a milestone in America's quest to put astronauts back on the surface of the moon, for the first time in 50 years, after the Apollo programme ended.
- Artemis 1 launch will also be the first flight in NASA's 21st century moon-exploration programme.
- According to nasa.gov, with Artemis 1 on the lunar surface, NASA aims to demonstrate new technologies, business approaches, and capabilities that are needed for future explorations, including Mars.
- The launch also aims to help more in the study of the moon, its origin, and history.

#### **Artemis 1 cost**

- The cost of Artemis 1 is estimated at \$4 billion. With the delays and technical faults, the entire programme will now set NASA back at least \$93 billion, by the time astronauts land on the moon once again.

### **1.70. TELANGANA AI MISSION'S 4 STARTUPS TO REPRESENT INDIA AT G20 DIGITAL INNOVATION NETWORK.**

- The Telangana AI Mission (T-AIM) has revealed that four of its startups have been selected by MeitY to represent India at the G20 Digital Innovation Network (DIN).
- T-AIM is an initiative of the state Government supported by NASSCOM. The four startups - Arficus, Edubuk, Eunimart, and MayaMD supported by Revv Up programme.
- The program has been supporting 80 startups built on Artificial Intelligence (AI). Revv Up is a free-of-equity-or-cost acceleration program by T-AIM that is exclusively designed for early-stage AI startups.
- The G-20 DIN will be held during 2nd September-4th September 2022 at Bali International Convention Center, Bali, Indonesia.
- These startups have been receiving mentorship and knowledge sessions from industry experts, access to global pathways, and technology and IP resources to build scalable businesses.



## ART & CULTURE

### 1.71. NATIONAL FLAG DESIGNER PINGALI VENKAYYA BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS IN DELHI.

- Union Minister for Culture and Tourism G Kishan Reddy has said that on the occasion of the **birth centenary celebrations of the designer of the national flag, Pingali Venkaiah**, a large-scale program will be organized in Delhi on August 2.
- Kishan Reddy said the original flag designed by Pingali will be displayed on that day. He said he will visit the hometown of Pingali Venkaiah and invite family members on behalf of the Prime Minister for the centenary celebrations to be held in New Delhi.
- He said a **postage stamp will also be released** in the name of Pingali.

### 1.72. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA ANNOUNCES FREE ENTRY AT ALL MONUMENTS FROM AUGUST 5-15.

- The government has made a free entry for the visitors and tourists to all its protected monuments and sites across the country from 5th to 15th August.
- Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy said, the decision has been taken under the aegis of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav and the 75th Independence -Day celebrations.
- The Director General of Archeological Survey of India has said that no fee will be charged at all the ticketed centrally protected monuments and Archaeological sites from 5th to 15th August this year.

#### Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

- ASI, under the **Ministry of Culture**, is the premier organization for the **archaeological research and protection** of the cultural heritage of the nation.
- Its activities include carrying out surveys of antiquarian remains, **exploration** and **excavation** of archaeological sites, **conservation** and **maintenance** of protected monuments etc.
- There are over 3,600 ASI-protected monuments in the country. Out of these, 116 monuments across 19 states are ticketed, including 17 in Uttar Pradesh, 16 in Maharashtra, 12 in Karnataka, 10 in Delhi, eight in Madhya Pradesh, seven in Tamil Nadu, and six in Gujarat.
- It was founded in 1861 by **Alexander Cunningham**- the first Director-General of ASI. Alexander Cunningham is also known as the **"Father of Indian Archaeology"**.

### 1.73. 1,200-YEAR-OLD HINDU TEMPLE IN PAKISTAN OPENED TO PUBLIC AFTER RECLAIMING FROM ILLEGAL OCCUPANTS.

- A 1,200-year-old Hindu temple in the capital of Pakistan's Punjab province has been formally opened to the public after it was reclaimed from a Christian family following a lengthy court battle, according to a federal body.
- The Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB), the federal body overseeing minority worship places in Pakistan, last month reclaimed possession of the Valmiki Temple situated near the famous Anarkali Bazaar in Lahore from a Christian family, which had grabbed the place of worship more than two decades ago.
- The ETPB looks after the temples and land left over by Sikhs and Hindus who migrated to India after the Partition. It oversees 200 Gurdwaras and 150 temples across Pakistan.
- Besides the Krishna Temple, the Valmiki Temple is the only functional Hindu temple in Lahore.

### 1.74. A UNIQUE ANTIQUE OBJECT, TERMED "BUDDHA PENDANT", HAS BEEN FOUND AT MOHENJODARO.

- A unique antique object, termed "Buddha pendant", has been found very close to the archaeological site of Mohenjodaro in Pakistan's Sindh province after the area was lashed by heavy rains.
- Believed to be of archaeological importance, the object was found in the Dikshit South area of Mohenjodaro.
- Mohan Lal, a former chief engineer of the department of archaeology and museums and currently working as project director of the Endowment Fund Trust (EFT) identified it as "Buddha pendant" and suggested it to be a "unique antiquity.
- An unnamed senior official at the culture department while describing the object said that it appeared like a pendant often worn around the neck by people.
- Mohenjodaro is an archaeological heritage site discovered by Indian archaeologist R D Banerji in 1922. It is located on the east of the Indus River in the semi-arid region of Sindh province. Extending over 618 acres, it is the largest and best-preserved urban centre of the Indus Civilisation (2600-1900 BC).

### **1.75. LONDON HOME OF DADABHAI NAOROJI GETS BLUE PLAQUE HONOUR.**

- The south London home where Dadabhai Naoroji, a prominent member of the Indian freedom struggle and Britain's first Indian parliamentarian, lived for around eight years at the end of the 19th century has been honoured with a commemorative Blue Plaque.
- The Blue Plaque scheme, run by the English Heritage charity, honours the historic significance of particular buildings across London. Naoroji's plaque was unveiled on Wednesday to coincide with the 75th anniversary celebrations of Indian Independence.
- Naoroji, often referred to as the "grand old man of India", is reported to have moved to Washington House, 72 Anerley Park, Penge, Bromley, at a time when his thoughts were turning increasingly towards full independence for India in 1897. That red-brick home now has a plaque which reads: "Dadabhai Naoroji 1825-1917 Indian Nationalist and MP lived here".
- "Naoroji made seven trips to England and spent over three decades of his long life in London," English Heritage said in a statement.
- In August 1897 Naoroji moved to Washington House, 72 Anerley Park, Penge, at a time when his thoughts were turning increasingly towards full independence for India.
- "Much of his time here would have been occupied by his work as a member of the Welby Commission, set up by the British government to investigate wasteful spending in India. His key text on drain theory - 'Poverty and Un-British Rule in India' (1901) - was published while he was living here," it noted.
- According to records, Washington House functioned as an important centre for the Indian community in London - a place where many Indians were invited and where Indians travelled to if they were in distress or in trouble.
- Fellow Indian nationalists Romesh Chunder Dutt and Sister Nivedita are known to have been guests at the house.
- "Naoroji left the address in 1904 or 1905, making it his longest-standing London residence," English Heritage said.
- Born in Mumbai, the prominent Parsi nationalist was an influential political and intellectual force in both India and Britain.
- Much of his work was underpinned by his so-called "drain theory" of British colonial rule, contending that India was impoverished by an expensive foreign bureaucracy for which it had to pay, and that any benefits from the British presence there were incidental.
- Drain theory formed the basis of the classic Indian nationalist interpretation of British colonialism, and it is a view that continues to resonate.
- Naoroji spent seven spells in England, five of them in London. In 1886, he stood for Parliament in the general election as a Liberal candidate for Holborn in central London, but was defeated in the strongly Conservative constituency.

- He went on to be elected on a Liberal ticket for the north London constituency of Finsbury Central at the general election of July 1892 - making history as the first Indian to sit in the UK Parliament.

### 1.76. PARSI NEW YEAR NAVROZ BEING CELEBRATED IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

- The Parsi New Year is also known as Navroz or Nowroz and the word means a 'new day'.
- While in various places the event is celebrated in March, in India, the Parsi community celebrates it in August. This time, the Parsi New Year falls on August 16.
- In India, the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat have a sizeable Parsi population and the celebrations are typically seen here.

#### History:

- According to many scholars, the origin of the Parsi New Year lies between 3,500 and 3,000 BCE. During this period, Prophet Zarathustra established Zoroastrianism in what is present-day Iran.
- For followers of Zoroastrian philosophy, this day represents the time when everything in the universe is renewed.
- Jamshed, a monarch of the ancient Sasanian empire, is credited with introducing the Parsi calendar. Jamshed-i-Nouroz is another name for the holiday.

#### Significance:

- Parsi New Year is celebrated on the first day of the first month of Farvardin in the Zoroastrian calendar.
- Spring Equinox, which occurs annually on March 21, symbolises the beginning of the season.
- The Parsis in India celebrate this day in July or August because they follow the Zoroastrian calendar for religious occasions.
- The holiday, which has its roots in Persia (now Iran, post-Islamic conquest), is celebrated with zest and vigour in India.

### 1.77. ANANG TAL LAKE DECLARED MONUMENT OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE.

- The Anang Tal Lake in **South Delhi** has been declared a **monument of national importance** through a gazette notification by the **Ministry of Culture**.
- The Anang Tal lake in South Delhi, believed to have been built a thousand years ago, has been declared a monument of national importance through a gazette notification by the Ministry of Culture.
- According to former National Monuments Authority chairman Tarun Vijay that the national monument stature for Anang Tal is like the re-coronation of Anang Pal Singh Tomar in Delhi.
- As per the National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities: Anang Tal is situated "to the north of Jog Maya temple and approximately 500 metres to the northwest of Qutub Complex", and dates back to 1,060 AD.
- Tradition ascribes this tank to a Tomar King, Anangpal II, the builder of Lal Kot. It is said to have been a place of a general resort but now it is dried up and used for cultivation.

#### About

##### National Monuments Authority (NMA)

- Established under the **Ministry of Culture** in accordance with the requirements of the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains AMASR (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010**.
- The NMA has been **delegated specific tasks for the conservation and preservation of monuments** and sites, including control of the banned and restricted areas surrounding centrally designated monuments.

##### Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

- It is a premier organisation **under the Ministry of Culture**, for the archaeological research and protection of the cultural heritage of the nation.
- It regulates all archaeological activities in the country as per the provisions of the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958**.
- It also regulates the Antiquities and Art Treasure Act, 1972.

## 1.78. SHUMANG LEELA, THE TRADITIONAL FORM OF THEATRE CELEBRATED IN ALL MANIPUR SHUMANG LEELA FESTIVAL 2021-2022 IN IMPHAL.

- The 50th All Manipur Shumang Leela Festival 2021-2022 kicked off at Iboyaima Shumang Leela Shanglen at Palace Compound in Imphal. Manipur Governor La Ganesan and Chief Minister N. Biren Singh attended the inaugural function.
- During the festival, the Governor also distributed medals to the winners of 49th All Manipur Shumang Leela Festival 2020-21.
- Manipur Governor La Ganesan in his inaugural speech said that Shumang Leela has become a powerful medium for mass education besides giving entertainment and relaxation
- Mr. La. Ganesan said that the present day Shumang Leelas have been trying to focus on the issues of moral values, unity and integrity. It has also been trying to strengthen the bond of brotherhood and friendship among various communities in the State.
- Chief Minister N. Biren Singh while speaking at the function said that the government is committed to extend support to the artists in the State.
- He said, Chief Minister's Pension Scheme for Artists has been implemented and separate budgetary allocation has been made for organizing Shumang Leela Festival. He said, under AYUSHMAN BHARAT and CMHT all artists will be covered.

### About Shumang Leela

- It is also called Shumang Kumhei.
- It is a traditional form of theatre in **Manipur**.
- 'Shumang' means courtyard and 'Leela' means play.
- The theatre is arranged in the **form of open air from four sides**.
- All the characters, including women, are **played by male actors**.
- It was officially **recorded for the first time** in the state with the Harischandra leela in **1918**.
- However, the form is much older and is believed to have existed during the reign of **King Chandrakriti (1851-1886)**.
- In 2017, **Sougrakpam Hemanta** was conferred the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award** in recognition of his contribution in Shumang Leela, thus became the first person to receive the award for this art form.
- The theatre form remains a **popular medium to spread awareness on social issues**.

## 1.79. KERALA: 10-DAY ONAM FESTIVITIES BEGIN IN STATE WITH ATHAM.

### Onam 2022: Day-Wise Significance

- Day 1, Atham: The first day is known as Atham, which marks the beginning of the festival. It is believed that Asura King Mahabali's annual visit from Patala Lok to every Malayali home and meet people on Tiruvonam day.
- Day 2, Chithira: The second day is known as Chithira. On this day, another layer of a carpet of flower called Pookalam is added. They welcome Bali by burning lamps and singing traditional Onam songs to him.
- Day 3, Chodhi: The third day is called Chodhi Pookkalam when another layer is added to the carpet of flowers. People buy new clothes, jewellery and also gift each other on this day and it is known as Onakodi.
- Day 4, Visakam: It is the fourth day of this festival on which the preparation related Onasadhya or Onam feast begins.
- Day 5, Anizham: The fifth day is called Anizham which is exclusively earmarked for the famous boat race. This race begins from Aranmula, a small town in Pathanamthitta.
- Day 6, Thriketa: The sixth day is known as Thriketa, on which day the holidays for the festival begins and people spend most of their time celebrating the festival.

- Day 7, Moolam: On the seventh day, Moolam temples organize elaborate pujas. This day also marks the beginning of Ona Sadya and cultural performances.
- Day 8, Pooradam: The eighth day is called Pooradam. On this day, the idols of King Mahabali and Vamana are installed at home and the King visits the home of Malayali people on this day.
- Day 9, Uthradom: The ninth day is called Uthradom. On this day, Mahabali arrives at Kerala. Traditional meals are prepared at home and fresh vegetables are bought as well.
- Day 10, Thiruvonam: It is the tenth day, which is known as Thiruvonam. This is when King Mahabali is greeted with a warm welcome by the people of Kerala. People take bath early in the morning and in homes, Thiruona Sadya (Special meal for Onam) is prepared.

#### About

- Onam is a **major harvest festival in Kerala** and is celebrated to **honour the home-coming of Asura king Mahabali** who brought about peace and prosperity in Kerala.
- It is one of the **three major festivals of Kerala**, celebrated during the month of **Chingam**, the first month in the **Malayalam calendar, Kollavarsham**.
- The other two major festivals of the state are **Vishu** and **Thiruvathira**.
- The **10-day harvest festival** begins on **Atham (first day of Onam)** and concludes on **Thiruvonam (last day)**.
- Onam is celebrated by making **Pookkalam** (the flower rangolis). Other rituals are also performed which includes-**Vallam Kali** (the boat races), **Pulikali** (the tiger dances), **Kummattikali** (mask dances), **Onathallu** (martial arts), among others.
- The main attraction is the traditional **Onam sadhya** (grand feast).

#### 1.80. WORLD'S LARGEST RELIGIOUS MONUMENT TO OPEN IN WEST BENGAL.

- The largest religious monument in the world, the Temple of Vedic Planetarium in West Bengal, which will serve as the headquarters of the International Society of Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), will also have the world's biggest dome. The Vedic Planetarium will offer guests a tour of the various parts of the cosmic creation.
- The Temple of Vedic Planetarium is ISKCON founder Srila Prabhupada's vision and is apparently inspired by the design of the Capitol building in the United States. Srila Prabhupada stated his preference for the temple's exterior style in July of 1976.
- The Temple of Vedic Planetarium is in West Bengal's Mayapur in the Nadia district and, once completed, it will be larger than the Taj Mahal and St. Paul's Cathedral in the Vatican. The temple will open in 2024, following a two-year delay brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. It will purportedly replace Cambodia's 400-acre-large Angkor Wat temple complex as the largest religious monument.

## ECONOMY

### 1.81. INDIA MANUFACTURING PMI HITS 8-MONTH HIGH IN JULY ON NEW ORDERS.

- According to, a monthly survey, India's manufacturing sector activity gained momentum in July, hitting an eight-month high driven by a significant uptick in business orders.
- The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index rose from 53.9 in June, to 56.4 in July, highlighting the strongest improvement in the health of the sector in eight months.
- The July PMI data pointed to an improvement in overall operating conditions for the 13th straight month. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction.
- According to Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence, the Indian manufacturing industry recorded a welcome combination of faster economic growth and softening inflation during July.

### 1.82. NO QUESTION OF INDIA GETTING INTO STAGFLATION OR RECESSION: SITHARAMAN.

- Highlighting India's robust economic health despite the COVID pandemic and geo-political situation, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said there is no question of India getting into stagflation or recession like other major economies of the world.
- The Finance Minister emphasized that due to the measures taken by the government, India is in a much better position than most countries.
- Repeatedly in the assessment of global agencies, India remains the fastest growing economy in the assessment of global agencies.
- Referring to a survey, Sitharaman said there is **zero possibility of India getting into recession**.
- According to Finance Minister "Pandemic, second wave, Omicron, Russia-Ukraine (war), even today largest supply components in China are under lockdown. In spite of that, we have held inflation well within 7 per cent or below".
- She further said, "4,000 banks in China are reported to be going bankrupt. **In India, the gross NPAs (Non-Performing Assets) of scheduled commercial banks is at a 5-years low of 5.9 per cent in 2022.** So our NPAs are improving. The government debt to GDP Ratio of many countries is in triple digits including Japan, Greece, Bhutan, Singapore, the US, Portugal, Spain, France, Sri Lanka and Canada. But the central government very consciously controlled its debt and it is at 56.29 per cent of the GDP at the end of 2021-22 compared to the 59.9 per cent revised estimate that year."
- According to IMF data, Sitharaman said the **general debt to GDP ratio is 86.9 per cent including the Centre and the state**.
- In July 2022, the Minister said the country has garnered the second highest level ever since the introduction of the GST which is 1.49 lakh crore. "In April 2022, it was 1.67 lakh crore which was the highest we reached. This is the fifth consecutive month that collections have been above Rs 1.4 Lakh crores.
- Quoting former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Raghuram Rajan, she said, "Raghuram Rajan said that 'RBI has done a good job in increasing foreign exchange reserve in India, insulating India from problems being faced by neighbouring countries such as Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- "Differentiating India from its vulnerable neighbours, Raghuram Rajan further added that 'New Delhi is less indebted', calling it a good sign, the Minister said.

### 1.83. REVENUE DEFICIT GRANT OF 7,183.42 CRORE RUPEES RELEASED TO FOURTEEN STATES.

- Finance Ministry released the 5th monthly installment of Post Devolution Revenue Deficit grant (PDRD) of over seven thousand one hundred and eighty-three crore rupees to fourteen states.

- The grant has been released as per the recommendations of the Fifteenth Finance Commission.
- The Ministry said, the **15th Finance Commission** has recommended a total Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant of 86 thousand 201 crore rupees to 14 States for the financial year 2022-23.
- The recommended grant is released by the Department of Expenditure to the recommended States in 12 equated monthly installments.
- With the release of the 5th installment, the total amount of Revenue Deficit Grants released to the States in 2022-23 has gone up to over 35 thousand 917 crore rupees.
- The States who have been recommended Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant by the Fifteenth Finance Commission during 2022-23 are - Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.
- The Post Devolution Revenue Deficit (**PDRD**) grants are made available to the states under the provisions of **article 275** of the Constitution.

#### **1.84. RBI INCREASES REPO RATE BY 50 BASIS POINTS TO 5.40 PERCENT.**

- Reserve bank of India increased the Repo Rate by 50 basis points to 5.40 percent.
- RBI Governor Shaktikant Das announced the bi-monthly Monetary Policy.
- While announcing the policy, **Shaktikant Das** said that the **Monetary Policy Committee** which held a three-day MPC Meeting, unanimously decided to increase the Repo Rate.
- Under Section 45ZB of the amended RBI Act, 1934, the central government is empowered to constitute a six-member **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** to determine the policy interest rate required to achieve the inflation target. The first such MPC was **constituted on September 29, 2016**.
- Accordingly, Standing Deposit Facility Rate was adjusted to 5.15 percent from 4.65 percent. Marginal Standing Facility Rate and Bank Rate revised to 5.65 percent from 5.15 percent.
- The RBI Governor said that **the Repo Rate is now back to pre-pandemic level highest** since August 2019.
- He said that the real GDP growth projection for 2022-23 is retained at 7.2 percent with Q1- 16.2 percent, Q2- 6.2 percent, Q3 -4.1 percent, and Q4- 4.0 percent with risks broadly balanced.
- The **real GDP growth** for the **first quarter** of the ensuing fiscal year is **projected at 6.7 percent**.

#### **1.85. SEBI CONSTITUTES 15-MEMBER COMMITTEE TO ATTRACT FOREIGN INVESTMENT; FORMER CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISOR K V SUBRAMANIAN APPOINTED CHAIRMAN.**

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has constituted an expert group of Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to boost overseas flows into the country.
- The FPI Advisory Committee (FAC) will be chaired by former Chief Economic Adviser KV Subramanian and consists of 14 other members representing foreign banks, stock exchanges depositories and RBI.
- The FAC has been tasked with advising on issues related to investments and operations of FPIs in the financial markets, including measures to facilitate ease of doing business by FPIs in India.
- The committee will review investment avenues available for FPIs and to advice on the feasibility of new investment avenues.
- It will also suggest measures required to encourage FPI participation in the bond market.

#### **1.86. INDIA'S EXPORTS OF AGRICULTURAL, PROCESSED FOOD PRODUCTS RISE BY 31% IN 1ST 3 MONTHS OF CURRENT FISCAL.**

- The exports of agricultural and processed food products have risen by 31 per cent in the first three months of the current financial year.
- According to the provisional data released by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, the overall export of agricultural and processed food products increased to seven thousand 408 million US dollar in April-June this year from 5663 million US dollar over the same period of the last fiscal.

- The export target for April-June this year was fixed at five thousand 890 million US dollar. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, APEDA's various initiatives have helped the country in achieving 31 percent of the total export target in the first quarter of the current fiscal.
- APEDA has set an export target of 23.56 billion US dollar for agricultural and processed food products basket for this fiscal year.

#### About

- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) was established by the Government of India under the **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985**.
- It functions under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- The Authority has its headquarters in New Delhi.

### 1.87. NPFB CONDUCTS 9TH GOVERNING BODY MEETING, PARSHOTTAM RUPALA LAUNCHES 'AQUA BAZAR' APP.

- National Fisheries Development Board (NPFB) conducted its 9th governing body meeting in New Delhi. The governing body meeting was chaired by Minister of Fisheries Parshottam Rupala. Minister of State for Fisheries Dr. L. Murugan and Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan also attended the meeting.
- On this occasion, Parshottam Rupala released a book on Super Success Stories from Indian Fisheries. He also launched an online marketplace feature - 'Aqua Bazar' app.
- The app will help the fish farmers and stakeholders to source the inputs such as fish seed, feed and medicines and services required for fish culture. It will connect various stakeholders involved in aquaculture sector.
- Dr. L. Murugan said, fisheries departments need to focus in infrastructure development projects, such as fishing harbours, fish landing centers, ice plants and cold storages.
- He said, for the first time under the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, government has taken up promotion of startups by the entrepreneurs to achieve the targeted fish production.

#### About

- The National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) was established in 2006 as an autonomous organization under the administrative control of the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India to enhance fish production and productivity in the country and to coordinate fishery development in an integrated and holistic manner.

### 1.88. EMERGENCY CREDIT LINE GUARANTEE SCHEME (ECLGS)

- The Union Cabinet has approved the enhancement in the limit of Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) by Rs 50,000 crore from Rs. 4.5 Lakh crore to Rs. 5 Lakh crore, with the additional amount being earmarked exclusively for enterprises in hospitality and related sectors.
- The increase has been done on account of the severe disruptions caused by COVID-19 pandemic on hospitality and related enterprises.

#### Implementation schedule:

- ECLGS is a continuing scheme. The additional amount of Rs. 50,000 crore would be made applicable to enterprises in hospitality and related sectors till validity of the scheme which is 31.3.2023.

#### Impact:

- ECLGS is an already operational scheme and on account of the disruptions caused by the COVID 19 pandemic on hospitality and related sectors, Government has specifically earmarked an amount of Rs. 50,000 crore for enterprises in these sectors.



- The enhancement is expected to provide much needed relief to enterprises in these sectors by incentivizing lending institutions to provide additional credit of up to Rs. 50,000 crore at low cost, thereby enabling these business enterprises to meet their operational liabilities and continue their businesses.
- Loans of about Rs. 3.67 Lakh crore have been sanctioned under ECLGS till 5.8.2022.

**Background:**

- The ongoing pandemic has adversely impacted contact-intensive sectors, especially the hospitality and related sectors more severely. While other sectors were back faster on the path of recovery, demand continued to be subdued for these sectors for longer period, suggesting the need for suitable interventions for their sustenance and recovery.
- Further, given their high employment intensity and their direct and indirect linkages with other sectors, their revival is also necessary for supporting overall economic recovery.
- Recognising this, in Union Budget 2022-23, it was announced to extend validity of ECLGS upto March, 2023 and increase in the limit of guaranteed cover of ECLGS by Rs. 50,000 crore to total cover of Rs. 5 Lakh core, with the additional amount being earmarked exclusively for the enterprises in hospitality and related sectors.
- With high immunization levels, progressive roll-back of restrictions and overall economic recovery, conditions are in place for sustained growth in demand for these sectors as well.
- This additional guarantee cover is expected to support the recovery of these sectors as well. This additional guarantee cover is expected to support the recovery of these sectors.

**1.89. CAROTAR RULES FOR TRADE AGREEMENT.**

- Exemptions specified in a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with regard to the country of origin would prevail in case of a conflict between the revenue department and an importer, the Finance Ministry has said.
- The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs said customs field officers should be sensitive to applying CAROTAR and maintain consistency with the provisions of relevant trade agreement or its Rules of Origin.
- Customs (Administration of Rules of Origin under Trade Agreements) or CAROTAR Rules, came into effect from September 21, 2020.
- It empowers officers to seek further information from an importer, consistent with the trade agreement, in case the officer has reasons to believe that the country-of-origin criteria have not been met. Where the importer fails to provide the requisite information, the officer can make further verification consistent with the trade agreement.

**About:**

- CAROTAR, 2020 set guidelines for enforcement of the 'rules of origin' for allowing preferential rate on imports under Free Trade Agreements.
- They supplement the existing operational certification procedures prescribed under different trade agreements.
- They were notified in August, 2020 by the Ministry of Finance.

**1.90. SOVEREIGN GOLD BOND SCHEME 2022-23 (SERIES -2) OPENED FOR SUBSCRIPTION .**

- Sovereign Gold Bonds 2022-23 (Series -2) has been opened for subscription.
- The Finance Ministry said, the issue price of the bond during the subscription period will be 5,197 rupees per gram.
- The government in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India has decided to allow discount of 50 rupees per gram from the issue price to those investors who apply online and the payment is made through digital mode.

**About**

- Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme was launched by Govt in November 2015, under Gold Monetisation Scheme.
- Under the scheme, the issues are made open for subscription in tranches by RBI in consultation with GOI.
- RBI Notifies the terms and conditions for the scheme from time to time.

#### Features

- To be issued by Reserve Bank India on behalf of the Government of India.
- The Bonds will be denominated in multiples of gram(s) of gold with a basic unit of 1 gram.
- The tenor of the Bond will be for a period of 8 years with exit option in 5th, 6th and 7th year, to be exercised on the interest payment dates.
- Minimum permissible investment will be 1 gram of gold.
- The maximum limit of subscribed shall be 4 KG for individual, 4 Kg for HUF and 20 Kg for trusts and similar entities per fiscal year (April-March) notified by the Government from time to time. A self-declaration to this effect will be obtained. The annual ceiling will include bonds subscribed under different tranches during initial issuance by Government and those purchase from the Secondary Market.

#### 1.91. GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HAS CLARIFIED THAT THERE IS NO PLAN TO LEVY ANY CHARGES FOR UPI SERVICES.

- In a series of tweets, Finance Ministry said, UPI is a digital public good with immense convenience for the public and productivity gains for the economy. The clarification came amid some reports that there may be possibility of UPI transactions charge.
- The Ministry said, the concerns of the service providers for cost recovery have to be met through other means.
- It said, the government had provided financial support for the Digital Payment ecosystem last year and has announced the same, this year as well to encourage further adoption of Digital Payments and promotion of payment platforms that are economical and user-friendly.

#### Unified Payments Interface (UPI):

- It is an **advanced version of Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)**- round-the-clock funds transfer service to make cashless payments faster, easier and smoother.
- UPI is a system that **powers multiple bank accounts** into a single mobile application (of any participating bank), merging several banking features, seamless fund routing & merchant payments into one hood.
- UPI is **currently the biggest among the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) operated systems** including National Automated Clearing House (NACH), Immediate Payment Service (IMPS), Aadhaar enabled Payment System (AePS), Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS), RuPay etc.
- The **top UPI apps** today include PhonePe, Paytm, Google Pay, Amazon Pay and **BHIM**, the latter being the Government offering.
- As part of an agreement, **India's UPI will be linked to Singapore's PayNow.**
- **NPCI launched UPI** with 21 member banks in 2016.

#### 1.92. PIYUSH GOYAL CALLS FOR STRONG LEGAL AND PUNITIVE ACTIONS AGAINST FRAUDULENT ACTIVITIES ON GEM PORTAL.

- Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal has called for strong legal and punitive actions against fraudulent activities on Government e Marketplace- GeM portal.
- The Minister said this while reviewing the progress of GeM in New Delhi.
- He said, in addition to detecting anomalies, GeM also plans to use Artificial Intelligence-Machine Learning to make proactive feature simplifications and product suggestions to buyers to ensure informed decision-making and savings in public spendings.

- Mr. Goyal also stressed on the need to bring all public procurement online to promote economies of scale and social Inclusiveness.
- The Minister suggested bringing in end-to-end online fulfillment and payment for all transactions by buyers on GeM and to improve monitoring of delivery against timelines.
- Significant technical upgrades have been planned by GeM to enable cutting edge use cases and improve user experience on the platform.

