

Current Affairs MONTHLY



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By
CivilsTap Himachal



For HPAS & Other
Competitive
Exam in
Himachal Pradesh

Prelims

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NATIONAL NEWS

1.1. GOVT. TO SET UP COUNTRY'S FIRST-EVER NIGHT SKY SANCTUARY IN LADAKH TO BOOST ASTRO TOURISM.

- In a unique and first-of-its-kind initiative, the Department of Science and Technology, DST has undertaken to set up India's first-ever Night Sky Sanctuary in Ladakh.
- It will be completed within the next three months.
- The proposed Dark Sky Reserve will be located at Hanle in Ladakh as a part of Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary.
- It will boost Astro tourism in India and will be one of the world's highest-located sites for optical, infrared, and gamma-ray telescopes.
- Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said that a tripartite MoU was signed recently among the UT administration, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council LAHDC Leh and the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, IIA, for launching the Dark Space Reserve.
- He said, the site will have activities to help in boosting local tourism and economy through interventions of Science and Technology.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh said, a high-level delegation of scientists and officials from Central Leather Research Institute, Chennai will visit Ladakh by the end of this year to explore the possibility of setting up a regional branch of CLRI.
- Ladakh has a very rich and wide variety of animals for leather research and industry and to promote bio-economy of animal skin-derived products.
- He also complimented CSIR for organising 4 training workshops, two each at Leh and Kargil for treatment of diseases of famous Pashmina Goats.
- Ladakh Administration has taken a decision to start the commercial plantation of Leh Berry.
- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research CSIR is promoting Leh Berry which is an exclusive food product of the cold desert and also a means of wide-ranging entrepreneurship as well as self-livelihood.

1.2. PM TO INAUGURATE KARTAVYA PATH; ALSO TO UNVEIL STATUE OF NETAJI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE AT INDIA GATE.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Kartavya Path - a stretch of the Central Vista from the Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate.
- It symbolizes a shift from erstwhile Rajpath being an icon of power to Kartavya Path being an example of public ownership and empowerment.
- The entire stretch has been revamped under the Modi government's ambitious Central Vista redevelopment project.
- On the occasion, Mr Modi will also unveil the statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at India Gate.
- The jet black granite statue, measuring a total of 28 feet, will be placed under the Canopy near India Gate.
- The statue is completely hand sculpted using traditional techniques and modern tools. The statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is being installed in the same place where a hologram statue of Netaji was unveiled in January this year by Mr Modi on Parakram Diwas to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji.
- These steps are in line with Prime Minister's second Panch Pran for New India in Amrit Kaal - remove any trace of colonial mindset.

About Kartavya Path

- Kartavya Path will exhibit improved public spaces and facilities including lawns with walkways, green spaces, improved signages, new amenity blocks and vending kiosks.
- Besides, new pedestrian underpasses, improved parking spaces, new exhibition panels and upgraded night lighting are some of the other features of the Kartavya Path which will enhance the public experience.

1.3. INDIAN RAILWAYS REVENUE GROWS BY 38 PER CENT TILL AUG 2022.

- Indian Railways' overall revenue has grown by 38 per cent till August 2022 over the corresponding period of last year.
- The overall revenue of Indian Railways at the end of August this year was around 95 thousand 486 crore rupees showing an increase of 26 thousand 271 crore rupees over the same period of last year.
- The Ministry of Railways said that the revenue from passenger traffic was nearly 25 thousand 276 crore rupees showing an increase of 116 per cent over the corresponding period of last year.
- Passenger traffic also increased compared to last year in both the segments, reserved as well as unreserved.
- The growth from the long-distance reserved mail express trains has been sharper than the same in passenger and suburban trains.
- The Ministry also said that other Coaching revenue grew by 50 per cent while Goods revenue grew by 20 per cent as compared to the same period of last year.

1.4. PM MODI INAUGURATES CENTRE-STATE SCIENCE CONCLAVE.

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the '**Centre-State Science Conclave**', in Ahmedabad.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the event via video conferencing, and highlighted the importance of 'Sabka Prayas' in the 'Centre-State Science Conclave'.
- India is leading towards the **fourth industrial revolution**, and the role of India's science and people related to this field is very important.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized the basic solution, evolution, and innovation of science.

Key Points:

- The '**Centre-State Science Conclave**' is a great achievement for India and the government urges the Indian citizens to celebrate the achievements of Indian scientists.
- The 'Centre-State Science Conclave' is being organized to strengthen the coordination between **Centre and state governments** and collaboration mechanisms in promoting innovation and entrepreneurship.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** emphasized on the increase of **innovation laboratories** in India.
- There has been a substantial increase in investment in the field of **science and technology**.
- India has risen to 46th rank in the **Global Innovation Index**.

1.5. MUKUL ROHATGI TO BE NEXT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR INDIA.

- Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi is set to be appointed the 14th Attorney General for India again after KK Venugopal vacates the post. This will be Rohatgi's second time as AG, after his first stint between June 2014 and June 2017.
- At the end of June this year, AG Venugopal's tenure was extended for a period of three months or "until further orders". This extension is set to expire on September 30. Rohatgi will take the seat of the country's top law officer from 1st October.
- The Attorney General (AG) of India is a part of the Union Executive. AG is the highest law officer in the country.
- Article 76 of the Constitution provides for the office of AG of India.
- AG represent the GoI in any reference made by the President to the Supreme Court under Article 143 (Power of the President to consult the Supreme Court) of the Constitution.

1.6. VEDANTA AND FOXCONN TO INVEST 1.54 LAKH CRORE

- The Anil Agarwal-led-Vedanta Limited and Foxconn Group will invest more than Rs 1.54 lakh crore to set up an semiconductor ecosystem in Gujarat.
- The oil-to-metals conglomerate said Vedanta Displays Limited will set up a Display Fab Unit with an investment of Rs 94500 crore and Vedanta Semiconductors Limited will set up an integrated

Semiconductor Fab Unit and OSAT (Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test) facility with investment of Rs 60000 crore.

- The proposed semiconductor manufacturing fab unit will operate on the 28nm technology nodes with wafer size 300mm; and the display manufacturing unit will produce Generation 8 displays catering to small, medium and large applications.
- Foxconn is a Taiwanese multinational electronics contract manufacturer with its headquarters in New Taipei City, Taiwan, established in 1974.
- According to the Japanese financial firm Nomura's report, only three of the 56 companies, that decided to relocate from China after COVID Pandemic, moved to India.
- Foxconn is one of them which will be assembling iPhones in India.

1.7. KIBITHU MILITARY GARRISON CAMP NAMED AFTER BIPIN RAWAT

- The military camp at Kibithu Garrison, which is very close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Arunachal Pradesh, has been renamed as 'Gen Bipin Rawat military garrison' in honour of the country's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) who was killed in a chopper crash last December.
- As a young Colonel, Rawat commanded his Battalion 5/11 Gorkha Rifles at Kibithu from 1999-2000 and contributed immensely to strengthening the security structure in the area.
- Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Pema Khandu named the 22 km long road from Walong to Kibithu as 'General Bipin Rawat Marg'. A life-size mural of General Rawat was also unveiled on the occasion.
- General Bipin Rawat was the first Chief of Defence Staff. He assumed office on 1st January 2020. He was to serve a three-year term until December 2022. Unfortunately, Gen Rawat died in a chopper crash in December 2021.
- The CDS is a four-star General/Officer who acts as the Principal Military Advisor to the Defence Minister on all tri-services.

1.8. HATE SPEECH DURING ELECTIONS.

- Recently, the Election Commission told the Supreme Court that it faces difficulties in dealing with the issue of "hate speech" during elections.

Election Commission's statement:

- Hate speech has not been defined under any existing law in India.
- In the absence of any specific law governing '**hate speech**' and '**rumour mongering**' during elections, the Election Commission of India employs various provisions of the IPC and the RP Act-1951 to ensure that members of the political parties or even other persons do not make statements to the effect of creating disharmony between different sections of society.

What is Hate Speech?

- There is **no international legal definition** of hate speech, and the characterization of what is '**hateful**' is **controversial and disputed**.
- The term hate speech is understood as **any kind of communication in speech, writing or behaviour**, that attacks or uses pejorative or discriminatory language with reference to a person or a group based on their **religion, ethnicity, nationality, race, colour, descent, gender or other identity factors**.

Indian Constitution and hate speech:

- **Freedom of Speech and Expression:**
 - It is protected as a fundamental right in the Constitution of India under Article 19(1) (a) which states that all citizens shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression.
- **Article 19(2):**
 - A reasonable restriction has been put forth by the Indian constitution where the word reasonable should strike a balance between the use and misuse of this freedom.

1.9. NCPCR REVAMPS ONLINE PORTAL E-BAAL NIDAN FOR TIMEBOUND REDRESSAL OF GRIEVANCES AGAINST VIOLATION OF CHILD RIGHTS.

- The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, NCPCR has revamped online portal E-Baal Nidan for timebound redressal of grievances against violation of child rights.
- The new features include bifurcation of complaints based on the nature of the complaint into their subject matters like Juvenile Justice, POCSO, Labour and Education.
- It will be beneficial for the complainants as well as the commission while dealing with complaints.
- Women and Child Development Ministry said, the portal will make the process of redressal of complaints transparent for the complainant and helps in timely disposal of cases by the Commission.
- The NCPCR will be providing user IDs and Passwords to the State Commissions to enable them to view the complaints registered on the portal to take necessary action.
- The portal will have an option of transferring the registered complaints from NCPCR to the concerned State Commission.

1.10. ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS DECLARED INDIA'S FIRST SWACHH SUJAL PRADESH.

- Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has declared Andaman and Nicobar Islands as India's first Swachh Sujal Pradesh.
- Speaking at a function in Port Blair, he handed over the certificate to Lieutenant Governor Admiral DK Joshi.
- Now, all villages of Andaman and Nicobar Island have been certified as Har Ghar Jal and verified as open defecation free - ODF plus. Mr Shekhawat congratulated all the islanders for this major achievement and highlighted people participation to complete this journey.
- Stating that now the country is moving towards fulfilling Sampurn Swachhta, under the able leadership of Prime Minister Modi, Mr. Shekhawat said, the Union Government is widely focusing on sanitation and availability of clean and safe drinking water in the last few years.
- He said, as per numerous efforts done, the sanitation level of the country has widened and ODF status has been achieved before the set target as per Sustainable Development Goals, which is a remarkable achievement.
- He further stated that now the focus has been shifted to basics like water, toilets and sanitation as more than one lakh 10 thousand villages became ODF plus.

1.11. RATAN TATA, FORMER SUPREME COURT JUDGE JOIN AS PM CARES TRUSTEES.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting of the Board of Trustees of PM CARES Fund and said the component would be used to respond to distress situations and not just as relief assistance.
- The Prime Minister welcomed the trustees for becoming an integral part of the PM CARES Fund. The meeting was attended by trustees of the PM CARES Fund — Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and newly nominated trustees, including former Supreme Court judge Justice KT Thomas, former Deputy Speaker Kariya Munda, and Emeritus Chairman of Tata Sons Ratan Tata.
- The Trust further decided to nominate the following eminent persons for the constitution of the Advisory Board to PM CARES Fund — former Comptroller and Auditor General of India Rajiv Mehrishi, former chairperson of Infosys Foundation Sudha Murthy, co-founder of Teach for India and former CEO of Indicorps and Piramal Foundation Anand Shah.
- On the occasion a presentation was made on the various initiatives undertaken with the help of the PM CARES Fund, including the PM CARES for Children scheme, which is supporting 4,345 kids who lost their parents to Covid.

1.12. COAL INDIA TO INK MOU WITH INDIAN OIL, BHEL AND GAIL FOR COAL-TO-CHEMICAL PRODUCTS.

- Coal India Limited (CIL) is scheduled to sign agreements with three other major public sector undertakings – Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and GAIL (India) – next week for setting up four Surface Coal Gasification (SCG) projects.
- As per an official statement released by the Ministry of Coal, the Memorandum of Undertaking (MoU) among the government-run firms will be signed on 27th September 2022 in New Delhi.
- These PSUs will join hands for setting up of coal-to-chemical projects through Surface Coal Gasification (SCG) route.
- Through SCG route coal is converted into syngas that can be subsequently processed for downstream production of value-added chemicals. These are otherwise produced through imported natural gas or crude oil. Envisaged end products would be di-methyl ether, synthetic natural gas and ammonium nitrate.
- The upside of the proposed projects are reduced forex outgo and direct and indirect employment generation to the tune of 23,000, the Ministry of Coal said in a statement.
- With the twin objectives of self-reliance and energy independence, Ministry of Coal has set a target for achieving 100 million tonne coal gasification by 2030.

1.13. REC LTD BECOMES 12TH COMPANY TO GETS 'MAHARATNA' COMPANY STATUS.

- Power sector-focussed non-banking finance company (NBFC) **REC Ltd.** has been accorded the status of a '**Maharatna**' **Central Public Sector Enterprise**, thus providing it with greater operational and financial autonomy. The granting of 'Maharatna' status will impart enhanced powers to the company's board while taking financial decisions. REC Ltd. is the **12th company** to be given the Maharatna Status.
- The board of a 'Maharatna' CPSE can make equity investments to undertake financial joint ventures and wholly-owned subsidiaries and undertake mergers and acquisitions in India and abroad, subject to a ceiling of 15 per cent of the net worth of the CPSE concerned, limited to ₹5,000 crores in one project. The board can also structure and implement schemes relating to personnel and human resource management and training.
- REC has played a key role in the success of the flagship schemes of the Government of India such as **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY)** and **SAUBHAGYA** and has contributed towards achieving village and household electrification in the country. REC is currently playing the role of nodal agency for Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), for revamping the distribution sector to alleviate the financial & operational issues.

What is Maharatna's Status?

- Introduced in 2010, the Maharatna status is given to the **Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE)** by the Central Government to make these enterprises global giants.
- This status is granted to CPSE which recorded more than Rs. 5,000 crores of net profit for three consecutive years, an average annual turnover of Rs.25,000 crore for three years and recording an average net worth of Rs.15,000 crore for three years.
- It should also have a footing in the international market and be listed on an Indian stock exchange.

About the REC Ltd:

- Incorporated in **1969**, REC focuses on power sector financing and development across India. It provides financial assistance to state electricity boards, state governments, central/state power utilities, independent power producers, rural electric cooperatives and private sector utilities.
- REC Limited, formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited, is a public Infrastructure Finance Company in India's power sector.
- The company is a Public Sector Undertaking and finances and promotes power projects across India. It was earlier known as **Rural Electrification Corporation**.

1.14. RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY TO LAUNCH JALDOOT APP IN NEW DELHI ON 27TH SEPTEMBER 2022

- Rural Development Ministry has developed JALDOOT App to capture the water level of selected wells in a village across the country.
- The App will be launched in New Delhi.
- The Jaldoot app will enable Gram Rojgar Sahayak to measure the water level of selected wells twice a year (pre-monsoon and post-monsoon).
- The app will facilitate panchayats with robust data, which can be further used for better planning of works.
- The ground water data could be utilised as part of the Gram Panchayat Development Plan and Mahatma Gandhi planning exercises.
- The country has taken several steps for improvement of water management both in the rural and urban areas. This includes watershed development, afforestation, water body development and renovation, and rainwater harvesting.