#### **About GeM**

- GeM is a short form of one stop Government e-Market Place hosted by DGS&D where common user goods and services can be procured.
- GeM is dynamic, self-sustaining and user friendly portal for making procurement by Government officers.
- The portal was launched on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2016 by the Commerce & Industry Minister.
- Procurement on GeM has been authorized by General Financial Rules by making necessary changes in government rules. Presently more than 7400 products in about 150 product categories and hiring of transport service are available on **GeM POC portal**. Transactions for more than Rs 140 Crore have already been processed through GeM.
- GeM is a completely paperless, cashless and system driven e-market place that enables procurement of common use goods and services with minimal human interface.

#### **1.93. PRADHAN MANTRI JAN DHAN YOJANA COMPLETES EIGHT YEARS OF SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION.**

- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana PMJDY, the National Mission for Financial Inclusion completed eight years of successful implementation, August 28th.
- More than 46.25 crore beneficiaries banked under PMJDY since inception, amounting to over one lakh 73 thousand crore rupees. PMJDY Accounts grew three-fold from 14.72 crore in March 2015 to 46.25 crore as on the 10th of this month.
- 56 percent Jan-Dhan account holders are women and 67 percent of Jan Dhan accounts are in rural and semi-urban areas. 31.94 crore RuPay cards have been issued to PMJDY account holders.
- On the occasion 8th Anniversary of PMJDY, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that financial inclusion is a major step towards inclusive growth which ensures the overall economic development of marginalised sections of society. She said the continuation of PMJDY beyond 2018 saw a marked shift in approach to meet the challenges and requirements of the emerging financial inclusion landscape in the country.
- The Minister said, the underlying pillars of PMJDY, namely, Banking the Unbanked, Securing the Unsecured, and Funding the Unfunded have made it possible to adopt multi-stakeholders collaborative approach while leveraging technology for serving the unserved and underserved areas as well.
- She said financial inclusion needs policy-led intervention based on an architecture linked to suitable financial products, information, and communication technologies, and data infrastructure.
- PMJDY has become the foundation stone for the government's people-centric economic initiatives.

#### **About Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)**

- The PMJDY was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day address in 2014.
- Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) was launched by Narendra Modi on 28th August 2014
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is National Mission for Financial Inclusion to ensure access to financial services, namely, Banking/ Savings & Deposit Accounts, Remittance, Credit, Insurance, Pension in an affordable manner.

#### **Objectives:**

- Ensure access of financial products & services at an affordable cost
- Use of technology to lower cost & widen reach

#### Basic tenets of the scheme

- **Banking the unbanked** - Opening of basic savings bank deposit (BSBD) account with minimal paperwork, relaxed KYC, e-KYC, account opening in camp mode, zero balance & zero charges
- **Securing the unsecured** - Issuance of Indigenous Debit cards for cash withdrawals & payments at merchant locations, with free accident insurance coverage of Rs. 2 lakh
- **Funding the unfunded** - Other financial products like micro-insurance, overdraft for consumption, micro-pension & micro-credit

#### 1.94. COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER PIYUSH GOYAL CALLS FOR INTEGRATION OF ODOP INITIATIVE WITH OPEN NETWORK FOR DIGITAL COMMERCE.

- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has called for the integration of One District One Product, ODOP initiative with Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).
- The Minister said, Open Network for Digital Commerce would help in further expanding the frontiers of One District One Product by bringing buyers and sellers together.
- The Minister was speaking on the launch of One District One Product Gift Catalog and Storefront on GeM in New Delhi.
- He opined that the G20 summit which is set to take place in the country soon, is a great opportunity to showcase One District One Products.
- The Minister also called for the expansion of availability of genuine products to counter fake products in the market.

#### About One District One Product (ODOP)

- It was launched in January 2018, by the Uttar Pradesh Government, and due to its success, was later adopted by the Central Government.
- The 'One District, One Product (ODOP) was later launched by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries in 2018, to help districts reach their full potential, foster economic and socio-cultural growth, and create employment opportunities, especially in rural areas.
- The initiative is carried out with the 'Districts as Exports Hub' initiative by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Department of Commerce.
- It is a centrally sponsored scheme to be shared by the central government and states in 60:40 contributions.

#### About the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)

- The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) is a government-backed project which is aimed at enabling small merchants and mom-and-pop stores in parts of the country to access processes and technologies that are typically deployed by large e-commerce platforms.
- It is an initiative aiming at promoting open networks for all aspects of the exchange of goods and services over digital or electronic networks.
- ONDC is to be based on open-sourced methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols independent of any specific platform.
- ONDC is a private non-profit Section 8 company established by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) of the Government of India to develop open e-commerce.

## DEFENCE

### 1.95. INDIAN ARMY'S DRILLS WITH OMAN, VIETNAM.

- The Indian Army will conduct separate exercises with Oman and Vietnam starting August 1.
- The fourth edition of **India-Oman** joint military exercise '**Al Najah-IV**' is scheduled to take place at Mahajan field firing ranges (Rajasthan) from August 1 to 13.
- The Royal Army of Oman contingent arrived at the location; the Indian Army is represented by 18 Mechanised Infantry.
- The third edition of **Vietnam-India** Army exercise '**Ex VINBAX 2022**' is scheduled to start at Chandimandir from Aug 1 to 20.
- The **theme** is employment and deployment of an 'engineers' company' and a medical team as part of UN contingent for peacekeeping ops.

### 1.96. INDIA TO JOIN 17 COUNTRIES IN PITCH BLACK 2022 AIR COMBAT EXERCISE.

#### Pitch Black Air Combat Exercise

- **The exercises will be conducted by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)** starting August 19 to September 6. Almost 2,500 personnel from over 17 countries and 100 aircraft will engage in both Offensive Counter Air (OCA) and Defensive Counter Air (DCA) combat drills.

#### About Pitch Black

- In the 1980s, this first started in Australia's Northern Territories between different RAAF units. Australia has been inviting international partners since then to practice new doctrines, combat and most importantly interoperability.
- **For the first time India participated in Pitch Black was in 2018** along with other countries like Germany, Indonesia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Australia, Canada, France (New Caledonia), and the United States.

#### Where is Pitch Black conducted?

- It is conducted on RAAF's Bradshaw Field Training Area and Delamere Air Weapons Range — one of the largest training airspaces in the world. Usually the drills are out of RAAF's Base Darwin and Base Tindal, this year Base Amberley will also be used.
- In this edition of the exercise, Australia will establish themselves as key players in regional security and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

#### Who all are attending?

- **Australia** is the **host**, and others attending include India, Germany, France, UAE, Malaysia, the US, New Zealand, Indonesia, Singapore, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the UK, the Philippines, Thailand, Canada, and the Netherlands.
- For the **first time Japan, Germany and the Republic of Korea** are participating and there will be an International Observer Group Programme which allows other countries to be present to observe the planning and execution of the exercise.

### 1.97. DRDO SUCCESSFULLY TEST FIRES INDIGENOUSLY DEVELOPED LASER-GUIDED ATGMs.

- The indigenously developed Laser-Guided Anti-Tank Guided Missiles **ATGM** were successfully test-fired from Main Battle Tank MBT Arjun by Defence Research and Development Organisation DRDO and Indian Army at KK Ranges with support of Armoured Corps Centre and School Ahmednagar in Maharashtra.
- The missiles hit with precision and successfully destroyed the targets at two different ranges. Telemetry systems have recorded the satisfactory flight performance of the missiles.
- The all-indigenous Laser Guided ATGM employs a tandem High Explosive Anti-Tank HEAT warhead to defeat Explosive Reactive Armour ERA protected armoured vehicles.

- The ATGM has been developed with multi-platform launch capability and is currently undergoing technical evaluation trials from the 120 mm rifled gun of MBT Arjun.

### **1.98. INDIA, US TO HOLD MEGA MILITARY EXERCISE IN UTTARAKHAND'S AULI IN OCTOBER.**

- India and the US will conduct a fortnight-long mega military exercise in Uttarakhand's Auli in October 2022.
- The **18th** edition of exercise "**Yudh Abhyas**" is scheduled to take place from October 14 to 31.
- The exercise is aimed at enhancing understanding, cooperation and interoperability between the two armies. The last edition of the exercise took place in October last year in Alaska in the US.
- The Indo-US defence ties have been on an upswing for the past few years. In June **2016**, the **US designated India a "Major Defence Partner"**.
- The two countries have also inked key defence and security pacts over the past few years, including the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (**LEMOA**).
- The agreement that allows militaries of two countries to use each other's bases for repair and replenishment of supplies as well as provides for deeper cooperation.

### **1.99. US, AUSTRALIA HAVE SHOWN INTEREST IN TEJAS: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

- Among the countries that have evinced interest in Tejas, the light combat aircraft (LCA), are the US, Australia, Malaysia, Egypt, Indonesia, Argentina and the Philippines, the Ministry of Defence informed the Lok Sabha in a written reply.
- The single engine plane is manufactured by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), a defence PSU under the Ministry of Defence.
- In case of Malaysia, the HAL has responded to a Request for Information received from Royal Malaysian Air Force, Malaysia, in February 2019.
- Subsequently, in October 2021 a Request for Proposal was issued against tender by Malaysia 18 jets, the HAL had offered the twin-seater variant, said Ajay Bhatt, Minister of State in the MoD.
- Malaysia is procuring the aircraft to replace its ageing fleet of Russian MiG-29 fighter planes.
- To a separate question on whether the government proposes to manufacture a stealth fighter jet, Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt said "yes" and added the "autonomous flying wing technology demonstrator" has been successfully tested by the DRDO.

### **1.100. US NAVY SHIP ARRIVES IN INDIA FOR REPAIRS FOR FIRST TIME EVER, MAJOR BOOST TO 'MAKE IN INDIA' INITIATIVE.**

- Adding a new dimension to the burgeoning Indo-US strategic partnership, US Navy Ship (USNS) Charles Drew arrived at L&T's Shipyard at Kattupalli, Chennai for undertaking repairs and allied services.
- This is the first ever repair of a US Navy ship in India. This will give a huge boost to 'Make in India' & 'Aatmanirbharta in Defence sector.
- Ministry of Defence in a statement said that the US Navy had awarded a contract to L&T's Shipyard at Kattupalli for undertaking maintenance of the ship.
- The event signifies the capabilities of Indian shipyards in the global ship repairing market. Indian shipyards offer wide ranging and cost-effective ship repair and maintenance services, using advanced maritime technology platforms.
- Indian defence exports have seen a massive increase in the last four-five years.
- The exports, which were worth about 1,500 crore rupees in 2015-16, have now grown by 800 per cent to around 13 thousand crore rupees.

### **1.101. 12TH EDITION OF DEFENCE EXPO TO BE HELD IN GANDHINAGAR, GUJARAT.**

- The Ministry of Defence announced that the 12th edition of the Defence Expo, India's flagship exhibition on Land, Naval and Homeland Security systems, will be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The event will be held between October 18 and 22, 2022. The **theme** for this edition is 'Path to Pride' invoking nationalistic pride and encouraging citizens to partake in nation-building through establishing a capable indigenous Defence industry.
- The five-day event will witness three business days followed by two public days. Live demonstrations showcasing the equipment and skill set of the Armed Forces, DPSUs and Industry will be held on all five days at Sabarmati River Front through active participation and synchronized efforts at all levels.
- The DefExpo 2022 will be held in a three-venue format across an area of 01+ lakh square metres at Helipad Exhibition Centre; inaugural event and seminars at Mahatma Mandir Convention and Exhibition Centre and Live demo at Sabarmati River Front.
- The exhibition is being planned with **events** such as **Bandhan** for forging partnerships between companies; seminars and webinars showcasing start-ups/MSMEs, including cutting-edge technology solutions for future battlefield; Artificial Intelligence in defence; student visits and showcasing Gujarat as an investment destination for aerospace and defence sector, etc.
- The exhibition is in line with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to achieve self-reliance in defence and achieve export of \$5 billion by 2025. India has successfully established itself as an emerging defence manufacturing hub with numerous international orders being bagged by Indian companies in recent years.
- The Indian Defence industry has been keenly anticipating DefExpo-2022 which is Asia's largest event in the defence sector. **It was postponed in March 2022 due to logistical problems being faced by the participants.**
- The reforms in defence manufacturing are attracting greater interest from Indian Defence manufacturers and it is therefore anticipated that DefExpo-2022 would attract active participation from Indian companies.
- At DefExpo-2022, the participants will get an opportunity to showcase their equipment and platforms and also be able to explore the strengths and capabilities of the expanse of the Indian Defence industry for forging Business partnerships. The event will help boost investment, expand manufacturing capacities and capabilities, and discover avenues for technology absorption.
- The DefExpo-2022 website ([www.defexpo.gov.in](http://www.defexpo.gov.in)) is available to provide online services to exhibitors, besides hosting informative content about the various indigenous defence products and promoting heritage and leisure at Gujarat.

### 1.102. INDIA TO TAKE PART IN FIRST BILATERAL AIR EXERCISE WITH MALAYSIA.

- The four-day bilateral drill between Indian Air Force (IAF) and Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) will take place at the RMAF base of Kuantan, Malaysia.
- The name of the bilateral exercise is '**Udarashakti**'.
- The Indian contingent comprise Su-30 MKI frontline fighter jets and C-17 transport aircraft
- The Malaysian air force will deploy its SU-30 MKM.

### 1.103. INDIGENOUSLY-DEVELOPED EQUIPMENT AND SYSTEMS.

- The defence minister recently handed over **several indigenously-developed equipment** and systems to the Army which includes **F-INSAS, the Nipun mines and the Landing Craft Assault (LCA).**

#### About

##### Future Infantry Soldier as a System(F-INSAS):

- It is a programme for **infantry modernisation** aimed at increasing the **operational capability** of the soldier.

- As part of the project, soldiers are being equipped with modern systems that are lightweight, **all-weather-all-terrain, cost-effective and low maintenance**.
- The full-gear of the F-INSAS system includes an AK-203 assault rifle, which is a Russian-origin gas-operated, magazine-fed, select-fire assault rifle.
- The F-INSAS also comes with hands-free, secured advanced communications set for real-time exchange of information with the command post and fellow soldiers for enhanced situational awareness. modelled on Conceived in the 2000s, F-INSAS is one among many soldiers modernisation programmes across the world. The US has Land Warrior, while the UK has FIST (Future Integrated Soldier Technology).

#### **Nipun mines:**

- They are indigenously designed and developed anti-personnel mines, termed by the DRDO as '**soft target blast munition**'.
- These mines are meant to act as the first line of defence against infiltrators and enemy infantry.
- They have been developed with the efforts of Armament Research and Development Establishment, a Pune-based DRDO facility, and Indian industry.
- Anti-personnel mines are meant to be used against humans as against anti-tank mines that are aimed at heavy vehicles.
- They are smaller in size and can be deployed in large numbers.

#### **Landing Craft Assault (LCA):**

- It is meant to serve as a replacement for the boats with limited capabilities currently in use in the Pangong Tso lake.
- The LCA, which has been indigenously developed by Goa-based Aquarius ShipYard Limited, is said to have better launch, speed and capacity to operate across water obstacles in eastern Ladakh.

### **1.104. HAL TO SET UP OFFICE IN KUALALAMPUR TO PROMOTE ITS PRODUCTS AND SERVICES IN SOUTH EAST ASIA.**

- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) signed an MoU for establishing an office in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia. The office in Malaysia will help HAL in tapping the new business opportunities for Fighter Lead in Trainer (FLIT) LCA and other requirements of Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) like Su-30 MKM and Hawk upgrades.
- It will reinforce the commitment of India in supporting the Malaysian Defence Forces and industry for sustainable aerospace and defence landscape in Malaysia.
- HAL's office in Kuala Lumpur will take up market promotion of HAL's range of products and services not only in Malaysia but in entire South East Asia. HAL had submitted a proposal to Ministry of Defence (MINDEF), Malaysia during October 2021 for supply of 18 FLIT LCAs against a global tender issued by RMAF.
- The final winner of the tender is expected to be declared soon by Malaysian authorities. LCA Tejas stands a fair chance of selection in the bid as it meets all the parameters sought by RMAF.
- Further, being one of the largest producer of Russian-origin Su-30 aircraft, HAL has capabilities to extend the required support to RMAF for Su-30 MKM fleet which is facing low serviceability issues due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine crisis.
- HAL can support RMAF for upgrading their Hawk fleet as well. Other HAL platforms like HTT-40, Do-228, Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH), Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) etc., have the potential to be inducted by RMAF in future.
- Among others Defence Secretary Dr. Ajay Kumar and B N Reddy, High Commissioner of India in Malaysia were present.



### **1.105. INDIAN AIR FORCE CONTINGENT REACHES AUSTRALIA TO PARTICIPATE IN EXERCISE PITCH BLACK 2022**

- An Indian Air Force contingent has reached Australia to participate in Exercise Pitch Black 2022. The exercise is being held in Darwin till 8th of next month.
- This is a biennial, multi-national exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force. Defence Ministry said that the exercise will see the participation of over 100 aircrafts and 2500 military personnel from various air forces.
- The Indian Air Force contingent comprises of over 100 air warriors, deployed with four Su-30 MKI fighter and two C-17 aircraft.
- They will undertake multi-domain air combat missions in a complex environment and will exchange best practices with the participating air forces.

### **1.106. DRDO AND INDIAN NAVY TEST FIRE INDIGENOUS VERTICAL LAUNCH SHORT RANGE SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE.**

- Defence Research and Development Organisation and Indian Navy successfully flight tested Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM).
- The missile was tested from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur off the coast of Odisha. This missile has been indigenously designed and developed by DRDO.
- Defence Ministry said the flight test was carried out from an Indian Naval ship against a high-speed unmanned aerial target for demonstration of vertical launch capability.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has complimented DRDO, Indian Navy and associated teams on the successful flight trial of missiles.
- He said the missile will prove to be a force multiplier for the Indian Navy.
- DRDO Chairman Dr G Satheesh Reddy that it will further strengthen the Indian Navy for neutralising various aerial threats at close ranges including sea-skimming targets.

### **1.107. INDIAN NAVAL SHIP SUMEDHA VISITS PORT KLANG IN MALAYSIA.**

- As part of the Indian Navy's long-range operational deployment, Indian Naval Ship, INS Sumedha visited Port Klang of Malaysia.
- The ship is on her return passage from Perth, Australia where she participated in the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.
- Ministry of Defence in a statement said that INS Sumedha's visit to Port Klang is aimed at strengthening bilateral ties, enhancing maritime cooperation and inter-operability between Indian and Royal Malaysian Navies.
- Both navies have been collaborating on various fronts and are playing a critical role in ensuring Maritime Security and Safety of global commons.
- During the **port call** at Port Klang, the crew of INS Sumedha would engage in professional interactions, subject matter expert exchanges, cross-deck visits and sports fixtures with personnel from the Royal Malaysian Navy.
- The ship will also be open for the visit of school children. INS Sumedha is also scheduled to participate in a Maritime Partnership Exercise with Royal Malaysian Navy Ships.
- INS Sumedha is an indigenously built Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel deployed for multiple roles independently and in support of Fleet Operations.

**What is Port of Call?**

- Port of call means an intermediate stop for a ship on its scheduled journey for **cargo operation** or taking on supplies or fuel.
- As Per the shipping Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) regulation a “port of call” can be defined as the port of a country where cargo or a passenger (cruise) ship halts to discharge or load the cargo or to embark or disembark passengers.

### 1.108. IAF TO RAISE ITS FIRST LIGHT COMBAT HELICOPTERS’ UNIT AT JODHPUR IN OCTOBER

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is to raise its first unit of indigenously made Light Combat Helicopters (LCHs) in October. The LCH is made by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- The move comes weeks after Army Aviation Corps inducted the LCH in July this year. The unit is being prepared for deployment in the Northeast.
- The IAF will be inducting 10 LCHs in the first batch.
- The IAF operates the three-decade-old Russian Mi-25 and Mi-35 attack helicopters. One of the squadrons of the Russian-made copters is to be phased out while another one is going for a midlife upgrade. The process of induction of 22 Boeing AH-64E Apache attack helicopters has been completed.
- Meanwhile, the Army that started the LCJ induction process plans to acquire 95 LCHs, each having 10 helicopters. These will be deployed in the mountains.
- In March, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approved procurement of 15 Limited Series Production (LSP) variants of the LCH at the cost of Rs 3,887 crore along with infrastructure sanctions worth Rs 377 crore. Of the 15 helicopters, 10 are for the IAF and five for the Army.



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## POLICIES & PROGRAMMES

### 1.109. PARLIAMENT PASSES WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND THEIR DELIVERY SYSTEMS (PROHIBITION OF UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES) AMENDMENT BILL 2022 AND INDIAN ANTARCTIC BILL, 2022

- Parliament has passed the **Weapon of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Bill 2022** with the Rajya Sabha approving it today amid the din.
- The Bill seeks to amend the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act, 2005.
- The 2005 Act prohibits unlawful activities such as manufacturing, transport or transfer related to weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.
- Weapons of mass destruction are biological, chemical or nuclear weapons.
- The Bill bars persons from financing any prohibited activity related to weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems.
- The Parliament has passed the Indian **Antarctic Bill, 2022**.
- The Bill was passed by the Upper House negating the amendments moved by Left MPs. The Lok Sabha has already cleared the Bill.
- The Bill seeks to give effect to the Antarctic Treaty, the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources and the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty. It also seeks to protect the Antarctic environment and regulate activities in the region.
- Speaking on the Bill, Union Earth Science Minister Dr. Jitender Singh said, Antarctica is a very unique land and India has four treaties in place. He said, India has two establishments there, one is Maitri and second is Bharati.

### 1.110. OVER 77 CRORE PORTABLE TRANSACTIONS RECORDED UNDER ONE NATION-ONE RATION CARD SCHEME.

- Over **seventy-seven crore portable transactions** were recorded under the **One Nation-One Ration Card Scheme**.
- Food and Public Distribution Ministry has said that **eighty crore beneficiaries** avail benefit from the scheme recording nearly three crore portability transactions per month. The scheme is to complete three years of its successful launch next week.
- The Ministry said, the scheme is one-of-its-kind Citizen Centric initiative in the country.
- It said, the objective of this beneficiary centric high-impact program is to empower all **National Food Security Act** beneficiaries to be Atma Nirbhar for their food security anywhere in the country.
- The Ministry said that **the scheme was launched on 9th of August in 2019**, as a pilot project in four states and now, it has been implemented across the country.

### 1.111. 8 CRORE 41 LAKH RURAL WOMEN MEMBERS MOBILISED THROUGH DAY-NRLM INTO 77 LAKH 40 THOUSAND SHGs TILL JULY 28: GOVT

- The Centre said, eight crore 41 lakh rural women members have been mobilised through Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission, DAY-NRLM, into 77 lakh 40 thousand Self-Help Groups till 28th of last month.
- In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, the Minister of State for Rural Development the Centre said, eight crore 41 lakh rural women members have been mobilised through Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana -

National Rural Livelihoods Mission, DAY-NRLM, into 77 lakh 40 thousand Self-Help Groups till 28th of last month.

- This mission has been mobilised across 721 districts and 6,842 blocks of 34 States and Union Territories. She said, these SHGs have been federated into four lakh 37 thousand Village Organisations and over 28 thousand Cluster Level Federations.
- Sadhvi Jyoti said, DAY-NRLM has also trained around four lakh community resource persons who are skilled in different thematic areas such as gender, financial inclusion, livelihood promotion and nutrition.
- She said, over 39 lakh SHGs have been provided with revolving funds and 22 lakh 21 thousand SHGs have been also provided with Community Investment Funds as capital support till June this year.
- Aajeevika - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India in June 2011.

### **1.112. CENTRE LAUNCHES SERB-SURE SCHEME TO AUGMENT RESEARCH CAPABILITIES IN STATE VARSITIES, COLLEGES.**

- The government launched State University Research Excellence scheme to augment the research capabilities in a structured way to create a robust R&D ecosystem in state and private universities and colleges, including self-financed institutions working within these universities.
- State University Research Excellence (**SERB-SURE**) is a new innovative scheme of the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), a statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), that can foster collaboration for high-end research at state and private universities and colleges.
- “The new scheme will help bring the university system, which was so far mostly limited to teaching, into mainstream research and enable the young faculty there to participate in cutting-edge research,” said Dr. Srivari Chandrasekhar, Chairman SERB and Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST) at the launch of the programme.
- In this scheme, the state universities will have level competition to secure research funding, and present significant opportunities for strengthening of research ecosystem in state universities to upgrade their research capabilities to national and international levels,” said SERB Secretary Professor Sandeep Verma.
- SERB-SURE scheme provides research support to active researchers belonging to state and private universities and colleges, including self-financed institutions working within these universities, across India, to undertake research and development in frontier areas of science, engineering, and quantitative social science.

### **1.113. PRIVATE PLAYERS TO HELP MISSION VATSALYA TO ACHIEVE ‘LEAVE NO CHILD BEHIND’ GOAL.**

- Ministry of Women and Child Development has planned to initiate the involvement of Private Aided Sponsorship wherein interested sponsors including individuals, institutions, companies, banks, industrial units or trusts, etc. can support the children through the Mission Vatsalya scheme.
- Civil society and various volunteering organisations are being encouraged to join the Mission in a systematic and planned manner to stimulate public participation and utilise the resources available for the mission’s accomplishment.
- The Ministry has also proposed a Vatsalya portal where volunteers can register so that State and District Authorities can hire them to carry out various initiatives.

#### **Mission Vatsalya Scheme’s motto: “Leave No Child Behind”**

- Formulated in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Mission Vatsalya Scheme is a road map for achieving development and child protection priorities. Its core motto is, “Leave No Child Behind,” which places a strong emphasis on children’s rights, advocacy, and awareness as well as the enhancement of the juvenile justice system’s care and protection.

- It serves as the country's general framework for child protection services. Improved statutory body operation, strengthened service delivery systems, upscale institutional care and services, promotion of non-institutional community-based care, emergency outreach services, training, and capacity building are some of the components of Mission Vatsalya.
- The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 provisions and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 form the basic framework for carrying out the Mission.
- 472 million children under the age of 18 live in India, making up approximately 39% of the total population, and this mission is to ensure that every child in the nation has a happy and healthy childhood and to foster a sensitive, supporting, and synchronised ecology for children's growth to make sure they have the opportunities to realise their full potential and help them flourish in all ways over time.

#### **Centrally sponsored scheme**

- The program is carried out as a centrally sponsored scheme in collaboration with state governments and UT administrations to assist the States and UTs in expanding access and enhancing service quality throughout the nation.
- The percentage of funds shared between the centre and the states and union territories with the legislature is 60:40, respectively.
- The North-Eastern States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura, as well as the two Himalayan States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, and the UT of Jammu & Kashmir, share funds in a 90:10 ratio with the Centre.
- In Union Territories without a legislature, the central share is 100%. In order to ensure that services are provided and that children in the area are cared for and protected, the District Child Protection Unit will operate under the general supervision of the District Magistrate.

#### **The key objectives of Mission Vatsalya are:**

- Coordinate and network with all allied systems to promote convergent efforts for seamless service delivery to children in order to ensure appropriate inter-sector response at all levels.
- To improve family and community-level child protection, empower families and communities to recognise risks and vulnerabilities affecting children, and develop and promote preventative strategies to shield kids from danger, risk, and abuse.

#### **1.114. ARMY DESIGN BUREAU HAS SIGNED A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH DRONE FEDERATION OF INDIA.**

- With increasing role of drones or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) in modern day warfare, the Army Design Bureau has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with **Drone Federation of India** to collaboratively work towards promoting research, development, testing and manufacturing of drones, counter-drone and associated technologies.
- This MoU also signifies unwavering commitment of Indian Army in supporting Indian industry and complete eco system to develop indigenous equipment and weapon systems in line with Atmanirbharta in defence manufacturing.
- The Army Design Bureau is nodal agency of Indian Army to be facilitator for research and development efforts with industry, academia, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and defence public sector undertakings to enable them to understand and appreciate user requirements in depth.
- The Drone Federation of India promotes drone industry by bringing about policy change, creating business opportunities, developing a robust skilling infrastructure, facilitating tech and knowledge transfers, developing standards, and promoting research and development efforts with industry-academia collaboration.

#### **1.115. LOK SABHA PASSES ENERGY CONSERVATION BILL TO PROMOTE NON-FOSSIL FUELS.**

- A bill seeking to mandate the use of non-fossil energy sources such as biomass, ethanol and green hydrogen was passed by the Lok Sabha.
- Piloting the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022, Power Minister R K Singh said "this is the bill for the future".
- The bill was later passed by the House after rejecting amendments moved by some Opposition members. The Minister said the renewable energy capacity addition in India was fastest in the world.
- The Bill provides for penalties for violations by industrial units or vessels, and on manufacturers if a vehicle fails to comply with fuel consumption norms.
- With the energy transition towards renewable energy and National Green Hydrogen Mission, a need has arisen to further amend the said Act to facilitate the achievement of 'Panchamrit' -as five nectar elements presented by India in Conference of Parties -26 in Glasgow last year.
- The amendments also seek to promote renewable energy and the development of a domestic carbon market to battle climate change.
- It aims to introduce new concepts such as carbon trading and mandate the use of non-fossil sources to ensure faster decarbonisation of the Indian economy and help achieve sustainable development goals in line with the Paris Agreement.

#### **1.116. UNION CABINET APPROVES EXTENSION OF PMAY-URBAN 'HOUSING FOR ALL MISSION' UPTO 31ST DEC 2024.**

- Union Cabinet has approved continuation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) - Housing for All Mission up to 31st December 2024. Financial assistance is being provided for the completion of already sanctioned over 122 lakh houses till 31st March 2022.
- The scheme is one of the major flagship programmes being implemented by Central Government to provide all-weather pucca houses to all eligible beneficiaries in the urban areas of the country through States, Union Territories, and Central Nodal Agencies.
- The continuation of the scheme based on the request of States and UTs upto 31st December 2024 will help in completion of already sanctioned houses under Beneficiary Led Construction, Affordable Housing in Partnership, and In-situ Slum Redevelopment verticals.
- Central Assistance approved since 2015 is two lakh three thousand crore rupees against 20 thousand crore rupees in 2004-2014.

#### **1.117. NHIDCL-NSDC TIE-UP TO MAKE INDIA 'SKILL CAPITAL OF THE WORLD'.**

- A MoU has been signed between National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) with an objective to make India the 'Skill Capital of the world'.
- The MoU was signed between Managing Director (MD), NHIDCL and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), NSDC, which is expected to play a significant role in realizing the aims and objectives of Prime Minister's skill development program.
- The MoU provides a formal basis of interaction between NHIDCL and NSDC.
- The purpose of this MoU is to establish the basis of collaboration between NHIDCL and NSDC, to take up multiple initiatives contributing towards making India the 'Skill Capital of the World'.

#### **About NSDC:**

- National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) is a not-for-profit public limited company incorporated under section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- NSDC was set up by the Ministry of Finance as a Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.
- The Government of India through Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) holds 49% of the share capital of NSDC, while the private sector has the balance 51% of the share capital.

### **1.118. INDIA RANKS 3RD IN GLOBAL STARTUP ECOSYSTEM & NUMBER OF UNICORNS: UNION MINISTER JITENDRA SINGH.**

- India ranks third in the global Startup ecosystem and also in terms of the number of Unicorns. As per the latest data, there are currently 105 unicorns out of which 44 were born in 2021 and 19 in 2022.
- The 49 per cent of the startups are from tier-2 and tier-3 cities.
- The startups are emerging in the fields like IT, agriculture, aviation, education, energy, health and space sectors.
- India has created a massive jump in its global ranking of Global Innovation Index (GII) from 81st in the year 2015 to 46th in 2021 among 130 economies of the world.
- India ranks 2nd among 34 lower middle-income economies and 1st among 10 Central and Southern Asian economies in terms of GI.
- The consistent improvement in the GI ranking is owing to the immense knowledge capital, the vibrant startup ecosystem, and some outstanding work done by the public and private research organisations.

### **1.119. SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY LAUNCHES SMILE-75 INITIATIVE.**

- The Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry launched the 'SMILE-75' initiative for comprehensive rehabilitation of persons engaged in begging in 75 identified municipalities as a part of the celebrations of 75 years of Independence.
- The initiative is part of the Ministry's ongoing SMILE project (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) for which ₹100 crore has been allocated till 2025-2026.
- Under the SMILE-75 initiative, 75 municipal corporations in collaboration with NGOs and other stakeholders will cover several comprehensive welfare measures for persons who are engaged in the act of begging with focus extensively on rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counselling, awareness, education, skill development, economic linkages and convergence with other government welfare programmes etc.
- Among the aims of the initiative, was to make the 75 municipalities "begging-free".

### **1.120. HIGH POWERED MEETING HELD TO DELIBERATE, FACILITATE ECO SYSTEM FOR CONTAINER PRODUCTION UNDER MAKE IN INDIA PROGRAMME.**

- A high-powered meeting was held to deliberate and facilitate an eco-system for Container production under Make in India programme.
- Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Chemicals and Fertiliser Minister Mansukh Mandaviya attended the meeting held in New Delhi.
- In a move to make India Atmanirbhar in its requirement for containers, the high-powered meeting deliberated various aspects in this regard.
- It was decided that with cluster base manufacturing in focus, the CONCOR will be working closely with the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW).
- The meeting also discussed how the availability of Make in India containers might open up the avenue for domestic cargo transportation using the vast expanse of inland waterways of India.
- In the meeting, the ministers also discussed the possibility of moving bulk cargos like cement, food grains, fertilisers etc., through coastal and inland waterways in containerised form.
- This move will contribute to a reduction in the cost of logistics and handling charges as it will be through an economical, ecological and easier mode of transportation.
- Earlier, a committee was formed comprising of Joint Secretary (Ports), Joint Secretary (Customs), Joint Secretary (Logistics), Joint Secretary (Steel), and a representative from CONCOR and NICDC to assess the

demand for containers in domestic trade, EXIM trade as well as the problem faced in the domestic manufacturing of containers.

- The MoPSW also interacted with the representatives from CONCOR, the Association of Container Train Operators (ACTO), steel manufacturing companies, container manufacturers, and the Container Shipping Line Association (CSLA).
- “In the EXIM segment, container availability and space onboard vessels are consistently improving. In the domestic segment, CONCOR has a requirement for approximately 50,000 containers in the next three years,” MoPSW said.

#### **About the Company**

- **The Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR)**, was incorporated in March 1988 under the Companies Act, and commenced operation from November 1989 taking over the existing network of 7 ICDs from the Indian Railways.

#### **1.121. BAL AADHAAR INITIATIVE: OVER 79L CHILDREN ENROLLED IN 4 MONTHS.**

- In the renewed effort to reach out to more children in the 0-5 age group under the Bal Aadhaar initiative, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has enrolled more than 79 lakh children during the first four months (April-July) of the current financial year.
- As per government officials, the Bal Aadhaar initiative will help parents and children avail multiple benefits. While 2.64 crore children in the 0-5 age group had Bal Aadhaar by March 31, 2022, this number has increased to 3.43 crore by the end of July 2022.
- Bal Aadhaar registration is progressing very well, with increased speed across the country. Enrolments of children in the 0-5 age group in states like Himachal Pradesh and Haryana have already covered more than 70 per cent of the targeted age group.
- Registration of children (0-5 age group) has also done exceedingly well in several other states and UTs including Jammu and Kashmir, Mizoram, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh and Lakshadweep.
- Over all, the Aadhaar saturation at present is around 94 per cent. Aadhaar saturation among adults is almost 100 per cent. Aadhaar is now a catalyst of both, ease of living and ease of doing business.
- UIDAI and its regional offices have been constantly encouraging residents to come forward and register their children under Bal Aadhaar initiative. Bal Aadhaar works as a facilitator in availing several welfare benefits, and also works as a digital photo identity for children right from birth.
- Aadhaar enrolment of children in the age group of 0-5 years are carried out based on facial image of the child, and biometric authentication of the parent/guardian (having a valid Aadhaar).
- A proof of relationship document (preferably birth certificate) is collected at the time of enrolment for Bal Aadhaar.
- To differentiate the Bal Aadhaar from normal Aadhaar, it is issued in blue colour, with a remark that this is valid till the child attains the age of 5 years.

#### **1.122. INDIAN BUREAU OF MINES TO CREATE INDIVIDUAL PORTAL FOR MINES MINISTRY UNDER PM GATI SHAKTI NATIONAL MASTER PLAN.**

- In compliance with the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, Ministry of Mines entrusted the responsibility for creation of individual portal to Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) through **BISAG-N (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo informatics)**.
- So far, two data layers have been created. The first layer covers the spatial data of Mineral concessions which included existing mining lease and existing composite license granted through auction. The second layer includes mineral auction block which have been auctioned successfully but execution of mining lease is pending.



- Spatial data of around 3154 mining leases (both working and non-working including auctioned blocks) covering 297200 Ha area all over the country have been uploaded on the portal, which is being validated, a ministry of mines statement said.
- The process of validation is likely to be completed by the end of this month.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched PM Gati Shakti - National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity, on 13th October, 2021.
- Infrastructure creation in India had suffered multiple issues including lack of coordination between different implementation agencies as well as information gap leading to cost and time over run-in implementation of projects.
- These issues not only led to public inconvenience but also deprived the country of having world class infrastructure.
- To address this, efforts were put in place to increase coordination between different agencies, make available all the available and required information for infrastructure creation on a web-based platform.
- Steps have also been taken to address other issues like time-taking approval process, multiplicity of regulatory clearances etc.

### 1.123. OVER ONE LAKH VILLAGES ACROSS THE COUNTRY TURNED ODF PLUS.

- **Over one lakh villages** have declared themselves as **open defecation-free (ODF) Plus**. Jal Shakti Ministry said, these villages are sustaining their ODF status and have systems in place for managing solid and liquid waste. They are also working towards making their villages cleaner, greener and healthier.
- **The top five performing states are Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and Himachal Pradesh** where maximum number of villages have been declared as ODF Plus.
- Prime Minister **started** the **Swachh Bharat Mission in October 2014** with the goal of eliminating garbage and open defecation in the country through behavioural change.
- **Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin Phase-II** was launched in **February 2020** with the aim to ensure that all villages in the country can declare themselves as ODF Plus by the end of 2024.
- The mission towards becoming ODF Plus has several components including biodegradable waste management including the **GOBARdhan Scheme**, Grey water management, Plastic waste management and faecal sludge management.

#### About open defecation-free (ODF) plus villages

- 'Open defecation free' (ODF) is a term used to describe communities that have shifted to using toilets instead of open defecation.
- **ODF plus village is defined as “a village which sustains its Open Defecation Free (ODF) status, ensures solid and liquid waste management and is visually clean.”**
- This includes ensuring that all households in a village, as well as the Primary School, Panchayat Ghar and Anganwadi Centre, have access to a toilet and that all public places and at least 80% of households effectively manage their solid and liquid waste and have a minimal litter and minimal stagnant water.
- ODF Plus villages have been divided into **three categories; Aspiring, Rising, Model**.

### 1.124. GOVT LAUNCHES 2ND PHASE OF GRAMEEN UDYAMI PROJECT TO PROMOTE SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AMONGST TRIBAL YOUTH.

- National Skill Development Corporation, NSDC in partnership with Seva Bharti and Yuva Vikas Society launched the second phase of Grameen Udyami Project to augment skill training in tribal communities for their inclusive and sustainable growth. Under the initiative, the endeavour is to multiskill India's youth and impart functional skills to them for enabling livelihoods.

- Launching the programme, Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda said, Central Government's complete focus is on strengthening sustainable livelihood for tribal population and it has sanctioned a budget of 85 thousand crore rupees exclusively for tribal areas.

#### About

##### About Gramin Udyami Project:

- It is a unique multiskilling project.
- It is funded by NSDC.
- Its target is to train 450 tribal students in Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh.
- The project is being implemented in 6 states: Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan.
- The training will be provided for the following Job roles:
  - Electrician & Solar PV Installation Technician
  - Plumbing & Masonry
  - 2-Wheeler Repair & Maintenance
  - IT/ITES with e-Governance
  - Farm Mechanization
- The project is implemented under Sansadiya Parisankul Yojana.

#### **1.125. UNION MINISTER JITENDRA SINGH SAYS COUNTRY'S BIOECONOMY TO GROW FROM 70 BILLION TO 150 BILLION US DOLLARS BY 2025.**

- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh has said that the country's Bioeconomy will grow from 70 Billion to 150 Billion US dollars by 2025. He stressed that this can only be achieved with active participation of all the stakeholders in the biotechnology Sector. Dr. Singh said this today during the announcement of 75 "Amrit" Grants for Biotech initiatives involving StartUps, industry, academia and research bodies in integrated collaboration.
- Dr. Singh described that the Biotechnology sector has been recognized as one of the key drivers growing exponentially and it will be the main torch bearer of the country's developed economic status in the Amrit Kaal period of next 25 years.
- Highlighting the 75 Amrit grants Dr. Singh said, 75 inter-disciplinary, multi-institutional grants would be supported for high-risk, ambitious research ideas, milestones-driven collaborative research in all domain-specific areas of the biotech sector in Public-Private Partnership mode.
- The Minister said that Startups, Industries, Academia and Research Bodies can form Team Science Grant in a Public-Private Partnership mode to avail grant of ten to fifteen crore rupees over a period of two to three years for inter-disciplinary, high-quality research.
- He said the grants also would be broadly provided in the areas of health, agribiotech, climate change, synthetic biology and sustainable bioresource management in order to address national priorities to propel India as a global leader in biotechnology.

#### What is Bioeconomics?

- As per, the **United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, Bio-economics could be defined as the **production, use, and conservation of biological resources, including related knowledge, science, technology, and innovation to provide information, products, processes, and services to all economic sectors** with the aim of moving towards a sustainable economy.

#### Historical Background:

- The term bioeconomy became popular in the **first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century** following its adoption by the European Union (EU) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as a framework for promoting the use of biotechnology to develop new products and markets.

**Examples:**

- **Food systems** occupy the largest niche in the bioeconomy. To these systems, which include Sustainable agriculture, Sustainable Fishing, Forestry and aquaculture, Food and feed manufacturing.

**1.126. CABINET COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS APPROVES PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT OF POLICY OF EXEMPTION FOR WHEAT FLOUR FROM EXPORT BAN.**

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal for amendment of policy of exemption for Wheat Flour from export ban.
- The approval will now allow to put a restriction on the export of Wheat Flour which will ensure a curb on rising prices of wheat flour and ensure food security of the most vulnerable sections of the society.
- Russia and Ukraine are the major exporters of wheat accounting for around 1/4th of the global wheat trade.
- The conflict between them led to the global wheat supply chain disruptions increasing demand of Indian wheat.
- As a result, the price of wheat in domestic market showed an increase. In order to ensure food security of 1.4 billion people of the country, decision was taken to put a prohibition on export of wheat in May this year.
- However, due to prohibition on export of wheat, the demand for wheat flour has increased in foreign markets.
- Its exports from India have registered a growth of 200 percent during April to July this year compared to the corresponding period last year. The increased demand for wheat flour in international market led to significant price rise of wheat flour in the domestic market.

**1.127. DPIIT REVIEWS 40 CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS ACROSS INDIA.**

- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, DPIIT on reviewed 40 critical infrastructure projects across India with issues enlisted for resolution with Environment Ministry and Rail Ministry.
- Special Secretary, DPIIT reviewed 57 issues in 40 projects with an anticipated investment of approximately Rs 3.37 lakh crores and emphasized upon the importance of timely completion of projects and the role of seamless coordination between the various departments of the Central Government to ensure that projects having high socio-economic importance are not delayed.

**Some of the projects which were reviewed are-**

- **BharatNet**- The broadband connectivity plan seeks to bring broadband to 361,000 villages across 16 states and is scheduled to be completed by 2025.
- **Hubli-Ankola New Line Project** (164.44 km), a supercritical Railway project which was stuck due to litigation issues regarding wildlife clearance given by the National Board of Wildlife
- **Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)** corridor connecting Sarai Kale Khan in Delhi with Modipuram in Meerut passing through key towns such as Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Muradnagar and Modinagar in Uttar Pradesh covering a total length of 82.15 km.
- **Four laning of Bangalore – Chennai Expressway (NE-5)**, a 260.85 km 4-lane access-controlled road connecting Hoskote near Bengaluru, Karnataka with Sriperumbudur near Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

**About DPIIT:**

- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** is a central government department under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in India.
- It is responsible for formulation and implementation of promotional and developmental measures for growth of the industrial sector, keeping in view the national priorities and socio-economic objectives.
- While individual administrative ministries look after the production, distribution, development and planning aspects of specific industries allocated to them, DPIIT is responsible for the overall industrial policy.

- It is also responsible for facilitating and increasing the foreign direct investment (FDI) flows to the country.
- The Department in its current form came into being on 27 January 2019, when the erstwhile **Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion** was renamed to **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** after internal trade was added to its mandate

### **1.128. SCHEME FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF DENOTIFIED, NOMADIC, SEMI-NOMADIC (SEED) TRIBES.**

- The Union Social Justice Ministry received 402 applications online from across the country for benefits under the Scheme for Economic Empowerment of Denotified, Nomadic, Semi-nomadic (SEED) Tribes.
- The Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED) in 2022 at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi for the welfare of De-notified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Communities.
- More than 10 crore Indians from 1,400 communities belong to these groups, show the latest estimates available with the government.
- The scheme aims to provide free competitive exam coaching to students, health insurance and financial assistance for housing and uplift clusters of these communities through livelihood initiatives.
- The Ministry has been allocated ₹200 crore for this scheme to be spent over five financial years from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- At the time of the launch, the Ministry announced that the scheme would be implemented through an online portal that would issue a unique ID to each applicant to apply and track the status of the application online.

#### **The De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes**

- These are communities that are the **most vulnerable and deprived**.
- DNTs are communities that were '**notified**' as being '**born criminals**' during the British regime under a series of laws starting with the **Criminal Tribes Act of 1871**.
  - These Acts were repealed by the **Independent Indian Government in 1952, and these communities were "De-Notified"**.
- A few of these communities which were listed as **de-notified were also nomadic**.
  - **Nomadic** and semi-nomadic communities are defined as **those who move from one place to another rather than living in one place all the time**.
- Historically, **Nomadic Tribes and De-notified Tribes** never had access to private land or home ownership.
- While most DNTs are spread across the **Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) categories**, some DNTs are not covered in any of the SC, ST or OBC categories.

## INDEXES & REPORTS

### 1.129. GOA BECOMES 1ST HAR GHAR JAL CERTIFIED STATE, DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI & DAMAN, DIU THE 1ST UT IN THE COUNTRY.

- Goa has become the first 'Har Ghar Jal' certified State and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu the first Union Territory in the country.
- In this State and UT, people from all the villages have declared their village as Har Ghar Jal through a resolution passed by the Gram Sabha.
- All two lakh 63 thousand rural households of Goa and over 85 thousand of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu have access to safe drinking water through tap connection.
- Jal Shakti Ministry said, despite various disruptions and challenges faced during COVID-19 pandemic, the consistent efforts by Panchayat representatives, Pani Samitis, District and State and UT officials have led to this achievement.
- All schools, Anganwadi centres, public institutions including Gram Panchayat buildings, healthcare centres and community centres and other government offices have now access to potable water through tap connection.
- Jal Jeevan Mission is a flagship programme of the Central Government which aims at making provision of potable tap water supply to every rural household of the country by 2024.
- More than 52 percent rural households in the country are now connected with tap water which was only 17 percent at the time of launch of this mission in August 2019.

### 1.130. ANNUAL INSTALLATION OF NEW WIND POWER PROJECTS IN INDIA WILL PEAK BY 2024 AND LIKELY DECLINE THEREAFTER.

- Annual installation of new wind power projects in India will peak by 2024 and likely decline thereafter, according to a report released by the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) and MEC+, a consulting firm that specialises in renewable energy.

#### About:

- As part of its transition away from fossil fuels, India has committed to sourcing half its electricity in 2030 from non-fossil fuel sources and installing 60 gigawatt (GW, or 1000 MW) of wind power by 2022.
- So far, only 40 GW of wind power capacity has been established.
- Wind industry installations have been slowing down in India since 2017. Only 1.45 GW of wind projects were installed in 2021 with many delayed due to the second wave of COVID-19 and supply chain-related disruptions.
- To compensate, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) granted a blanket timeline extension for seven-and-a-half months after the scheduled commissioning date (SCD) for projects with power purchase agreements (PPAs) signed before June 2021, which pushed the SCD of 0.7 GW projects to 2022.

### 1.131. NATIONAL CRIME RECORDS BUREAU (NCRB) REPORT, 2021

- Crimes against women rose 15 per cent in India in 2021 and Delhi is the most unsafe metropolitan city.
- Rajasthan reported the highest number of rape cases and Maharashtra topped the list when it comes to most suicides.
- **These are just some of the takeaways of the latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report which covers crimes against women, kidnappings, suicides, and traffic accidents in India and sheds some key insights:**
- The year 2021 also witnessed a spike in the rate of crimes against women (number of incidents per one lakh population) from 56.5 per cent in 2020 to 64.5 per cent

- Amongst the majority of the crimes against women, 31.8 per cent were cases registered under 'cruelty by husband or his relatives', 20.8 per cent cases were 'assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty', kidnapping and abduction accounted for 17.6 per cent cases and 7.4 per cent were rapes.
- With 56,083 cases, Uttar Pradesh topped the list of crimes against women, followed by Rajasthan (40,738) and Maharashtra (39,526).
- According to the NCRB data, Nagaland reported the lowest number of crimes against women with 5.5 per cent rate in 2021. The north eastern state also had the lowest number of actual cases (54) last year.
- As many as 31,677 rape cases were registered in 2021 as compared to 28,046 cases in 2020 in the country.

#### **Rajasthan logged the most rape cases among the states in 2020 and 2021.**

- The official figure stood at 5,310 in 2020 which increased to 6,337 the next year. The state also had the highest number of rapes of minor girls in 2021 with 1,453 cases.

#### **Delhi is the most unsafe metro city for women.**

- Delhi accounted for the highest rate of crimes against women in 2021 among the Union territories, showed NCRB data. The number of cases surged over the past three years from 13,395 in 2019 to 14,277 in 2021.
- Crimes against women in the National Capital accounted for 32.20 per cent of total crimes in the 19 metropolitan cities, followed by Mumbai (12.76 per cent) and Bengaluru (7.2 per cent)

#### **Two minor girls were raped every day last year in Delhi.**

- The National Capital logged 13,892 cases of crimes against women in 2021, a 40 per cent jump from 2020 when the official figure was 9,782.
- Of a total of 8,664 instances in various categories of crimes against women in 19 cities across the country with a population exceeding two million, Delhi recorded 4674 cases of cruelty by husbands, abduction and kidnapping of women stood at 3,948 cases.

#### **Suicide rates up, Maharashtra tops list.**

- As per the latest NCRB report, India reported 1,64,033 suicide cases in 2021, with Maharashtra (22,207) topping the list. The states that followed Maharashtra on the list are Tamil Nadu (18,925), Madhya Pradesh (14,965) and West Bengal (13,500).

#### **17.3 lakh killed in traffic accidents.**

- Uttar Pradesh saw the highest number of deaths (24,711) in traffic accidents. Around 4,22,659 traffic accidents were reported in the country which killed 1.73 lakh people.

#### **Jammu and Kashmir recorded highest UAPA cases.**

- Jammu and Kashmir registered the most Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) cases under the 'special and local laws' in 2021, as per NCRB data.
- Of the total 814 cases under the UAPA in India, J&K lodged 289 cases last year, followed by Manipur (157), Assam (95), Jharkhand (86) and Uttar Pradesh (83).

#### **Jharkhand reports most communal riots.**

- Jharkhand and Maharashtra filed the highest cases of communal riots last year with 100 and 77 cases respectively, as per NCRB's 2021 report.
- Most caste conflict violence was reported in Bihar with 201 cases last year.

## SUMMITS

### 1.132. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER PARTICIPATES IN ASEAN-INDIA FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING AT PHNOM PENH IN CAMBODIA.

- External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar participated in the ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting at **Phnom Penh in Cambodia**.
- He said, there was strong convergence on Indo-Pacific, United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea connectivity, COVID-19, terrorism, cyber security, Ukraine and Myanmar. He added that digital, health, agriculture education and green growth will drive the ASEAN-India partnership.
- On the sidelines of the event, Dr. Jaishankar met his Sri Lankan counterpart Ali Sabry. He reaffirmed India's commitment, as a dependable friend and reliable partner, to the economic recovery and well-being of Sri Lanka.
- The External Affairs Minister also met his Vietnamese counterpart and agreed to keep working to maintain the momentum of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two countries.

### 1.133. INDIA TO HOST UNSC MEET ON CYBER TERROR IN OCT, 2022.

- Threat of terrorists using emerging technologies and ways to deal with it will top the agenda of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) meeting to be hosted by India in October. **It is a rare occasion when such a high-profile meeting is held outside the United Nations, New York.**
- The meeting is scheduled for October 29 and will see members of the 15-nation UNSC deliberating on counter-terrorism measures.
- India chairs the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) for 2022. Countries like the US, China and Russia are likely to attend the conclave. India is halfway through the second year of its two-year term as an elected non-permanent member of the UN Security Council.
- India's tenure at the Council will end in December when the country will also preside as President of the powerful UN organ for the month.
- The current members of the UNSC are Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway and the UAE, along with five permanent members China, France, Russia, the UK and the US.
- The special meeting will specifically focus **on three significant areas** where emerging technologies are experiencing rapid development, growing use by member states (including for security and counter-terrorism purposes), and the increasing threat of abuse for terrorism purposes, namely **Internet and social media, terrorism financing, and unmanned aerial systems (UAS)**.
- It is not very frequent that the Counter-Terrorism Committee meets outside of New York but the meeting in India will be the seventh time that this is happening.
- The most recent special meeting of the CTC outside of United Nations headquarters took place in Madrid, Spain, in July 2015, focusing on foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs).
- The Committee said further that with the prevalence of technology and rapid rise in digitisation, the use of new and emerging technologies to counter-terrorism is a topic of growing interest among the member states, policymakers and researchers, particularly in the context of the increasing role played by technology in terrorism and counter-terrorism.
- The special meeting would be conducted in the six official languages of the United Nations and be open to the wider United Nations membership and other relevant stakeholders.
- India's then Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T S Tirumurti had in January this year assumed the Chair of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee for 2022. Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, the country's new envoy to the UN, now assumes that role.

### **1.134. INDIA-THAILAND JOINT COMMISSION MEETING CONCLUDES IN BANGKOK; POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, DEFENCE AND HEALTH ISSUES DISCUSSED.**

- The 9th India-Thailand Joint Commission Meeting concluded in Bangkok. The meeting was co-chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand Don Pramudwinai, and India's Minister of External Affairs Dr S Jaishankar.
- Both sides discussed advancing contacts in political, economic, security as well as defence, connectivity and health domains.
- Both sides also discussed cooperation within the ASEAN and BIMSTEC. Dr Jaishankar said that India and Thailand also shared their perspectives on the Indo-Pacific.
- Dr. S Jaishankar arrived in Thailand yesterday to attend India-Thailand Joint Commission Meeting.
- Both the countries are celebrating 75 years of establishment of diplomatic relations. He began his Thailand visit by meeting the Indian community.
- Addressing the Indian community in Bangkok, Dr. Jaishankar said that India's relationship with the ASEAN has emerged as a key cornerstone of India's foreign policy.

### **1.135. 4TH INDIA-PHILIPPINES STRATEGIC DIALOGUE HELD IN MANILA.**

- The 4th India-Philippines Strategic Dialogue was held in Manila in which the two sides discussed Defence and Security Cooperation.
- They also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest as well as ASEAN-related matters. It was co-chaired by Secretary (East) Saurabh Kumar and Under Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs, Philippines, Theresa Lazaro. External Affairs Ministry in a statement said, both sides co-chaired the 13th Foreign Office Consultations.
- They reviewed the multi-faceted relations between India and Philippines. The two sides also expressed their desire to advance bilateral relations and expand engagement in areas including agriculture, trade, pharmaceuticals, fintech, education, defence and security, and people to people ties.
- It was also agreed to work to expand engagement in other fields such as space, development cooperation and civil aviation and to convene bilateral mechanisms in different sectors at an early date and work towards holding the next Ministerial level Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation at mutually convenient dates.
- Both sides agreed to convene bilateral mechanisms in different sectors at an early date and work towards holding the next Ministerial level Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation at mutually convenient dates.

### **1.136. BIMSTEC SECRETARY-GENERAL TENZIN LEKPELL TO ARRIVE IN INDIA ON 4-DAY VISIT.**

- The Secretary General of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Tenzin Lekphell will arrive in Delhi on a 4-day official visit.
- The Secretary General is visiting India on the invitation of Saurabh Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

#### **ABOUT**

- BIMSTEC is a regional multilateral organization comprising 7 Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal.
- It came into being on 6 June 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration.
- The seven Member States are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand.
- It has its secretariat at Dhaka, Bangladesh.



### 1.137. MINISTER OF STEEL JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA TO INAUGURATES 13TH EDITION OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION, PRAGATI MAIDAN.

- Minister of Steel Jyotiraditya Scindia will inaugurate the 13th edition of International Conference and Exhibition by the Indian Institute of Metals at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi 26th August 2022.
- According to the Ministry of Steel that the **conference aims** at identifying long-term measures to promote **circular economy** to minimize dependency on extraction of natural virgin ore and prepare recommendations and approaches for the metal industry to evolve environmentally friendly, cost-effective, energy-efficient strategies, policies, and practices.
- The **theme** of this year's conference is **"Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy in Mineral and Metal Sectors."**

#### What is the circular economy?

- The circular economy is a model of production and consumption, which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible. In this way, the life cycle of products is extended.
- In practice, it implies reducing waste to a minimum. When a product reaches the end of its life, its materials are kept within the economy wherever possible. These can be productively used again and again, thereby creating further value.
- This is a departure from the traditional, linear economic model, which is based on a take-make-consume-throw away pattern. This model relies on large quantities of cheap, easily accessible materials and energy.

### 1.138. TWO MOUS ON COOPERATION GOT SIGNED IN 3RD INDIA-MAURITIUS JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING.

- The third India-Mauritius Joint Committee Meeting on Small and Medium Enterprise Cooperation was held in New Delhi. The Indian side was led by Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Narayan Rane.
- In the meeting, both sides reviewed the present engagement between India and Mauritius in the field of MSMEs.
- They held discussion on potential areas of cooperation in various areas including exchange of best practices and experiences in development of MSME sector and holding of physical and virtual exhibitions.
- During the Mauritius delegation's visit, two Memoranda of Understanding on cooperation have also been signed.

### 1.139. INDIA-BANGLADESH JOINT RIVER COMMISSION MEETING HELD IN DELHI.

- The 38th Meeting of Ministerial level Joint Rivers Commission, JRC, of India and Bangladesh was held in New Delhi.
- The two sides finalized the text of MoU on 'Interim Water Sharing of Kushiyara river'. Both sides also welcomed finalization of the design and location of the water intake point on the Feni River to meet the drinking water needs of Sabroom town in Tripura, as per the October 2019 India -Bangladesh MoU on the subject.
- The Indian delegation was led by Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and the Bangladesh delegation was led by State Minister for Water Resources Zaheed Farooque.
- The meeting assumes significance as it was held after a long gap of 12 years, though the technical interactions under the framework of JRC have continued in the intervening period. India and Bangladesh share 54 rivers, of which seven rivers have been identified earlier for developing framework of water sharing agreements on priority.
- During the meeting, it was agreed to widen the area of ongoing cooperation by including eight more rivers for data exchange.

- The matter will be further discussed at the Technical Level Committee of JRC.
- The Joint Rivers Commission of India and Bangladesh was constituted in the year 1972.

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## HEALTH

### 1.140. CORBEVAX, INDIA'S FIRST HETEROLOGOUS COVID-19 BOOSTER VACCINE.

- The Hyderabad-based pharmaceutical company Biological E's recently approved heterologous Covid-19 vaccine, Corbevax is expected to be available as a booster dose on the COWIN App in both public and private vaccination centres .
- The company said. Corbevax was approved as India's First Heterologous COVID-19 Booster Shot for 18 Years and above after the six months of administration of the primary vaccination doses of Covaxin or Covishield.