1.15. ROSH HASHANAH OR THE JEWISH NEW YEAR HAS BEGUN.

- Rosh Hashanah or the Jewish New Year has begun, marking the start of the year 5783 in the Hebrew Calendar.
- The day is marked with Simanim – a special feast meant for Rosh Hashanah. Simanim literally means "signs" or "indicators" and is meant to herald better tidings.
- This is followed by the blowing of a traditional horn called 'shofar' considered to be one of the most anticipated features in these festivities. While it is typically blown in the morning, it is considered to be as old as the time of Abraham and Isaac.

What is Rosh Hashanah

- Considered to be one of the holiest days in Judaism, Rosh Hashanah literally means 'start of the year.' It begins in the seventh month of the Hebrew Calendar; this day mostly falls in either September or October (as per the Gregorian calendar) and starts on the first day of Tishrei month in the Hebrew calendar.
- Legend has Rosh Hashanah's roots in the Talmud — the central text of Rabbinic Judaism and the primary source of Jewish religious law and Jewish theology — which believes that the world was created on the first day of the Tishrei. While it is not completely clear when Jewish people first celebrated this day, the Book of Leviticus includes a passage (without specifically naming Rosh Hashanah) in which God tells Moses that the first day of the seventh month is a day for rest, marked with the blowing of a horn.
- Jews view this two-day holiday as a time to reflect in anticipation of better tidings in the coming year. Also called the 'day of judgment,' this time also gives people an opportunity to reflect and come up with ways to grow and prosper in the coming year.
- The nature of celebrations varies across the globe. While some believe in going to the synagogue and not working, others light candles in their homes. However, the most interesting tradition is celebrating the day with 'taschlich' — a customary Jewish atonement ritual performed during the High Holy Days. The ritual is performed at a large, natural body of flowing water — a river, lake, sea or ocean, usually on the afternoon of Rosh Hashanah. The penitent believers recite a Biblical passage and prayers. During the Tashlikh prayer, the worshipers symbolically throw their sins into a source of water. While some throw pieces of bread into the water, many rabbis consider this to be forbidden by halakha — the collective body of Jewish religious laws.
- Food is synonymous with Rosh Hashanah celebrations. The Simanim platter typically includes apples dipped in honey, Challah bread baked in round loaves, ram, leeks, pomegranate, gourds, dates, black-eyed peas or green beans, beets, carrots and Pri Chadash ("New Fruit").

1.16. UNION MINISTER SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY LAUNCHES VIRTUAL CONFERENCE 'SYMPHONE' TO BOOST TOURISM SECTOR IN NORTH EAST INDIA.

- SymphoNE is the start of a series of dialogues on North Eastern Region's Development Conference comprised of a broad range of Policy Thinkers, Stakeholders & Influencers with the aim to boost Tourism Sector in North Eastern Region.

- The Virtual Conference 'SymphoNE' being organized on 24th & 27th September 2022 by Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region on the occasion of World Tourism Day.
- This two-day conference will aim to create a roadmap to showcase the unexplored beauty of North East India & boost the tourism Sector in North Eastern Region.
- SymphoNE aims to develop one-stop solution to eliminate all obstacles that are being faced by the tourists, and the tour operators while carrying out the operations for the visitors.

1.17. CII- GBC HONOUR TO IGIA FOR EXCELLENCE IN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

- **IGIA energy management:** The Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, managed by Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), has received the prestigious National Award for Excellence in Energy Management by CII-Green Business Centre (GBC) along with National Energy Leader Award for the year 2021 for its consistent performance at the highest level in the last four years (from 2018 to 2021).
- CII-GBC made the announcement during the Energy Efficiency Summit-2022.
- The event was attended by R K Rai, Secretary, Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Government of India, Freddy Svane, Ambassador at the Royal Danish Embassy in New Delhi, and Ravi Chandran Purushothaman, Chairman, Energy Efficiency Council, CII-GBC and President Danfoss India.
- The award recognizes "Excellence" in Energy Management in industries and aims to instill a sense of competition to motivate Indian industries to achieve energy excellence and promote sustainable development.
- DIAL, a GMR Airports Infrastructure Limited-led consortium, presented the "Net Zero Carbon Emission Airport by 2030" roadmap and its progress update, along with the key energy saving and emission reduction initiatives, innovative projects, and other environmental aspects such as waste management, water management, climate change adaptation strategies etc.

1.18. UNITED NATIONS OBSERVES 26TH SEPTEMBER EVERY YEAR AS INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR TOTAL ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

- The United Nations observes 26th September every year as the International Day for the Total Elimination of nuclear weapons.
- The aim of the day is to enhance public awareness about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and the necessity for their total elimination.
- It provides an opportunity to educate the public and their leaders about the real benefits of eliminating such weapons, and the social and economic costs of perpetuating them.
- In 1946, the General Assembly's first resolution established that the Atomic Energy Commission has the mandate to make specific proposals for the control of nuclear energy and the elimination of not only atomic weapons but also all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction.
- The General Assembly endorsed the objective of general and complete disarmament in 1959. The first Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament, held in 1978, further recognized that nuclear disarmament should be the priority objective in the field of disarmament.
- The international arms-control framework contributed to international security since the Cold War. It also acted as a brake on the use of nuclear weapons.
- On July 7, 2017, the Treaty on the Prohibition of nuclear weapons was adopted. This Treaty is so important since it is the first multilateral legally-binding instrument for nuclear disarmament to have been negotiated in 20 years.
- On August 2, 2019, the United States' withdrawal spelt the end of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, though the United States and the Russian Federation had previously committed to eliminating an entire class of nuclear missiles.

1.19. INS SUNAYNA IN SEYCHELLES FOR NAVAL EXERCISE.

- INS Sunayna has reached Seychelles, an island off the coast of East Africa, to participate in the annual training exercise "Operation Southern Readiness" of Combined Maritime Forces (CMF).

- According to the Ministry of Defence, “This not only reinforces Indian Navy’s commitment to maritime security in the Indian Ocean region, but also marks the maiden participation of an Indian Navy ship in the CMF exercise.”
- The US, Italy, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the UK, Spain and India are among the participants.
- The Seychelles People’s Defence Force, European Union Naval Force and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime are part of the exercise. Forces of multiple nations will conduct training on boarding a ship, search and seizure techniques, search and rescue operations, maritime law and information-sharing.

Commissioned in 2013

- INS Sunayna, the second of the NOPV (Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel) class of ship was commissioned at Kochi on October 15 in 2013 by Vice Admiral Satish Soni, Flag Officer Commanding in Chief Southern Naval Command.

1.20. UTTAR PRADESH GETS AWARDED AYUSHMANN UTKRISHTA AWARD 2022.

- Uttar Pradesh has been awarded Ayushmann Utkrishta award 2022 for adding various health facilities to health facility register.
- The State was conferred this award by the Chief Executive officer (CEO) of the National Health Authority R.S Sharma at the closing ceremony of the Aarogya Manthan organised by the National Health Authority in New Delhi on 26 September 2022.
- Uttar Pradesh is the best performing state in the country with 28728 Health facilities added to National health facility register.
- Also, the state is the second-best State in creating Ayushmann Bharat health account (ABHA) with almost 2 crores ABH Accounts.

1.21. CBI LAUNCHES 'OPERATION GARUDA' TO DISMANTLE DRUG TRAFFICKING, ARRESTS OVER 175 PERSONS.

- This global operation was initiated in close coordination with International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) and Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), for combating the smuggling of illicit drugs and psychotropic substances, with a special focus on Indian Ocean Region. Drug trafficking networks with international linkages require law enforcement cooperation across international jurisdictions.
- Operation Garuda, the CBI-led operation, seeks to target drug networks with international footprints for action against handlers, operatives, production zones and support elements. CBI and NCB have been closely coordinating with all states/Union Territories (UTs) Police agencies for information exchange, analysis and development of operational information.
- "During Operation GARUDA, searches, seizures and arrests were carried out across multiple States/UT in India. Apart from CBI and NCB, 08 States/UT Police including Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Manipur have also participated in this Operation," read a statement by CBI.
- During this Special Operation from several State Police forces including Punjab, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Maharashtra and NCB, around 6600 Suspects/Persons checked; 127 new cases were registered and around 175 persons including 06 proclaimed offenders were arrested.
- 'Illicit Drugs and Psychotropic Substances including 5.125 Kg(approx) Heroin; 33.936 Kg(approx) Ganja; 3.29 Kg(approx) Charas; 1365 gm(approx) Mephedrone; 33.80gm(approx) Smack; around 87 Tablets, 122 Injections and 87 syringes of Buprenorphine; 946 Tablets((approx) Alpazolam; 105.997 Kg(approx) Tramadol; 10 gm((approx) Hash oil; 0.9 gm(approx) Ecstasy pills; 1.150 Kg(approx) Opium; 30 Kg(approx) Poppy Husk; 1.437 Kg(approx) Intoxicant powder and 11039(approx) Pills/Capsules, were recovered."

1.22. THE 'WORLD'S FIRST CNG TERMINAL' AT BHAVNAGAR, GUJARAT.

- Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the “world’s first CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) terminal” at Bhavnagar in Gujarat on September 29, 2022

- This is a three-year-old project that is expected to infuse Rs 4,000 crore in developing the existing port infrastructure at Bhavnagar.

The seeds for the CNG terminal

- The idea for the project materialised during the January 2019 Vibrant Gujarat summit when a consortium of London-based Foresight Group, Mumbai-based Padmanabh Mafatlal Group and Rotterdam-based Boskalis signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) for development of the CNG terminal.
- In December 2019, a project proposal for the development of the north side of Bhavnagar port and allied infrastructure, which includes a CNG terminal, was submitted. This was accepted and GMB issued a Letter of Intent (LoI) in September 2020 in the name of Bhavnagar Port Infrastructure Pvt Ltd, a special purpose vehicle formed by the consortium.
- While the consortium will invest Rs 4,000 crore in developing the north side of the Bhavnagar port under the BOOT (Build, Own, Operate and Transfer) policy of the state government, state-run GMB will continue to operate the berths on the south side of the port.

Why is the Bhavnagar port important?

- The Bhavnagar port is in close vicinity to the Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR) and is expected to serve the industries that set up base in the region. It is already connected to the northern hinterland through a railway line that extends to the existing berths at the port.

When is the CNG terminal expected to commence operations?

- The construction is expected to commence in the first quarter of 2023 after GMB approves the Detailed Project Report. It is expected to be made operational by 2026. The proposed port terminal's capacity is 4.65 million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA), of which the capacity of the CNG terminal will be 0.3 MTPA

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INTERNATIONAL

1.23. INDIA AND FRANCE HELD CONSULTATIONS ON UN SECURITY COUNCIL & OTHER MULTILATERAL ISSUES IN PARIS.

- India and France held consultations on the UN Security Council and other multilateral issues in Paris.
- Both sides had an in-depth exchange of views on various thematic and country-specific issues on the agenda of the UN Security Council in keeping with the India-France strategic partnership.
- Both sides agreed to strengthen their ongoing cooperation at the multilateral platform on issues of mutual interest, including Counter Terrorism, UN Peacekeeping, and Reformed Multilateralism.
- Both sides briefed each other about their priorities during France and India's upcoming Presidencies of the UNSC.
- France will assume the Presidency of the UNSC in September while India will do so in December.
- They also held discussions on initiatives around the High-Level Week of the upcoming 77th Session of the UN General Assembly in September 2022.
- Meanwhile, the Ambassador of France to India, Emmanuel Lenain in a tweet reiterated France's support for a permanent seat for India at the UNSC.

1.24. INDIA APPROVES AN MOU WITH GOVT OF NEPAL ON BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION.

- India has approved an MoU with the Government of Nepal on biodiversity conservation, as proposed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- The MoU aims to strengthen and enhance coordination and cooperation in the field of forests, biodiversity conservation, and climate change.
- It also aims at including the restoration of corridors and interlinking areas and sharing of knowledge and best practices, between the two countries.
- The MoU is expected to help in promoting cooperation between the Parties in the field of forests, wildlife, environment, biodiversity conservation, and climate change, including restoration of corridors and interlinking areas and sharing knowledge and best practices.

1.25. SRI LANKA, IMF REACH PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT FOR LOAN OF 2.9 BILLION DOLLARS.

- The Sri Lankan government and International Monetary Fund (IMF) have reached a preliminary agreement for a loan of 2.9 billion dollars to support country's economic policies with 48-month arrangement under Extended Fund Facility.
- The IMF said that Sri Lanka's new Fund-supported programme aims to restore macroeconomic stability and debt sustainability.
- It also safeguarding financial stability, protecting the vulnerable, and stepping up structural reforms to address corruption vulnerabilities and unlock growth potential.
- A senior IMF official Peter Breuer told that the staff level agreement is only the beginning of a long road for Sri Lanka.
- The agreement is subject to approval by IMF management and its executive board. The IMF also requires receiving financing assurances from Sri Lanka's official creditors, besides ensuring efforts are made to reach a collaborative agreement with private creditors.
- Sri Lanka currently faces its worst economic crisis in seventy years, leading to shortages of food, medicine and fuel.
- The island nation's worst economic crisis also led to a shortage of foreign exchange that stalled imports of essential items.

1.26. UNION MINISTER PIYUSH GOYAL TO VISIT US TO ATTEND MINISTERIAL MEETING OF INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK.

- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will visit San Francisco and Los Angeles in USA to attend the first ever in-person Ministerial meeting of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF).

- Mr. Goyal will also attend the India-US Strategic Partnership Forum conference.
- India joined the IPEF and Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the launch event along with US President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Kishida Fumio, and other leaders from partner countries.
- During the six-day visit, Mr. Goyal will also interact with eminent business persons, US officials, and industry leaders to fortify the partnership between the two nations and strengthen trade and economic ties.
- India and the United States enjoy a comprehensive global strategic partnership covering almost all areas of human endeavor, driven by shared democratic values, convergence of interests on a range of issues, and vibrant people-to-people contacts.
- The Ministry said, regular exchanges at the leadership level have been an integral element of the expanding bilateral engagement.
- The outcomes emerging from these visits have been instrumental in further strengthening the multifaceted ties between the two countries.

What is the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)?

- The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) was launched by United States (US) President Biden in Tokyo on May 23, 2022.
- The IPEF has four pillars: Trade; supply chains; clean energy, decarbonisation and infrastructure; tax and anti-corruption.
- IPEF will have a total of 13 nations as its members.
- The grouping contains **Seven of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) members**, all **four QUAD countries**, **South Korea** and **New Zealand**, which account for around 40% of global GDP.
- Myanmar, Cambodia, and Laos, three ASEAN countries considered closer to China, are not members of the IPEF.

1.27. PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS MINISTER TO LEAD OFFICIAL DELEGATION TO ATTEND 'GASTECH MILAN-2022'.

- Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri will lead an official and business delegation to Milan, Italy to attend the Gastech Milan-2022.
- Gastech, the World's largest gathering focused on LNG as an abated bridge fuel will bring together leading Ministers and CEOs to discuss the evolving energy landscape, assess post-pandemic economic recovery and navigate a route to a just energy transition.
- During the three-day visit, Mr. Puri will participate in the select Ministerial Panel of the Opening Ceremony along with the Egyptian Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources and State Secretary of Energy of Portugal.
- He will also take part in Ministerial Panel discussions titled "Energy Security and Transition" and "A just energy transition for developing nations".
- The Minister will chair the "**India Spotlight: Powering India's energy industry - new avenues for a sustainable future**" panel discussion.
- During the visit, Mr Puri will have bilateral meetings with his counterpart Ministers and with CEOs of global energy companies, who are attending the Gastech Milan-2022.
- He will also inaugurate the Exhibition stalls of Indian energy companies which are being showcased at the Exhibition.
- Petroleum Ministry said, the visit will be an opportunity to highlight India's economic growth story and the investment opportunities that exist in India across the entire energy value chain.