#### Who can take Corbevax booster shot?

- People who have taken Covaxin or Covishield can be administered a Corbevax booster shot in "emergency use authorisation". The Union Health Ministry approved Corbevax for emergency use on the basis of a recently made recommendation by the COVID-19 Working Group of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI).
- This approval came after the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) approved the vaccine for emergency use as a heterologous COVID-19 booster dose for individuals aged 18 years on June 4, 2022.
- The Corbevax had received emergency use authorization as a primary two-dose vaccination regimen in Adults, Adolescents and Children aged 5 years and above, in a series of approvals from December`21 to April`22.

#### What is the price of Corbevax vaccine?

- The price of Corbevax for private COVID-19 vaccination centres is Rs 250, inclusive of the Goods and Sales tax. For the end-user, the price of the vaccine is Rs 400, including taxes and administrative charges. Corbevax is expected to be available as a booster dose on the CoWIN App in public and private vaccination centres

### 1.141. AYUSH SET TO GO ONLINE BRINGING ALL SERVICES ON ONE PLATFORM.

- The Ministry of Ayush multi-aspirational project namely 'Ayush grid' is going to be digitally upgraded very soon. Under the Ayush Grid project, Ayush sector will be digitalised to bring all the services on one platform. This will be technically supported by the Ministry of Electronics and Technology.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Ministry of Ayush and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology for providing technical support for digitalisation of Ayush Sector under the Ayush Grid project for a period of 3 years. This MoU is a continuation of the earlier MoU signed in the year 2019.
- As per the earlier signed MoU, organisations under MeitY like NeGD supported for development of Ayush Sanjivani mobile application, monitoring dashboard, BISAG-N for development of Ayush GIS, Ayush education related modules, DIC for development of Ayush Information Hub, website of the Ministry, Ayusoft, C-DAC for imparting training to Ayush doctors.
- The NeGD and BISAG-N provided valuable inputs in finalization of various technical documents like technical solution design & DPR of the Project.
- A high-level advisory committee (HLAC) chaired by Secretary Ayush and co-chaired by Secretary MeitY was constituted to provide advisory inputs on the Ayush Grid project.
- A working group was also constituted under the chairmanship of Sh. J. Satyanarayana (Former Secretary MeitY & Chairman UIDAI) with other experts from NITI Aayog, NHA, MeitY etc. for giving expert inputs on right architecture, identify core building blocks, leveraging development under ABDM, understanding requirement of building public private ecosystem and various technical and strategy matters for Ayush Grid project. This helped the Ministry to shape the technical construct of the project.

#### What is 'Ayush Grid'?

- The Ministry of Ayush has conceptualised the 'Ayush Grid' Project as part of the Digital India Programme, which leverages 'Information and Technology' to transform operational efficiency, improve service delivery and enhance quality of services.
- The Ayush Grid platform is envisaged to be the IT backbone allowing integration of all stakeholders and functions or services related to Ayush systems of health care.
- From a user's perspective, the Ayush Grid is the proposed Central IT platform offering multiple IT services for all systems of medicines under Ayush i.e., Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa and Homeopathy across functional areas, namely, healthcare delivery, education, research, capacity building, drug licensing and standardization along with media outreach.

### **1.142. NATION'S FIRST 3D PRINTED CORNEA DEVELOPED BY IIT HYDERABAD, LV PRASAD EYE INSTITUTE.**

- For the first time in India, researchers have successfully 3D printed an artificial cornea and transplanted it into a rabbit's eye. Led by researchers from L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), Indian Institute of Technology - Hyderabad and the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, the teams collaborated to develop a 3D printed cornea from the human donor corneal tissue.
- Completely indigenously developed, the product is natural and contains no synthetic components, is also free of animal residues and safe for use in humans, say researchers.

#### **How did they 3D print the cornea?**

- Researchers made use of decellularised corneal tissue matrix and stem cells extracted from the human eye to develop a unique biometric hydrogel that was used as the background material for 3D printing the cornea.
- According to Dr Sayan Basu and Dr Vivken Singh, lead researchers at LVPEI, this innovation can be extremely useful for treating diseases such as corneal scarring or keratoconus.
- It is a made-in-India product by an Indian clinician-scientist team and the first 3D printed human cornea that is optically and physically suitable for transplantation. The bio-ink used to make this 3D printed cornea can be sight-saving for army personnel at the site of injury to seal corneal perforation and prevent infection during war-related injuries or in a remote area with no tertiary eye care facility."
- Dr Falguni Pati, Associate Professor, Department of Biomedical Engineering at IIT-Hyderabad, added "we used a biomimicking approach to provide an optimised micro-environment for stromal regeneration while maintaining the curvature and thickness of the bio-printed cornea to facilitate surgical implantation. We are hopeful about the positive outcome of India's first 3D bioprinted corneal graft."

### **1.143. CENTRE ISSUES ADVISORY TO STATES ON TOMATO FLU.**

- The Centre has issued an advisory to states on Hand Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD), commonly known as Tomato Flu.
- According to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Tomato Flu was first identified in the Kollam district of Kerala on May 6 and as of July 26, more than 82 children younger than 5 years with the infection have been reported by the local government hospitals.

#### **Tomato flu symptoms**

- The disease is named tomato flu as its main symptom is red blisters that look akin to tomatoes when enlarged.
- Tomato flu's primary symptoms include fever, fatigue, body aches, skin rashes, intense joint pain and dehydration.
- Other symptoms are nausea, diarrhoea, dehydration and common influenza-like symptoms.

- Meanwhile, health experts have called tomato flu a misleading name for Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD).
- Dr Rajeev Jayadevan, IMA member in Kochi told India Today, “The illness is commonly caused by the Coxsackie virus which results in small 4-6 mm red spots on the skin that later become bubbles with fluid inside.
- The skin lesions can appear on the hands, feet and buttocks. It spreads by contact between young children and is self-limiting, requiring only supportive treatment. It has no connection with tomatoes.”

#### **Tomato Flu vs Monkeypox**

- While there is no specific drug or vaccine for treating HFMD or tomato flu, newer vaccines have been developed of which one has even been approved for the treatment of monkeypox. As per WHO, an antiviral agent originally developed for smallpox has been licensed for treating monkeypox.
- In case of monkeypox, contacts have to be observed at least daily for any symptoms or signs of the disease for 21 days from the last contact with a patient or contaminated material during the infection. On the other hand, isolation of 5-7 days is good enough in case of tomato flu or HFMD.

#### **1.144. MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT TO SIGN MOU WITH NATIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY FOR PROVIDING MEDICAL PACKAGES TO TRANSGENDERS.**

- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment signed a Memorandum of Understanding with National Health Authority for providing comprehensive medical package to transgender people.
- Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar and Health Minister Manshukh Mandaviya were present during the MoU signing which was held in Delhi.
- The Social Justice and Empowerment Minister said all health benefits which include general health provisions as well as gender re-affirmation surgery shall be available for transgender persons in the health benefits package under Ayushman Bharat Yojana.
- Under this initiative, each transgender person shall receive a medical cover of 5 lakh rupees per year.
- The Comprehensive package would cover all aspects of transition-related healthcare for Transgender persons.
- It shall also provide coverage of hormone therapy, and gender reaffirmation surgery.

#### **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019**

- The Bill defines a transgender person as one whose gender does not match the gender assigned at birth. It includes transmen and trans-women, persons with intersex variations, gender-queers, and persons with socio-cultural identities, such as kinnar and hijra.
- A transgender person may make an application to the District Magistrate for a certificate of identity, indicating the gender as ‘transgender’.
- It calls for establishing a National Council for Transgender persons (NCT).
- The Bill prohibits discrimination against a transgender person, including denial of service or unfair treatment in relation to Education, Employment, Healthcare, Movement, Reside, Rent, public or private office, and access a Govt or private establishment.
- The Act has a provision that provides transgender with the right of residence with parents and immediate family members.
- It states the offences against Transgender persons will attract jail of 6 months to 2 years and fine.
- Bill also seeks to provide rights of health facilities to transgender persons including separate HIV surveillance centres, and sex reassignment surgeries. Govt shall review the medical curriculum and provide medical insurance.

#### **1.145. CENTRE CONDUCTS DOOR-TO-DOOR SCREENING FOR TB IN OVER 68,000 VILLAGES UNDER AASHWASAN CAMPAIGN.**

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, under its Aashwasan Campaign screened over one crore persons in over 68,000 villages.
- The Aashwasan Campaign started in January this year in Nandurbar District of Maharashtra for finding active case for Tuberculosis in 174 tribal districts of India, under the ambit of the Tribal TB Initiative.
- Recently, a national conclave was held at the National Tribal Research Institute (NTRI) in New Delhi to disseminate the learnings of the 100-day Aashwasan Campaign under ‘Tribal TB Initiative’.
- Addressing the event, Joint Secretary Ministry of Tribal Affairs Dr. Navaljit Kapoor said, the Aashwasan Campaign brought together about two lakh community influencers, including tribal leaders, tribal healers, Self Help Groups and youth in the tribal areas.
- The data indicates that the tribal communities are more vulnerable to respiratory diseases and TB, compared to other population groups.
- As a way forward, to mark 75 years’ of India’s Independence, 75 high-burden tribal districts have been selected for focused interventions in the coming months.

#### **1.146. NPPA TO CELEBRATE ITS SILVER JUBILEE IN DELHI.**

- National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority, NPPA will celebrate its Silver Jubilee in New Delhi.
- On the occasion, Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya will launch Integrated Pharmaceutical Database Management System 2.0, an integrated responsive cloud-based application.
- It will provide a single window for submissions of various forms as mandated under Drug Price Control Order, 2013.
- It will also enable paperless functioning of NPPA and facilitate the stakeholders to connect with National Pharma Pricing Regulator from across the country.

#### **About National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority, NPPA**

- The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority was set up as an attached office of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals (now Department of Pharmaceuticals since July, 2008) on 29th August 1997.
- It has been entrusted inter-alia, with the following functions
- To implement and enforce the provisions of the Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO), 1995/2013 in accordance with the powers delegated to it.
- To undertake and/or sponsor relevant studies in respect of pricing of drugs/formulations.
- To monitor the availability of drugs, identify shortages, if any, and to take remedial steps.
- To collect/maintain data on production, exports and imports, market share of individual companies, profitability of companies etc. for bulk drugs and formulations.
- To deal with all legal matters arising out of the decisions of the Authority.
- To render advice to the Central Government on changes/revisions in the drug policy.
- To render assistance to the Central Government in the parliamentary matters relating to the drug pricing.

#### **1.147. MOU SIGNED BETWEEN PCIM&H AND IPC FOR INTER-MINISTERIAL COOPERATION FOR PROMOTION AND FACILITATION OF “ONE HERB, ONE STANDARD”.**

- A Memorandum of Understanding MoU was signed between Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy under Ministry of Ayush and Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission under Ministry of Health in New Delhi for Inter-Ministerial cooperation for promotion and facilitation of One Herb, One Standard.
- The primary objective of this MoU is the development of cooperative efforts between both organizations to promote public health by facilitating the development of harmonized Herbal drug standards. He said, since both are working with the common cause, it is logical and meaningful to harmonize the standards to achieve One Herb - One Standard.

- The MoU will further facilitate collaboration for promoting exchange of information in the area of standardization of Traditional medicine by sharing of scientific information and drug raw materials or extracts, seminars, workshops, training and brainstorming programs.

#### About Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H)

- Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H) was initially established as Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine (PCIM) in the year 2010 and later in pursuance to the decision of Central Government (dated 20th March 2014), Homoeopathy was incorporated and the Commission was renamed as Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy.
- It was constituted with a primary mandate of publishing Pharmacopoeias and Formularies for drugs/formulations used in Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy (ASU&H) systems of Medicine.
- The Commission serves as an umbrella organization for Ayurvedic, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy Pharmacopoeia Committees. Pharmacopoeial Laboratory for Indian Medicine (PLIM) and Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory (HPL) are its supporting structures.
- Commission is working in the view of excellence for the development of regulatory standards of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani & Homoeopathy (ASU&H) drugs.
- It is committed to promote and preserve the well-being of humans and animals in India, by bringing out official standards for quality of drugs included in Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani & Homoeopathy systems of Medicine used by AYUSH professionals and consumers.



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## GEOGRAPHY

### 1.148. COFFEE (PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT BILL), 2022.

- Recently, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is planning to replace the 80-year-old Coffee Act with the new Coffee (Promotion and Development Bill), 2022.
- The government would not close the Coffee Board, but would rather shift it from the Ministry of Commerce to the Ministry of Agriculture, to ensure that the benefits of all agricultural schemes are extended to coffee growers.
- The government has also proposed to repeal the decades old laws on **tea, spices and rubber**, and introduce new legislations in order to increase the ease of doing business and promote the development of these sectors.

#### Reasons for Scrapping the Law

- The substantive portion of the Coffee Act, 1942, which deals with pooling and marketing of the commodity, have become redundant and are impediments to the coffee trade.
- Some of these outdated regulations have stifled the sector's growth, especially in marketing.
- In order to facilitate growth and ease of doing business, the government would introduce a simplified version of the Act to suit the present needs of the industry.

#### Key Provisions of draft Coffee (Promotion and Development) Bill, 2022

- The new Bill aims to address several new areas of functions of the Coffee Board.
- These include support for production, research, extension, quality improvement and the promotion of coffee and skill development of coffee growers. Many of these activities were originally not included in the mandate of the Coffee Board but now they need to be incorporated into its functions and powers.
- The Bill is also aimed at "holistic promotion and development" of the coffee industry, covering activities such as the expansion of the cash crop in new areas, sustainable cultivation, raising production as well as productivity, exports, promotion and the marketing of coffee.

### 1.149. CCEA APPROVES HIGHEST EVER FAIR AND REMUNERATIVE PRICE OF 305 RUPEES PER QUINTAL FOR SUGARCANE FARMERS.

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, CCEA has approved the Fair and Remunerative Price of sugarcane for sugar season 2022-23 (October - September).
- It has approved the highest ever Fair and Remunerative price, FRP of 305 rupees per quintal for Sugarcane Farmers.
- The FRP for sugar season 2022-23 is 2.6 percent higher than the current sugar season 2021-22. FRP of sugarcane is fixed to ensure a guaranteed price to sugarcane growers.
- The decision will benefit five crore sugarcane farmers and their dependents, as well as five lakh workers employed in the sugar mills and related ancillary activities.
- In the past eight years, the government has increased Fair and Remunerative Prices by more than 34 percent aimed at increasing the income of farmers.

### 1.150. AGRICULTURE MINISTER LAYS FOUNDATION STONE OF INDO-ISRAEL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR VEGETABLES IN CHANDALI, UP.

- Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has said the Central and State Governments are working together all-around to upgrade Agriculture.
- Mr. Tomar was speaking after laying the foundation stone of the Indo-Israel Center of Excellence for Vegetables in Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh through video conferencing.
- The establishment of this center will play an important role in the development of the Chandauli district as well as the Purvanchal region.



- The climate of **Chandauli district, which is known as the rice bowl of UP**, is suitable for setting up the Center of Excellence for Vegetables.
- There are **9 agro-climatic zones in the State** which are favourable for the cultivation of various horticultural crops throughout the year. Seedling production of tomato, pepper, brinjal, chilli, cucumber, tomato, pepper, brinjal, chilli and exotic vegetables is proposed to be done in the hi-tech climate-controlled greenhouse to be set up in the Center of Excellence for Vegetables, while cultivation of cucumber, cauliflowers, baby corn, sweet corn and exotic vegetables is proposed in the open field.
- Along with micro-irrigation in the open, a trial demonstration of farming with fertigation and chemigation systems will be done. There will also be a demonstration of installation of seepage, sprinkler irrigation and other plastic culture applications.
- The technology for the Center is provided by Israeli experts under the **India-Israel Action Plan (IIAP)** with funds for building infrastructure for demonstration purposes from MIDH.
- Centers of Excellence (CoEs) are being set up in the States based on Israeli technologies. These Centers of Excellence act as demonstration and training centers for the latest technologies in the field of Horticulture. They also serve as a source of planting material for fruits and vegetables in protected cultivation.

### **1.151. GOVT AWARDS GI TAG TO MITHILA MAKHANA TO BOOST FARMERS' INCOME**

- The Central government has awarded Geographical Indication (GI) tag to Mithila Makhana. With this move, growers will get the maximum price for their premium produce. Over five lakh farmers of Mithila region of Bihar will be benefitted from this decision.
- Makhana" is one of the choicest aquatic cash fruit crops of Mithila region of Bihar. In Mithila culture of Bihar, Makhana is known as Makhaan in Maithili. It is an auspicious ingredient in offerings to the God and Goddesses during festivals and is used to show reverence.
- The word "Makhana" comes from the Sanskrit word for grain Mak. Mak is the meaning of sacrifice.
- Geographical area of production of "Mithila Makhana" takes place in 21 out of 38 districts, mostly situated in the North of the Bihar state.
- Its major regions include Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Champaran, Begusarai, Madhubani, Katihar among many others.
- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said, Mithila Makhana registered with GI Tag, farmers will get profit and it will be easier to earn. Due to Geographical Indication Tag to Mithila Makhana in the festive season, people outside Bihar will be able to use this auspicious material with reverence.
- Once a product gets this tag, any person or company cannot sell a similar item under that name. This tag is valid for a period of 10 years following which it can be renewed.
- The other benefits of GI registration include legal protection to that item, prevention against unauthorised use by others, and promoting exports.

#### **About Geographical Indication (GI)**

- It is an **insignia on products** having a unique geographical origin and evolution over centuries with regard to its special quality or reputed attributes.
- It is a **mark of authenticity** and ensures that registered authorized users or at least those residing inside the geographic territory are allowed to use the popular product names.
- GI tag in India is governed by **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999**. It is issued by the **Geographical Indications Registry (Chennai)**.

### **1.152. PM DEDICATES TO THE NATION, INDIA'S FIRST EARTHQUAKE MEMORIAL, SMRITI VAN AT BHUJ IN GUJARAT.**

- PM Modi dedicated India's first earthquake memorial, named Smruti Van at Bhuj in Gujarat.

- Smruti Van is a unique memorial carrying the names of more than 12 thousand people who lost their lives in the devastating earthquake that struck here in January 2001.
- This novel memorial is spread across 470 acres of land and is built atop Bhujiyo hill.
- The earthquake simulator will provide real like experience of earthquake tremors to visitors.

**About**

- National Centre for Seismology under Ministry of Earth Sciences is the nodal agency of Government of India (GoI), for monitoring earthquakes in and around the country.
- A total of ~59% of the land mass of India (covering all states of India) is prone to earthquakes of different intensities. As per the seismic zoning map of the country, the total area is classified into four seismic zones. Zone V is seismically the most active region, while zone II is the least. Approximately, ~ 11% area of the country falls in zone V, ~18% in zone IV, ~ 30% in zone III and remaining in zone II.
- Seismic Zonation map of the country (state wise) given by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has categorised into several seismic zones (Zone II to Zone V).



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## ENVIRONMENT

### 1.153. BLANKET BAN ON SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BOOSTS HILL ECONOMY, LEAF PLATE MANUFACTURING.

- The blanket prohibition on single-use plastic has benefited locals, particularly women in villages of Himachal Pradesh's hill state. These people are active in producing traditional leaf plates and bowls, as consumption of these sustainable and environment-friendly products has suddenly increased after the ban.
- The Himachal Pradesh Forest Department, in partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), is encouraging community groups to prepare leaf plates and bowls using machines rather than by hand.
- As per government order of 1st of July, 2022, a ban on single-use plastic items has been in effect.
- By planting specific species like "Bauhinia vahlii" in the forest next to the villages of skilled community groups, the department is ensuring that there is no shortage in the supply of high-quality leaves. This is ensured by the "Improvement of Himachal Pradesh Forest Ecosystems Management and Livelihoods" project.
- Each community group, consisting on average of 15 individuals, will receive a capital cost of about Rs1,29,000 to set up the plate-making machine, which produces 1,000 plates each day. The introduction of machines has increased manufacturing capacity while lessening the laboriousness of women who make these leaf products manually.
- Nagesh Guleria, Additional Principal Conservator of Forests and Chief Project Director, JICA project, told that "in June of this year, the community groups at Beindhar and Kangu villages in Mandi district produced 8,000 leaf plates and 4,000 leaf bowls and earned 38,000 rupees in one month. As opposed to an average of 8,000 rupees, which is what a group of similar numbers of people used to earn monthly. We have created about 484 of these self-help groups this far."
- According to Guleria, several local leaf-bowl makers had to eventually give up their long-standing enterprises of producing leaf plates and associated things because of the invasion of factory-made plastic plates and bowls due to their low cost and long shelf life. "Families continued to fulfill orders because they had no other choice and managed to endure the so-called plastic boom, which has turned into a significant environmental and health issue but now they are turning back to their roots and traditional work".

### 1.154. LOK SABHA PASSES WILD LIFE (PROTECTION) AMENDMENT BILL, 2021

- The Lok Sabha today passed the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021, **seeking to increase the species** protected under the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**, and implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, CITES.
- The Minister said, in the last eight years **protected areas** in the country have **increased** from **693 to 987**, which includes fifty-two tiger reserves.
- Noting that, the government works on the principle of **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**, he said, the centre is working towards the betterment of all wildlife species alongside humans.
- Replying to the concerns expressed by several members on increasing human - animal conflict, Bhupinder Yadav said plans have been drawn taking into account the socio-economic conditions of the regional ecosystem, on a case-by-case basis.
- Mr Yadav said a **special chapter** has been **added** to conform to **the international treaty Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora**.
- He said the bill makes amendments for better management of protected areas and an explanation so as to provide for certain permitted activities such as grazing or movement of livestock, bona fide use of drinking water by local communities, till they are provided with a better displacement plan.

- He called upon people to boycott luxury products made from animals belonging to endangered species.

### **1.155. UNION CABINET APPROVES INDIA'S UPDATED NDC TO BE COMMUNICATED TO UNFCCC.**

- The Union Cabinet has approved India's updated Nationally Determined Contribution, NDC to be communicated to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- The updated NDC seeks to enhance India's contributions towards the achievement of the strengthening of the global response to the threat of climate change, as agreed under the Paris Agreement.
- Such action will also help India usher in low emissions growth pathways. It will protect the interests of the country and safeguard its future development needs based on the principles and provisions of the UNFCCC.
- India at the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the UNFCCC held in Glasgow, United Kingdom, expressed to intensify its climate action by presenting to the world five nectar elements (Panchamrit) of India's climate action.
- This update to India's existing NDC translates the 'Panchamrit' announced at COP 26 into enhanced climate targets.

### **1.156. PM MODI TO DEDICATE 2ND GENERATION ETHANOL PLANT IN PANIPAT, HARYANA.**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate the 2nd Generation (2G) Ethanol Plant in Panipat, Haryana to the nation through video conferencing.
- It is part of a long series of steps taken by the government over the years to boost the production and usage of biofuels in the country.
- It is in line with the Prime Minister's constant endeavour to transform the energy sector into being more affordable, accessible, efficient and sustainable.
- The 2G Ethanol Plant has been built at an estimated cost of over nine hundred crore rupees by the Indian Oil Corporation Limited.
- The project will turn a new chapter in India's waste-to-wealth endeavours by utilising about two lakh tonnes of rice straw (parali) annually to generate around three crore litres of Ethanol per annum.
- The project will also contribute to a reduction of Greenhouse Gases equivalent to about three lakh tonnes of Carbon Dioxide equivalent emissions per annum.

### **1.157. BAANSERA: DELHI TO GET ITS 1ST BAMBOO-THEMED PARK.**

- An area of 10 hectares of the Yamuna River floodplain, South of NH-24 on the western banks is being developed as a theme-based multipurpose area using bamboo as a material in biotic and abiotic form.
- Delhi Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena laid the foundation of 'Baansera', the city's first Bamboo-themed Park, and dedicated it to the people of the national Capital.
- A bamboo café is also proposed along with seating under bamboo trees. Large spaces for congregation have been designed with live bamboo plants forming a curtained enclosure.
- The city's first-of-its-kind initiative has been named Baansera as derived from the Hindi word "basera" meaning "abode".
- The park will have more than 25,000 special variety of Bamboo saplings, brought from Assam. These will be planted to achieve the purpose of augmenting the much-needed public spaces in the Capital and also ensure that the rich biodiversity of the floodplain is preserved and maintained.
- The plantation of Bamboo on a large scale will help address the Capital's problem of air pollution significantly as the Bamboo plant produces about 30 per cent more Oxygen even as it consumes far less water and enriches the soil.

- The entire area has been **categorised** into **two parts**: Bamboo recreation primarily in the greenway zone and Bamboo plantation along with other riverine plantations.
- “Baansera” will have a unique experience in terms of plantation of different varieties of bamboo plants especially procured for this area. Apart from plantations, the park will have amenities designed in Bamboo including kiosks, huts, watchtowers and seats for public use in greenway area along kachaa paths.
- The Bamboo recreation area in the greenway zone comprises of an Arrival zone- A transitional area that acts as a journey from the city’s busy life into the pristine river floodplains with an experiential walk amongst plantations that takes you into gathering spaces.

### **1.158. INDO-JAPAN CLIMATE ACTION READY TO BE ROLLED OUT IN 10 STATES.**

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD), the Government of Japan, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) announced a new initiative to accelerate climate action in 10 states and Union Territories across the country.
- To be rolled out in partnership with the IMD at the Ministry of Earth Sciences and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), the initiative will support nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to achieve net-zero emissions and ensure climate-resilient development.
- Under the initiative, the UNDP will work with the IMD to promote climate resilience and MNRE to promote climate mitigation by Deploying clean energy infrastructure and low-emission technologies in key sectors including Transport, Health, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and Agriculture.
- This includes solarising 150 healthcare facilities, 20 micro-enterprises, and installing 85 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations and 30 solar cold storage systems across the 10 states.
- Demonstrating resilient climate planning at the grassroots through climate information flows systems for 30 Gram Panchayats, promote green jobs and green entrepreneurship in sectors like Renewable Energy by providing skilling and training to 2000+ people.
- Japan has extended a \$5.16 million in climate grant to the UNDP India for the project. This is part of Japan’s global support to 23 countries through UNDP’s ‘Climate Promise – From Pledge to Impact’ programme for scaling up its support to turn NDCs into concrete action.
- IMD supports the project activities in the districts of Uttarkashi in the state of Uttarakhand, Gyalshing and Soreng in the state of Sikkim, in two types of support – 1. With climate forecasts and weather advisories to improve disaster preparedness in some of the most high-risk geographies and 2. With technical expertise during gram panchayat planning to develop climate-informed plans.”
- The project will be rolled out in the states and Union Territories of Bihar, Delhi-NCR, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh between 2022-23.
- At the COP26 summit in Glasgow in November 2021, India pledged to cut the country’s total projected carbon emission by 1 billion tonnes by 2030, install 500 GW of non-fossil energy capacity by 2030, reduce the carbon intensity of the nation’s economy by less than 45% by the end of the decade and net-zero carbon emissions by 2070.
- UNDP’s Climate Promise is the largest global climate and development offer of support to countries on their national pledges to the Paris Agreement. At COP26, UNDP launched the next phase of the Climate Promise – From Pledge to Impact – scaling up its support to turn NDC targets into concrete action in at least 100 countries.
- Japan is the largest supporter of this phase of the pioneering and groundbreaking initiation.

### **1.159. WORLD LION DAY**

- World Lion Day is being observed globally on 10th August. The day aims to spread awareness about lions and the urgent need to strive for their conservation.

- Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav said that Asiatic Lions population has shown a steady increase with an increased rate of nearly twenty-nine per cent.
- He highlighted that the distribution of the lions has increased from an area of 22 thousand square kilometers in 2015 to 30 thousand square kilometers in 2020.
- The Minister stressed that there has been a consistent increase in the population and distribution area of Asiatic Lions. He described that several strategies and interventions have been implemented by the Ministry to continue the upward trend of conservation.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, launched the “Asiatic Lion Conservation Project” with an aim to protect and conserve the world’s last ranging free population of Asiatic Lion and its associated ecosystem. Asiatic lions that once ranged from Iran to Palamau district of Jharkhand were almost driven to extinction by indiscriminate hunting and habitat loss.
- According to the United Nations, lion populations have dropped by more than 40 per cent in the last two decades. It said unrestricted exploitation of wildlife threatens Mother Earth's biological diversity and causes ecological imbalance.
- First World Lion Day was observed in 2013 to safeguard lions in their natural environment. At present, between 30 thousand to one lakh lions are left in the world. To ensure the safety of lions, it is crucial to increase public awareness of the threats they face, protect their natural habitat, and build more of these kinds of habitats.

#### 1.160. AFRICAN ‘ORPHAN’ CROPS.

- Researchers have identified genes in Africa’s local food crops that can **improve resistance to drought**.
- Orphan crops are **nutritious local food crops** that could play a crucial role in **combating hunger**.
- These crops are not traded internationally but have adapted themselves to grow in harsh weather conditions.
- Examples of Orphan crops are finger millets, little millet; African yam bean, jojoba and jatropha.

#### Significance of this Research:

- Incorporating these genes through hybridisation might improve crop yield that is affected by increasing global temperatures and heatwaves.
- According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) estimation, Countries like India and Pakistan are also likely to be affected by the prolonged heatwave.
- The UN body is responsible for coordinating responses to environmental issues.

#### 1.161. INDIA ADDS 11 MORE WETLANDS TO ITS LIST OF RAMSAR SITES.

- India has added 11 more wetlands to the list of Ramsar sites to make total 75 Ramsar sites covering an area of 13 lakh 26 thousand 677 Hectare in the country in the 75th year of Independence.
- Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change said, the 11 new sites include, four in Tamil Nadu, three in Odisha, two in Jammu and Kashmir and one each in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Designation of these sites would help in conservation and management of wetlands and wise use of their resources.
- India is one of the Contracting Parties to Ramsar Convention, signed in Ramsar, Iran in 1971. India signed it on 1st February 1982. During 1982 to 2013, a total of 26 sites were added to the list of Ramsar sites, however, during 2014 to 2022, the country has added 49 new wetlands to the list of Ramsar sites.
- During this year itself, a total of 28 sites have been declared as Ramsar sites. Based on the date of designation mentioned on Ramsar Certificate, the number is 19 for 2022 and 14 for 2021.
- Tamil Nadu has maximum number of Ramsar sites which is 14, followed by Uttar Pradesh which has 10 numbers of Ramsar sites.

#### 1.162. INDIA’S FIRST NIGHT SAFARI TO COME UP IN LUCKNOW.

- India's first nocturnal zoo will be set up in Kukrail forest area as the U.P. government has decided to set up a night safari and biodiversity park on the lines of Singapore in the state capital. There are 13 day safaris in the country but no night safari.
- The decision was taken in the cabinet meeting held at Lok Bhawan under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.
- Minister of Tourism and Culture Jaiveer Singh said the night safari would be developed in 350 acres in the Kukrail forest area, spread over 2027.46 hectares. The zoological park will be set up in 150 acres.
- Train and jeep rides with local guides will also be provided at the night safaris. Apart from this, facilities like canopy walk, camping activity, mountain bike track, wall climbing, tree-top restaurant, nature trail and food court will also be developed
- There are plans to make a leopard safari in 75 acres of land, bear safari in 60 acres area and tiger safari in 75 acres. The animals will not be kept in a cage but will roam free as they do in the wild.
- It will be an open-air nocturnal zoo which will be open only at night. A modern theme park will be built for tourists during the day.
- In setting up the zoological park and night safari, only open areas which are not currently in use will be used without impacting the existing flora and fauna. The Kukrail forest area will be connected to the outside world with four-lane roads so that there is no inconvenience to the tourists.

### **1.163. BURSA MALAYSIA TO INTRODUCE CARBON MARKET EXCHANGE**

- Bursa Malaysia Berhad will launch its Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM) exchange later this year which will enable companies to purchase voluntary carbon credits from climate-friendly projects and solutions.
- The VCM exchange can serve as an important lever in realizing Malaysia's net-zero greenhouse gas emissions aspiration, as well as support the private sector's voluntary climate commitments and decarbonization journey.
- Participation in the VCM will allow companies to offset their carbon emission footprint and meet their voluntary climate goals.
- The VCM exchange will allow buyers and suppliers to transact high-quality carbon credits at transparent prices.
- Bursa Malaysia also intends to offer standardized carbon credit products for trading via a rules-based VCM exchange.
- There will be distinct product categories for carbon credits derived from nature-based solutions and technologies that reduce or remove carbon emissions. The VCM exchange will aggregate carbon credits that share similar traits and fundamentals, with vintages 2016 onwards.
- To ensure the high integrity of carbon credits offered through the VCM exchange, Bursa Malaysia will adopt the Verified Carbon Standard or Verra.
- Verra is a widely recognized standard in the voluntary carbon market, accounting for nearly 70% of voluntary carbon credit issuances globally.

#### **About**

- Bursa Malaysia is the stock exchange of Malaysia.
- It is based in Kuala Lumpur and was previously known as the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange (KLSE)

### **1.164. SCIENTISTS IN THE US AND AUSTRALIA HAVE EMBARKED ON A \$15-MILLION PROJECT TO RESURRECT THE THYLACINE OR TASMANIAN TIGER, A MARSUPIAL THAT WENT EXTINCT IN THE 1930s, USING GENE-EDITING TECHNOLOGY.**

- The ambitious project aims to reintroduce the animal to its native place Tasmania to revive the region's lost ecological balance.

- Tasmanian Tiger (*Thylacinus cynocephalus*), the only animal in the Thylacinidae family to survive in modern times, was a marsupial mammal that raises young ones in a pouch.
- Even though the species earned its nickname Tasmanian Tiger because of the stripes along its back, it was a slow-paced carnivorous that usually hunted alone or in pairs at night.
- The sharply clawed animal had a dog-like head and ate kangaroos, other marsupials, small rodents, and birds.
- Once widespread in the grass and woodlands of continental Australia extending north to New Guinea and south to Tasmania, the animal's fate changed after the European Colonisation of Australia.
- The animals were reported to have eaten poultry of farmers, and were killed following official authorisation.

### **1.165. LOCKDOWNS, CONSERVATION RAISE RHINOS' NUMBER IN INDIA, NEPAL**

- Better law enforcement and conservation measures, aided by coronavirus-induced lockdowns and restrictions for a couple of years, have led to the number of greater one-horned rhinos in India and Nepal increasing from an estimated 3,588 in 2018 to 4,014 at the end of 2021.
- Prepared for the 19th meeting of the CoP to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which will be held in Panama in November this year, the report has lauded conservation efforts, including strengthened law enforcement in this regard in the two neighbouring countries which share borders ensuring free movement of the endangered wild species.
- The report, however, found that 11 rhino poaching incidents were recorded in Asia (ten in India and one in Nepal) since the beginning of 2018, all of which involved greater one-horned rhinos.
- Overall, world over rhino poaching rates declined since 2018, and trade data suggested the lowest annual estimate of rhino horns entering illegal trade markets since 2013.
- The report found that rhino poaching rates in Africa have continued to decline from a peak of 5.3 per cent of the total population in 2015 to 2.3 per cent in 2021.
- At least 2,707 rhinos were poached across Africa between 2018 and 2021, accounting for both the white rhino (*ceratotherium simum*), which is vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and the rarer critically endangered black rhino (*diceros bicornis*).
- South Africa accounted for 90 per cent of all reported cases, predominantly affecting white rhinos in Kruger National Park, home to the world's largest white rhino population.
- As a result, overall white rhino numbers on the continent have declined by almost 12 per cent (from 18,067 to 15,942 individuals) during this period, while populations of black rhino increased by just over 12 per cent (from 5,495 to 6,195 individuals). Overall, Africa's rhino population declined around 1.6 per cent per year, from an estimated 23,562 individuals in 2018 to 22,137 at the end of 2021.
- According to the report, global lockdowns and restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic saw several African countries experience dramatically reduced poaching rates in 2020 compared to previous years. South Africa lost 394 rhinos to poaching in 2020, while Kenya recorded no rhino poaching that year. However, as Covid-19 travel restrictions were lifted, some range states reported new increases in poaching activities - for example, South Africa reported 451 and Kenya six poached rhinos in 2021. However, these numbers are still significantly lower than during the peak in 2015, when South Africa alone lost 1,175 rhinos to poaching.
- However, in 2019, before the Covid-19 outbreak, the reported seized weight of illegal rhino specimens reached its highest point of the decade, perhaps due to increased regulations and law enforcement efforts.
- While the range and consumer countries most affected by illegal trade remained the same as in previous reports, the lack of consistent reporting by some countries still limits the ability to better understand patterns of illegal trade in rhino horns.



### 1.166. NORTH INDIA MOST-POLLUTED REGION IN 2022 SUMMERS: CSE

- North India emerged as the most-polluted region in the country in summers this year with Delhi-NCR being the hotspot, according to a new analysis by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).
- The green think-tank said the average PM2.5 concentration in north India in summers stood at 71 microgram per cubic metre.
- It was 69 microgram per cubic metre in east India, 54 microgram per cubic metre in west India, and 46 microgram per cubic metre in central India, it said.
- Northeast India (35 microgram per cubic metre) and South India (31 microgram per cubic metre) were cleaner compared to other regions, it said.
- In north India, Delhi-NCR was found to be the most-polluted sub-region, with Bhiwadi reporting the highest average PM2.5 concentration of 134 microgram per cubic metre.
- Manesar reported average PM2.5 concentration of 119 microgram per cubic metre, Ghaziabad (101 microgram per cubic metre), Delhi (97 microgram per cubic metre), Gurugram (94 microgram per cubic metre) and Noida (80 microgram per cubic metre), it said.
- PM2.5 summer average of Delhi-NCR region is almost three times the average of the cities in southern India.
- The CSE used granular real-time data from the Central Pollution Control Board's portal—Central Control Room for Air Quality Management for the analysis.
- The data is captured from 356 official stations under the Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring System (CAAQMS) spread across 174 cities in 26 states and Union territories.

### 1.167. WORLD'S FIRST FLEET OF HYDROGEN PASSENGER TRAINS BY GERMANY.

- The **world's first fleet of hydrogen-powered passenger trains** was launched by **Germany**. The first fleet of hydrogen-powered passenger trains has replaced **15 diesel trains** that were previously operated on nonelectrified tracks in Lower Saxony, Germany. The engine of the trains is powered by electricity generated using hydrogen fuel cells.
- The **use of hydrogen** is a clean alternative to fossil fuels as per the German government's announcement. The state governor Stephan Weil said that **Lower Saxony** has invested a total of 93 million euros for the first fleet of hydrogen-powered passenger train projects. This invitation is an excellent example and effort to make the economy of Germany greener.

#### Key points:

- **Alstom** is a French company that manufactures trains, and these trains are operated by **regional rail company LNVG** on routes between the Northern towns of **Cuxhaven, Bremerhaven, Bremervoerda, and Buxtehude**.
- These trains have ranges up to 1000 kilometers and a maximum speed of 140 kph. After the introduction of the first fleet of hydrogen-powered passenger trains, the hydrogen produced with renewable energy the trains will save up to **1.6 liters of diesel in a year**.
- For now, hydrogen is produced as a byproduct of chemical processes, however, the German Specialty Gas Company Linde, plans to manufacture hydrogen using only renewable energy in the coming years.

### 1.168. GOVT NOTIFIES BATTERY WASTE MANAGEMENT RULES, 2022 TO ENSURE ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF WASTE BATTERIES.

- Government has notified Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022 to ensure environmentally sound management of waste batteries.
- Environment Ministry said, the new rules will replace Batteries (Management and Handling) Rules, 2001. The rules cover all types of batteries - Electric Vehicle batteries, portable batteries, automotive batteries and industrial batteries.

- The Ministry said, it mandates that all waste batteries to be collected and sent for recycling, refurbishment, and its prohibits disposal in landfills and incineration.
- The rules also promote setting up of new industries and entrepreneurship in collection and recycling of waste batteries.

### **1.169. CENTER FOR WILDLIFE REHABILITATION AND CONSERVATION (CWRC).**

- The CWRC near Kaziranga National Park has completed 20 years of providing emergency care, treatment and rehabilitation to indigenous wild animals displaced due to various reasons.

#### **About CWRC**

- It is a joint initiative of the Assam Forest Department, the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)
- It was established on August 28, 2002.
- It currently has two satellite facilities called mobile veterinary services. These are located in eastern Assam at Guijan in Tinsukia district (Dibru Saikhowa National Park) and in western Assam at Charaikhola (Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary).
- It continues to be the only facility in India to have successfully addressed the welfare and conservation of 357 species including elephant, leopard, rhino, tiger, clouded leopard, black bear, wild buffalo, hog deer, muntjac, wild boar and monkeys.
- It has become a model now in the field of wildlife conservation and its needs in Assam.

#### **Kaziranga National Park**

- Kaziranga National Park in the northeast Indian state of Assam is a world heritage site, notified by UNESCO in 1985.
- It is the oldest park in Assam along the river Brahmaputra on the North and the Karbi Anglong hills on the South.
- National Highway 37 passes through the park area and tea estates, hemmed by table-top tea bushes.
- The park holds the world's largest population of the greater one-horned rhinoceros and provides refuge to a large number of wild animals including the endangered Royal Bengal tiger and the Asian elephant.

CivilsTap Himachal

## SPORTS

### 1.170. CWG 2022.

- **Weightlifter Achinta Sheuli** lifts games record 313kg to win India's third **Gold**.
- **Sanket Mahadev Sargar** - **SILVER** (Weightlifting, Men's 55kg class)

### 1.171. ENGLAND BEAT GERMANY TO WIN 2022 UEFA WOMEN'S EURO.

- England defeated Germany 2-1 in extra time at Wembley Stadium in London, bringing home their maiden UEFA Women's Euro trophy.
- The **2022 UEFA European Women's Football Championship**, commonly referred to as **UEFA Women's Euro 2022** or simply **Euro 2022**, was the 13th edition of the UEFA Women's Championship, the quadrennial international football championship organised by UEFA for the women's national teams of Europe.

### 1.172. UNION MINISTER HARDEEP SINGH PURI INAUGURATES 4TH ONGC PARA GAMES IN THYAGARAJ SPORTS COMPLEX IN NEW DELHI.

- Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated the fourth ONGC Para Games in **Thyagaraj Sports Complex in New Delhi**.
- On the occasion Mr. Puri said, the ONGC Para Games is a wonderful platform to bring in inclusiveness and equity in the human resource of the public enterprises under the Ministry.
- The fourth ONGC Para Games is being **organized by** Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (**ONGC**).
- Nearly **275 Persons with Disabilities (PwD)** are **participating** in the Games. These all are employees of eight central oil and gas public enterprises.

### 1.173. COMMONWEALTH GAMES: INDIA SCRIPTS HISTORY AS WOMEN'S TEAM WINS FIRST-EVER GOLD IN FOUR LAWN BOWLS AT BIRMINGHAM.

- Nayanmoni Saikia, Pinki, Lovely Choubey and Rupa Rani Tirkey script history as they beat South Africa in the women's four lawn bowls final to win a gold medal.
- This is **India's first medal in the sport**.
- Lovely Choubey and Rupa Rani Tirkey hail from Ranchi. Ms Lovely is presently posted in Jharkhand Police and Ms Rupa is the District Sports Officer of Ramgarh district in Jharkhand.
- Ms Rupa rolled the bowls wide in the final match attempt to level the score for India.
- Lawn Bowls Association President is **Madhukant Pathak**.

### 1.174. COMMONWEALTH GAMES: INDIAN JUDOKA TULIKA MAAN CLAIMS SILVER; TEJASWIN SHANKAR BAGS BRONZE IN MEN'S HIGH JUMP.

- Indian Judoka Tulika Maan claimed Silver medal in women's 78 kg category at the ongoing Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham. This is India's third medal in Judo this Commonwealth Games.
- Indian weightlifter Gurdeep Singh bagged the bronze medal in the men's 109-plus kg final with a combined weight of 390kg.
- India's Saurav Ghosal clinched the bronze medal in squash men's singles. This was Ghosal's first medal at the Commonwealth Games in men's singles.
- **India's Tejaswin Shankar won India's first medal in athletics** at the Commonwealth games 2022, by clinching a historic bronze in the men's high jump final.
- Lovepreet Singh bagged a bronze medal in men's 109kg weightlifting while setting a national record in the clean and jerk round.

- India is now at 7th position with 18 medals which includes five gold, six silver and 7 bronze.

**1.175. SCOT GEORGE MILLER HAS BECOME THE OLDEST COMMONWEALTH GOLD-MEDAL WINNER IN HISTORY.**

- George Miller, 75 years and eight months old, became the oldest player to win a medal at the Commonwealth Games when he bagged the mixed pairs Gold in lawn bowls for Scotland.
- It is also the first time that Team Scotland have won the event.
- Born in 1946, Miller was already the oldest member of any Team Scotland squad in history.
- He has beaten the record of Willie Wood who was 72 at his final Games in 2010.

**1.176. COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022:**

- Australia leads table on final day while England and Canada placed at Second and Third positions respectively.
- India finishes fourth in standings with 22 golds and **61 medals**

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Australia	67	57	54	178
2	England	57	66	53	176
3	Canada	26	32	34	92
4	India	22	16	23	61
5	New Zealand	20	12	17	49
6	Scotland	13	11	27	51
7	Nigeria	12	9	14	35
8	Wales	8	6	14	28
9	South Africa	7	9	11	27
10	Malaysia	8	8	8	24

**1.177. 44TH CHESS OLYMPIAD ENDS; INDIA'S MEN & WOMEN TEAM WIN BRONZE MEDAL.**

- India competed in the tournament with three teams in the Men's Section and three teams in the Women's section.
- India 'B' team comprising D Gukesh, R Praggnanandhaa, Raunak Sadhwani and Adhiban won the bronze medal beating Germany.
- In women's section, India 'A' team have won the bronze medal. The team comprising Vaishali and Koneru Humphy, Tania Sachdev and Bhakti Kulkari were headed for a gold medal on the final day but a defeat to USA by 1-3 dented their chances as they eventually finished third.
- The Uzbekistan team, which was seeded 14th in the tournament, won the gold medal in the men's section. Armenia clinched the silver medal.
- It was the first time that the Chess Olympiad was held in India, the place where the game began.
- The 2022 edition was historic as the tournament was contested between 188 teams from about 187 nations.

**1.178. FIRST KHELO INDIA WOMENS HOCKEY LEAGUE U-16 TO BE HELD IN DELHI.**

- 1st Khelo India Womens Hockey League under-16 will be held at the Major Dhyanchand Stadium in New Delhi between 16th to 23rd of this month.
- According to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, a total of 16 teams from across the country are participating. A total of 56 matches will be played and over 300 players will compete in the Phase 1 of the league.
- The Sports Authority of India has allocated a total of 53.72 lakhs rupees for 3 phases of the competition, which includes Prize money of 15.5 lakh rupees.
- The matches are scheduled to start at 6:30 am each day with the final match scheduled at 5 pm. 19th of this month is kept as the rest day.
- Phase 1 and 2 of the Khelo India Women's Hockey League U-16 will be in round-robin format. The final ranking of teams will be determined after the completion of first 2 phases. Phase 3 will consist of classification matches where each team will play a minimum of 3 matches.

**1.179. FIFA SUSPENDS ALL INDIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION (AIFF) DUE TO UNDUE INFLUENCE FROM THIRD PARTIES.**

- FIFA, the apex football body today announced that it has decided to suspend the All-India Football Federation (AIFF) with immediate effect and the decision was taken unanimously by the Bureau of the FIFA Council.
- An official release issued by FIFA said that the decision has been taken due to undue influence from third parties, which constitutes a serious violation of the FIFA Statutes.
- The statement also mentioned that the suspension will be lifted once an order to set up a committee of administrators to assume the powers of the AIFF Executive Committee is repealed and the AIFF administration regains full control of the AIFF's daily affairs.
- The release further stated that the suspension means that the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022, scheduled to take place in India on 11-30 October 2022, will not be held in India as planned.
- FIFA is also assessing the next steps with regard to the tournament and will refer the matter to the Bureau of the Council if and when necessary.

**1.180. PARALYMPIAN RAHUL JAKHAR WINS GOLD IN 2022 WSPS SHOOTING WORLD CUP.**

- Paralympian Rahul Jakhar wins Gold, Avani Lekhara Silver while Pooja Agarwal bags Bronze on Day one of 2022 WSPS Shooting World Cup in Changwon, South Korea.
- Rahul won the Gold in 25 metre competition, in the same category, Pooja picks Bronze.
- Two-time Paralympic winner won the Silver in 10 metre event.

**1.181. U-20 WORLD WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS: ANTIM PANGHAL BECOMES FIRST INDIAN WOMAN WRESTLER TO WIN GOLD MEDAL.**

- 17-year-old Haryana wrestler Antim Panghal has become the first Indian woman wrestler to win Gold medal at Under-20 World Wrestling Championship in Sofia, Bulgaria. She scored an 8-0 win over Atlyn Shagayeva of Kazakhstan in 53kg category to achieve this feat.
- This gold medal is historic in its own ways as India has never won any gold medal in women's wrestling at U20 World Championships. Antim Panghal belongs to Haryana's Bhagana village in the Hisar district.
- Sonam Malik and Priyanka won silver medals in 62 kg and 65 kg respectively after losing the gold medal bouts.

### **1.182. SPORTS MINISTRY TO ORGANISE 'MEET THE CHAMPION INITIATIVE' IN 26 SCHOOLS ON OCCASION OF NATIONAL SPORTS DAY.**

- Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry will organise- Meet the Champion initiative in 26 schools across the country on the occasion of National Sports Day.
- Few of the prominent athletes who will be the part of this initiative are Commonwealth Games and World Championships Gold Medalist Nikhat Zareen, Paralympics and CWG medalist Bhavina Patel, Tokyo Olympics and CWG medalist Manpreet Singh among others.
- Meet the Champions is a unique school visit campaign that was kicked off by Olympic Gold medallist Neeraj Chopra in December last year.
- It has reached various parts of the country over the past few months. During the school visit, the champion athlete shares their experiences, life lessons, and tips on how to eat right and also give an overall inspirational boost to school children.
- Sports Authority of India will also be celebrating this year's National Sports Day, as part of the FIT INDIA campaign, with the theme of Sports as an enabler for an inclusive and fit society.

#### **About National Sports Day**

- India celebrates National Sports Day on 29th August to commemorate the birth anniversary of hockey legend, Major Dhyan Chand.
- The day is also dedicated to the nations' sports heroes and champions, honoring their contribution and dedication towards bringing laurels to the country.
- With the aim to raise awareness about the values of sports: discipline, perseverance, sportsman spirit, teamwork, and to encourage public in large to take up sports and make it an integral part of their lives while emphasizing on the importance of being fit and healthy.

### **1.183. NEERAJ CHOPRA CREATES HISTORY, WINS LAUSANNE DIAMOND LEAGUE MEET TITLE IN JAVELIN THROW.**

- Tokyo Olympics gold medallist Neeraj Chopra has won the javelin throw competition at the Lausanne Diamond League with a best throw of 89.08 metre.
- With his best throw at the event, Neeraj became the first Indian to clinch the prestigious Diamond League Meet title.
- Neeraj has thus qualified for the Diamond League Finals, which will take place in Zurich, Switzerland from September 7 and 8. He has also now qualified for the 2023 World Championships.

## AWARDS

### 1.184. IIIT-NR DIRECTOR HONOURED WITH AAIA'S FELLOW OF THE ASSOCIATION AWARD.

- The Asia-Pacific Artificial Intelligence Association (AAIA) has conferred its highest honour, the Fellow of the Association, on Dr. Pradeep K. Sinha, the Director of **International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT)- Naya Raipur (NR) in Chhattisgarh**.
- Considering Dr. Sinha's contributions to the advancement of Science and Technology and Technical Education, the Executive Board of the AAIA decided to bestow the honour upon him after recognizing him among the top scientists of the world with outstanding achievements in the area of Distributed Computing.
- Dr. Sinha played a vital role in introducing new B. Tech. and M. Tech. programs in Data Science & Artificial Intelligence (DSAI) in IIIT-NR, in the year 2019, making IIIT-NR one of the first institutes in the country to have such a program.
- Dr. Sinha's professional career spans more than thirty-five years, during which his technical contributions include building premier academic institutes; building supercomputing systems and facilities; developing healthcare products and solutions; innovating ideas leading to international patents; and authoring six books in the area of Computer Science & Engineering.

#### About AAIA:

- Based in Hong Kong, the Asia-Pacific Artificial Intelligence Association (AAIA) is an academic, non-profit and non-governmental organization voluntarily formed by a large group of academicians worldwide.
- It aims to build a broad AI industry, bringing together scientists and entrepreneurs related to AI applications to develop AI industries, including the AI Ocean, AI Transportation, AI Computing, AI Communication, AI Robot, AI Education, AI Agriculture, AI Finance, AI Medicine, AI Energy, and dozens of AI application fields.
- The main mission of the AAIA is to strengthen scientists in the field of AI and other fields worldwide to promote the development and application of AI through academic research, academic exchanges, science education, science exhibitions, academic conferences, academic publications, summer/winter camps and other activities.
- The fellows of the Asia-Pacific Artificial Intelligence Association (AAIA) include some of the world's eminent academicians who come from Stanford University, Princeton University, MIT, California Institute of Technology, Cornell University, Columbia University, University of Oxford etc.

### 1.185. UNION GOVT LAUNCHES RASHTRIYA PURUSKAR PORTAL TO BRING TOGETHER ALL AWARDS UNDER ONE PLATFORM

- The Union Government has launched Rashtriya Puruskar Portal to bring together all the awards of the various Ministries, Departments and agencies of the government under one platform. This has been done to ensure transparency and public partnership.
- Home Ministry said that this common portal facilitates every citizen or organization to nominate individuals or organizations for various awards instituted by the government. It informed that the nominations or recommendations for the Padma Awards are open till 15th of next month, while nominations or recommendations for Jeevan Raksha Padak will be invited till 30th of next month.
- Individuals and organizations can visit Rashtriya Puruskar Portal [WWW.AWARDS.GOV.IN](http://WWW.AWARDS.GOV.IN) in for making their nominations or recommendations for various awards constituted by the government.

### 1.186. INDIA RANKS 3RD AT INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMY & ASTROPHYSICS OLYMPIAD WITH 3 GOLDS, 2 SILVERS.

- India secured the third rank in medal tally at the 15th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA).
- India held the third position jointly with Singapore with students winning three gold and two silver medals.
- The 15th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) 2022 held in Kutaisi, Georgia, from 14 to 21 August, 2022.

Details of the Individual performance are given below:

#	Name of the contestant	Medal secured	Place from
1	Raghav Goyal	GOLD	Chandigarh
2	Md Sahil Akhtar	GOLD	Kolkata
3	Mehul Borad	GOLD	Hyderabad
4	Malay Kedia	SILVER	Ghaziabad
5	Atharva Nilesh Mahajan	SILVER	Indore

- There were 209 students from 37 main and 6 guest teams participating in this year's IOAA.
- In addition, 24 students from 6 countries participated in the online mode.
- This year's competition was originally scheduled to be held in Kyiv, Ukraine; it was shifted to Kutaisi, Georgia in March 2022 due to the war in Ukraine.

### 1.187. GOVT INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR NATIONAL GOPAL RATNA AWARDS -2022.

- Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has invited applications for National Gopal Ratna Awards - 2022 online through the National Award portal.
- The awards will be conferred on the occasion of **National Milk Day, 26th November**.
- The Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) was launched in December 2014 for the first time in the country, with a view to conserve and develops indigenous bovine breeds in a scientific manner.

**National Gopal Ratna Award during 2022 to be given in the following categories:**

- Best Dairy farmer rearing indigenous cattle/buffalo breeds (list of registered breeds annexed).
- Best Artificial Insemination Technician (AIT).
- Best Dairy Cooperative Society/ Milk producer Company/ Dairy Farmer Producer Organisation.

**The National Gopal Ratna Award consists of a Certificate of merit, a memento, and amount in each category as under:**

- Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rupee five lakh only) -1st rank
- Rs. 3,00,000/- (Rupee three lakh only) -2nd rank and
- Rs. 2,00,000/- (Rupee two lakh only) -3rd rank

### 1.188. FORMER GERMAN CHANCELLOR ANGELA MERKEL WINS UNESCO PEACE PRIZE 2022.

- Former German chancellor Angela Merkel has been awarded the UNESCO Peace Prize 2022 for "her efforts to welcome refugees".



- In the summer of 2015, as refugees were streaming into Europe, Merkel opened her country's borders and famously declared to Germans "Wir schaffen das", "We can do this."
- She eventually pulled back on her pro-immigration stance as support eroded among the public and within her own conservative party.
- All the members of the jury were touched by her courageous decision in 2015 to welcome more than 1.2 million refugees, notably from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Eritrea.

**About the UNESCO Peace Prize:**

- The honour, which is officially called Felix Houphouet-Boigny-UNESCO Peace Prize, is named after the former president of Ivory Coast.
- It has been awarded each year since 1989 to individuals, organisations or institutions that have made a special effort to promote, research or secure peace. It is awarded annually.
- The prize includes a cheque of USD 150,000, a gold medal and a peace diploma. If there are multiple recipients, the cheque is shared equally.

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## STATE NEWS

### 1.189. GODHAN NYAY YOJNA.

- Raghuram Rajan praises Chhattisgarh's Godhan Nyay Yojna, calls it 'best bottom-up approach' in country.
- Through this, we can not only get a better solution for farming and livelihood but also reduce the problems of decreasing fertility of the land due to indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture. The availability of food items can also be improved greatly. Many problems like toxicity, damage to the environment and global warming can be reduced to a great extent.
- Appreciating the management of livestock care, arrangement of free fodder and water, health check-up, treatment and vaccination of animals in the Gauthan of Navagaon, he observed that the income-oriented activities like organic manure production, mushroom production, vegetable production at a large scale, oil distillation, fisheries, poultry, goat rearing etc. are conducted by women groups in Gauthan.
- The livelihood-oriented activities conducted in the Gauthans have proved to be helpful in providing economic support to the villagers during Covid-19.
- Under the Godhan Nyay Yojana, the purchase of cow dung in Gauthans for Rs 2 per kg and its use in the manufacture of vermicompost, super compost and farming is a commendable initiative by the state government. This will improve the fertility of the land as well as reduce the cost of agriculture and cut down the risk of food poisoning due to the use of harmful pesticides.
- The scheme was launched by Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel in July 2020.

### 1.190. ORUNODOI' OR ARUNODOI SCHEME.

- Recently, Assam CM announced that, some 22 lakh beneficiaries of the Orunodoi scheme in Assam will get ₹18 extra for August to buy a National Flag or two.
- The Assam government has been transferring ₹1,000 as monetary benefit to the bank accounts of economically weak women on the 10th of every month under the Orunodoi scheme.

#### ABOUT THE SCHEME:

- Orunodoi' or Arunodoi Scheme is a scheme of the Government of Assam is launched on 2nd October 2020. Under 'Orunodoi', monetary benefits have been envisaged for more than 24 lac poor household in the state.
- The schematic benefit has been enhanced from 830/- to Rs. 1000/ Women. They will receive the amount on the first day of every month, starting from October 2020.
- Women being the primary caretakers of the family are kept as beneficiaries of the scheme. 'Orunodoi' scheme will provide Financial Assistance of Rs. 1000 per month through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme to around 19.10 Lakh Families in the state.

### 1.191. ASSAM TO ANNOUNCE NEW LAND POLICY FOR TRIBALS WITH INCREASED LAND HOLDING.

- Under its new tribal land policy, the Assam government would allow a tribal land owner to hold 50 bighas of land, up from the existing eight bighas.
- Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that the tribal land policy would be launched on October 2 under 'Basundhara' Phase 2, which would increase the land holding of a tribal person from the existing eight bighas to 50 bighas.
- The Chief Minister said the government would talk to tribal organisations and try to settle the tribals in villages with gazing grounds.
- According to the 2011 Census, tribals constitute 12.4 per cent of Assam's 3.12 crore population, who reside mostly in western Assam.

- Last year, Prime Minister had launched a special programme of the state government to distribute land 'patta' or land allotment certificates to over one lakh landless indigenous people.