1.28. CHAKMA TRIBALS URGE INDIA, BANGLADESH PMs TO IMPLEMENT 25-YR-OLD CHT ACCORD.

- Four organisations of the Indian Chakma tribal communities demanded India and Bangladesh fully implement the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHTs) Accord, signed in 1997, for the development and peace in the southeast region of the neighbouring country.

- The demand came as Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina arrived in New Delhi on a four-day visit, during which she would hold talks with her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi.
- The Chakma tribal organisations, in a joint memorandum to both Prime Ministers, urged them to take joint measures for full implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHTs) Accord, signed on December 2, 1997 and declare the CHTs as a “region of peace”.
- Founder leader of the Chakma Development Foundation of India Suhas Chakma emphasized on the importance of implementation of the CHT Accord for regional peace and security, especially for Bangladesh, India, and Myanmar.

About Chittagong Hill Tract (CHT) Accord

- The indigenous people of Bangladesh have demanded quick implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tract (CHT) Accord signed in 1997.
- The government signed CHT accord in 1997 with Parbatya Chattogram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) representing Jumma indigenous people to end decades of armed conflict in the South Eastern region of the country.
- Protection of the land rights of Jumma people, rehabilitation, self-government and withdrawal of military from the region were the key points of the accord.
- The CHT Accord provided recognition of CHT region as a tribal-inhabited region, introducing a special governance system based on an institutional structure formed by the CHT Regional Councils and three Hill District Councils (HDCs), and transferring competencies on general administration, law and order, police (local), land and land management, development, education, health, environment and forestry's, demilitarization of the region, resolution of land disputes, rehabilitation of returnee Jumma refugees and internally displaced persons, and the setting up of a CHT Affairs Ministry at national level.

Discontentment of Chakma leaders with implementation of the CHTs Accord

- Prominent Chakma leader and former Mizoram MLA Rashik Mohan Chakma said that though the CHTs Accord was signed 25 years ago, key provisions of the accord especially handing over of law and order and supervision of the three Hill District Councils of Bandarban, Khagrachari, and Rangamati to the CHTs Regional Council was not yet done.
- The other provisions of the accord which are not yet implemented include withdrawal of the Bangladesh Army camps established during the armed conflicts into the cantonments within the CHTs, resolution of the land disputes through the functioning of the CHTs Land Commission, and resettlement of the tribal refugees.

CHITTAGONG HILL TRACT (CHT)

- The CHT in the south-eastern part of Bangladesh comprises a total area of 13,189 sq. km. encompassing three hill districts: Bandarban, Khagrachari and Rangamati.
- It shares borders with Myanmar on the south and southeast, India on the north and northeast, and the Chittagong district of Bangladesh on the west.
- It is one of the most diverse regions in the country.
- Home to eleven indigenous ethnic groups, collectively known as the Jumma people, these indigenous groups are distinct from the majority Bengali people of Bangladesh in respect of race, language, culture, heritage, religion, political history, and economy.
- This ethnic and religious differences that separate the Jumma people of the rest of the Bangladeshi population has been a source of permanent conflict in the region.
- After an armed conflict that lasted more than 20 years, the signing of the 1997 “CHT Accord” was regarded as the cornerstone of a new period of peaceful coexistence between the inhabitants of the Chittagong Hills Tracts and Bangladesh.

1.29. INDIA, BANGLADESH INK SEVEN PACTS.

- An agreement for cooperation in the field of broadcasting between Prasar Bharati and Bangladesh Television was also signed on the occasion.
- As many as seven pacts were signed between India and Bangladesh after bilateral discussions between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his visiting Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina.
- The agreements are related to water resources, IT and space, broadcasting as well as railways.
- These included an agreement on withdrawal of water from the cross-border Kushiyara river, cooperation in space technology, collaboration on IT systems used by railways for freight movement and an agreement for cooperation in the field of science and technology.
- In addition to this, the two sides also inked a pact to provide training to Bangladeshi railway staff and judicial officers in India.

1.30. INDIA AND UK CONDUCT COUNTER RANSOMWARE EXERCISE FOR 26 NATIONS.

- India's National Security Council Secretariat (**NSCS**) and the **UK Government** in collaboration with **BAE Systems** successfully designed and conducted the Cyber Security Exercise **for 26 Countries**.
- The exercise has been conducted as part of the International Counter Ransomware Initiative- Resilience Working Group which is being led by India under the leadership of National Cyber Security Coordinator (NCSC).
- National Security Council Secretariat in a statement said that the exercise has been **facilitated by BAE Systems** through the Immersive Labs platform, and the scenario has been written specifically for the participants based on Threat Intelligence and operational experiences.
- The **theme** of the exercise is based on Energy Sector in which the respective National Cyber Crisis Management Teams of the CRI Partner Nations will have to deal with a ransomware attack on multiple electricity distribution companies.
- The **aim** to organise this virtual Cyber Exercise on Ransomware Resilience is to simulate a large, wide-spread cyber security incident affecting organisations within a country.

1.31. EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK MAKES ITS LARGEST-EVER INTEREST RATE INCREASE.

- The European Central Bank made its largest-ever interest rate increase.
- The action came following the U.S. Federal Reserve and other central banks in a global stampede of rapid rate hikes to arrest record inflation.
- The bank's 25-member Governing Council raised its key benchmarks by an unprecedented 75 basis points for the 19 countries, using euro currency.
- The ECB had never raised its key bank lending rate by three-quarters of a point since the euro's launch in 1999.
- The bank said, it expects more hikes ahead because inflation may rise further in the near term.
- The central bank noted that the economy was expected to stagnate later in the year.

About the European Central Bank (ECB)

- The European Central Bank (ECB) is headquartered in Frankfurt am Main, Germany.
- It has been responsible for monetary policy in the Euro area since 1999, when the euro currency was first adopted by some EU members.

1.32. EASTERN ECONOMIC FORUM.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Plenary Session of 7th Eastern Economic Forum being held in Vladivostok through video conferencing.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that India is keen to strengthen its partnership with Russia on Arctic subjects.
- He said, along with energy, India has also made significant investments in the Russian Far East in the fields of pharma and diamonds.

- The Prime Minister said, in 2019, he had a chance to participate in this forum face-to-face and at that time he had announced the Act Far-East policy of India.
- Eastern Economic Forum is an international forum held each year in Vladivostok, Russia, for the purpose of encouraging foreign investment in the Russian Far East.
- It is held each year since 2015 in September, at the Far Eastern Federal University in Vladivostok, Russia.

About Eastern Economic Forum

- EEF is an **international forum** organised each year in **Vladivostok, Russia**.
- It was first held in September 2015, at Far Eastern Federal University in Vladivostok, to support the **economic development of Russia's Far East** and to expand international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

1.33. INDIA-SAUDI TIES PROMISE SHARED GROWTH, SECURITY, STABILITY, SAYS JAISHANKAR

- The Indian External Affairs Minister concludes his first official visit to Saudi Arabia.
- During the visit he reviewed all aspects of India-Saudi Arabia bilateral relations and discussed regional and global issues.
- India-Saudi Arabia holds the promise of shared growth, prosperity, stability, security and development.
- **First ministerial meeting** of the Committee on **Political, Security, Social and Cultural Cooperation (PSSC)** was held.
- India is the **fourth country** with which Saudi Arabia has formed a strategic partnership, after the UK, France and China.
- It will open **new avenues of partnership** in strategic areas such as defence, counter-terrorism, energy security as well as renewable energy.
- MOU on the mechanism of consultations between **India and the six-nation regional bloc was also signed**.
- India needs the Gulf countries, Saudi Arabia in particular, to **invest in the country and power its economic recovery**.

1.34. THE 2021 GLOBAL ESTIMATES FOR MODERN SLAVERY, WHICH WAS RECENTLY RELEASED BY THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO), REVEALED A SPIKE IN THE INSTANCES OF FORCED LABOUR.

Important facts of the report

- There are 49.6 million people are trapped in modern slavery on any given day.
- They are either forced to work against their will or are in a marriage that they have been forced into..
- Forced labour accounted for 27.6 million of those in modern slavery and forced marriage for 22 million.
- The new estimates showed that forced labour and forced marriage had increased significantly in the last five years.

ILO

- The ILO is a UN agency involved in the promotion of social and economic justice by setting up international labour standards. It was founded in October 1919 under the League of Nations, the predecessor of the UN.

1.35. PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI TO EMBARK ON 2-DAY VISIT TO UZBEKISTAN FOR SCO SUMMIT.

- He will visit Uzbekistan on September 15-16 to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit where leaders are expected to review the grouping's activities
- The summit will be attended by leaders of SCO member states, observer states, Secretary General of the SCO, Executive Director of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), President of Turkmenistan and other invited guests
- External Affairs Ministry said the SCO Summit will be attended by leaders of SCO Member States, Observer States, Secretary General of the SCO, Executive Director of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure, President of Turkmenistan, and other invited guests.

About SCO

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation is a Eurasian political, economic and security organization. In terms of geographic scope and population, it is the world's largest regional organization, covering approximately 60% of the area of Eurasia, 40% of the world population, and more than 30% of global GDP

1.36. INDIA TO HOST 9TH SESSION OF GOVERNING BODY OF INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD, AGRICULTURE FROM SEPT 19

- India is going to host 9th session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture from 19th to 24th of this month.
- The Treaty is a legally binding comprehensive agreement adopted in November 2001 at Rome during the 31st session of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which entered into force in June 2004.
- Addressing media about the event, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Secretary Manoj Ahuja informed that during the event an extensive deliberation on how to preserve, conserve and maintain the germplasm, biodiversity, and food and agriculture will be held. He said, deliberation will also be held on how to exchange and share the tolerant germplasm through a multilateral system.
- Mr Ahuja added that the event will also witness a discussion on farmers' and breeders' rights.
- Representatives of nearly 262 countries are expected to participate in this seven-day-long event.

1.37. ITALY PM ELECTION: GIORGIA MELONI ELECTED AS FIRST WOMAN PM OF ITALY.

- Giorgia Meloni looks set to become Italy's first woman prime minister at the head of its most right-wing government since World War Two after leading a conservative alliance to triumph at the election.
- Meloni will take over from Prime Minister Mario Draghi, the former head of the European Central Bank, who pushed Rome to the centre of EU policy-making during his 18-month stint in office, forging close ties with Paris and Berlin.
- The Italian far-right leader Meloni party came top in general elections. Leading the next government, she will work for the betterment of all Italians.

Who is Giorgia Meloni?

- Giorgia Meloni is an Italian politician and journalist who was born on 15 January 1977. Her father came from Sardinia and her mother belonged to Sicily.
- In 1992 at the age of 15, Meloni joined the Youth Front, the youth wing of the neo-fascist Italian Social Movement (MSI). Next to this in 1996, she earned a diploma from the Amerigo Vespucci Institute.
- She has also served as a youth minister in Berlusconi's 2008-2011 government before founding the Brothers of Italy in 2012.
- Three prominent political leaders Meloni, La Russa, and Crosetto founded a new political movement Brothers of Italy in 2012.

1.38. FINLAND TO BAR RUSSIANS ENTRY WITH SCHENGEN TOURIST VISAS.

- Finland will bar Russians with Schengen tourist visas from entering the country from 30th September 2022, following a surge in arrivals after Moscow's mobilisation order for the war in Ukraine.
- The decision aims to completely prevent the current situation of Russian tourism to Finland and the related transit through Finland.
- A **Tourist Schengen Visa** permits third-country nationals to enter the Schengen Area for a maximum of 90 days within a 6-month period, under the purpose of travelling or visiting Europe for pleasure.
- **Schengen Area** signifies a zone where 26 European countries, abolished their internal borders, for the free and unrestricted movement of people, in harmony with common rules for controlling external borders and fighting criminality by strengthening the common judicial system and police cooperation.

- Schengen Area covers most of the EU countries, except Ireland and the countries that are soon to be part of Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia and Cyprus. Although not members of the EU, countries like Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Lichtenstein are also part of the Schengen zone.



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DAYS TO REMEMBER

1.39. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CHARITY OBSERVED ON 5TH SEPTEMBER.

- **The International Day of Charity** is observed on **September 5**. On this day, philanthropic and humanitarian efforts of any kind are honoured.
- September 5 was chosen to celebrate the day because it is **Mother Teresa's death anniversary**.
- She devoted her life for charity and helping people in need. Her compassion and giving nature had made her a revered figure worldwide.
- Mother Teresa received the **Nobel Peace Prize in 1979** for "work undertaken in the struggle to overcome poverty and distress, which also constitute a threat to peace."

International Day of Charity: UN resolution

- September 5 was declared as the International Day of Charity, by a resolution adopted by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on December 17, 2012.
- The resolution was co-sponsored by 44 UN member nations.

History

- Mother Teresa became an emblem of Christian generosity as a result of her work with Kolkata's impoverished people.
- It made her an instantly recognizable figure around the world.
- In 1950, the celebrated nun established Missionaries of Charity in Kolkata, which rose to prominence for its assistance to the poor.
- The great personality passed away on 5 September 1997, at the age of 87.
- The International Day of Charity was first marked by the **United Nations General Assembly in 2012**.

1.40. NATIONAL FOREST MARTYRS DAY 2022 OBSERVED ON 11TH SEPTEMBER.

- **National Forest Martyrs Day** is observed on **September 11** to pay tribute to those who sacrificed their lives to protect forests and wildlife.
- The observance of the National Forest Martyrs is marked by several events aimed at creating awareness about protecting forests and the environment at large.
- The day holds a lot of significance in the present scenario when depleting green cover is among the greatest challenges in front of the world.

History:

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change declared in **2013** that a day should be set aside in honour of forests and people who protect India's forests, jungles, and wildlife.
- The tragic Khejarli massacre occurred on **September 11, 1730**, which is why this day was chosen to be recognised as National Forest Martyrs Day.
- Cutting down the **Khejarli** trees in the forest was ordered by **Maharaja Abhay Singh of Rajasthan**.
- Bishnoi community people protested against the order as they considered Khejarli trees to be sacred.
- A woman named **Amrita Devi** offered her head to save Khejarli trees from being cut down, as a mark of protest.
- The incident turned out to be a tragedy that got written down in history as Khejarli Massacre. Many people sacrificed their lives to save the trees.
- The children of Amrita Devi along with more than 350 people were killed by the soldiers of Maharaja Abhay Singh.
- When the incident became more adverse than the King ordered his soldiers to stop killing the people.
- He pardoned the people of the Bishnoi Community and proclaimed that no trees will be cut down and not a single animal will be killed in the areas surrounded by the people of Bishnoi Community.

1.41. HINDI DIWAS 2022.

- On the occasion of Hindi Diwas, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday highlighted the significance of the Hindu language in 'uniting' the nation. The Home Minister said that the Modi government was committed to the development of all local Indian languages, including Hindi.
- In 1949, the constituent Assembly of India recognized Hindi as the official language of the country and adopted an Indo-Aryan language written in the Devanagari script as the Hindi language was mostly spoken in most areas in India.
- To promote the Hindi language in every region of the country, from 1953 on September 14, Hindi Diwas is celebrated every year.

Difference between World Hindi Day and National Hindi Day?

- To promote the language at the international level, World Hindi Day is celebrated on January 10 while National Hindi Day is celebrated when the constituent Assembly declared Hindi as the official language of India.

1.42. 15TH SEPTEMBER OBSERVED AS ENGINEERS DAY.