### **1.192. HARYANA ANNOUNCES ONE TIME SETTLEMENT SCHEME FOR INDEBTED FARMERS.**

- The Haryana government has announced a one-time settlement scheme for indebted farmers or members of the District Agriculture and Land Development Bank.
- The state's Cooperation Minister Banwari Lal said that under the scheme announced for the loanee members, 100 per cent rebate on the overdue interest will be provided mainly in the loan accounts of deceased borrowers till March 31, 2022.
- For this, 100 per cent waiver of overdue interest will be provided to the heirs of deceased borrowers on depositing the entire principal amount in the loan account. Penalty interest and other expenses will also be waived.
- The total number of dead loan holders of the bank is 17,863 whose total amount is Rs 445.29 crore including principal amount of Rs 174.38 crore and interest of Rs 241.45 crore and penal interest of Rs 29.46 crore.
- This scheme will be applicable on all types of loans of the bank. According to the scheme, if the loan holder could not pay his loan due to any reason and was declared a defaulter by the bank till March 31, 2022, he can take advantage of this scheme.
- The cooperation minister further said this scheme is for a limited time, so consumers can take advantage of it on 'first come-first serve' basis.
- He said even before this, interest waiver scheme was implemented by the government in 2019, under which Rs 605.22 crore was recovered by the bank.
- Under this scheme, interest of Rs 181.88 crore was waived of 21,881 loanee members.

### **1.193. MARKET LINKAGE SCHEME 'PARVAZ' POSSESSES TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL FOR UPLIFTING ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF FARMERS ACROSS J&K.**

- The innovative Market Linkage scheme- PARVAZ possesses tremendous potential for uplifting the economic conditions of the farmers across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The scheme was launched by the Government with an aim to create market linkage support for the shipment of Agriculture and Horticulture perishables being harvested in Jammu and Kashmir through Air Cargo.
- Under the scheme, 25 per cent subsidy on freight charges is given for carrying perishable fruits harvested in Jammu and Kashmir for shipment through Air Cargo. The subsidy is provided to farmers through DBT mode.
- Jammu & Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation (JKHPMC), the implementing agency of the scheme is regularly creating awareness among the farmers about the significance of this scheme so that ample number of them can take benefit from it.
- The documentation work related to the scheme has been made easy besides the subsidy for the farmers provided under the scheme is timely paid to the farmers.
- This scheme tends to benefit the farmers by doubling their income thereby ensuring their economic and social welfare the scheme the farmers will get the price of their produce directly in their bank account with no intermediary in between.

### **1.194. ALLAHABAD UNIVERSITY GETS PATENT FOR POTATO FLAKES ENERGY BAR.**

- The Center of Food Technology, Allahabad University, has received patent for its 'potato flakes energy bar' which can meet the immediate energy needs of runners, growing children and patients with severe energy deficit.

- The patent has been granted by the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trademarks under the Union commerce and industry ministry.
- According to Professor Neelam Yadav, head of the Center of Food Technology, the project to make potato flakes energy bars had been going on since long and patent was applied for in April, 2017, which has now been received.
- A 100-gram flakes energy bar has 365 kilo calories, 11-12 per cent protein and 4-5 per cent mineral content. This energy bar has a mix of dry fruits and is prepared in a drum dryer.
- Yadav said that the main ingredient of this bar is potato flakes prepared from the Kufri Frysona variety of potato. This variety of potato is grown in Meerut and Saharanpur region and is stored in the cold storages there.
- Yadav said that after getting the patent, the Center of Food Technology is in talks with several companies to share the patent for the commercial production of the energy bar.

### **1.195. MEGHALAYA SET TO HOST 2ND EDITION OF NORTH EAST OLYMPICS FROM 30TH OCTOBER.**

- Meghalaya is all set to host the upcoming 2nd edition of the North East Olympics from October the 30th to November the 6th in Shillong.
- A joint meeting of the North East Organising Committee, Meghalaya Department of Sports and Youth Affairs, and the North East Olympic Association was held last evening to finalize the list of sports disciplines.
- The first edition of Games was held in Manipur in 2018, with 12 disciplines.
- Following the meeting, Sports & Youth Affairs Minister Banteidor Lyngdoh stated that the disciplines selected were decided based on the availability of infrastructure and on the advice of the Meghalaya State Olympic Association.
- He said this edition of the Games will be special as **Meghalaya is celebrating the 50th year of its Statehood.**
- In this edition, about 4,000 participants from eight North Eastern States will be competing in 18 disciplines at 13 venues spread across Shillong. Participants will be competing in disciplines, such as archery, athletics, badminton, basketball, boxing, football, judo, karate, shooting, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, tennis, wushu, cycling (Mountain Bike), golf, weightlifting and wrestling.

### **1.196. 29 INCIDENTS OF CLOUDBURST HIT HIMACHAL PRADESH IN THREE YEARS.**

- Himachal Pradesh was hit by 29 cloudburst incidents in the last three years.
- This was informed in a written reply by Revenue and Jal Shakti Minister Mahender Singh Thakur in the Himachal Pradesh Assembly in reply to a stated question sought by MLA Ramesh Dhawala (Jawalamukhi) during the question hour.
- As many as 19 lives were lost and property worth crores of rupees was reportedly destroyed in the last three years till 20 July this year as a result of flash floods due to cloudbursts.
- While the districts of Bilaspur, Chamba, Kinnaur, Kullu, Lahaul-Spiti, Shimla were hit by cloud burst in the three years, no cloudburst has been reported from Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi, Sirmaur, Solan and Una.
- A loss of crop Rs 1, 85,813 and government property of Rs 19, 98, 00,000 was estimated in Kinnaur district.
- It was also informed that the state government will seek cooperation from the France Development Institute for early warning, research and study for the increasing cloudburst in Himachal.
- Financial assistance will also be sought from other institutes including Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, GB Pant of Himalayan Studies, Defense Geo Informatics Research Establishment (DGRE), Wadia Institute of Himalayan Studies and Department of Science and Technology.

- It was also informed that the Disaster Management Department with the help of DGRE is in the process of setting up of Automatic Weather System at 61 places.

### **1.197. MANIPUR PINEAPPLE FESTIVAL & CELEBRATION OF 75 YEARS OF PINEAPPLE CULTIVATION KICKS OFF IN CHURACHANDPUR.**

- In Manipur, the 15th State Level Manipur Pineapple Festival and Celebration of 75 Years of Pineapple Cultivation kicked off today at Dr. Kalam Ground of Bunglon Village in Churachandpur.
- The inaugural function of the festival was attended by three State cabinet ministers and three MLAs with other state officials.
- The two days festival is organised by Manipur Pineapple Festival Committee and the pineapple cultivators of Bunglon Village and nearby villages.
- **India celebrated its First ever Pineapple Festival on 21st July 2008 at Andro in Imphal** East district where above one lakh of the spiky but juicy fruit had been reportedly produced.
- The First Manipur Pineapple Fair cum Youth Festival was organised with the effort of Andro Kendra Development Committee was held at Thambalnu Market of Andro region.
- This festival has acted as a new chapter in the annals of pineapple cultivation in Manipur.

#### **World**

- Pineapple Festival was started in 1988 in the Bahamas and in the year 2008 they celebrated their 20th annual festival.
- The purpose for establishing the Pineapple Festival was to honor the many pineapple farmers for their outstanding contributions to the community.
- Secondly, to bring together farmers and visitors from all walks of life to enjoy and participate in pineapple events such as a pineapple eating contest, pineapple cooking contest, old-time pineapple crazy sports, 40-mile pineapple cycling classic, plaiting of the pineapple pole, Little Miss Pineapple Pageant, a Junkanoo parade, craft displays, dancing, and a non-stop pineapple party time.
- Pineapple Festivals are celebrated in all the major Pineapple producing countries around the globe.

### **1.198. PM MODI TO INAUGURATE HOMI BHABHA CANCER HOSPITAL IN MOHALI, PUNJAB ON AUGUST 24.**

- Prime Minister to inaugurate Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre in Mohali district, Punjab.
- Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre is a 300-bed facility and equipped with state-of-the-art facilities such as MRI, CT, mammography, digital radiography and brachytherapy to treat all types of cancers using every available treatment modalities like surgery and medical oncology — chemotherapy, immunotherapy and bone marrow transplant.
- The hospital has been built at a cost of over Rs 660 crore by Tata Memorial Centre.
- The facility has a day care facility for administration of chemotherapy and minor OT for biopsy and minor surgeries.

### **1.199. RAJIV GANDHI RURAL OLYMPIC GAMES START IN MORE THAN 11,000 PANCHAYATS IN RAJASTHAN.**

- In Rajasthan, Rajiv Gandhi Rural Olympic Games have started in more than 11,000 panchayats this morning. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot inaugurated the games at the state-level function organised at Pal Panchayat of Luni block in Jodhpur district.
- About 2 lakh 25 thousand teams are participating in these games, in which about 30 lakh players are showing talent.
- The state government claims that the Rural Olympics is one of the biggest sporting events in the world.

- Under the Rural Olympics, 6 sports-Kabaddi, Shooting Ball, Volleyball, Hockey, Kho-Kho and Tennis Ball Cricket are being played.
- These games are first being organized at the Gram panchayat level after that there will be competitions at block, district and state level. More than 20 lakh male and about one million females are participating in these games.
- The special feature of these games is that more than one lakh participants are above 50 years of age.
- At the same time, more than 1,500 players are above 70 years of age.
- The objective of this event is to create an environment for sports in the villages, to search for sporting talent and to develop mutual bonding among people in villages.



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## HIMACHAL PRADESH NEWS

### 1.200. MINJAR FAIR TO GET INTERNATIONAL STATUS: CM JAI RAM THAKUR.

- Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur launched state-level programme 'Pragatisheel Himachal: Sthapna Ke 75 Varsh' at Chawgan ground. The event will celebrate 75 years of formation of Himachal Pradesh.
- Tracing the progress of the state, he said the per capita income of the state grew from Rs 240 to Rs 2,01,873 from 1948 to 2022 while the GSDP surged from Rs 27 crore to Rs 1,75,173 crore, in the same period.
- He said the literacy rate of the state had grown to 83% in 2022 from 4.8% in 1948. The agricultural production had increased from 954 MT to 1,500 MT and foodgrain output from 1.99 lakh MT to 15.14 lakh MT in the period.
- There were only 228 km road network at the time of Himachal's formation and today the state had over 39,354 km of roads.
- The CM said international status will be granted to Minjar fair.
- Earlier, he inaugurated an exhibition on the theme, 'Himachal Tub Aur Ab' put up by various departments, boards and corporations.
- A theme song on 75 years of existence of the state was also released on the occasion.
- A documentary based on 75 years of glorious history of Himachal produced by the Information and Public Relation Department was also screened.

### 1.201. NHPC, NGO SIGN MOU TO TRAIN YOUTHS.

- The NHPC's Regional Office at Banikhet signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Yog Manav Vikas Trust, an NGO, to provide vocational training to rural youths under its **CSR initiative**.
- NHPC Regional Office DGM US Chhetri and Vikas trust chairperson Kiran Dodeja signed the MoU.
- Vocational training would be provided to around 150 rural youths and the NHPC had allocated Rs 10.96 lakh for the purpose.
- Under the programme, vocational training would be imparted in the courses of cutting and tailoring, beauty culture, certificate in computer application and yoga sciences to rural youths. These courses would start on August 1 and would be completed in 12 months. Vocational training to rural youths would improve their livelihood and also empower them.

### 1.202. DEFYING GOVT ORDERS, HERITAGE TEMPLE BEING RENOVATED.

- Despite the fact that the government has notified that no heritage building can be altered without the permission of a DC, many heritage buildings are being changed on the whims of local politicians.
- The recent renovation by government contractors at the Devi Kothi temple in Chamba district has attracted the ire of conservationists.
- Vijay Sharma, a heritage conservationist and Padma Shri awardee for work in Kangra paintings, said the Devi Kothi temple was known for its splendid wood carvings and murals. The temple front part had been defaced.
- The facade of the temple had been covered by wooden pillars made by the modern artisans.
- **The ancient shrine was built by Raja Umed Singh of Chamba in the mid 18th century.**
- Vijay said some art lovers had raised this issue the previous year too. After that they were assured that the old structure of the temple would not be changed.
- Vijay has written a book on the temple. He had raised the issue when the concrete pillars were laid a few months ago around the temple. He had also approached **Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural**

**Heritage (INTACH)** for its intervention. The government had sanctioned Rs 25 lakh for the conservation of the structure. But the amount was not utilised for the purpose it was sanctioned.

- Sharma has urged the Chief Minister to take notice and issue order to remove such gaudy woodwork from the temple.
- **The government had moved to protect the heritage building. As per the notification issued by the Governor for all buildings that are 100-year-old or more, permission would have to be sought from the DCs for their renovation.**
- The local committee and panchayats would also be informed before any change in heritage buildings or structures. The order will also apply to private buildings.
- The DCs had also been directed to give permission for a change in heritage structures only if they were satisfied that basic nature, architecture and old frescos in the heritage buildings would not be damaged.
- The notification stated that the government had taken the decision as many heritage buildings were being damaged during restructuring due to which the state was losing its heritage.
- Malwika Pathania, state convener of INTACH, said despite the notification, the heritage buildings were being altered without the permission of the government.

### **1.203. HIMACHAL OLYMPIC GAMES TO BE HOSTED BY UNA, KANGRA DISTRICTS.**

- The HP State Olympic Games will be hosted jointly by Una and Kangra districts in the last week of August. More than 2,000 sportspersons are expected to compete in 14 disciplines. This was stated by Rural Development Minister Virender Kanwar, who is also the Chairman of the State Olympic Association.
- Competition of 11 disciplines will be held at the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex, Una, while athletics and weightlifting will be held at Dharamsala and basketball will be held at Kangra.
- The games that will be held at Una are handball, hockey, taekwondo, judo, wrestling, kho kho, kabaddi, football, volleyball, boxing and shooting.

### **1.204. TWO-DAY LAHAUL TOURISM FEST BEGINS AT JISPA.**

- Tribal Development Minister Ram Lal Markanda inaugurated the two-day Lahaul Tourism Festival being organised by the **Lahaul Eco-Tourism Society at Jispa**.
- The minister said that such events played a crucial role in promoting tradition and culture of the district.
- Tourists could have a glimpse of the Lahaul folk culture, dance and cuisine during the fair.
- He announced Rs 1.50 lakh for the organisers and appreciated their decision to organise the festival at Jispa in the Lahaul valley to attract tourists.

### **1.205. HIMACHAL GOVT GIVES IN-PRINCIPLE NOD TO FIRST-EVER HORTICULTURE POLICY.**

- The government has given an in-principle approval to the first-ever horticulture policy of the state.
- As one of its major objectives, the policy aims to diversify fruit production in the state. At the moment, apple accounts for more than 80 per cent of the fruit production.
- The policy aims at converting Himachal from the apple state to a fruit state. To achieve this objective, the department will adopt a **cluster approach** to boost the cultivation of other fruits along with apple.
- “Just as apple clusters have been formed under the World Bank-funded the horticulture development project, areas will be identified where there is a potential for growing other fruits. These areas will then be put under cluster cultivation.
- Efforts are already afoot to boost the cultivation of sub-tropical fruits at lower elevations in the state through project SHIVA, which is funded by the Asian Development Bank.
- The policy stresses on the use of latest technology and techniques like drip irrigation, high density plantation, etc. for better quality and yield of the fruit.



- Compared to the developed horticulture nations, the per-hectare production of fruit in the state is very low and the policy aims at addressing this huge gap in production.
- Also, technology will be used to make the entire system transparent and accessible to all fruit growers. Relevant information would be put up on the department's website, ensuring prompt, transparent and impartial services to the growers.
- According to the official, the policy will look to create infrastructure like marketing yards, CA stores, processing units, proper roads in rural areas etc to help growers get better value for their produce. "Besides, foreign markets will be explored for exporting fruit".
- Besides, focus will be laid on preparing nurseries for planting material of all fruits. Currently, much of the planting material of most fruits is coming from abroad and the policy advocates to cut down foreign dependence on this front.

### 1.206. SHIMLA GETS 18 TAXIS UNDER 'RIDE WITH PRIDE' SCHEME.

- Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur dedicated to public 18 taxis for residents of Shimla under the "Ride with Pride" scheme of the Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC).
- The vehicles worth Rs 2.91 crore have been provided under the Smart City Shimla project for the convenience of the public.
- The addition of taxis to the existing fleet will benefit residents, including the elderly, women, physically challenged people and the tourists,".
- CM said "Ride with Pride" taxis were already being operated by the HRTC and more than 3,000 commuters were using the service in Shimla every day.
- Apart from 18 taxis, 12 tempos and 20 electric buses had also been sanctioned to the HRTC, which would be dedicated to the public the next month.

### 1.207. FARM VARSITY IDENTIFIES 368 VARIETIES OF RAJMASH IN STATE.

- Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Himachal Pradesh Agricultural University (CSKHPAU), Palampur, has identified 368 landraces of rajmash (kidney beans) that are grown in the state.
- VC of the university HK Chaudhary, said the institute had decided to get the GI tag for all varieties of Himachali rajmash.
- Prof Chaudhary has contributed to developing 20 important crop varieties, including rajmash variety 'triloki rajmash'.
- The VC said he had collected 368 rajmash landraces from the tribal belt and other areas of the state, including Kukumseri (Lahaul & Spiti), Kinnaur, Kullu, Mandi and Chamba districts. These were called the hotspot regions for the landraces of rajmash cultivation.
- He said, "We evaluated, purified, characterised and developed a popular rajmash variety 'triloki rajmash' following the pure line selection method of breeding. The university has initiated a process to get Geographic Indicators for the rajmash landraces in collaboration with the Himachal Pradesh Council for Science Technology and Environment (HIMCOSTE), Shimla. This will get it national and international recognition benefiting local farmers.
- He said the rajmash variety "triloki" had been released for the cultivation in dry temperate zone hilly region. It had bold and creamish yellow seeds with good cooking quality and excellent organo-leptic taste, resistant to diseases like bacterial blight, angular leaf spot and anthracnose and provides 20-22 quintal per hectare average seed yield.
- It was ready for harvesting 10-20 days earlier than other varieties of rajmash. Creamish yellow rajmash, grown by the farming community in the hilly regions, possesses many health-related nutrients. Such light-coloured rajmash contains a good amount of carbohydrates, fibers and anti-oxidants which has the ability

to fight against diseases. Apart from this, vitamin B6 and vitamin C, mineral elements as potassium, zinc, magnesium, calcium and iron are also found to increase the immune system and control blood pressure.

- Phytohaemoglutin, a harmful toxic element, is found in lesser amounts in creamish yellow rajmash than in red rajmash, which prevents many stomach-related problems like diarrhoea, colic and indigestion. Creamish yellow colour-seeded rajmash has a thin seed coat and takes less time for cooking.
- The VC said this variety had become very popular among the farming community and efforts were under way to promote it further by way of branding and attractive packaging.

### **1.208. HAMIRPUR'S VIKAS THAKUR SHINES IN COMMONWEALTH GAMES.**

- Vikas Thakur, who hails from Patnaun village of the Hamirpur district, has won a silver medal in men's weightlifting 96-kilogram category at Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.
- Thakur lifted a total weight of 346 kg. He completed a best snatch attempt of 155 kg and a clean & jerk attempt of 191 kg.
- This is Vikas Thakur's third consecutive medal at Commonwealth Games. He won a silver in 2014 and a bronze in 2018.

### **1.209. PANEL FORMED BY HIMACHAL GOVERNMENT TO MONITOR APPLE PRICES.**

- The state government has formed a committee under the chairmanship of the Vice-Chancellor of Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, Solan District to monitor apple prices.
- The committee will keep a check on prices for procuring apple by private stores in the state.
- As apple growers continue protests in the state, the government issued a press note and announcing the release of Rs 20 crore to pay pending subsidies for anti-hail nets and other farm equipment.
- These decisions were taken in a meeting of at high-powered committee headed by the Chief Secretary on July 30.

### **1.210. 7-DAY KULLU DASEHRA FESTIVAL FROM OCT 5.**

- Education and Art, Language and Culture Minister Govind Singh Thakur said that the seven-day-long international Kullu Dussehra festival will commence from October 5.
- While presiding over a meeting convened for the organization of the festival, he said that for the last two years, Dussehra festival could be celebrated only symbolically due to Covid, but this time Dussehra will be celebrated on a large scale.
- The festival this year would be linked to "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav". He asked the district administration to constitute separate committees. He said that the festival souvenir would be published in a new format as it was the pride of the festival and helped preserve the memories of the event. He added that articles of budding writers and historians would be included in the souvenir.
- The leader said that cultural evenings would be organized in the open-air auditorium Kala Kendra.
- He directed communication through the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Embassies to invite international level artistes for the festival. He said that it was the responsibility of the festival committee to provide opportunities to local artistes in the festival. The artistes should be selected only through auditions.
- Kullu Dussehra is celebrated for seven days after Vijaya Dashami and the speciality of the Kullu Dussehra is the chariot procession of Lord Raghunath.
- The center of festivities of the Kullu Dussehra is the Dhalpur Maidan in Kullu.

#### **HISTORY**

- The history of this carnival dates back to the 17th century when the local king, Jagat Singh, installed an idol of Lord Raghunath on his throne on the advice of a Brahmin in order to eradicate his curse, after taking it from Lord Rama's kingdom, Ayodhya.

- After this, Lord Raghunath was declared as the ruling deity of the valley. According to traditions, a huge statue of the deity is now installed on a beautifully designed chariot, on the first day of the festival, in the presence of other village gods and goddesses.
- The devotees after offering their prayers and respects to the deity take him to different sites across the Dhalpur Maidan.

### **1.211. THE NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LTD (NFL) CHAIR TO BE SET UP AT PALAMPUR AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY.**

- The National Fertilizers Ltd (NFL) will establish an NFL chair in Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Agriculture University, Himachal Pradesh (CSKAUHP), at Palampur.
- Nirlep Singh Rai, CMD of NFL, gave this information. He said an MoU would be signed with the CSKAUHP tomorrow at Palampur. The NFL will fund research carried out at its farms by scientists of the CSKAUHP.
- It was the first-of-its-kind MoU being signed by the NFL to fund research in an agriculture university.
- Nirlep Singh said presently, the NFL was producing fertilisers. The company was, however, looking to diversify into other fields in agriculture. The company had already entered the business of selling seeds developed at its farms. NFL is entering into an MoU with the CSKAUHP with an idea that it would help the company develop various varieties of crops, cropping patterns and other technology related to farming that it can further sell in the market.
- Prof HK Chaudhary, VC of the CSKAUHP, said it was common in developed countries that the companies funded research projects in universities. However, it was for the first time in the northern region that a leading public sector undertaking (PSU) would be directly investing in research in a government university.
- The NFL chair would be established in the university after the signing of MoU and the university would soon take up research projects as per the requirements of the PSU.
- Chaudhary further said the university scientists would soon be visiting agriculture farms of the NFL located on the borders of Punjab and Himachal in Una district to start the research projects as specified by the officials of the NFL.

### **1.212. HIMACHAL PRADESH WOMEN SET UP 1,969 UNITS UNDER MUKHYAMANTRI SWAVALAMBAN YOJNA (MMSY) SCHEME.**

- The **Mukhyamantri Swavalamban Yojna (MMSY)** launched by the state government is playing a significant role in fulfilling dreams of many aspiring women entrepreneurs. Till now, 1,969 units have been set up by women in the state.
- As many as 273 women of Kangra, 236 of Solan, 215 of Una, 209 of Mandi, 200 women of Sirmaur, 194 of Hamirpur, 184 of Shimla, 171 of Bilaspur, 152 of Kullu, 61 of Chamba, 48 of Kinnaur and 26 women of Lahaul and Spiti have benefited under the scheme.
- Suruchi Bhanu, a resident of Bhuntar in Kullu district, got a loan of about Rs 40 lakh for opening a gymnasium in 2021 and now, her monthly income has increased up to Rs 1.5 lakh.
- Sanjana Sharma, a resident of Ratti near Nerchowk of Mandi district, got a loan of Rs 11.50 lakh for her own restaurant and at present, she is earning an income of about Rs 80,000 per month.
- Under the MMSY scheme, **a subsidy of 30-35 per cent is provided to women** for setting up projects up to Rs 1 crore and interest subvention is provided at the rate of 5 per cent for three years.

### **1.213. KAYAKALP AWARD: KULLU HOSPITAL GETS FIRST PRIZE.**

- The regional hospital in Kullu has been presented with the first prize in the state under the Kayakalp Award Scheme for 2021-22. The Kayakalp Award is given for performing as per the national quality assurance standards (NQAS) in hospitals under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan.
- The hospital Medical Superintendent (MS), Dr Naresh Chand, said a cash award of Rs 25 lakh was recently present to them at a function held in Shimla. The hospital had won the award earlier for the year 2017-18.

- The MS said the achievement could be made due to the efforts of the hospital staff. A committee had evaluated the hospital in various categories such as cleanliness, maintenance, security arrangements, disposal of biomedical waste and other facilities.

#### **1.214. GUV LAUNCHES 'AYUSH PATHSHALA VATIKA' CAMPAIGN.**

- Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar launched the 'Ayush Pathshala Vatika' campaign at Government Senior Secondary School, Baldeyan, near Shimla.
- Under the campaign, medicinal gardens will be set up in 200 schools and medicinal plants will be distributed to the students.

#### **1.215. 'VAJRA PRAHAR' AT THE SPECIAL FORCES TRAINING SCHOOL (SFTS) IN BAKLOH, HIMACHAL PRADESH.**

- The elite Special Forces of India and the US commenced their joint exercise 'Vajra Prahar' at the Special Forces Training School (SFTS) in Bakloh, Chamba Himachal Pradesh.
- It is the 13th edition of the Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise and will last for 21 days.
- The US contingent is represented by personnel from the 1st Special Forces Group (SFG) and Special Tactics Squadron (STS) of US Special Forces and the Indian Army contingent is formed by drawing Special Forces personnel under the aegis of SFTS.
- The 'Vajra Prahar' series of joint exercise aims to share best practices and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational tactics as also to improve interoperability between the Special Forces of both the nations.
- This annual exercise is hosted alternatively between India and the United States. The 12th edition was conducted at Joint Base Lewis Mcchord, Washington (USA) in October 2021.
- During the course of next 21 days, teams of both armies will jointly train, plan and execute a series of special operations, counter terrorist operations, air borne operations in simulated conventional and unconventional scenarios in mountainous terrain.
- This joint exercise is a significant step in strengthening the traditional bond of friendship between the special forces of both nations. It also improves bilateral defence cooperation between India and the USA.

#### **1.216. COLD WEATHER MARS HIMACHAL PRADESH'S BID AT COFFEE CULTIVATION.**

- The Himachal Agriculture Department's pilot project to introduce coffee cultivation in the hill state has failed to yield the desired results.
- The cold climate conditions have marred the prospects of coffee plantation as an alternative cash crop as the survival rate of the plants is very low, ranging only between 5 and 10 per cent.
- The department had launched the project in 2014. The plants were sown on a trial basis on 7.34 hectares in Kangra, Mandi, Una and Bilaspur districts. The area under coffee plantation initially increased four times to 30.12 hectares in 2018-19.
- The department provided one lakh plants to over 500 farmers since 2014, aiming to augment their income as raw coffee seeds fetch Rs 150-200 per kg.
- The Central Coffee Research Institute, Chikmagalur, Karnataka, had recommended two varieties for cultivation in Himachal — arabica and robusta. During the trial, it was observed that the robusta variety required more water as compared to arabica and the farmers were told to go for the latter.
- Under the ideal conditions, coffee plants should be raised under the shade, protected from frost and cold, and the temperature should range between 4 degrees Celsius and 35 degrees Celsius. Specific locations were identified in certain districts to grow coffee plants.

- The idea was to grow coffee on the pattern of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu as the plants start bearing fruit in four years, while commercial production starts after 10 years. A single plant produces 500 gm to 1 kg of coffee and 100 saplings are planted in one kanal (500 sq yards).

### 1.217. 42 WRITERS TO PARTICIPATE IN BHALKHU LITERARY YATRA.

- As many as 42 writers from 14 cities of the country will participate in the 4th Bhalkhu Smriti Literary Yatra being organised by the Himalaya Sahitya Sanskriti Avam Paryavaran Manch on August 13 and 14.
- It's a unique event to be held in a moving Shimla-Kalka train in which the sessions on stories, memoirs, poetry and music will be organised in the name of stations falling on this route.
- The journey will start from the Shimla railway station in the morning up to Barog (Solan) and return in the afternoon, said chairman of the manch and convener of the yatra SR Harnot.
- Harnot said this is a national event of two days. On August 14, the author will visit Jhajha, which is 8-km from Chail.
- At the village, a literary seminar will also be organised with the local panchayat and artists will meet family members of Bhalkhu.

### 1.218. I&B MINISTER ANURAG THAKUR CONGRATULATES KANGRA CENTRAL COOPERATIVE BANK ON ITS PHENOMENAL TURN AROUND.

- Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur congratulated the **Kangra Central Cooperative Bank** on its phenomenal turn around. The bank which had **suffered a loss of around 46 crore** rupees has **earned a profit of 87 crores** in **2021-22**. The Minister expressed happiness that this also happens to be the highest ever profit earned by the bank.
- The Minister acknowledged the growth of the bank in the last four years and said the bank has seen substantial increase in enrolment of customers under various social security schemes.
- He congratulated all the 1,400 employees of the bank whose dedication to serving the bank's over 17 lakh customers has resulted in an impressive growth of over 3000 crore rupees in last four years.

### 1.219. IIT-MANDI USES AI TOOLS FOR WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT.

- Researchers at the IIT, Mandi, used artificial intelligence-enhanced operation research tools to select waste water management methods that meet the socio-economic needs specific to places and environments.
- Dr Satvasheel Powar, IIT, Mandi, said, "We have used a set of methods called Multi-Criteria Decision-Making that combines alternative decisions with quantitative and qualitative results in compact solutions."

### 1.220. BILL TO MAKE ANTI-CONVERSION LAW STRINGENT TABLED IN HOUSE.

- Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur tabled the Himachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Bill 2022 in the Vidhan Sabha to enhance punishment and add a specific mention of "mass conversion" to the existing law.
- The law was enacted with a view to providing freedom of religion by prohibiting religious conversions by misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, inducement or by any fraudulent means or marriage.
- Himachal was among the first states in the country to enact the anti-conversion law during the government of Virbhadr Singh in 2006.
- However, the BJP government repealed the Act and enacted the Himachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act, 2019 citing rise in cases of forced conversion in Rampur and Kinnaur areas.