- The birthday of Sir M. Visvesvaraya observes as Engineers Day.
- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has greeted engineers on Engineers Day.
- Shri Modi has also remembered the pathbreaking contribution of Sir M. Visvesvaraya on Engineers Day.

About Sir M. Visvesvaraya

- Visvesvaraya - The father of Indian engineering
- He received India's highest honour, the Bharat Ratna, in 1955. He was knighted as a Knight Commander of the British Indian Empire (KCIE) by King George V for his contributions to the public good.
- His birthday, 15th September, is celebrated as Engineers' Day in India, Sri Lanka and Tanzania in his memory.
- He is credited and known for inventing the Block System, i.e., automated doors that close in the conditions of overflow.
- He was the chief engineer responsible for the construction of the Krishna Raja Sagara Dam in Mysore as well as the chief designer of the flood protection system for the city of Hyderabad.

1.43. UTTAR PRADESH TOPS IN MISSION AMRIT SAROVAR.

- Uttar Pradesh becomes the first state in India to construct 8,642 Amrit Sarovar (Lakes) in India. Amrit Sarovar is an ambitious mission initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which aims to conserve water for the future.
- Madhya Pradesh is in the second position, Jammu and Kashmir in third, Rajasthan in fourth, and Tamil Nadu ranked in the fifth position. Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh, secured the first position within the state by constructing 256 Amrit Sarovar.
- Gorakhpur secured the second position by constructing 245 lakes, and Pratapgarh secured the third position by constructing 231 lakes.
- 15,497 Amrit Sarovar was identified in different villages panchayats of which 8,462 Amrit Sarovar have been already developed.
- Amrit Sarovar Mission was launched on 24th April 2022 with a view to conserve water for the future. The Mission is aimed at developing and rejuvenating 75 water bodies in each district of the country as a part of celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Application and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N) has been engaged as technical partner for the Mission.

1.44. INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR PRESERVATION OF OZONE LAYER: MONTREAL PROTOCOL.

- 16th September is International Day for the **Preservation** of the **Ozone Layer**. It is observed every year on **16th September**.
- The ozone layer, a fragile shield of gas, protects the Earth from the harmful portion of the rays of the sun, thus helping preserve life on the planet.
- A number of commonly used chemicals have been found to be extremely damaging to the ozone layer.
- The scientific confirmation of the depletion of the ozone layer prompted the international community to establish a mechanism for cooperation to take action to protect the ozone layer.
- This was formalized in the **Vienna Convention** for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. It was adopted and signed **by 28 countries, on 22nd March 1985**.
- In September **1987**, this led to the drafting of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.
- The **principal aim** of the Montreal Protocol is to protect the ozone layer by taking measures to control total global production and consumption of substances that deplete it.
- In 1994, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 16 September the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, commemorating the date of the signing, in 1987, of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.
- On 16th September 2009, the **Vienna Convention** and the Montreal Protocol became the first treaties in the history of the United Nations to achieve universal ratification.
- The Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer reached agreement at their 28th Meeting of the Parties on 15 October 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda to phase down hydrofluorocarbons.
- The **theme** for the 2022 International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is '**Montreal Protocol@35: global cooperation' protecting life on earth**.
- The theme recognises the wider impact the Montreal Protocol has on climate change and the need to act in collaboration, forge partnerships and develop global cooperation to address climate challenges and protect life on earth for future generations.

1.45. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY 2022.

- International Day of Democracy is celebrated on 15th September.
- September 15th is celebrated annually across the world to strengthen democracies and highlight its values and principles.
- The UN has said, this year, the Day will focus on the importance of media freedom to democracy, peace, and delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals.
- On the 15th anniversary of the Democracy Day, UN Secretary General António Guterres said that democracy is backsliding across the World.
- Mr. Guterres said, now is the time to stand up for the democratic principles of equality, inclusion, and solidarity.
- He said, this year, we focus on a cornerstone of democratic societies - free, independent, and pluralistic media.
- The UN Chief said, without a free press, democracy cannot survive, without freedom of expression, there is no freedom.

1.46. WORLD ALZHEIMER'S DAY 2022.

- World Alzheimer's Day was observed on September 21.
- Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia. It is a progressive brain disease which results in loss of memory and thinking skills. It destroys the brain cells which causes memory loss, memory changes, erratic behaviour, and loss of body functions.
- This year the theme for world Alzheimer's month 2022 is - know dementia, know Alzheimer's.

1.47. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SIGN LANGUAGES OBSERVED ON 23 SEPTEMBER.

- **The International Day of Sign Languages (IDSL)** is celebrated annually across the world on **23 September**.
- The day is a unique opportunity to support and protect the linguistic identity and cultural diversity of all deaf people and other sign language users.
- Sign language gives people, who are hard of hearing, a medium to converse.
- This day aims to spread awareness regarding the importance of sign language in the realisation of the human rights of people who are deaf.

International Day of Sign Languages: Theme

- The theme for the 2022 International Day of Sign languages is **“Sign Languages Unite Us”**.
- Deaf communities, governments and civil society organisations maintain their collective efforts in fostering, promoting and recognising national sign languages as part of their countries’ vibrant and diverse linguistic landscapes.

1.48. WORLD TOURISM DAY 2022: ‘RETHINKING TOURISM’.

- World Tourism Day is being observed on 27th September.
- This day is celebrated every year to foster awareness among the international community on the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political and economic value.
- The **theme** for this year is **‘Rethinking Tourism’** and will be highlighting the tourism sector being recognized as an important pillar for development.
- Tourism helps provide employment to millions of people to an extent that few countries are completely dependent on the tourism sector for financial stability.

1.49. WORLD MARITIME DAY: THEME FOR 2022 ‘NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR GREENER SHIPPING’.

- Every year on the final Thursday in September, which falls on 29th this year, people around the world commemorate World Maritime Day to recognise the hard work of those who work in the maritime industry.
- ‘Maritime’ originates from the Latin word ‘maritimus,’ which means ‘of the sea.’ The day sheds light on the role seafarers, service agents, and marine officials play in our personal life. Sea life is undoubtedly challenging given the strain of working long hours for uncertain compensation and being away from home.
- **The theme for this year is ‘New technologies for greener shipping’.**
- The need to promote a green transition of the maritime industry into a sustainable future while leaving no one behind is reflected in this year’s theme for the day. It offers a chance to concentrate on the significance of a sustainable maritime industry and the necessity to rebuild better and more sustainably in a post-pandemic world.
- The 2022 theme will also enable a variety of initiatives to focus on particular issues relating to the promotion of inclusive innovation and the adoption of new technology to aid in the marine industry’s need for a greener transition.
- A strategy for future sustainable green economic growth in a sustainable manner must include the development of a safe, secure, and effective international shipping industry. More than 80 per cent of world trade is delivered to people and communities via maritime trade.
- In 1948, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) was founded to oversee the shipping sector. The IMO upholds a thorough structure that covers technological collaboration, environmental regulation, legal recourse, and safety for every member of its workforce.
- The first World Maritime Day was observed on 17 March, 1978 to commemorate the day on which the IMO Convention came into effect.

PERSON NEWS

1.50. MIKHAIL GORBACHEV, THE FORMER SOVIET LEADER WHO BROUGHT THE COLD WAR TO A PEACEFUL END, HAS DIED AGED 91.

About:

- Mikhail Gorbachev (1931 – 2022) was a Russian and Soviet politician who served as the last leader of the Soviet Union.
- As the country's head of state from 1988 to 1991, he served as Chairman of the Supreme Soviet from 1989 to 1990 and President of the Soviet Union from 1990 until the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991.
- Ideologically, Gorbachev initially adhered to Marxism–Leninism, but he moved towards social democracy by the early 1990s.
- Gorbachev believed significant reform was necessary, particularly after the 1986 Chernobyl disaster.
- He withdrew from the Soviet–Afghan War and embarked on summits with United States president Ronald Reagan to limit nuclear weapons and end the Cold War.
- Domestically, his policy of glasnost ("openness") allowed for enhanced freedom of speech and press, while his perestroika ("restructuring") sought to decentralize economic decision-making to improve efficiency.
- The recipient of a wide range of awards, including the Nobel Peace Prize, he was widely praised for his pivotal role in ending the Cold War.

1.51. FORMER FOOTBALLER KALYAN CHAUBEY ELECTED AS NEW PRESIDENT OF ALL INDIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION.

- Former footballer Kalyan Chaubey has been elected as the President of the All India Football Federation (AIFF). Kalyan defeated the legendary Bhaichung Bhutia in the election for the top post.
- The 45-year-old Chaubey, a former goalkeeper with Mohun Bagan and East Bengal, won 33-1, from the 34-member voters' list made up of state association representatives.

About AIFF

- The All-India Football Federation (AIFF) is the organization that manages the game of association football in India.
- It administers the running of the India national football team and also controls the I-League, India's premier domestic club competition, in addition to various other competitions and teams.
- The AIFF was founded in 1937, and gained FIFA affiliation in the year 1948, after India's independence in 1947.
- Currently, it has an office in Dwarka, New Delhi. India was one of the founding members of the Asian Football Confederation in 1954.

1.52. LIZ TRUSS IS NEXT PRIME MINISTER OF UNITED KINGDOM.

- UK Foreign Minister Liz Truss has been elected as the next Prime Minister of Britain and leader of the governing Conservative Party.
- With the win, she becomes the third female Prime Minister of the United Kingdom after Theresa May and Margaret Thatcher.
- Liz defeated her rival, former Finance Minister Rishi Sunak by 81,326 votes to 60,399, after over a six-week-long grueling campaign.
- The two contenders have gone through a postal ballot of all the Conservative members, numbering around one lakh sixty thousand Tory electorate to replace the UK's outgoing Prime Minister Boris Johnson.
- Truss takes over at a time when the UK is saddled with rising inflation and its worst cost-of-living crisis.
- Following the announcement, Mr Johnson will travel to Scotland to meet Queen Elizabeth to officially tender his resignation. His successor will follow him and be asked to form a government.

1.53. US PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN NOMINATES INDIAN-AMERICAN ATTORNEY ARUN SUBRAMANIAN TO US DISTRICT JUDGE IN NEW YORK.

- US President Joe Biden has **nominated** Indian-American attorney **Arun Subramanian** to be US District Judge for the Southern District of New York.
- A Communication in this regard was sent to the Senate by the White House along with other judicial nominations.
- If confirmed by the Senate, Mr Subramanian **will be the first South Asian judge** to serve on the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.
- Currently a partner at Susman Godfrey LLP in New York.
- National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) has congratulated Mr Subramanian on his nomination.
- Acting president of NAPABA AB Cruz III said Mr Subramanian is an experienced trial and appellate attorney with a strong track record of pro bono service.
- Indian-American Impact has welcomed the nomination by describing it as a notable nomination.
- Indian-American Impact Executive-Director Neil Makhija said, South Asians and Asian Americans have long been underrepresented in the federal judiciary - with less than five per cent of Article III district judges being of AAPI descent - but in the past year we have made historic strides.

1.54. AUSTRIA'S VOLKER TURK APPOINTED AS NEXT UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

- Volker Turk of Austria has been appointed as the next United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appointed Turk following approval by the General Assembly.
- The new High Commissioner is currently coordinating global policy work as an Under-Secretary-General in the UN's Executive Office.
- Previously, he was the Assistant High Commissioner for Protection at UN refugees, UNHCR, in Geneva where he played a key role in the development of the landmark Global Compact on Refugees.
- Turk will succeed Michelle Bachelet of Chile.

1.55. ANNABHAU SATHE.

- Recently, Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnav unveiled a statue of Lok Shahir (balladeer) Annabhau Sathe at the All-Russia State Library for Foreign Literature in Moscow.

About:

- Annabhau Sathe (1 August 1920 – 18 July 1969)
- Tukaram Bhaurao Sathe, popularly known as Anna Bhau Sathe was a social reformer, folk poet, and writer from Maharashtra.
- He was a Dalit born into the untouchable community, and his upbringing and identity were central to his writing and political activism.
- In 1930, his family left the village and came to Mumbai. Here, he worked as a porter, a hawker and even a cotton mill helper.
- During his days at the Matunga Labour Camp, he got to know R B More, an associate of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar in the famous 'Chavdar Lake' satyagraha at Mahad, and joined the Labour Study Circle.
- Sathe was a Marxist-Ambedkarite mosaic, initially influenced by the communists but he later became an Ambedkarite.
- He is credited as a founding father of 'Dalit Literature' and played vital role in Samyukta Maharashtra Movement.
- In 1939, he wrote his first ballad 'Spanish Povada'.

- Almost six of his novels were turned into films and many translated into other languages, including Russian.

Russian connection:

- He was once called the Maxim Gorky of Maharashtra.
- He was immensely inspired by Gorky's 'The Mother' and the Russian revolution, which was reflected in his writings.
- He travelled to Russia in 1961 along with a group of other Indians.

1.56. 25-YEAR-OLD CLIMATE ACTIVIST VANESSA NAKATE APPOINTED AS UNICEF GOODWILL AMBASSADOR.

- United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) appointed Vanessa Nakate, a 25-year-old climate activist from Uganda as the Goodwill Ambassador of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).
- Her collaboration with the organisation and recognising her outstanding global advocacy for climate justice for current and future generations.
- Nakate began her activism in January 2019 with a protest with her siblings and cousins on the streets of Kampala, inspired by Greta Thunberg.
- She continued to protest every week, becoming a well-known face in a movement of young people "striking" for the climate around the world.
- In 2020 she came to further global prominence when she was cropped out of a news photo she appeared in alongside Thunberg and other white climate activists.
- Nakate's response to the incident, in which she said the news outlet "didn't just erase a photo, you erased a continent", made international headlines.

1.57. A BOOK TITLED "AMBEDKAR AND MODI" RELEASED BY FORMER PRESIDENT RAM NATH KOVIND.

- Former President Ram Nath Kovind has launched a book titled 'Ambedkar and Modi: Reformer's Ideas Performer's Implementation'.
- The book, compiled by Bluekraft Digital Foundation, explores the life and works of Dr BR Ambedkar while drawing a parallel with the initiatives and reforms taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to implement the ideals of the social reformer.
- The book features a foreword by music composer and Rajya Sabha member Ilaiyaraaja.
- It presents a convergence between the ideals of Dr Ambedkar and New India's development journey.
- Focus has been laid on infrastructure, education, socio-economic mobility, gender equality, and self-reliance in the twelve chapters of the book.

The essence of the book:

- Dr B.R. Ambedkar's influence has an overarching impact on the making of Modern India. However, his legacy was sidelined and subjected to institutional neglect.
- The book is a prism that reflects upon the multitude of contributions of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar in the nation-building process.
- Many of his ideas and interventions continue to define our governance paradigm, especially with PM Narendra Modi at the helm ensuring that his legacy is revived.
- The book studies the points of intersection of India's development story under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the ideals of Babasaheb.
- It also highlights the striking parallels between the two towering personalities that succeeded against all odds and worked to dismantle stifling social structures that they themselves experienced from close quarters.

1.58. VETERAN ASSAMESE SWIMMER ELVIS ALI HAZARIKA BECOMES THE FIRST FROM NORTH EAST TO CROSS NORTH CHANNEL.

- Veteran Assamese swimmer Elvis Ali Hazarika - has become the first from the North East to cross the North Channel.
- The North Channel is the strait between north-eastern Northern Ireland and south-western Scotland.
- Elvis and his team clocked a timing of 14 hours 38 minutes to achieve this feat.
- With this, Elvis has become the oldest Indian swimmer to cross the North Channel.