- There was no provision in the Act to curb mass conversions. Therefore, a provision to this effect is being made.
- The jail for mass conversions shall be between five and 10 years and a fine of Rs 1.50 lakh.
- The imprisonment for concealing religion at the time of marriage has been enhanced from three years to 10 years. Besides, the fine in such cases has been increased from Rs 50,000 to Rs one lakh.
- In case of a repeat offence, the imprisonment shall be between seven and 10 years and a fine of up to Rs 2 lakh.
- Following the amendment, a police officer not below the rank of Sub-Inspector will investigate complaints of the offence.
- A sessions court will try offences punishable under the Act.

### **1.221. 450 BIGHAS IDENTIFIED FOR SARDAR PATEL UNIVERSITY: VICE CHANCELLOR OF SARDAR PATEL UNIVERSITY.**

- DD Sharma, Vice Chancellor of Sardar Patel University, Mandi, said that around 450 bigha land has been identified at Basadhar, 17 km away from Mandi, for setting up newly created Sardar Patel University.
- According to VC, Temporary arrangements of the campus will be made at Sundernagar, Mandi and other nearby places until the university has its own permanent campus.
- To ensure quality education, this university will sign MoUs with higher institutions like the Indian Institute of Technology, the National Institute of Technology Hamirpur, GB Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment, Kullu.

### **1.222. LOW-INTENSITY EARTHQUAKE HITS HIMACHAL'S CHAMBA DISTRICT.**

- According to the meteorological department low-intensity earthquake shook Himachal Pradesh's Chamba district on 15th August 2022.
- According to officials, there was no report of any casualty or damage to property.
- The epicentre of the earthquake of magnitude 2.5 was at a depth of 10 km in Chamba district.

### **1.223. TRIBAL FEST BEGINS AT KEYLONG.**

- Three-day tribal festival began with great fervour at Keylong in Lahaul and Spiti district. Technical Education Minister Ram Lal Markanda inaugurated the event.
- Lahaul and Spiti is abuzz with tourist activity after the opening of the Atal tunnel. Organising such events play a crucial role in attracting tourists and enable them to have a glimpse of the Lahauli culture.
- The festival also provided an opportunity to local 'Mahila mandals' to promote local cuisines.
- The government was making efforts to promote Himachali culture and tradition even outside the state.

### **1.224. HIMACHAL GIRL SET TO REPRESENT INDIA IN WORLD RACKETLON CHAMPIONSHIP.**

- Himachal girl Dhritih Kandpal, daughter of Lt Col Divik Kandpal from Nahan in Sirmaur district, has made the state proud.
- She has been selected to represent India in Juniors and Seniors category in World Racketlon Championship scheduled in Vienna and Graz in Austria from August 19 to August 29, 2022.
- The 15-year-old squash player is presently studying in Class 10 at Army Public School, Ahemdabad, where her father is posted.
- Dhritih is No 1 ranked player in Gujarat in Women category and also a winner of the Gujarat State Squash Championship in Under-15 category as well as Women category in 2021.
- She has also been selected to represent Gujarat in Squash in 36th National Games. She had been ranked No 2 in Under-15 in India.

### 1.225. THE CENTRAL TIBETAN ADMINISTRATION (CTA) CELEBRATES I-DAY AT DHARAMSALA.

- The Tibetan community led by the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) celebrated Indian Independence Day at the **Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts (TIPA) in Dharamsala**.
- Kangra MP Kishan Kapoor was the chief guest of the celebrations organised by the Tibetan Settlement Office in Dharamsala.
- The Kangra Deputy Commissioner, SP, Mayor, Deputy Mayor, councillors and the regional members of the Indo-Tibetan Friendship Association attended the function.

#### About:

- The **Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts (TIPA)** is a premier institute that is entrusted with the responsibility of preserving and promoting Tibet's ancient and unique culture including its rich musical heritage and arts.
- The institute was founded by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama in August 1959.
- It was later shifted to McLeod Ganj in 1961. Earlier named as the Tibetan Music, Dance, and Drama Society, it was one of the first institutes established by His **Holiness the Dalai Lama**.

### 1.226. KULLU CMO GETS LIFE-TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD.

- Kullu Chief Medical Officer Dr Sushil Chander Sharma has been honoured with the Life-Time Achievement Award. The award was presented to him by Education Minister Govind Singh during the district-level Independence Day.
- Dr Sushil has been dedicated to the healthcare of the district for the past almost two decades.
- The Kullu Regional Hospital had received various awards during the tenure of Dr Sushil. The first award of 'Kayakalp' in 2017-18 was received by then Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda for top performance in the state. He again received the first award of 'Kayakalp' of the hospital in 2021-22 from the Chief Minister in Shimla.
- The District Hospital has been awarded a certificate by the Ministry of Health, New Delhi, for qualifying the NQAS at the national level and the hospital is receiving Rs 30 lakh every year for three years.
- In 2019, the CMO has also got the state's first award for making the most cards in Ayushman Bharat and Himcare schemes. The hospital was awarded a silver medal at the national level in the TB-free campaign.
- During his tenure as the District Health Officer and later as the CMO, Dr Sushil had done 'Kayakalp' (transformation) of the Kullu hospital.

### 1.227. RACHNA GUPTA IS HPPSC HEAD, THREE APPOINTED MEMBERS.

- Dr Rachna Gupta, Member of the Himachal Pradesh Public Service Commission (HPPSC), was appointed Chairperson of the commission.
- The state government also issued the notification for the filling three vacant posts of members in the commission. The three persons appointed members are IAS Officer Rakesh Sharma, who today sought superannuation, Col Rajesh Kumar Sharma (retd) and Prof Om Prakash Sharma.
- Dr Gupta's term as member of the HPPSC was to end in January 2023. Her appointment will be for a period of six years or till the age of 62, whichever is earlier.
- Dr Gupta, before assuming the post of member HPPSC, was editor of a vernacular daily. The term of Chairperson of the HPPSC Dr Ajay Kumar got over on August 6.

### 1.228. 5,600 HOUSES BUILT UNDER PM AWAS YOJANA.

- Urban Development Minister Suresh Bhardwaj said that the state had built 5,600 houses against the total sanctioned number of around 10,000 houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban.
- Nearly 2,000 more houses will be ready in the next two months as the construction work is in final stage.

- He said the state had received Rs 133 crore and utilised around Rs 125 crore.
- The scheme was launched in 2015 with the aim of constructing over 1.12 crore homes in urban areas by August 15, 2022. The Centre has now extended this scheme up to December 2024 so that the construction of the houses already sanctioned is completed.
- Bhardwaj said, "Around 8000 houses will be ready by the end of October." The number of houses sanctioned for district Bilaspur were 889, Chamba 496, Hamirpur 498, Kangra 3,428, Kullu 373, Mandi 1,171, Shimla 282, Sirmaur 676, Solan 409 and district Una 2187 houses.

### **1.229. SUSHIL KUKREJA AND VIRENDER SINGH SWORN IN AS HIMACHAL HC JUDGES, GOVERNOR ADMINISTERS OATH.**

- Sushil Kukreja and Virender Singh were sworn in as the Judges of the Himachal Pradesh High Court.
- Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar administered the oath of office to the newly appointed judges, at Raj Bhawan in a simple but an impressive ceremony. Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur and Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court Justice Amjad Ahtesham Sayed were also present on the occasion.
- The ceremony took place at the Darbar Hall of the Raj Bhawan, where Chief Secretary R.D. Dhiman conducted the proceedings of the oath ceremony and read out the warrant of appointment issued by the President of India, regarding appointment of Sushil Kukreja and Virender Singh as Judge of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh.
- Secretary to the Governor Rajesh Sharma obtained the signature of the Governor and the newly appointed Judges on the oath form.

### **1.230. 800-METRE-LONG RAILWAY BRIDGE OVER CHAKKI RIVER ON PUNJAB-HIMACHAL BORDER COLLAPSES.**

- The 800-metre-long railway bridge over the Chakki river on the border of Punjab and Himachal in Kangra district collapsed.
- The flash flood in the Chakki washed away the weakened pillar of the bridge.
- With this, the narrow-gauge train service between Pathankot and Jogindernagar will remain suspended till a new pillar of the bridge is constructed.
- The 90-year-old railway bridge was weakened following illegal mining in the riverbed.
- The railway authorities had repeatedly complained regarding the damage being caused to the bridge due to illegal mining.

#### **History**

- The idea for Kangra Valley Railway was conceptualised during 1926 and commissioned in 1929.
- When it was started, this line was used mainly for transporting freight during the Second World War.
- It started carrying people from 1929 onwards. During this war, the rail services were disturbed because of some problem in the rail lines.
- However, renovation work was carried out in the tracks and it was open again to the public after about a dozen years.
- Again during 1973, the service got realigned to a slight extent as the Pong Dam was established and hence, rail lines were again cut off for three years.
- The three sections of this railway line are divided into the stretches of 12 km, 130 km and 22 km respectively.
- The first runs between Pathankot and Chakki Bridge, the second section runs between Chakki Bridge and Baijnath Paprola (pilgrimage route) and the third section runs between Baijnath Paprola and Joginder Nagar station.

### **1.231. STATE-LEVEL JANMASHTAMI CELEBRATED AT NURPUR, KANGRA.**



- The state-level Janmashtami festival was celebrated with religious fervour in the historical Brij Raj Swami temple.
- The Brij Raj Swami temple in the historical Nurpur fort is the only shrine in the world where an idol of Meera is worshipped alongside Lord Krishna's.
- The first issue of the souvenir 'Brijraj' was released.

### **1.232. 10TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF WOMEN POLICE TO BEGIN IN SHIMLA.**

- In Himachal Pradesh, the 10th National Conference of Women Police will begin in Shimla. More than two hundred women police officers and employees across the country are participating in this two-day National conference.
- The conference is being organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) in collaboration with Himachal Police.
- Union Minister of State for Home affairs Nityanand Rai will inaugurate the conference.
- The main objective of this conference is to enhance the leadership potential of women police officers and discuss their problems and challenges. It will also highlight and discuss the new roles and responsibilities of women in terms of changing technology and crime.
- State Director General of Police Sanjay Kundu said, at present the strength of women in the police force in Himachal is 13 percent and the women quota in the police has been increased to 25 percent.

### **1.233. 10. PORI FESTIVAL CONCLUDES IN LAHAUL AND SPITI.**

- The three-day Pori festival concluded at the Triloknath temple in Lahaul and Spiti.
- The festival was inaugurated by Technical Education Minister Ram Lal Markanda.
- The festival plays an important role in keeping cultural heritage intact.
- The minister added that the Triloknath temple is worshipped by the Hindus and Buddhists in the form of Lord Shiva and Avalokiteshvara.

### **1.234. CROCODILE SPOTTED FOR FIRST TIME IN BEAS RIVER IN HIMACHAL'S KANGRA.**

- A 15-foot crocodile has been spotted in Beas river for the first time, creating panic among people residing along the river as well as fishermen.
- A video of a crocodile in Beas River near Dehara Gopipur area has gone viral on the internet.
- The Wildlife department has also swung into action and is on the lookout for the crocodile.
- As per reports, the crocodile crawled out of Beas River after water rose to dangerous levels due to heavy rainfall and flash floods.

### **1.235. POULTRY TRAINING CENTRE & DIARY CENTRE FOR UNA VILLAGE.**

- A poultry training centre will be set up at Takarla village in the district. Rural Development and Animal Husbandry Minister Virender Kanwar said this during a public meeting at Basal village.
- He said a piece of land was being transferred to the Union government for setting up the centre.
- Kanwar said a centre of excellence in dairy and a centre for training members of Panchayati Raj Institutions were being set up at Basal village at a cost of Rs 47 crore and Rs 8 crore.
- He added that the diary centre would be built with technical assistance from Denmark where entrepreneurs would be able to get training and technical knowhow regarding the latest interventions in dairy farming.

### **1.236. SHIMLA (RURAL) GETS RS 35 CRORE PROJECTS**

- Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur today inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 10 developmental projects worth about Rs 35 crore in the Shimla (Rural) Assembly constituency.
- He presided over the 'Pragatisheel Himachal: Sathapna Ke 75 Varsh' programme at Baloh Dhami in the constituency.
- Thakur, while addressing a public meeting on the occasion, recalled the infamous carnage that took place at Dhami about 82 years ago for the freedom of the nation and for securing a separate identity for Himachal Pradesh.

#### HISTORY

- Dhami's history took a new turn with the advent of the British, who promised the rulers of Dhami as well as 19 other hill states restoration of their territories if they assisted them in defeating the Gurkhas in the Anglo-Gurkha War. The Gurkhas were expelled.
- Eventually the British granted Dhami with a "Sanad" in September, 1815, recognising it as an independent state by conferring lands upon its legitimate chief "from generation to generation and with all internal rights" provided Dhami fulfilled certain conditions.
- Dhami proved its loyalty to the British in 1857 when the Gurkhas' held a mutiny against the British at Jutogh.
- Soon the small hill state of Dhami acquired a big chapter in Himachal's history. Coming under British paramountcy, Dhami had to fulfil certain conditions which upset the traditional economy and lives of the hill folk.
- Being near the summer capital of Shimla, demands on Dhami were increasing for the supply of free and forced labour, fuel especially of the prized oak wood, fruits and vegetables, recruits to the British army, expenses for routine shikar expeditions, enhanced revenue, etc. — all for the upkeep of the British bara log at Shimla.
- The brewing discontent due to such atrocities led to resentment against the autocratic Rana, and demand for social reform, under the banner of praja mandals.
- The Dhami Praja Mandal led a crowd of more than 2,000 at Halog on July 16, 1939, to represent their demands to the Dhami Rana. In the melee that ensued, guns were fired by Dhami state leaving two dead in the incident called Dhami goli kand.

#### 1.237. SHIMLA: 81 FILMS TO BE SCREENED DURING A THREE-DAY FEST.

- A total of 81 films will be screened during the three-day International Film Festival of Shimla commencing at Gaiety theatre on August 26.
- As many as 27 films would be screened in the international category besides 34 Indian films, four Himachali films and 15 national award-winning films during the eighth edition of the festival.
- Bollywood actress Divya Dutta will be celebrity guest and screening of her transgender-based film Sheer Korma starring Shabana Azmi, Divya Dutta and Swara Bhaskar in lead roles will be presided over by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, said Festival Director Pushp Raj Thakur.
- Documentary, animation, feature and short films from Canada, America, Lebanon, Spain, Iran, Taiwan, Brazil, Iceland, Singapore, Mexico, Australia, Greece, Belgium, Denmark and Russia will be screened in the film festival.
- Fifty film directors from across the country and abroad will participate in the festival. This time a film exhibition is also being organised by the National Film Archives of India, Pune, depicting and deliberating the history and growth of cinema in India.

#### HISTORY

- Gaiety Theatre was opened on 30 May 1887, to a design by the English architect Henry Irwin.
- It is an example of the Gothic Revival style of architecture, derived from British Victorian examples.
- It was once part of the large Town Hall Complex. It had a capacity of more than 300 people.

- Initially, it was a five-story building with a theatre, ballroom, armoury, police office, bar, and galleries.
- After nearly two decades from its date of establishment, it was found that the building was structurally unsafe.
- It was partially demolished, but the Gaiety Theatre remains untouched.

### **1.238. Rs 1,600 CRORE FOR POWER SECTOR REFORMS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH BY NEXT YEAR: CM**

- Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said that the Central Government would provide about Rs 1,600 crore through the World Bank for the Himachal Pradesh Power Sector Development Programme (HPPSDP). With the state equity, the total programme cost would be around Rs 2,000 crore.
- The World Bank funding under the programme is expected to be available by early next year. Both the World Bank and the Department of MPP and Power are working expeditiously towards the finalisation of the programme.
- The duration of the programme will be five years from 2023 to 2028.
- The Chief Minister said that this programme aimed to undertaking holistic power sector reforms to allow improvement in renewable energy integration.
- The key result areas through which this is being targeted are improvement in the utilisation of the state's power sector resources in renewable, improvement in reliability of the state's grid at transmission and distribution levels and strengthening institutional capacities of various state's power utilities/agencies.
- CM said the programme also aimed at installing new capacities in solar generation of about 200 MW, through the HPPCL and HIMURJA.
- It is important for the state to meet its power requirements to allow optimal trading.
- Hence, the programme shall also focus on strengthening the power network within the state; at transmission level (by HPPTCL) and at the distribution level (by HPSEBL) in 13 towns.

### **1.239. LOCALS PROTEST DHAULASIDH PROJECT MANAGEMENT.**

- A protest was held against the management of the Dhaulasidh Power Project of Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVNL) for ignoring interests of local residents.
- The local Residents are complaining that, the management was preferring outsiders and ignoring locals while providing jobs. There were even anomalies during the process of land acquisition for the project.

#### **About Dhaulasidh Power Project:**

- It is a 66 MW power project.
- It is on Beas River.
- Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVNL) is Executing Agency.
- The project would generate over 500 jobs and provide irrigation facility to over 200 villages of Nadaun subdivision.

### **1.240. ILLEGAL MINING THREATENS ANOTHER HISTORIC RAILWAY BRIDGE, 13TH CENTURY SHIVA TEMPLE BAIJNATH IN KANGRA.**

- Illegal mining that continues unabated in the Binwa rivulet at Baijnath in Himachal's Kangra has endangered another railway bridge on the heritage Pathankot-Jogindernagar track, besides posing threat to an adjoining highway bridge and the famous **13th century Shiva temple in the town.**
- Despite tall claims by the local administration and the Mining Department, a large number of mules can be seen carrying extracted sand and gravel from the rivulet's banks.
- The illegally mined material was transported on mules to certain points from where it was shifted to vehicles by the mining mafia for further sale, said Ghanshyam Awasthi, an environmental activist.
- Awasthi said several sand and gravel dumps could be seen on the Pathankot-Mandi highway.

- Deep trenches dug by the mining mafia on the riverbed had weakened the retaining walls of the temple as well as the pillars of the two bridges.
- A colonial-era bridge on the Pathankot-Jogindernagar rail track over the Chakki rivulet in Kangra's Nurpur was washed away following heavy rain recently, an incident attributed by green activists to illegal mining.
- **According to the state government's policy, mining cannot be carried out within 100 metres of a bridge.**
- Sources said in view of the temple, a complete ban had been imposed on mining in the Binwa. The mining mafia, however, is engaged in the illegal activity right next to the foundation of the bridges and the temple's retaining wall.

#### **About the famous 13th century Shiva temple in the town.**

- The Baijnath temple is a highly popular temple as it houses **one of the 12 holy jyotirlingas** of Lord Shiva in the country and devotees from across the country throng the temple to offer prayers to the lord.
- The temple, **constructed in 1204 AD** by Lord Shiva devotees and local merchants Ahuka and Manyuka, is believed to have medicinal powers as the water emerging from the temple is believed to heal people from their illnesses.
- The Baijnath temple is constructed in the **Nagara style of architecture**.

#### **1.241. SJVN CONFERRED GREENTECH AWARD.**

- The SJVN has been conferred with the Greentech Award in recognition of its environment protection measures adopted in projects under construction stage, said SJVN chairman Nand Lal Sharma.

#### **About**

- SJVN Limited, a Mini Ratna, Category-I and Schedule -'A' CPSE under administrative control of Ministry of Power, Govt. of India, was incorporated on May 24, 1988 as a joint venture of the Government of India (GOI) and the Government of Himachal Pradesh (GOHP).
- SJVN is now a listed Company having shareholders pattern of 59.92 % with Govt. of India, 26.85% with Govt. of Himachal Pradesh and rest of 13.23 % with Public. The present paid up capital and authorized capital of SJVN is Rs. 3,929.80 Crore and Rs. 7,000 Crore respectively.
- The Net Worth as on 31.03.2022 is Rs.13128.61 Crore.
- Beginning with a single project and single State operation (i.e. India's largest 1500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station in Himachal Pradesh), the Company has commissioned seven projects totaling 2016.5 MW of installed capacity and 86 km 400 KV Transmission Line.
- SJVN is presently implementing or operating power projects in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Gujarat and Arunachal Pradesh in India besides neighbouring countries of Nepal and Bhutan.

#### **1.242. KULLU GIRL PART OF EXPEDITION TO KUN PEAK IN KARGIL.**

- Ishani Singh Jamwal of Kullu is the only girl from Himachal in the nine-member team of the Indian Mountaineering Federation (IMF) and the Navodit Samaj Seva Sansthan that will scale the 7,077-metre high Kun peak of Kargil.
- The Chhattisgarh Government is organising the expedition in collaboration with the IMF for the purpose of women empowerment.
- This expedition team will be mentored by Banshilal and comprises Shanti Rai from Sikkim, Aarti Kunjani, Dashmat Batti and Kalpana Bhaskar from Chhattisgarh, Anamika Bisht from Uttarakhand, Sabita Mahto and Mitali Prasad from Bihar and **Ishani Singh Jamwal from Himachal**.
- Ishani has done her entire training and mountaineering courses from the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports, Manali.

#### **1.243. HPPSC CHAIRMAN, 3 MEMBERS SWORN IN.**

- Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar today administered the oath of office and secrecy to Rameshwar Singh Thakur as the Chairman of the Himachal Pradesh Public Service Commission (HPPSC) at Raj Bhawan.

- Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, MLAs, Chief Secretary RD Dhiman, Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission PS Rana, Advocate General Ashok Sharma, senior government officers and other prominent people were present on the occasion.
- The Governor also administered the oath of office and secrecy to Rakesh Sharma, Col Rajesh Kumar Sharma (retd) and Dr Nain Singh as members of the commission. Rajesh Sharma, Secretary to the Governor, conducted the proceedings.

#### **1.244. INDIA, US JOINT SPECIAL FORCES EXERCISE CONCLUDES IN HIMACHAL PRADESH.**

- The 13th edition of India- USA Joint Special Forces Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR 2022 culminated at Bakloh , Chamba in Himachal Pradesh.
- Defence Ministry said, this exercise with the US Special Forces is significant in terms of security challenges faced by both Nations in the backdrop of the current global situation.
- The joint military exercise has further strengthened the traditional bond of friendship between the special forces of both Nations.
- This annual exercise is hosted alternatively between India and the United States.
- The 21-day joint training provided an opportunity for the Special Forces from both nations to train in Air Borne Operations, Special Operations and Counter Terrorism operations in a joint environment under United Nations Charter.
- Both contingents expressed immense satisfaction on the outcomes of the exercise, in terms of the standards achieved and sharing of best practices.

#### **1.245. SHIMLA FILM FESTIVAL CONCLUDES, IRANIAN MOVIE ADJUDGED BEST.**

- Iranian film “The Boarding House”, directed by Maryam Ebrahimvand, bagged the Best Feature Film Award in the International category while “Stoyan”, directed by Roberto Ruiz, was adjudged the Special Jury Feature Film during the 8th International Film Festival of Shimla.
- The closing ceremony of festival was presided over by former Director General of Film Divisions VS Kundu and 26 films were screened. Over 50 national and international directors participated in the festival and shared their experience with the audience at Gaiety Theatre. In total, 62 films — 27 international and 35 national, under the category of documentaries, animation, feature film, short films and music videos, were screened in the competitive section.
- In the international category, “Footsteps” by Hamed Bahrami was awarded the best short film, “Coffined at 15” by director Gayatri Kumar from the USA won the Special Jury Short Film and “Emergence: Out of the Shadows” by Vinay Giridhar from Canada won in the Special Jury Documentary category.
- “The First Ink-Memories” that make history by Director Shridhar KS and “Ripples Under the Skin” by director Farha Khatun were ranked the top two best documentaries in the national section while “15 Seconds A Lifetime” by Divya Hemant Kharnare bagged the Special Jury Documentary award.
- Sheer Qorma directed by Faraz Arif Ansari won the best short film award and Chabiwala - The Keysmith by Director Raja Ghosh won the Best Feature Film Award and Keel by Aaryan Harnot won the best film award in the state category.

#### **1.246. FLOWER MARKET TO COME UP IN UNA.**

- Agriculture Minister Virender Kanwar said that a flower market would be opened in Una. It will be the second such market in the state after Parwanoo.
- He was speaking at a ‘Kisan Sammelan’ organised in Takka village of Kulehar Assembly segment.
- Kanwar said the farmers of Una district cultivate flowers on a large scale, but face difficulties in marketing the produce.

#### **Other Initiatives in Una**

- He said a new vegetable and fruit market is being constructed in **Rampur village near Una city** and tenders amounting to Rs 2.5 crore have been awarded for the works.
- He said that additional land is being procured adjacent to the existing plot of the vegetable market for its expansion.
- The minister said the Rs 1,010-crore second phase of the JICA-assisted crop diversification project has been initiated. It will be implemented in all districts of the state.

#### **Other Initiatives in Agriculture Sector in State**

- He informed that the state government has promoted the plantation of asafoetida in Kullu and Mandi districts besides saffron in Lahaul and Spiti.
- In Una, Hamirpur and Bilaspur districts, cinnamon cultivation has been promoted to boost farm income.
- A MoU would soon be signed with IHBT Palampur for providing 40,000 saplings of cinnamon every year to the department for distribution to the farmers.
- Agriculture Department officers spoke about the new techniques and interventions in agricultural practices.

#### **1.247. SJVN GETS AWARD FOR MOBILE HEALTH VAN INITIATIVE.**

- The Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVN) won two 'Gold Awards' in the 12th Exceed Environment, HR and CSR Awards 2022.
- The awards were presented for the SJVN's mobile health van service, 'Satluj Sanjeevani Sewa', and for its extensive efforts in the preservation of environment.
- The SJVN is committed to fulfill its societal commitment and strives to enhance the quality of life of its stakeholders and follows best practices for environment preservation," said SJVN chairman Nand Lal Sharma.
- Satluj Sanjeevani Sewa was started under the umbrella of SJVN CSR Foundation in 2012 for providing free medical consultancy services and medicines at the doorsteps of the local communities through mobile health vans.
- These mobile health vans have facilitated medical treatment of more than 10 lakh people in the states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar and Maharashtra, covering more than 100 Gram-Panchayats and 200 community locations.
- Every mobile health van is managed by a qualified medical team comprising of a Doctor, Pharmacist and allied staff and these vans are also equipped with basic diagnostic test equipment.

#### **1.248. GSI RESUMING MASS BALANCE STUDIES ON HAMPTA GLACIER TO ASSESS LOSS OF SNOW COVER.**

- In the backdrop of climatic changes affecting many parts of the Himalayas, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) is resuming studies of the mass balance of the Hampta Glacier in Himachal Pradesh from this year to assess and analyse the loss of snow cover.
- The mass balance of a glacier describes the amount of snow and ice received, retained or lost and the volumetric changes it undergoes over a period of time. It is one of the most important aspects of glacier studies which help to understand the prevailing climatic conditions and their impact.
- As per the guidelines of Temporary Technical Secretariat (TTS), some of the selected glaciers should be monitored for mass balance studies for a few decades. Therefore, another five years study will make Hamptah glacier mass balance data complete for full two decades; which is an essential requirement.
- The glacier is located in the Chenab catchment and is 6 km long and about half a km wide. It is also a popular destination for adventure tourists for trekking.
- Mass balance studies on Hamptah Glacier began in 1999-2000 and continued till 2016-17. Since then, the glacier has consistently shown a negative mass balance, implying that it is reducing in volume.

- According to GSI data, between 2000 and 2016, the glacier has receded by 169 meters, with the average rate of recession being 10.5 metre per year.
- It shows that Hamtah Glacier has a consistent retreating trend, which could be caused by gradual increase in the temperature, related to global warming phenomenon and also possible changes in climatic condition.
- This would also help in understanding the trend of the loss of the glacier mass in terms of volume and fluctuation of the snout in space and time.

### 1.249. UNA: WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANT TO BE OPERATED BY SOLAR POWER.

- Deputy Commissioner Raghav Sharma inaugurated a solar power plant which will operate the solid waste management plant in Ajouli panchayat of Una subdivision.
- With this, Ajouli has become the first panchayat in the district to have a solar power-operated waste management plant.
- About six years ago, Ajouli became the first panchayat in Una district to have an electricity-operated solid waste management plant, having three separate machines to cater to plastic, bio degradable and bio medical waste.
- The DC said the plant was working on electricity and the monthly bill was Rs 12,000-13,000, leading to financial constraints.



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## OTHER IMPORTANT ONE LINERS

1. Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih to arrive in New Delhi on 4-day visit to India.
2. The Military govt of Myanmar has extended the state of emergency by 6 months till February 2023. Head of the military government General Min Aung Hlaing said on Sunday that elections could be held only when the country was 'stable and peaceful'.
3. New Zealand reopens its borders for the first time since March 2020.  
New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern called it an good moment for the country.
4. Union home minister Amit Shah inaugurated a "conference on drug trafficking and national security" on July 30, 2022.
5. On July 31, 2022, Chabahar Day Conference was launched in Mumbai, by Sarbanand Sonowal (Union Shipping Minister) and Shripad Naik (Minister of State for Shipping).
6. Google Maps recently launched its "street view service" in 10 cities in India in association with two local companies Genesys International and Tech Mahindra. Earlier, government had not allowed to show the panoramic images of roads and other sited, highlighting the security reasons.
7. On July 29, 2022, Planet Earth made rotation on its axis in less than 24 hours. Reports are suggesting that, it is spinning faster. On July 29, it broke its own record for shortest day, by completing the rotation in less than 1.59 milliseconds. As a result of this, day on earth was shorter by 1.59 milliseconds, than usual 24-hour day.
8. On July 28, 2022, the US House of Representatives passed the CHIPS and Science Bill. CHIPS bill stands for "Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors". The CHIPS bill has been passed to provide assistance and subsidies worth USD 280 billion.
9. Chileans are set to vote on a new constitution, that seeks to bring the most sweeping changes in country since the end of dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet military. Proposed changes focus on social rights, gender parity and environment. It represents a huge shift from 1980 constitution, which was written during Pinochet's prime.
10. Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has said that the fifth generation -5G telecom services is likely to be launched by October this year. Briefing reporters in New Delhi, Mr Vaishnaw said, more than one lakh 50 thousand crore rupees of bids were received during the 5G auction, which commenced on 26th of last month.
11. Coca-Cola has signed Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra for Limca Sportz promotion.
12. A rare pure pink diamond, believed to be the largest found in 300 years, has been unearthed in Angola, a country in Central Africa.
13. World Day Against Trafficking is observed annually on 30 July to make people aware of who is being trafficked.
14. To educate the state's women about their constitutional rights and laws, the Chhattisgarh Women Commission will host the Mukhyamantri Mahtari Nyay Rath Yatra. On the



occasion of the Hareli Tihaar festival, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will set off the “Mukhyamantri Mahtari Nyay Rath”.