About the North Channel:

- The North Channel starts north of the Isle of Man, where the Irish Sea ends, and flows northwest into the Atlantic Ocean.
- The narrowest part of the strait lies between Mull of Kintyre and Torr Head. The width of the channel here is 19 kilometers.
- The deepest part is known as Beaufort's Dyke.
- The North Channel is a part of the marine area and International Hydrographic Organisation officially classifies it as the "Inner Seas off the West Coast of Scotland".

1.59. INDIA'S RADHIKA BATRA, 3 OTHERS HONOURED BY BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION.

- India's Radhika Batra, Zahra Joya of Afghanistan, Vanessa Nakate of Uganda and EU chief Ursula von der Leyen have been honoured by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for their extraordinary work towards achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The 'Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards' were conferred in New York's Lincoln centre in recognition of the work done by the "four remarkable changemakers" to advance progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in their communities and around the world.

1.60. INDIAN AUTHOR & POET MEENA KANDASAMY WON GERMAN PEN AWARD.

- Indian author and poet Meena Kandasamy has been announced as this year's recipient of the Hermann Kesten Prize by the PEN Centre in Germany's Darmstadt.
- The Hermann Kesten Prize honours personalities who, in the spirit of the charter of the PEN association, stand up for the rights of persecuted authors and journalists.
- The PEN Center, Germany, will present the award to the Indian author at a ceremony in Darmstadt on November 15 this year.
- The winner will receive an amount of €20,000 (\$19,996) as prize money. This year, the PEN Center is also honouring the website "Weiter Schreiben" (German for "Keep writing") with a special award for encouragement, for giving authors in exile and writers from conflict zones a platform to express their thoughts.

About Meena Kandasamy:

- Meena Kandasamy was born in 1984 in Chennai, Kandasamy is a feminist and anti-caste activist whose work revolves around the issue of gender, caste, sexuality, patriarchy, and oppression by the Brahmanical system.
- Her novels have been shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction, the International Dylan Thomas Prize, the Jhalak Prize and the Hindu Lit Prize.
- She previously held an editorial role at the English-language magazine 'The Dalit'. Kandasamy has been a vocal critic of the arrest of fellow writers like Varavara Rao and former Delhi University professor G N Saibaba.

1.61. SENIOR ADVOCATE R VENKATARAMANI NAMED AS NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL OF INDIA.

- Senior advocate R Venkataramani has been appointed as the new Attorney General of India. The Ministry of Law and Justice in a notification said, the President has appointed Mr Venkataramani as the new Attorney General for a period of three years from 1st of October. He will succeed Mr K K Venugopal, whose term will be ending tomorrow.

Key Points

- The Attorney General (AG) of India is a part of the Union Executive. AG is the highest law officer in the country.
- Article 76 of the Constitution provides for the office of AG of India.
- **Appointment and Eligibility:**
 - AG is appointed by the President on the advice of the government.
 - She/he must be a person who is qualified to be appointed a judge of the Supreme Court, i.e. s/he must be a citizen of India and must have been a judge of some high court for five years or an advocate of some high court for ten years or an eminent jurist, in the opinion of the President.
- **Term of the Office: Not fixed by the Constitution.**
- **Removal:** Procedures and grounds for the removal of AG are not stated in the Constitution. S/he holds office during the pleasure of the President (may be removed by the President at any time).
- **Duties and Functions:**
 - To give advice to the Government of India (GoI) upon such legal matters, which are referred to her/him by the President.
 - To perform such other duties of a legal character that are assigned to her/him by the President.
 - To appear on behalf of the GoI in all cases in the Supreme Court or in any case in any High Court in which the GoI is concerned.
 - To represent the GoI in any reference made by the President to the Supreme Court under Article 143 (Power of the President to consult the Supreme Court) of the Constitution.
 - To discharge the functions conferred on her/him by the Constitution or any other law.

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ART & CULTURE

1.62. THREE INDIAN CITIES JOIN UNESCO NETWORK OF LEARNING CITIES – LIST.

- Warangal and two cities from Kerala have joined the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC) in recognition of their outstanding efforts to make lifelong learning a reality for all at the local level.
- Warangal in Telangana, Thrissur and Nilambur are among the 77 cities from 44 countries which have joined this network of the world body.
- UNESCO GNLC is an international network consisting of cities that successfully promote lifelong learning across their communities.
- It includes 294 cities from all around the world that share inspiration, know-how and best practice among each other, the world body has said in a statement.
- Other cities that have joined the network are the Ukrainian capital Kyiv, Durban in South Africa and Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) among others.
- The 77 new members bring the total number of cities within the UNESCO GNLC to 294 in 76 countries, UNESCO said.

1.63. PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU TO INAUGURATE MYSURU DASARA FESTIVAL.

- Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has announced that President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate this year's Dasara festival to be held in Mysuru from September 26 to October 5.
- He said that the Government has received a letter from the President accepting its invitation to inaugurate the World famous Dasara festivities on September 26th.
- The President will offer prayers at the Chamundeshwari temple atop Chamundi hills on that day to mark the inauguration of a 10 days festival.
- The Chief Minister further informed that Dasara will be celebrated at a grand scale this year.
- He said that they were happy to receive the President's acceptance letter to inaugurate Dasara this year.

About Mysore Dasara

- Mysore Dasara is a Royal Festival Celebrating victory of Truth over Evil. Legend has it that the Goddess Chamundeeswari or Durga slew the demon Mahishasuran on Vijayadashami day.
- Dasara is a 10-day festival in the region culminating on Vijayadashami or tenth day.
- In Karnataka, Dasara is observed as State festival - Nadahabba, because of the celebration of the festival is steered by the Royal Family of Mysore.
- The royal family of Mysore performs special pooja on the occasion of Dasara.

1.64. VARANASI NOMINATED AS FIRST-EVER SCO TOURISM AND CULTURAL CAPITAL FOR 2022-2023.

- Varanasi city has been nominated as the **first cultural and tourism capital during 2022-2023** at the 22nd meeting of the SCO council in Samarkand.
- The 22nd meeting of the **SCO council in Samarkand** was also attended by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.
- The Shanghai Cooperation Organization 2022 was the first in-person meeting of the regional group after the **Covid-19 pandemic** which was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Key Points related to Varanasi

- Varanasi will get a boost in tourism and cultural and humanitarian exchanges between India and SCO member countries after it is nominated as the **first SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital**.
- It will emphasize **India's ancient civilizational** links with member states of SCO.
- Various events will also be organized under the framework of a **major cultural outreach program** in Varanasi during 2022-2023.
- During the culture several guests will be invited to participate from the **SCO Member State**.

About Varanasi

- **Varanasi** is also known as Banaras or Kashi. It is one of the oldest cities in the world. The city is known for **Hindu mythology and history**. The city is linked with spiritualism, yoga, Hindu mythology, culture, and the Sanskrit language.

1.65. MAHARASHTRA'S DAULATABAD FORT TO BE RENAMED AS 'DEVGIRI' FORT.

- **Maharashtra Tourism Ministry** has decided to rename the **Daulatabad fort to Devgiri** which is located near Aurangabad.
- It is a national heritage monument, which is maintained by the **Archeological Survey of India (ASI)**.
- Previously Maharashtra's former **Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray** was renamed Aurangabad Sambhajinagar.
- The decision of renaming **Daulatabad fort to Devgiri** came after **Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray** renamed Aurangabad to Sambhajinagar after a long demand from Sena Foot Soldiers.

About Daulatabad Fort:

- **Daulatpur Fort** is a historic fortified citadel located in **Devagiri Village near Aurangabad, Maharashtra**.
- It was earlier the capital of the Yadava Dynasty for a brief time the capital of the Delhi Sultanate.
- The fort was renamed **Daulatabad by Mohammed Tughlaq** in the 14th century who understood its importance as a base for military operations in southern India and conceived the idea of making his capital.
- The fort was later known as Qubbatul Islam and coins were minted with this name.

1.66. TELANGANA: BATHUKAMMA, FLORAL FESTIVAL BEGINS ACROSS STATE.

- In Telangana, Bathukamma, the state floral festival has begun with women in large numbers participating in the festivities across the state.
- The dates of this festival clash with Navratri in North India with the first day of Bathukamma 2022 falling on September 25.
- This festival will deepen our connect with nature and interest in flowers.
- The main celebrations will be held on 3rd next month which will be celebrated as Saddula Bathukamma.
- During the nine-day annual festival, women and girls sing and dance around specially arranged flowers. At the end of the festival, the floral arrangements will be immersed in local ponds.

About Bathukamma:

- Bathukamma, a floral festival representing the culture and spirit of Telangana, is celebrated for nine days during Navratri.
- The word Bathukamma comes from the Telugu words "Bathuku" meaning life and "amma" meaning mother.
- As such, it is a celebration of life and womanhood. During the festival, the women come together in groups to prepare ornate stacks using local flowers such as Celosia, Senna, Marigold, Lotus, Cucurbita and Cucumis among others.
- This stack is called a Bathukamma and represents Goddess Maha Gauri and is worshipped for nine days.
- On the final day of the festival, Bathukamma is immersed in water bodies. Bathukamma was declared a state festival after the formation of Telangana in 2014.

1.67. WORLD'S LARGEST ENCYCLOPAEDIC SANSKRIT DICTIONARY.

- The 200-year-old Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute in Maharashtra's Pune city is hosting an Open Day for the general public to witness its ongoing encyclopedia of Sanskrit dictionary project.
- The Open Day is aimed at introducing the huge and distinct encyclopedia of Sanskrit to the visitors, demonstrating and promoting India's intellectual heritage hidden in Sanskrit literature.

- Led by researchers from the Department of Sanskrit and Lexicography at the college, the encyclopaedic dictionary of Sanskrit will be the world's biggest dictionary.
- Thirty-five volumes have been published as part of this project, which began in 1948. This dictionary consists of references from 62 knowledge disciplines restored in Sanskrit language and traces the language's linguistic developments right from Rigveda to Hasyarnava (1850 AD).
- The Sanskrit scholars have been tracing phonetic changes, semantic development of words since inception of the mighty project.
- Over ten million references have been collected from more than 1,500 Sanskrit books in disciplines like vedas, vedant, darshana, polity, mathematics, agriculture, chemistry, architecture, dramaturgy and others.
- These have been collected and stored in the form of slips safely preserved in the college's scriptorium, one-of-its-kind in the world.
- Each slip — in either pink or green colours and in different sizes — holds information about exact vocable, grammatical category, citation to attest the vocable.

1.68. 2ND CENTURY BUDDHIST CAVES, VISHNU SCULPTURES FOUND IN BANDHAVGARH.

- The Archeological Survey of India (ASI) has stumbled upon a historically-rich treasure trove in Bandhavgarh, Madhya Pradesh. The ASI team has found 26 caves, mostly Buddhist, ranging from the 2nd century to 5th century, of the Mahayana sect and remains of Buddhist structures and mural inscriptions bearing names of cities like Mathura and Kaushambi in old scripts.
- During the exercise held from May 20-June 27 in an area sprawling around 170 sq km at the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, the ASI's Jabalpur circle found many ancient sculptures, including large monolithic sculptures of various avatars of Vishnu like "Varaha" and "Matsya", and "board games made in natural caves."
- "This is for the first time since the 1938 exploration by archaeologist NP Chakravarti that ASI has explored Bandhavgarh. Many structures of the area had already been documented, we reported and documented many more structures now, including ancient caves, temples, Buddhist remains, maths, sculptures, water bodies, mural inscriptions in old scripts like Brahmi and Nagari etc," said SK Bakpai, the ASI's Jabalpur Superintending Archaeologist.
- One of the many historical finds is a large Varaha sculpture measuring 6.4 x 5.03 x 2.77 meters datable to (9th - 13th century CE). It appears to be the world's largest sculpture, the official said, adding that in the old inscriptions, names of the kings — Maharaja Shri Bhimsena, Maharaja Pothasiri and Maharaja Bhattadeva — have been engraved. Nineteen water bodies of different periods (2nd-15thCE) were part of the exploration findings.
- A votive stupa and a Buddhist pillar fragment containing miniature stupas carving, which roughly date back to 2nd-3rd century AD have been documented as part of this exploration.
- Coins belonging to the Mughal-era and Sharqi dynasty of Jaunpur Sultanate have also been found.
- ASI officials said a total of 35 temples have been documented, nine found in the earlier and 26 temples or its remains of Kalachuri period in the latest exploration.
- 26 of the discovered caves- mostly Buddhist in nature- are the newly documented ones, dating back to 2nd century BC - 5th century; whereas 50 of them were reported earlier, he added. Two new Shaiva maths of Kalachuri period (9th-11th century AD) and two new stupas have also been documented, officials said. Also, remains of Mahayana sect of Buddhism like chaitya-shaped doors and cells containing stone beds have also come to light, they said.
- Besides 46 new sculptures also documented, 10 were already reported earlier prior to this exploration. Twenty-four Brahmi inscriptions (dated 2nd-5th century AD) have been documented, the ASI said. Mathura's name was mentioned in Brahmi script, Bajpai said, adding, inscriptions are also in Nagari and Shankhalipi. Besides, names of Mathura and Kaushambi, Pavata (Parvata), Vejabharada and Sepatanaairikaa are also mentioned in various inscriptions.

1.69. UNESCO RELEASED A LIST OF 50 EXCLUSIVE AND ICONIC HERITAGE TEXTILE CRAFTS OF THE COUNTRY.

- Toda embroidery and Sungadi from Tamil Nadu, Himroo from Hyderabad, and Bandha tie and dye from Sambalpur in Odisha were some of the textiles that made the cut.
- Some of the iconic handcrafted textiles documented from north India are Khes from Panipat, Chamba rumals from Himachal Pradesh, Thigma or wool tie and dye from Ladakh, and Awadh Jamdani from Varanasi.
- From the south, Ilkal and Lambadi or Banjara embroidery from Karnataka, Sikalnayakanpet Kalamkari from Thanjavur have been included.
- Kunbi weaves from Goa, Mashru weaves and Patola from Gujarat, Himroo from Maharashtra and Garad-Koirial from West Bengal also find a place among the 50 iconic textiles.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1.70. DELHI: NDMA AND C-DOT CONDUCTS WORKSHOP ON CAP-BASED INTEGRATED PUBLIC ALERT SYSTEM FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND PREPAREDNESS.

- NDMA and C-DOT are conducting a workshop on the CAP-based Integrated Public Alert System for Disaster Management and Preparedness in New Delhi.
- CAP stands for Common Alerting Protocol.
- The one-day workshop aims to provide a platform to the concerned departments and various disaster management agencies across India to discuss their underlying issues and challenges and evolve technology-based solutions to address these.
- Various eminent dignitaries and speakers from various Government departments including NDMA, Indian Railways, Indian Metrological Department, Central Water Commission, and Disaster Management Authorities of 36 States and Union Territories are attending the workshop.
- They will deliberate on various contemporary themes related to Disaster Management and Preparedness.

About C-DOT

- The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) is the Telecom Technology development centre of the Government of India.
- It was established in August 1984 as an autonomous body.
- It was vested with full authority and total flexibility to develop state-of-the-art telecommunication technology to meet the needs of the Indian telecommunication network.

About NDMA

- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), headed by the Prime Minister of India, is the apex body for Disaster Management in India.
- Setting up of NDMA and the creation of an enabling environment for institutional mechanisms at the State and District levels is mandated by the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- NDMA is mandated to lay down the policies, plans and guidelines for Disaster Management.

1.71. WITH FEARS OF A NUCLEAR DISASTER AT UKRAINE'S ZAPORIZHZHIA POWER PLANT, EUROPEAN UNION DECIDED TO PRE-EMPTIVELY SUPPLY ANTI-RADIATION PILLS.

- With fears of a nuclear disaster at Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia power plant growing, the European Union has decided to pre-emptively supply 5.5 million anti-radiation pills to be distributed among residents in the vicinity.

Radiation emergency

- These are unplanned or accidental events that create radio-nuclear hazard to humans and the environment.
- Such situations involve radiation exposure from a radioactive source and require prompt intervention to mitigate the threat.
- Dealing with such an emergency also involves the use of anti-radiation tablets.

Anti-radiation pills

- Potassium iodide (KI) tablets, or anti-radiation pills, are known to provide some protection in cases of radiation exposure.
- They contain non-radioactive iodine and can help block absorption, and subsequent concentration, of radioactive iodine in the thyroid gland.
- The thyroid gland, which uses iodine to produce hormones to regulate the body's metabolism, has no way of telling radioactive from non-radioactive iodine. Potassium iodide (KI) tablets rely on this to achieve 'thyroid blocking'.

1.72. ISRO SUCCESSFULLY TEST INFLATABLE AERODYNAMIC DECELERATOR TO LAND MISSIONS ON MARS OR VENUS.

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully demonstrated a new technology with Inflatable Aerodynamic Decelerator (IAD).
- Designed and developed by ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), IAD is a game-changer with multiple applications for future missions including to Mars and Venus.
- The IAD was successfully test flown in a 'Rohini' sounding rocket from Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station. Rohini sounding rockets are routinely used for flight demonstration of new technologies being developed by ISRO as well as by scientists from India and abroad.
- The IAD was initially folded and kept inside the payload bay of the rocket.
- At around 84 km altitude, the IAD was inflated and it descended through the atmosphere with the payload part of a sounding rocket.
- The IAD has systematically reduced the velocity of the payload through aerodynamic drag and followed the predicted trajectory.
- After witnessing the launch, ISRO Chairman S Somanath said, this demonstration opens a gateway for cost-effective spent stage recovery using the Inflatable Aerodynamics Decelerator technology and this IAD technology can also be used in ISRO's future missions to Venus and Mars.

1.73. FIRST LNG TRUCK FACILITY IN INDIA OPENED BY BLUE ENERGY MOTORS.

- The long-haul, heavy-duty trucks from **Blue Energy Motors**, which intends to upend the Indian trucking business by producing clean energy, almost zero emissions vehicles, will run on LNG.
- The business was inaugurated by Union Minister, Nitin Gadkari.
- Blue Energy Motors has a contract in place with **FPT Industrial**, the global powertrain brand of the Italian Iveco Group, to launch the first LNG trucks with BS VI-compliant FPT Industrial engines.

Key Points:

- The introduction of the 5528 4x2 tractor will serve as the first model for the market entry of LNG-fuelled trucks.
- Blue Energy Motors claims that its “trucks have been built and tested in compliance with the demanding duty cycles of the Indian transport industry.”
- These trucks, which have high-torque FPT Industrial engines, not only have the best TCO in their class but also provide unparalleled ride comfort and driver safety for long hauls.
- One of the most potent natural gas engines is the FPT Industrial engine, which is also compatible with CNG, LNG, and biomethane.
- To ensure best-in-class fuel consumption and lower noise than diesel engines, it uses multipoint stoichiometric combustion.

1.74. CHINA'S FULLY SOLAR-POWERED, SEMI-SATELLITE DRONE.

- China's first fully solar-powered unmanned aerial vehicle has successfully completed its maiden test flight with all onboard systems functioning optimally.

About:

- With a wingspan of 164-ft, the drone is a large machine powered entirely by solar panels.
- The high-altitude, long-endurance (HALE) UAV can stay airborne for long durations.
- Named the Qimingxing-50, or Morning Star-50, this drone flies above 20-km altitude where there is stable airflow with no clouds.
- This helps these drones to make the maximum use of solar equipment to stay functional for extended durations.
- The fact that the drone can operate in near-space – 20 km to 100 km above the Earth's surface – makes it capable of carrying out satellite-like functions.

1.75. SCIENTISTS CREATE CYBORG COCKROACHES CONTROLLED BY SOLAR-POWERED BACKPACKS.

- An international team of researchers led by Japan's scientific institution, RIKEN's Cluster for Pioneering Research (CPR), have devised a system that can create cyborg cockroaches, that are part insect and part machine.

About:

- They claim that these insects, whose movements are controlled by tiny integrated circuits, will be able to conduct surveillance in procedures like urban search and rescue, environmental monitoring and inspection of areas dangerous to humans.
- The researchers claim that by equipping the cockroaches with small wireless control modules, handlers will be able to control the insect's legs remotely for long periods of time.
- The team used Madagascar cockroaches, which are not only the largest species of cockroaches, reaching an estimated 6 cm, but are also known for making hissing sounds when disturbed, which they make by expelling air from the openings on their back.

1.76. MEITY STARTUP HUB, META TO LAUNCH PROGRAM TO ACCELERATE XR TECHNOLOGY STARTUPS IN INDIA.

- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Startup Hub in collaboration with Meta will launch a program to support and accelerate XR technology startups across India.
- This collaboration is part of the Government's efforts for skilling in emerging and future technologies.
- The world is looking towards India for supply technology, innovation and talent to cater to the greater demand for digital products.
- The MeitY Startup Hub is a national platform focused on promoting technology innovation, start-ups, and the creation of intellectual properties.
- **Extended reality, or XR**, is an emerging realm of technology that combines real and virtual environments. The term is also used to refer to human-machine interactions generated through wearables and computer technology.
- The collaboration with Meta is "part of the government's efforts for skilling in emerging and future technologies", MeitY said.
- Launched in May 2019, the MeitY Startup Hub (MSH) aims to serve as an integrating platform for startups and incubators. According to the government, it has supported more than 3,000 startups, with a vision to ramp it up to more than 10,000 in the next three to five years.

1.77. CHINA'S FIRST FULLY SOLAR-POWERED UAV.

- China has successfully tested its first fully solar-powered unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) which can fly for months and can function even as a satellite if required. The maiden flight of Qimingxing-50 has been achieved, making it the first large-sized UAV powered only by solar energy, a Chinese government official informed in a tweet.
- The Qimingxing-50, with a wingspan of 50 m, is a high-altitude long-endurance drone that is capable of high altitude aerial reconnaissance, assessing forest fire and can also be used for communications. This technology will bolster Chinese defences in space and at sea.
- China recently launched the 23-tonne Wentian ("Quest for the heavens") laboratory module of its Tiangong space station to orbit. The new module has a massive pair of "solar wings" that rotates as the space station orbits our planet.
- China, as a part of its ambitions project, is eyeing to come up with a solar power plant in space by 2028. The target year for launching a solar power plant in space is two years ahead of its scheduled time.

1.78. RECENTLY, SOUTH KOREAN SCIENTISTS CREATED AN 'ARTIFICIAL SUN' IN PURSUIT OF UNLIMITED CLEAN ENERGY.

- Scientists from Seoul **National University and the Korea Institute of Fusion Energy** have made a major breakthrough in their pursuit of clean nuclear energy by creating an 'artificial sun' at the **Korea Superconducting Tokamak Advanced Research (KSTAR)** reactor.
- Reportedly, the reactor reached temperatures **upward of 100 million degree Celsius for 30 seconds**.
- Comparatively, the **core of the sun hits temperatures around 15 million degrees**.

Significance

Energy security

- By mimicking the natural reaction of the sun, scientists are hoping that the technology may help humanity **harness vast amounts of energy** and help battle the **energy crisis**.

Cleaner energy:

- It is pertinent to note that **nuclear fusion** is considered the holy grail of energy and it is what powers our sun.
- It **merges atomic nuclei** to create massive amounts of energy, which is the **opposite of the fission process** used in **atomic weapons and nuclear power plants**, which splits them into fragments.
- The process requires no fossil fuels and leaves behind no hazardous waste materials, unlike the nuclear fission process that powers commercial nuclear energy production.
- Unlike fission, **fusion emits no greenhouse gases**.

Less Disaster:

- Physicists also claim that there is far less risk of an environmental disaster.

1.79. A FIRST: AVALANCHE-MONITORING RADAR SET UP IN SIKKIM ALONG LAC

- The first avalanche monitoring radar has been installed at a forward post in north Sikkim along the boundary with China.
- Located at an altitude of 15,000 ft, the radar, the first of its kind in India, has the capability to detect an avalanche within three seconds of its trigger and will assist in saving lives of troops and reducing damage to property.
- It uses a series of short microwave pulses which detect an avalanche in under three seconds. The radar can permanently scan the targeted slope for avalanche and track the path of the avalanche and its size in case it is triggered.
- The radar can see through snow, fog as well as in the night, making it an all-weather solution and covers an area of 2 sq km, obviating the requirement to place additional instruments in dangerous avalanche-prone areas.
- The radar is also linked to an alarm system enabling automatic control and warning measures in case an avalanche is triggered. Images and videos of the event are automatically recorded for future analysis.
- The Army will operate the radar made by the Defence Geoinformatics and Research Establishment (DGRE). Lieutenant General Tarn Kumar Aich, Commander of the 33 Corps, inaugurated it.

1.80. NASA'S DART SPACECRAFT SUCCESSFULLY CRASHED INTO ASTEROID DIMORPHOS.

- US space agency - NASA's Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) spacecraft successfully crashed into the asteroid Dimorphos at breakneck speed.
- The target was Dimorphos, a 160-metre-tall asteroid. DART slammed into the harmless asteroid 9.6 million kilometres away at 22,500 kilometres per hour.
- The DART mission intentionally crashed on an asteroid to test a unique defence technology. The crash is aimed at giving Earth a defence tool against future asteroids headed our way.

- The 325 million dollar project was the first attempt to move a natural object in space but it will take days or perhaps weeks to assess how much the asteroid's path was altered.
- The DART, a vending machine-sized spacecraft that was launched in November, used novel navigational techniques created by the mission manager and spacecraft builder, Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory.



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ECONOMY

1.81. RELIANCE INDUSTRIES TO BUILD WORLD'S LARGEST CARBON FIBRE PLANT.

- **Reliance Industries** chairman **Mukesh Ambani** has announced to build of India's first and one of the world's largest **Carbon Fibre plants** at Hazira, Gujarat.
- The plants will have a capacity of 20,000 MTPA based on Acrylonitrile feedstock.
- Overall, in the Oil to Chemical segment (O2C), **Ambani** announced an investment of **Rs 75,000 crore** over the next five years to expand capacities in existing and new value chains.
- These value chains are – Polyester value chain, Vinyl chain, and New Materials. The first phase of the plant will be completed in **2025**.
- The company will further integrate its composites business with Carbon Fibre to produce Carbon Fibre composites.
- Apart from other applications, Carbon Fibre composites are also used to meet the rapidly growing light-weight requirements of Mobility and Renewable Energy.
- Thus, Carbon Fibre promises to be a multi-decade growth engine for O2C, **Ambani** highlighted.
- Reliance has commenced its journey to becoming net carbon zero by 2035 with a set of concrete actions.

1.82. MORE THAN 5.62 LAKH DEFENCE PENSIONERS MIGRATED SUCCESSFULLY ON DIGITAL PLATFORM OF SPARSH IN AUGUST.

- Defence Ministry has said that System for Pensions Administration - Raksha or SPARSH has disbursed more than three thousand ninety crore rupees to Defense Pensioners digitally in the month of August this year.
- In another milestone, more than five lakh sixty-two thousand Defence Pensioners migrated successfully on the digital platform of SPARSH in August. The total number of pensioners onboarded to SPARSH has crossed over one million mark with 11 lakh beneficiaries, which is nearly 33 per cent of the total defence pensioners in the country.
- The Ministry said, this transformational change has been made possible only through incremental innovations.

About SPARSH

- SPARSH is a web-based system processing pension claims and crediting the pension directly into the bank accounts of defence pensioners without any external intermediary.
- It has grown exponentially with more than 11 thousand 600 crore rupees disbursed in 2021-22, from just about 57 crore rupees in 2020-21.

1.83. INDIA IS SET TO BECOME THE THIRD LARGEST ECONOMY IN THE WORLD BY 2029.

- A State Bank of India report said India will surpass Germany in 2027 and most likely Japan by 2029 at the current rate of growth.
- The report said that the country has undergone a large structural shift since 2014 and is now the 5th largest economy overtaking the United Kingdom.
- The path taken by India since 2014 reveals the country is likely to get the tag of 3rd largest economy in 2029, a movement of 7 places upwards since 2014 when India was ranked 10th.
- The report is authored by Soumya Kanti Ghosh, group chief economic adviser, SBI.
- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** said, the International Monetary Fund's own forecasts show India overtaking the UK in dollar terms on an annual basis this year.
- This has put India, the Asian powerhouse, just behind the US, China, Japan and Germany.

1.84. FM NIRMALA SITHARAMAN INAUGURATES CONFERENCE OF INDIAN COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATION.

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that bringing inflation down cannot be the sole responsibility of the Centre.
- She stressed states also play a critical role in management of prices.
- Inaugurating a conference of Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relation in New Delhi, Ms Sitharaman said, during covid pandemic, immediately, handling inflation has become only a subset of handling the economy.
- She said, looking at the context about inflation particularly since 2020, there are so many different factors.
- She said, India's entire import had two per cent of Russian component and it was ramped up to 12 to 13 per cent within a couple of months.
- The Minister said, there are sanctions but countries are finding their own way to get that Russian crude, gas.

About Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relation (ICRIER)

- Established in August 1981, ICRIER is a policy-oriented, not-for-profit, economic policy think tank. ICRIER's main focus is to enhance the knowledge content of policy making by undertaking analytical research that is targeted at informing India's policy makers and also at improving the interface with the global economy.
- ICRIER has two office locations in Delhi.
- ICRIER's Board of Governors include leading academicians, policymakers, and representatives from the private sector.
- Mr. Pramod Bhasin is ICRIER's chairperson and Dr. Deepak Mishra is Director & Chief Executive.

ICRIER conducts thematic research in the following five thrust areas:

- Growth, Employment and Macroeconomics (GEM)
- Trade, Investment and External Relations (TIER)
- Agriculture Policy, Sustainability and Innovation (APSI)
- Digital Economy, Start-ups and Innovation (DESI)
- Climate Change, Urbanization and Sustainability (CCUS)

1.85. THE HDFC BANK, THE LARGEST PRIVATE SECTOR BANK IN INDIA, BECAME THE FIRST BANK IN THE COUNTRY TO ISSUE AN ELECTRONIC BANK GUARANTEE (E-BG).

- HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector bank, became the first bank in the country to issue an Electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG) in partnership with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL).
- The paper based, time-consuming process has been eliminated with the new electronic bank guarantees that can be processed, stamped, verified and delivered instantly with enhanced security.
- Digitisation of issuance of BG is a transformational step towards increasing the ease of doing business for MSMEs who are major applicants for bank guarantees.
- HDFC Bank will migrate to eBG platform completely in order to expedite the issuance of BGs for our customers."

What is e-BG?

- Electronic Bank Guarantee eliminates the physical documentation associated with a bank guarantee and it becomes available digitally to the beneficiary.