15. Pranay Kumar Verma, an experienced diplomat and IFS official from the 1994 batch, has been chosen to serve as India’s next High Commissioner to Bangladesh. He is currently the ambassador of India to Vietnam.
16. The Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC) and the Indian Vegetable Oil Producers’ Association (IVPA) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to expand their cooperation in promoting the usage of palm oil.
17. World Ranger Day is observed on 31st July every year. The International Ranger Federation established this day to honour the contribution of Park Rangers to the preservation of nature.
18. According to Aurangabad Smart City Development Council Limited (ASCDCL), Aurangabad has become the first city to publish the “Environmental Insights Explorer (EIE) data from Google. It released the EIE data on August 2, 2022.
19. Recently, Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) released operational guidelines to implement ‘Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0’ scheme. Central government has approved the scheme for implementation during 2021-22 to 2025-26, that is; the period of 15th Finance Commission.
20. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) recognised over 75,000 start-ups. This milestone has been achieved at the time when India is celebrating 75th year of Independence and Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. Start-up ecosystem in India is picking up through innovation, enthusiasm, and entrepreneurial spirit.
21. Suresh N. Patel was today sworn in as the Central Vigilance Commissioner. He made and subscribed the oath of his office before President Droupadi Murmu at a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
22. The West Bengal Government, led-by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, has announced 7 new districts for the state. With the launch of the 7 new districts, the total number of districts in West Bengal has increased to 30. Earlier there were 23 districts in the state.
23. In India, the “Muslim Women’s Rights Day” is celebrated across the nation on August 01 to celebrate the enactment of the law against Triple Talaq. The first Muslim Women’s Rights Day was observed in 2020.
24. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has constituted a special task force (STF) to monitor monkeypox cases in India. NITI Aayog member (health) VK Paul will be the head the task force.
25. The World Lung Cancer Day is observed on August 01 to raise awareness about the causes and treatment of lung cancer and highlight the issues of lack of sufficient research funding for the ailment.
26. The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has launched the ‘Nilekani Centre at AI4Bharat’ to promote the Indian language technology.

27. Canadian scholar, Jeffrey Armstrong has been awarded the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Distinguished Indologist for 2021.
28. Auguste Tano Kouamé is the World Bank's Country Director for India. He replaces Junaid Kamal Ahmad who recently completed a five-year term.
29. The biennial Pacific Dragon ballistic missile defense exercise between the military of South Korea, the United States and Japan is being held, off the coast of Hawaii.
30. In Punjab, the Sports Department is going to organise 'Punjab Khed Mela' in which events of 30 sports will be held in six groups under 14 to 60 years veteran with an aim to identify talent, make a conducive environment for sports and increase health awareness.
31. The Union Cabinet recently gave approval to India's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). The updated NDC will be transferred to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
32. Haryana Government recently launched the Haryana Cheerag Scheme. Under the scheme, government will provide free education to Economically Weaker section (EWS) students of Government schools in private school.
33. On August 1, 2022, Chief Minister of Assam Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma unveiled 'Mission Bhumiputra'. Under the mission, digitalised caste certificates will be issued to students, in a simplified and digital way. It will be implemented by Departments of Tribal Affairs (Plain) and Social Justice Empowerment.
34. India and the US will conduct a fortnight-long mega military exercise in Uttarakhand's Auli in October this year. The 18th edition of exercise "Yudh Abhyas" is scheduled to take place from October 14 to 31.
35. The government of India released a special commemorative postage stamp to mark the 146th birth anniversary of Pingali Venkayya, the designer of India's national flag. The stamp was released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during an event "Tiranga Utsav" organised by the Ministry of Culture at Indira Gandhi Stadium, in New Delhi.
36. The Indian Navy guided-missile frigate INS Tarkash, while on her long-range overseas deployment, conducted a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with French naval ships in the North Atlantic Ocean on July 29 and 30.
37. The Indian Air Force will retire one of its four remaining squadrons, MiG-21 (Russian combat aircraft) fighter jets by 2022 September and the other three are scheduled to be phased out by 2025. The old MiG-21s will be replaced with newer fighter jets. Six MiG-21s have been lost in crashes in the last 20 months, killing five pilots.
38. Reliance Jio, owned by billionaire Mukesh Ambani, became the highest bidder for 5G spectrum, paying Rs 88,078 crore to buy over half of the airwaves offered in the most recent auction. The Adani group paid Rs 212 crore for 400 MHz, or less than 1% of all spectrum sold, according to Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. Jio has also acquired the 700 MHz band.

39. A book titled “Lion of the Skies: Hardit Singh Malik, the Royal Air Force and the First World War” is all about an “India’s first fighter pilot” who participated in the World War, long before the Indian Air Force was born. The book has been written by author Stephen Barker, who describes in great detail, how challenging it was for an Indian to serve in the British armed forces, fighting racial discrimination – both institutional and interpersonal.
40. Experiential Learning for 21st Century Programme was recently launched for Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) Principals and Teachers, in virtual mode. It was launched by CBSE, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and ESTS in association with TATA trusts, TISS and MGIS.
41. Women officers of Indian Navy recently made history after completing their maiden all-women independent “maritime reconnaissance and surveillance mission” to the North Arabian Sea. The mission was completed onboard a Dornier 228 aircraft.
42. South Korea launched its maiden spacecraft to the moon, joining the race with other countries, on August 4, 2022. The South Korean lunar orbiter will inspect the future landing spots. It was launched on SpaceX’s Falcon 9 launch vehicle. It will arrive in December 2022.
43. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to launch its smallest commercial rocket ‘Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)’ carrying ‘AzaadiSAT’, on August 7, 2022. It will be launched to unfurl the Tricolour in space, from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.
44. Government of Jammu & Kashmir launched the “PARVAZ Market Linkage Scheme” recently. This is an innovative Market Linkage scheme, having tremendous potential to uplift the economic conditions of farmers across Jammu and Kashmir.
45. International Telecommunication Union’s Regional Standardization Forum for Asia and Oceania region was inaugurated by Minister of State for Communications Devusinh Chauhan, in New Delhi. This forum started from August 8, 2022. It is being hosted by Ministry of Communications, under the theme- “Regulatory and Policy aspects of Telecommunications”.
46. National Handloom Day is celebrated in India on August 7, every year. The day highlights the contribution of handloom industry in socio-economic development of India. It also raises awareness among people regarding the handloom industry. Ministry of Textile is the nodal agency of the celebration.
47. Colombia, the first leftist President was sworn into office. Mr. Gustavo Petro was a former member of Colombia's M-19 guerrilla group, won the Presidential Election in June by beating conservative parties.
48. The Reserve Bank of India proposed to allow Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) to process cross-border inbound bill payments. This will help the Non-resident Indians (NRIs) who face challenges in paying utility bills in India. If proposal is accepted, it will benefit the NRIs.
49. The Army Design Bureau has inked a MoU with Drone Federation of India, to work for promotion of research, development, testing and manufacturing of drones, counter

drones and related technologies, in collaboration. These technologies would help the Indian Army in its operations.

50. The 12th DefExpo is scheduled to held from October 18 to October 22, 2022 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. It is the largest exhibition on Land, Naval and Homeland Security systems in India. During the five-day, three days will be allotted for business while two days will be allotted for public days.
51. The 80th anniversary of the August Kranti Din or Quit India Movement, which is considered as one of the important milestones in the history of the freedom struggle of our country, is being observed on 8 August 2022. The slogans “Quit India” and “Do or Die” became battle cries for the freedom fighters during the Quit India movement.
52. Uttar Pradesh government announced that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath’s ‘Panchamrut Yojana’ will help to achieve the goal of doubling farmers’ income through the introduction of cost-effective technical measures and the promotion of the co-cropping method.
53. Indian American from Virginia, Aarya Walvekar has crowned Miss India USA in 2022 in New Jersey. Saumya Sharma, a second-year premedical student at the University of Virginia, was declared first runner up and Sanjana Chekuri of New Jersey was the second runner-up.
54. Tibetan spiritual leader, Dalai Lama was honoured with the ‘dPal rNgam Duston’ award, the highest civilian honour of Ladakh. This award is given for his immense contribution to humanity, especially towards the union territory.  
The sixth award was conferred by Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh which celebrated the ‘dPal rNgam Duston’ with great fervour on the occasion of its foundation day at Sindhu Ghat.
55. Indian chess legend, Viswanathan Anand was elected deputy president of the International Chess Federation or World Chess Federation (FIDE), the sport’s world governing body. While incumbent president Arkady Dvorkovich was re-elected for a second term.
56. India beat Bangladesh 5-2 after extra time to clinch the 2022 SAFF U20 Championship title, at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. India was the host of the 4th edition of the SAFF U-20 Championship.
57. India’s Eldhose Paul scripted history by winning the first-ever gold medal in Men’s Triple Jump at the Commonwealth Games 2022. With the best effort of 17.03m, he left everyone in awe of his stunning jump.
58. The 13th Edition of the Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise “Ex Vajra Prahar 2022” commenced at the Special Forces Training School at Bakloh of Himachal Pradesh yesterday. The 12th edition was conducted at Joint Base Lewis Mcchord, Washington (USA) in October last year.
59. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate to the nation the 2nd Generation (2G) Ethanol Plant at Panipat in Haryana through video conferencing tomorrow. It is part of a

long series of steps taken by the government over the years to boost production and usage of biofuels in the country.

60. Chief Minister Hemant Soren kicked-off the Jharkhand Tribal Festival on August 9, 2022. It is a two-day festival and will conclude on August 10. The festival will witness the participation of artists from tribal-dominated states, including India's north-eastern states.
61. On August 8, 2022, Him Drone-e-thon Programme was recently unveiled by the Indian Army, in association with the Drone Federation of India. The programme was launched in line with "make in India in defence manufacturing". It aims to catalyse and provide focused opportunities for Indian drone ecosystem, in a bid to build drone capabilities for meeting the needs of Indian troops at frontline.
62. The Uttar Pradesh government led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, has appointed Deloitte India as a consultant for achieving the target of bringing the state's economy to USD1 trillion mark.
63. JD (U) leader Nitish Kumar will be sworn-in as Chief Minister and RJD leader Tejaswi Yadav as Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar today. The swearing-in ceremony will be held at Raj Bhavan in Patna. Governor Phagu Chauhan will administer oath to Nitish Kumar at 2 pm. This time Nitish Kumar will take oath as Chief Minister of Bihar for the eighth time while Tejaswi Yadav as Deputy Chief Minister for the second time.
64. Asia's oldest football tournament - Durand Cup begins.
65. Nation remembers Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his death anniversary
66. The UK has become the first country to authorise a Covid-19 vaccine tailored to the Omicron variant. The move will pave the way for an autumn booster campaign using Moderna's two-strain shot.
67. In Kenya, Deputy President William Ruto has been declared the winner of Kenya's presidential election. According to the official results, he narrowly beat his rival, Raila Odinga, taking 50.5 per cent of the vote.
68. The Khelo India Women's Hockey League 22 for Under-16 will begin today at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi.
69. The World Health Organisation (WHO) rechristened the variants of monkeypox virus that are currently in circulation. It was done to avoid any cultural or social offence. Monkeypox variant has been renamed as "Clades I, IIa and IIb".
70. India commemorated "Partition Horrors Remembrance Day" on August 14. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced to observe this day in 2021. August 14 also marks Independence Day in Pakistan. India was partitioned into India and Pakistan on August 14, 1947
71. The International Youth Day (IYD) is observed on August 12 annually to draw attention of governments and others towards youth issues worldwide. The theme for 2022's edition of International Youth Day is "Intergenerational solidarity: creating a world for all ages."

72. World Elephant Day is observed every year on August 12 globally for the preservation and protection of the global elephants.
73. Real Madrid beat Eintracht Frankfurt, 2-0 in finals to win the 2022 UEFA Super Cup for a record-equalling fifth time, on August 11, 2022, in Helsinki, Finland.
74. The Parliament of Papua New Guinea has elected unopposed the incumbent Prime Minister James Marape, for a second term.
75. Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, set to be conferred with France's highest civilian award Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur.
76. Sunil Chhetri has been named the 2021-22 All India Football Federation (AIFF) Men's Footballer of the Year.
77. An Iranian satellite named Khayyam into orbit by the Soyuz rocket from the Russia-leased Baikonur launch facility in Kazakhstan.
78. Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with French President Emmanuel Macron over the telephone and conveyed solidarity for the ongoing drought and wildfires in France. External Affairs Ministry said, the leaders reviewed ongoing bilateral initiatives including defence cooperation projects and cooperation in civil nuclear energy.
79. 9th India-Thailand Joint Commission Meeting to be held in Bangkok today; EAM S Jaishankar addresses Indian community in Bangkok
80. Minister for Animal Husbandry Parshottam Rupala held separate meetings with Ministers of Punjab and Haryana and reviewed the situation prevalent due to the contagious Lumpy Skin disease in livestock.
81. Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has said that the government is working to increase the application of technology in the agriculture sector and develop infrastructure in each village.
82. On August 16, 2022 Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched "Nipin" and "F-INSAS" weapons and futuristic weapon systems for Indian Army. These weapons were launched under Indian Army modernisation plan.
83. In order to steer the collaboration between industry and research institutes in implementing technology-based social impact innovations and solutions in India, government launched the "Manthan Platform" on August 16, 2022.
84. On August 16, 2022, 'Paalan 1000 National Campaign was set in motion'. It was launched by Bharati Pravin Pawar (Union Minister of State for Health) in virtual mode. On the occasion, a parenting application was also unveiled, that primarily focuses on children's development in first two years.
85. In Arunachal Pradesh, "Medicine from the Sky Project" was unveiled successfully on August 15, 2022. First flight of drone service was carried from Seppa to Chayang Tajo in East Kameng district. This project is inspired from the Prime Minister's vision of transforming India into world's drone hub.

86. “Bima Manthan 2022” is being organised by ‘Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)’. This is the first hackathon and is being organised under theme- “Innovation in Insurance”. The hackathon has called participants to identify and develop solutions having potential to make insurance available to every individual swiftly and seamlessly.
87. Start-up loan of Rs 1.15 crores was approved by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh to commercialise “compostable” plastic. This move also seeks to eliminate the usage of Single Use Plastics (SUP).
88. Rajkiran Rai G has been appointed as managing director (MD) for five years. Appointment has been done by Centre and Board of National Bank for Financing Infrastructure & Development (NaBFID).
89. Malaysia’s premier men’s hockey tournament, the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2022 will be held from November 16 to 25 in Ipoh.
90. Asia cup cricket will start from 27th august in Sri- Lanka .
91. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has unveiled the Statue of “Veer Durgadas Rathore” on his 385th birth anniversary in Rajasthan’s Jodhpur.
92. The Indian national flag was unfurled in space at an altitude of over 30 km as the country marked its 75 years of Independence.
93. The Odisha govt has signed an MoU with the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) for the protection of its coasts.
94. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) signed an MoU for establishing an office in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia. The office in Malaysia will help HAL in tapping the new business opportunities for Fighter Lead in Trainer (FLIT) LCA and other requirements of Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) like Su-30 MKM and Hawk upgrades
95. Minister for Coal and Mines Pralhad Joshi has said that Government will stop the import of thermal Coal from next year. Inaugurating a workshop on Coking Coal Strategy for Indian Steel Sector in New Delhi today, he said, Ministry of Coal is targeting production of 900 million tonnes this financial year and the target of Coal India Limited comes to 700 million tonnes. Mr Joshi said, by 2030, India’s coal requirement will be of 1.5 billion tonnes.
96. 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas 2023 to be held at Indore in January next year
97. NAMASTE Scheme was launched jointly by “Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment” and Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs”. It is a Central Sector Scheme. The scheme seeks to provide safety and dignity to sanitation workers across urban India by erecting an enabling ecosystem to recognize sanitation workers a significant contributor in maintenance and operation of sanitation infrastructure.
98. Tribal-dominated Mandla district of Madhya Pradesh has become the first completely “functionally literate” district of India. During 2011 survey, literacy rate in Mandla district

was 68%. Another report of 2020 highlights that, more than 2.25 lakh people in this district were not literate, most of them were tribals from forest areas.

99. World Photography Day 2022 is being observed on August 19, under the theme of "Pandemic Lockdown through the lens." This day is observed annually and it focuses on art, craft and science of photography
100. According to China's defence ministry, The People's Liberation Army of China will participate in "Vostok-2022 strategic command and staff exercise" which is scheduled to take part in Russia. Armies of India, Tajikistan, Mongolia and Belarus will also take part in the exercise.
101. Union Cabinet recently approved the "Widening access of Traditional Knowledge Digital Library database to users, apart from the patent offices". Widening of Traditional Knowledge Digital database to users is an ambitious step of the government.
102. The country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) has launched its first branch dedicated to start-ups in Koramangala, Bengaluru.
103. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appointed India's Electronics and Information Technology Secretary Alkesh Kumar Sharma to a panel of eminent experts on internet governance.
104. Meghalaya is all set to host the upcoming 2nd edition of the North East Olympics. The Games will be special as Meghalaya is celebrating the 50th year of its Statehood. The maiden Olympic games of the region were held in Manipur in October 2018.
105. HDFC Bank has announced the launch of a new campaign titled 'Vigil Aunty'. It aims to encourage people across the country to practise safe banking habits.
106. Zomato-Backed Shiprocket Becomes India's 106th Unicorn After Raising \$33.5 Mn. Shiprocket is valued at \$1.2 Bn in the latest funding round, joining Delhivery, Xpressbees, and BlackBuck in the list of logistics startups to turn unicorn.
107. Sovereign Gold Bonds 2022-23 (Series -2) will be open for subscription from Monday, August 22. It will continue till Friday. Finance Ministry said the issue price of the bond during the subscription period will be five thousand one hundred ninety-seven rupees per gram.
108. An Indian Air Force contingent is participating in Exercise Pitch Black 2022 in Australia being held from August 19 to 8th September in Darwin.  
This is a biennial, multi-national exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force. It will focus on Large Force Employment warfare. The last edition was conducted in 2018
109. BIMSTEC Secretary General Tenzin Lekphell will visit India from 22nd to 25th August. At the 5th BIMSTEC Summit held in Sri Lanka in March this year, Leaders of the BIMSTEC member states adopted the BIMSTEC Charter.
110. Dr. Anthony Fauci will step down as head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and chief medical adviser to US President Joe Biden. Mr Fauci, who served as director of the NIAID for 38 years, said he would leave both positions in



December to pursue the next chapter of his career. He said that he has gone into into the labs and into the hospital every day, including most weekends, for 54 years.

- 111.**Defence Minister to visit Tashkent, Uzbekistan to attend Annual Meeting of Defence Ministers' of SCO
- 112.**Indian men's volleyball team won bronze medal by defeating Korea 3-2 in the 14th Asian U-18 Championship in Tehran yesterday.
- 113.**The United Kingdom has recorded its biggest fall in output in more than 300 years in 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic, according to Office for National Statistics(ONS). The Office for National Statistics in a statement yesterday said that Gross Domestic Product (GDP) fell by 11.0 per cent in 2020.
- 114.**International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition is observed every year on 23 August with the aim of remembering the millions of victims of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Named by UNESCO, this day was first celebrated on 23 August
- 115.**Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Haryana and Punjab on 24th August, where he will inaugurate and dedicate two important health initiatives to the nation. Mr Modi will inaugurate Amrita Hospital at Faridabad in the morning. Then, he will dedicate Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre to the nation, at Mullanpur, Mohali.
- 116.**The Union Government has launched Rashtriya Puruskar Portal to bring together all the awards of the various Ministries, Departments and agencies of the government under one platform. This has been done to ensure transparency and public partnership.
- 117.**External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar has unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Asuncion, Paraguay. In a tweet, he appreciated the Asuncion Municipality's decision to locate it at the prominent waterfront of the city.
- 118.**South Korea and the United States began their largest joint military drills in years today with a resumption of field training. According media reports, the annual summertime exercises, renamed 'Ulchi Freedom Shield' this year and scheduled to end on 1st of September.
- 119.**Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur has congratulated javelin thrower Sumit Antil and discus thrower Yogesh Kathuniya for creating New World Records at the 4th Indian Open National ParaAthletics Championships 2022.
- 120.**Recently, Defence Research & Development Organisation and Indian Navy successfully flight tested Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) from the Integrated Test Range Chandipur, Odisha.
- Contents Key Points - Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM)Features of the missile Key Points The flight test was conducted against a high speed unmanned aerial target to demonstrate ..
- 121.** China is facing its biggest drought ever. Drought has dried up rivers and affected power generation at hydroelectric power plants. There is darkness in small and big cities due to no electricity. After 64 years, China faced the longest summer and as a result, the

Yangtze, the longest river in Asia, which is the largest river in China, has dried up. The drying up of the Yangtze has caused water shortages in the dam and affected hydroelectric power, leaving large cities or small towns facing power crisis.

- 122.** Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has launched the 'Vidya Rath -School on Wheels' project to provide elementary education to underprivileged children.
- 123.** The Punjab and Haryana governments have agreed to name the Chandigarh International Airport in Mohali after Shaheed Bhagat Singh.
- 124.** Jharkhand is 1st state to implement blockchain in the country which is being used to track seed distribution.
- 125.** 65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference to be held in Canada. An Indian Parliamentary delegation led by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will be attending the 65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPA) at Halifax in Canada.
- 126.** Former India football team captain Samar 'Badru' Banerjee, who led the country to a historic fourth-place finish in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, has passed away recently.
- 127.** Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu will publish his new autobiography on November 22. The former prime minister's book "Bibi: My Story".
- 128.** World Water Week 2022 takes place from 23 August to 1 September. The World Water Week is an annual event organized by Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI). The theme of the 2022 World Water Week is: "Seeing the unseen: The value of water", which helps us view water in new and fascinating ways.
- 129.** Electronic-Passports will be rolled out by the end of this year or early next year. Secretary External Affairs, Dr. Ausaf Sayeed informed the media in Hyderabad. He said an e-chip and a few more features will be added to the passport book which will provide security upgradation of the Indian passport and enable machine reading.
- 130.** The Supreme Court-appointed Justice Indu Malhotra Committee which probed the security breach during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Punjab in January this year has indicated that the then Ferozepur Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) failed to take requisite action.
- 131.** Country's first indigenously-built aircraft carrier (IAC) Vikrant is to be commissioned on September 2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the chief guest at the commissioning of the Indigenous Aircraft Carrier Vikrant in Kochi.
- 132.** The National Health Authority (NHA) and the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for providing holistic health services to transgender persons under Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).
- 133.** Syed Sibtey Razi has passed away recently.
- 134.** Bangladesh-born painter and story writer Fahmida Azim has been selected for the 2022 Pulitzer Prize. Fahmida is honored for an illustrated report entitled "How I Escaped a

Chinese Internment Camp” along with her winning team members Anthony Del Col, Josh Adams and Insider’s Walt Hickey in New York.

- 135.**The Supreme Court today called for an expert committee and an all-party meeting to discuss on freebies. The order was live-streamed in a historic first to mark outgoing Chief Justice N V Ramana's last day. The freebies case was among 20 hearings streamed for the first time from the Chief Justice's court.
- 136.**The 38th Meeting of Ministerial level Joint Rivers Commission, JRC, of India and Bangladesh was held in New Delhi yesterday. The two sides finalized the text of MoU on 'Interim Water Sharing of Kushiyara river'. Both sides also welcomed finalization of the design and location of the water intake point on the Feni River to meet the drinking water needs of Sabroom town in Tripura, as per the October 2019 India -Bangladesh MoU on the subject.
- 137.**India votes in favour of proposal seeking to allow Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to address UNSC virtually.
- 138.**Bangladesh and India on Thursday signed two contracts for the construction of a new broad-gauge line between Khulna- Darsana and conversion of metre gauge line into dual-gauge line between Parbatipur and Kaunia.  
The contract signing ceremony was held at the Railway Ministry in Dhaka between representatives of the consultancy firm from India and the Bangladesh counterpart for the project.
- 139.**In the BWF World Championships 2022, Indian pair of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy made history as they secured India's first men's doubles medal in the history of the BWF World Championships 2022 after defeating world number 2 - Takuro Hoki & Yugo Kobayashi of Japan to storm into the semi-finals.
- 140.**Veteran Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad resigns from primary membership of party.
- 141.**Prime Minister Narendra Modi will pay a two-day visit to Gujarat on 27 and 28 August. During the visit, he will inaugurate several projects at Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar and Kutch. On the first day of his visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the KHADI UTSAV at Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad and address the weavers on the occasion.
- 142.**The first Khelo India Women’s Judo Tournament will start from 27 of this month. The tournament will be held across four zones in the country. The national round will be held from 20th to 23rd October of this year at the KD Jadhav Indoor Stadium in New Delhi.
- 143.**Indian men's volleyball team won bronze medal by defeating Korea 3-2 in the 14th Asian U-18 Championship in Tehran yesterday. In a five-set thriller, India defeated South Korea 25-20, 25-21, 26-28, 19-25, 15-12 in the third-place playoff.
- 144.**Chhattisgarh Government will set up 300 rural industrial parks in the state to boost and strengthen the village economy.
- 145.**The Uttar Pradesh government is planning to build an education township in the state.

- 146.**Senior scientist Debasisa Mohanty has been appointed as the Director of the National Institute of Immunology (NII).
- 147.**Odisha cadre 1987-batch IAS officer Rajesh Verma has been appointed as the Secretary to President Droupadi Murmu.
- 148.**World Gujarati Language Day 2022 is celebrated every year on 24 August. This day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of the great writer of Gujarat 'Veer Narmad'.
- 149.**Royal Enfield has partnered with UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) to promote and safeguard the 'Intangible Cultural Heritage of India.
- 150.**The government has approved a proposal to give specific names to all the AIIMS, based on regional heroes, freedom fighters, historical events or monuments of the area, or their distinct geographical identity.
- 151.**The fourth edition of the India Clean Air Summit began in Bengaluru with global experts set to discuss an integrated approach to resolving air pollution and climate change.
- 152.**International Dog Day is celebrated annually on August 26 to promote the adoption of dogs instead of buying them from pet shops.
- 153.**India's first 3D-printed post office is slated to come up in Bengaluru, Karnataka and will cost around one-fourth of the amount spent on a traditional building.
- 154.**National Small Industry Day is observed every year on August 30, to recognise the value of small businesses existing in India.
- 155.**Virat Kohli has become the first Indian and the second player overall in international cricket history to have played 100 matches each in all three formats of the game. Kohli has now 100 T20Is to his name in addition to 102 Tests and 262 ODIs since he made his international debut in August 2008. The first player with the record was New Zealand batter Ross Taylor who retired recently.
- 156.**The United Nations (UN) observes 'the International Day against Nuclear Tests' on August 29. It aims to raise awareness about the devastating effects of testing nuclear weapons. The event urges world governments to end nuclear proliferation and stop such tests. The first nuclear test called Trinity was conducted by the United States on July 16, 1945.
- 157.**The 50th All Manipur Shumang Leela Festival 2021-2022 kicked off at Iboyaima Shumang Leela Shanglen in Imphal. Manipur Governor La Ganesan and Chief Minister N. Biren Singh attended the inaugural function. Shumang Leela is a traditional form of theatre in Manipur and the roles of female artists are all played by male actors and male characters are played by female artists.
- 158.**The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to develop Kannauj as a perfume tourism destination.
- 159.**The NITI Aayog has declared the holy city of Haridwar in Uttarakhand as the best aspirational district.

- 160.**Acclaimed classical dancer and activist Mallika Sarabhai bares it all in her upcoming self-help memoir, "Free Fall: My Experiments with Living". The book will hit the stands on August 30 and it is published by Speaking Tiger.
- 161.**Lt Gen Nav K Khanduri inaugurated the Taurus Sainik Aramgrah at Delhi Cantt. The facility is constructed by Indian Army in collaboration with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation as an Equal Value Infrastructure Project.
- 162.**Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the 8th India International MSME Start-up Expo & Summit at New Delhi.
- 163.**A book titled "India's Economy From Nehru To Modi: A Brief History" authored by Pulapre Balakrishnan.
- 164.**Leading vehicle manufacturer, Maruti Suzuki has completed 40 years in India.
- 165.**Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister, EAC-PM today released the Competitiveness Roadmap for India@100 in New Delhi. The document was released in the presence of Chairman EAC-PM Dr Bibek Debroy, India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant, Member of EAC-PM Sanjeev Sanyal and Dr Christian Ketels from Harvard Business School.
- 166.**PM Modi to commission Vikrant, country's first indigenously-built aircraft carrier on 2nd September at Kochi
- 167.**PM expresses grief on demise of Kulguru Swami Rajarshi Muni of Lakulish tradition
- 168.**Economist and former Planning Commission member Abhijit Sen passes away at 72.
- 169.**Public sector contributes 20% to national income, 40% of total wages: India Ratings and Research
- 170.**Angola: Ruling MPLA (Movement for the Liberation of Angola) wins election; President Joao Lourenco gets 2nd term
- 171.**Solomon Islands bans US Navy's ships from entering its ports; had signed security pact with China in May
- 172.**International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances observed on August 3
- 173.**23-year-old Divita Rai from Karnataka has won the prestigious title of Miss Diva Universe 2022.
- 174.**England's James Anderson has become the first-ever fast bowler to complete 950 wickets in international cricket. As many as 664 of these wickets have come in Test cricket, the only format Anderson has featured in since 2015. He is the only pacer to have taken over 600 Test wickets. Besides, Anderson owns 269 ODI wickets, most for England in the format.
- 175.**Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Monday launched the "CM Udyman Khiladi Unnayan Yojana" at a program commemorating National Sports Day.
- 176.**German luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz has named Santosh Iyer as the Managing Director & CEO of the Indian operations with effect from January 1, 2023.

177. The former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has died aged 91 at a Hospital in Moscow. The hospital officials in Moscow in a statement said Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev passed away after a serious and protracted disease.

178. Kolkata emerges as India's safest city for 2nd yr in a row: NCRB data

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