1.86. NORWEGIAN DIGITAL CURRENCY USING ETHEREUM.

- National digital currency using Ethereum: Norges Bank, Norway's central bank, made a significant advancement in its efforts to develop a digital currency by publishing the open source code for the nation's central bank digital currency (CBDC) sandbox based on Ethereum technology. This development was made possible by the ongoing mainstream adoption of cryptographic technology.
- CBDCs are a type of electronic fiat money backed by the central bank. Although they are not required to be, CBDCs can be built on blockchain networks. However, the CBDC in Norway is built on Ethereum.
- The sandbox is made to provide a way to communicate with the test network.

- Ethereum is a decentralized, open-source blockchain with smart contract functionality. Ether is the native cryptocurrency of the platform. Among cryptocurrencies, ether is second only to bitcoin in market capitalization. Ethereum was conceived in 2013 by programmer Vitalik Buterin.
- Russia is considering allowing cryptocurrency to be used for international payments. Allowing crypto as a means of settlement for international trade would help counter the impact of Western sanctions, which has seen Russia's access to traditional cross-border payment mechanisms "limited.

1.87. GeM SURPASSED MILESTONE OF ONE LAKH CRORE RUPEES OF PROCUREMENT VALUE IN LAST FISCAL.

- The GeM Seller Samvad has been held in Mumbai today wherein numerous beneficiaries spoke about how their business has grown overwhelmingly with the help of the online portal.
- Earlier, GeM's Business Facilitator for Maharashtra and Daman and Diu, Mr. Nikhil Patil explained how the Government e-Marketplace works as a one-stop online procurement portal for all Central and State Governments, their Ministries and Departments, and Public Sector Undertakings too. Highlighting the advantages for small and medium-scale enterprise vendors, Mr. Patil said, such companies can get loans if required for fulfilling an order received via GeM.
- He added that close to two thousand minor and about 500 major functionalities have been introduced on the GeM portal in the last two years for increasing the ease of doing business.
- Launched in August 2016, GeM has facilitated over one crore transactions valued at over 3.02 Lakh Crore Rupees. Notably, the portal had surpassed the milestone of One Lakh Crore rupees of procurement value in the last fiscal.
- The portal has 62 thousand registered government buyers and 50.90 lakh sellers, from large conglomerates to MSMEs and women Self Help groups. Currently, GeM has about 300 service categories and over ten thousand product categories.

1.88. DEFENCE MINISTRY SIGNS MoU WITH BANK OF BARODA, HDFC BANK UNDER SPARSH-SYSTEM FOR PENSION ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVE.

- The Defence Ministry has signed a memorandum of understanding, MoU, with Bank of Baroda and HDFC Bank under the SPARSH- System for Pension Administration initiative with an objective to cover seventeen lakh, defence pensioners, across the country.
- System for Pension Administration (RAKSHA) (SPARSH) is being implemented by Ministry of Defence for meeting the pension sanction and disbursement requirements for Armed Forces viz. Army, Navy, Air Force and Defence Civilians.
- Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar said that seventeen lakh pensioners out of the total thirty-two lakh defence pensioners will be added with SPARSH by the end of this month.
- The Defence Secretary highlighted that the average time in pension settlement has come down significantly to about 16 days.
- The Ministry said that the MoU will onboard more than 14 thousand bank branches as Service Centres to provide an effective medium for pensioners to perform profile update requests, register grievances and seek redressal, pensioner data verification and many more.
- So far, the SPARSH initiative has crossed one million pensioners onboard mark and disbursed 11 thousand 6 hundred crore rupees in the 2021-22 fiscal year.

1.89. INDIA'S APEDA EXPORTS FIRST CONSIGNMENT OF PLANT-BASED MEAT PRODUCTS FROM GUJARAT TO US.

- India has exported the first consignment of plant-based meat products from Nadiad in the Kheda district of Gujarat to California in the United States.
- In a move to boost exports of unique agricultural processed food products, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Authority, APEDA, facilitated the export of the first consignment of plant-based meat products under the Vegan Food category.

- Plant-based food products have a huge export potential in the international market due to the high nutrient value of vegan food products. Due to its rich fibre and lesser cholesterol contents, vegan food products are becoming alternative food products across the globe.
- The 5,000 kg consignment consisted of mini samosas, hot and spicy strips, momos, spring rolls, nuggets, and grilled patty, among other products.
- APEDA has planned to promote a variety of vegan food products, including pancakes, snacks, and cheese to the countries of Australia, Israel, New Zealand, and others in the coming months.

About APEDA:

- 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 passed by the Parliament in December, 1985.
- Basmati Rice has been included in the Second Schedule of APEDA Act.

1.90. INDIA-UAE CEPA CREATES SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE IMPACT ON INDIA-UAE TRADE.

- The India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) is creating a significant positive impact on India-UAE trade.
- Indian exports to the UAE, excluding petroleum products grew from 5.17 billion dollar from June to August last year to 5.92 billion US dollar during June to August this year. It denotes an increase of 14 percent. The CEPA agreement has come into effect on 1st of May this year.
- Commerce and Industry Ministry said, Indian imports from the UAE during the same period also grew from 5.56 billion dollar to 5.61 billion dollar.
- It said Indian exports are likely to increase further in the coming months with increasing use of the CEPA by the exporters and with dedicated efforts from Department of Commerce.

About India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA):

- The historic India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) which was signed between the two nations on 18 February 2022.
- Gems & Jewellery sector contributes a substantial portion of India's exports to the UAE and is a sector that is expected to benefit significantly from the tariff concessions obtained for Indian products under the India-UAE CEPA.
- Overall, India will benefit from preferential market access provided by the UAE on over 97 % of its tariff lines which account for 99% of Indian exports to the UAE in value terms particularly from labour-intensive sectors such as Gems and Jewellery, Textiles, leather, footwear, sports goods, plastics, furniture, agricultural and wood products, engineering products, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and Automobiles. As regards trade in services, Indian service providers will have enhanced access to around 111 sub-sectors from the 11 broad service sectors.
- CEPA is expected to increase the total value of bilateral trade in goods to over US\$100 billion and trade in services to over US\$ 15 billion within five years.

1.91. HERO ELECTRIC TO SET UP RS 1,200-CR ELECTRIC VEHICLE PLANT IN RAJASTHAN.

- Having two manufacturing units in Ludhiana, Gurugram-based Hero Electric now intends to set up its third manufacturing plant in Rajasthan with an investment of over Rs 1,200 crore. The company has signed an MoU with the Rajasthan Government to set up a mega EV manufacturing hub with an annual production capacity of 20 lakh units.
- Located in Salarpur industrial region, the state-of-the-art plant would be spread over 170 acres and will commence commercial production by the end of 2023. There will be an estimated investment of over Rs 1,200 crore and it will provide direct and indirect employment opportunities. Furthermore, this initiative is a foot forward in making Rajasthan the new EV manufacturing hub for original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and ancillaries.

- Naveen Munjal, Managing Director, Hero Electric, said, “This mega manufacturing facility is part of our capacity enhancement to boost EV adoption across India. It will allow the state to spearhead clean mobility solution shift and promote ecological tourism practices.” The two units in Ludhiana have combined manufacturing capacity of three lakh units.
- Sohinder Gill, CEO, Hero Electric, said, “The Rajasthan Government has been very proactive and positive in promoting electric mobility along with us and we will work closely with the government to create the largest and the best electric two-wheeler manufacturing cluster in North India. It will have a complete ecosystem of ancillaries to help the overall development of the rural zones in and around Salarpur. The state is already a popular destination for global tourism and we will endeavor to do our bit in adding the sustainability quotient in that drive.”
- Promoting the ‘Make-In-India’ vision, the facility will manufacture all the current and upcoming Hero Electric two-wheelers. It also aims to streamline the supply chain to achieve the expected production capacity of the Salarpur facility. The company has been electrifying mobility in India for the past 15 years through its varied product portfolio catering to unique customer demands.

1.92. FOREIGN TRADE POLICY 2015-20 EXTENDED FOR FURTHER PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS.

- The reason behind the development is currency volatility and global uncertainty. The ministry said, the geo-political situation is not suitable for long-term foreign trade policy.
- Earlier, the government had extended the due date for the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 to September 30, 2022. Currently, fears of a recession in major economies like the US and Europe have escalated a panic among investors.
- Foreign Trade Policy provides a framework for increasing exports of goods and services as well as generation of employment and increasing value addition in the country. It focuses to support both the manufacturing and services sectors.
- Earlier this month, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal held a meeting that focused on export target setting, the new Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) (2022-27), and the strategies and measures to take forward domestic manufacturing and exports.
- Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 was unveiled in 2015.
- The policy provides a framework for increasing exports of goods and services keeping Make in India vision of Prime Minister in focus.
- It also emphasizes on improving the ease of doing business.

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1.93. SAREX-2022: 10TH NATIONAL MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE-22 CONDUCTED IN CHENNAI.

- The 10th National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise SAREX-22 was carried out by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) in Chennai.
- Along with other organisations and foreign participants, the chief of the Indian Coast Guard, VS Pathania, assessed the exercise "SAREX-2022."
- In an emergency, ICG Dornier aircraft demonstrated to viewers how to rescue passengers from ships and aeroplanes.

Key Points:

- ICG Dornier aircraft showed viewers how to rescue people from ships and aeroplanes in an emergency.
- The Indian Coast Guard, the key maritime SAR coordinating agency for the Indian Search & Rescue Region (ISRR), is hosting the two-day SAREX-2022 exercise that is carried out under the auspices of the National Maritime Search and Rescue Board (NMSARB).

About:

- The subject of the biennial exercise this year is "Capacity Building Towards Marine Passenger Safety," which represents the resolve and dedication of the NMSARB and other stakeholder organisations to offer assistance during major emergencies both within and outside of our ISSR.

1.94. PM MODI TO COMMISSION COUNTRY'S FIRST INDIGENOUS AIRCRAFT CARRIER INS VIKRANT AT COCHIN SHIPYARD LIMITED ON SEP 2, 2022.

- Prime Minister Modi will commission the first indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant at the Cochin Shipyard, the largest ship ever built in the maritime history of the country.
- He will also unveil the new Naval ensign of the Indian Navy.
- The 262 meters long and 15-story high INS Vikrant, with a flight deck comparable to two football fields with an angled sky jump, is quite an engineering and ship-building marvel.
- INS Vikrant is more than five times the size of any warship ever built in the country.
- India now joins a select group of countries like the US, Russia, China, France, and the UK that can indigenously design, build and integrate an aircraft carrier.
- The INS vikrant will be fully combat-ready after the MIG-29 Supersonic fighters complete crucial flight trials from her sprawling deck, and the aircraft carrier will be equipped with all her high-tech weapons like the Barak-8 surface-to-air missile system by around mid-2023.

1.95. CABINET COMMITTEE ON SECURITY APPROVES TEJAS MARK-2 PROJECT.

- The Cabinet Committee on Security has approved Tejas Mark-2 Project.
- The Committee has sanctioned 6500 crore rupees for designing and developing Tejas Mark-2 fighter jet with prototypes, flight testing, and certification.
- The allocation comes in addition to the existing 2500 crore rupees sanctioned to HAL.
- The advanced version of Tejas LCA will feature a series of additions to its flight and fight capabilities.
- Tejas 2.0 will be equipped with more powerful GE- F414 engines in the 98 Kilonewton thrust class, which will allow it to extend its flight range and carry additional payload and weapons as compared to the existing version.
- The payload capacity of the Tejas Mark-2 jet will be four tonnes as compared to three tonnes of the existing version.
- The new jet will also be equipped with an indigenously developed Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar, which will be a major upgrade from the existing ELTA's EL/M-2032 multi-mode radar.

- Air Chief Marshal said, in the view of rapidly depleting strength of fighter squadrons of IAF and phasing out of the MiG-21 aircraft in coming years, it is essential that laid down timelines for the projects are adhered to.
- It will give a tremendous boost to the indigenous design and development of next-gen fighter aircraft.
- It would further Atmanirbhar Bharat's initiative in the domain of aircraft manufacturing.

1.96. MULTILATERAL STRATEGIC AND COMMAND EXERCISE VOSTOK 2022 COMMENCES AT TRAINING GROUNDS OF EASTERN MILITARY DISTRICT OF RUSSIA.

- A multilateral strategic and command Exercise Vostok - 2022 has commenced in Russia.
- The exercise is aimed at interaction and coordination amongst other participating military contingents and observers.
- The Indian Army contingent comprising of troops from 7/8 Gorkha Rifles had arrived at the exercise location and over the next seven days will undertake joint manoeuvres to include joint field training exercises, combat discussions, and firepower exercises.
- The Defence Ministry said, the Indian Army contingent is looking forward to sharing practical aspects and putting into practice the validated drills, procedures, and practice amalgamation of new technology through discussions and tactical exercises.
- Russia has deployed a large number of troops to participate in the Vostok 22 military drill.
- **India** has decided **not** to be **part of the maritime component** as it will hurt the sensitivities of Japan.

Other participating countries

- Almost 50 troops of different militaries, 140 aircraft, 60 warships, and almost five thousand military equipment are participating in the drills. They come from countries like Laos, China, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Syria, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan.
- The seven-day drills have land, air and sea components. However, India has decided to stay away from the maritime component.

1.97. NEPAL CONFERS HONORARY TITLE ON GEN MANOJ PANDE.

- Nepal President Bidya Devi Bhandari conferred the title of Honorary General of the Nepali Army to the Indian Army chief, Gen Manoj Pande, at a special ceremony, continuing the seven-decade-old tradition reflecting the close ties between the two countries.
- General Pande was also presented a sword and scroll during the ceremony held at the President's official residence, Shital Niwas, in Kathmandu.
- Following the ceremony, General Pande called on the President of Nepal.
- Earlier, Gen Pande laid a wreath and paid homage at Bir Smarak (martyrs' memorial) at Kathmandu. Thereafter, he visited the Nepali Army headquarters where he was accorded a ceremonial guard of honour.
- General Pande also handed over various non-lethal military items to Nepalese counterpart Gen PR Sharma.

1.98. DEFENCE MINISTER RAJNATH SINGH, EAM S JAISHANKAR TO PARTICIPATE IN INDIA-JAPAN 2PLUS2 MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE IN TOKYO.

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will participate in the 2nd India-Japan 2plus2 Ministerial Dialogue in Tokyo.
- The Japanese side will be represented by Minister of Defence Yasukazu Hamada and Minister of Foreign Affairs Yoshimasa Hayashi.
- The 2plus2 Dialogue will review bilateral cooperation across domains and chart out the way forward. India and Japan are pursuing a Special Strategic and Global Partnership.
- This year marks 70 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

- In addition to the 2plus2 dialogue, the defence minister will separately hold bilateral talks with his Japanese counterpart to further strengthen defence cooperation between the two countries across various sectors.
- Mr Singh will also attend a community event organised by the Embassy of India in Tokyo and interact with the Indian diaspora in Japan.

About 2+2 talks

- The 2+2 dialogue is a **format of meeting of the foreign and defence ministers of India and its allies** on strategic and security issues.

India's strategic 2+2 partners:

- India has 2+2 dialogues with four key strategic partners: the US, Australia, Japan, and Russia. Besides Russia, the other three countries are also India's partners in the Quad.
- The US is India's oldest and most important 2+2 talks partner.

1.99. EXERCISE PARVAT PRAHAR.

- Army chief General Manoj Pande visited the Ladakh sector to review Exercise Parvat Prahar. The exercise saw the deployment of all new major inductions of the Army.

About:

- The exercise, which was held in the Ladakh plateau at an altitude of 14,000 feet, used newly inducted all-terrain vehicles transported by Chinook heavy lift helicopters and K9-Vajra howitzers, among others.
- The exercise comes as India and China are undertaking disengagement from Patrolling Point-15 in eastern Ladakh, as announced on September 8. Gen.
- Pande is scheduled to visit Siachen.
- Simultaneously on the western front, Exercise Gagan Strike culminated with a fire power display of attack helicopters supporting deep operations by Strike Corps.
- Western Army Commander Lt. Gen. Nav K. Khanduri, who witnessed the culmination, lauded the professional readiness of combat forces for contingencies on the western front, the Western Command said on Twitter.

1.100. MDL LAUNCHES 3RD STEALTH FRIGATE OF PROJECT 17A 'TARAGIRI'.

- Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) has launched the third Stealth Frigate of Project 17A 'Taragiri'.
- The vessel has an approximate launch weight of 3510 Tons.
- The ship is designed by the Indian Navy's in-house design organisation viz. Bureau of Naval Design.
- The 149.02 M long & 17.8 M wide ship, is propelled by a CODOG combination of two Gas Turbines and 02 Main Diesel Engines which are designed to achieve a speed of over 28 knots at a displacement of approx. 6670 Tons.
- This ship has been built using Integrated construction methodology which involves hull blocks construction in different geographical locations and integration/erection on Slipway at MDL.
- The keel of Taragiri was laid on the 10th of September 2020 and the ship is expected to be delivered by August 2025.
- The indigenously designed 'Taragiri' will have state-of-the-art weapons, sensors, an advanced action information system, an integrated platform management system, world-class modular living spaces, sophisticated power distribution system and a host of other advanced features.
- It will be fitted with supersonic surface-to-surface missile system.
- The ship's air defence capability, designed to counter the threat of enemy aircraft and anti-ship cruise missiles will revolve around the vertical launch and long range surface to air missile system.
- Two 30 mm rapid-fire guns will provide the ship with close-in-defence capability while an SRGM Gun will enable her to provide effective naval gunfire support.

- Indigenously developed triple tube light weight torpedo launchers and rocket launchers will add punch to the ship's anti-submarine capability.

1.101. NATIONAL DEFENSE MSME CONCLAVE.

- Defense Conclave and Exhibition is being organized for the first time in Rajasthan.

About:

- The two-day National Defense MSME Conclave and Exhibition began in Kota, Rajasthan.
- Defense equipment including T-90 and BMP-2 tanks, artillery guns, various types of sniper and machine guns and military bridges are being displayed in the exhibition.
- Youth innovating in the defense sector, start-ups and MSMEs are also displaying their products.
- More than 50 companies, start-ups and MSMEs working in the defense sector are participating in the event.
- The conclave was formally inaugurated by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

1.102. JIMEX 2022: JAPAN-INDIA MARITIME EXERCISE, BEGINS IN THE BAY OF BENGAL.

- This edition marks the 10th anniversary of JIMEX, which began in Japan in 2012
- The sixth edition of Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2022 (JIMEX 22) hosted by Indian Navy began in the Bay of Bengal from Sunday.
- The Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) ships are being led by Rear Admiral Hirata Toshiyuki, Commander Escort Flotilla Four, and Indian Naval ships by Rear Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet.
- The Japanese warships in the exercise include JMSDF ships Izumo, a Helicopter Carrier and Takanami, a Guided Missile Destroyer. The Indian Navy is being represented by three indigenously designed and built warships INS Sahyadri, a multi-purpose stealth frigate, and Anti Submarine Warfare Corvettes INS Kadmat and INS Kavaratti.
- Additionally, Guided Missile Destroyer INS Ranvijay, Fleet Tanker INS Jyoti, Offshore Patrol Vessel INS Sukanya, submarines, MIG 29K fighter aircraft, Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft and a number of ship-borne helicopters are also participating in the exercise.

1.103. ANTI - DEFECTION LAW.

- Recently, eight of the 11 Congress MLAs in the Goa Assembly defected to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Anti-defection Law

Origin:

- Aaya Ram Gaya Ram was a phrase that became popular in Indian politics after a Haryana MLA **Gaya Lal** changed his party thrice within the same day in 1967.
- The anti-defection law was a response to the similar toppling of multiple state governments by party-hopping MLAs.
- Parliament added it to the Constitution in 1985.

Constitutional Basis:

- The Tenth Schedule was inserted in the Constitution by the 52nd Amendment Act.
- It lays down the process by which legislators may be disqualified on grounds of defection.

Applicable to:

- The law applies to both Parliament and state assemblies.

Deciding authority:

- The Presiding Officers of the Legislature (Speaker, Chairman) are the deciding authorities in such cases.
- The Supreme Court has held legislators can challenge their decisions before the higher judiciary.

Views of Committees on Anti-Defection Law

Dinesh Goswami Committee on Electoral Reforms (1990)

- Disqualification should be limited to cases where (a) a member voluntarily gives up the membership of his political party, (b) a member abstains from voting, or votes contrary to the party whip in a motion of vote of confidence or motion of no-confidence.
- The issue of disqualification should be decided by the President/ Governor on the advice of the Election Commission.

Law Commission (170th Report, 1999)

- Provisions which exempt splits and mergers from disqualification to be deleted.
- Pre-poll electoral fronts should be treated as political parties under anti-defection law.
- Political parties should limit issuance of whips to instances only when the government is in danger.

Election Commission

- Decisions under the Tenth Schedule should be made by the President/ Governor on the binding advice of the Election Commission.

Constitution Review Commission (2002)

- Defectors should be barred from holding public office or any remunerative political post for the duration of the remaining term.
- The vote cast by a defector to topple a government should be treated as invalid.

1.104. EXERCISE KAKADU.

- **INS Satpura and a P8 I Maritime Patrol Aircraft** of the Indian Navy reached Darwin in Australia, for participation in the multinational **Exercise Kakadu – 2022**, hosted by the **Royal Australian Navy(RAN)**.

Exercise Kakadu 2022

About:

- The **exercise Kakadu is the RAN's flagship biennial regional International engagement activity** and has grown in size and complexity since its **inception in 1993**.
- It is a two-week-long exercise, **both in harbour and sea**, involving ships and maritime aircraft from 14 navies. During the harbour phase of the exercise, the ship's crew will engage in operational planning interactions and sports activities with the participating naval forces.

Significance:

- The exercise provides an **opportunity for regional partners** to undertake **multinational maritime activities** ranging from constabulary operations to high-end maritime warfare in a combined environment.
- It underscores **India's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)** and shared objectives of the two countries towards ensuring good order in the maritime domain and strengthening cooperation.

1.105. BSF'S FIRST FEMALE CAMEL RIDING SQUAD READY TO BE DEPLOYED ALONG INDIA-PAKISTAN BORDER IN RAJASTHAN AND GUJARAT.

- BSF's first female camel riding squad is ready to be deployed along the India-Pakistan border in Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- The squad will participate for the first time in the BSF Raising Day Parade on 1ST December.
- This Squad will be the first of its kind in the world.
- Pushendra Singh Rathore DIG BSF Bikaner told that Intensive training was given to this squad at the Bikaner Regional Headquarters of BSF under the supervision of skilled trainers.

1.106. IAF'S PROJECT CHEETAH: INDIAN DEFENCE COMPANIES TO EQUIP ISRAELI HERON DRONES.

- **IAF's Project Cheetah:** The Israeli Heron drones would be equipped with strike capabilities as part of the Indian Air Force's Project Cheetah under the Make in India programme.

- The **Project Cheetah** aims to improve the Indian Air Force's fleet of Israeli-made Heron unmanned aerial vehicles with stronger communication capabilities and long-range missiles that can hit enemy sites.

IAF's Project Cheetah:

- The project was supposed to be finished with Israeli armament makers, as planned.
- The Israeli Air Force (IAF) is the key driving force behind the project that will also see the Israeli Navy and Army's drones upgraded with strike capabilities and enhanced surveillance and reconnaissance pods.
- The three services have relied for years on Searcher II and Heron UAVs from the Israeli Air Force for surveillance and reconnaissance.

IAF's Project Cheetah: Benefits of the Project

- The forces on the ground would be able to gather precise intelligence regarding hiding places in regions where men must participate in operations with the improvement in surveillance capabilities.
- The modifications would also make it possible for the ground stations to fly these planes from afar and control them via a satellite communication network.
- The surveillance capabilities of the UAVs that are expected to be enhanced would be comparable to those that the Indian Army and IAF have already acquired.
- As a result, the emergency acquisition powers that the government provided to the forces in response to the continuing military standoff.

1.107. DEFENCE MINISTRY SIGNS CONTRACT WITH BRAHMOS AEROSPACE FOR DUAL-ROLE SURFACE TO SURFACE BRAHMOS MISSILES.

- Providing further impetus to Aatmanirbharta in defence production, Ministry of Defence signed a contract with M/s BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited BAPL for acquisition of additional dual-role capable Surface to Surface BrahMos missiles at an overall approximate cost of 1700 Crore rupees under Buy-Indian Category.
- Induction of these dual-role capable Missiles is going to significantly enhance the operational capability of Indian Navy fleet assets.
- It is notable that BAPL is a Joint Venture between India and Russia making a crucial contribution to augment the new generation of Surface-to-Surface Missiles with enhanced range and dual role capability for land as well as anti-ship attacks.
- This contract is going to give further boost to indigenous production of critical weapon system and ammunition with active participation of indigenous industry.

1.108. DIVING SUPPORT VESSELS 'NISTAR', 'NIPUN' LAUNCHED.

- Two indigenously designed and built Diving Support Vessels of the Navy were launched in Visakhapatnam.
- Named 'Nistar' and 'Nipun', the ships were launched by Kala Hari Kumar, the wife of the Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar, as per naval traditions
- The ships are capable of conducting search and rescue operations and carrying out helicopter operations at sea
- The vessels are first-of-its-kind ships, indigenously designed and built at Hindustan Shipyard Ltd
- The two have been manufactured with over 80 per cent indigenous content.

1.109. LIEUTENANT GENERAL ANIL CHAUHAN (RETIRED) APPOINTED AS NEXT CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF.

- The Government has appointed Lieutenant General Anil Chauhan (Retired) as the next Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). Lieutenant General Chauhan will also function as Secretary, Department of Military Affairs with effect from the date of his assumption of charge.
- In a career spanning over nearly 40 years, Lieutenant General Anil Chauhan held several command, staff and instrumental appointments and had extensive experience in counter-insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir and North-East India.

- The post of Chief of Defence Staff has been lying vacant since death of General Bipin Rawat in a helicopter crash on 8th December last year.
- Born on 18th May 1961, Lt Gen Anil Chauhan was commissioned into the 11 Gorkha Rifles of the Indian Army in 1981. He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla and Indian Military Academy, Dehradun.
- In the rank of Major General, the officer had commanded an Infantry Division in the critical Baramula sector in the Northern Command. Later as Lt General, he commanded a corps in the North East and subsequently went to become the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Command from September 2019 and held the charge until his retirement from the service in May 2021.
- In addition to these command appointments, Lt Gen Chauhan also tenanted important staff appointments including the charge of Director General of Military Operations.
- Earlier, he had also served as a United Nations mission to Angola. Even after his retirement from the Army, he continued to contribute to national security and strategic matters.
- For his distinguished and illustrious service in the Army, Lt General Anil Chauhan (Retired) was awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Sena Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal.

About CDS:

- He will be the single-point military adviser to the government as suggested by the Kargil Review Committee in 1999.
- He will be a Four-star General.
- CDS acts as the permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee which will also have three service chiefs as members.
- His core function will be to foster greater operational synergy between the three service branches of the Indian military and keep inter-service frictions to a minimum.

Conditions:

- Not eligible to hold any Government office after demitting the office of CDS.
- No private employment without prior approval for a period of five years after demitting the office of CDS.

Roles and functions:

1. CDS will provide "single-point military advice" to the government, inject synergy in planning, procurements and logistics in the armed forces.
2. It will ensure integration of land-air-sea operations through the eventual setting up of theatre commands.
3. The CDS will also function as the military advisor to the PM-led Nuclear Command Authority, as also have direct command of tri-Service organizations to handle the new warfare domains of space and cyberspace.
4. He will function as the Principal Military Adviser to the Defence Minister and also as the Permanent Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC).
5. The CDS will be member of Defence Acquisition Council and Defence Planning Committee.

1.110. SWEDISH FIRM SAAB TO MAKE CARL-GUSTAF WEAPON IN INDIA.

- Swedish weapon-maker Saab announced it would set up a manufacturing facility for its well-known shoulder launched weapon system Carl-Gustaf in India.
- It will be the company's first manufacturing facility for the Carl-Gustaf M4 outside Sweden. The Indian Army has been a long-time user of the previous version of weapon and has also ordered the latest version.
- The production at the new facility will start in 2024. "A new company Saab FFV India, currently under registration, will make the weapon in India. Saab is looking at the 100 per cent FDI route," said Görgen Johansson, senior vice-president, head of business area dynamics, Saab.
- He said the details of location of the plant and the investment would be revealed once things were finalised. The long-term plan of localisation of parts had been drawn up.

INDEXES AND REPORTS

1.111. UIDAI TOPS AMONG ALL MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS IN RESOLVING PUBLIC GRIEVANCES DURING AUGUST 2022.

- Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has topped among all Ministries and Departments in resolving Public Grievances.
- This was stated in the ranking report published by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances for the month of August 2022.
- UIDAI has been a top performer in the resolution of cases received through Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS).
- By the end of July this year, more than 134 crore Aadhaar numbers have been generated so far for the residents. During that month more than 53 lakh Aadhaars were generated, of these, a majority were of children below the age of 18 years.
- According to the Ministry that Aadhaar saturation level among adult residents is now near universal, and the overall saturation level is 93.41 percent.
- At least 26 states and UTs have now a saturation of over 90 percent.

About the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)

- **The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** is a statutory authority established under the provisions of the **Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 ("Aadhaar Act 2016")** on 12 July 2016 by the Government of India, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- The Aadhaar Act 2016 has been amended by the Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Act, 2019.
- Aadhaar number is a 12-digit random number issued by the UIDAI ("Authority") to the residents of India.
- The Aadhaar number is a proof of identity, however, it does not confer any right of citizenship or domicile in respect of an Aadhaar number holder.
- Aadhaar is a strategic policy tool for social and financial inclusion, public sector delivery reforms, managing fiscal budgets, increase convenience and promote hassle-free people-centric governance.

1.112. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX (HDI).

- India ranks 132 out of 191 countries in the Human Development Index (HDI) 2021, after registering a decline in its score over two consecutive years for the first time in three decades.

About:

- The drop is in line with the global trend since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic during which 90% of the countries have fallen backward in human development.
- The Index is part of the Human Development Report 2021-2022 released by the United Nations Development Programme.
- The HDI measures average achievement of a country in three basic dimensions of human development — a long and healthy life, education and a decent standard of living.
- It is calculated using four indicators — life expectancy at birth, mean years of schooling, expected years of schooling, and the Gross National Income (GNI) per capita.
- India's HDI score of 0.633 places it in the medium human development category, lower than its value of 0.645 in 2018, indicating a reversal in progress.
- Like global trends, in India's case, the drop in HDI from 0.645 in 2018 to 0.633 in 2021 can be attributed to falling life expectancy at birth — 70.7 years to 67.2 years.
- India's expected years of schooling stand at 11.9 years, and the mean years of schooling are at 6.7 years. The GNI per capita level is \$6,590.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has also exacerbated gender inequality, which increased 6.7% globally.

1.113. GOVT TO LAUNCH SWACHH VAYU SARVEKSHAN.

- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is going to launch Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan that promotes ranking of 131 cities in the country for implementing City Action Plans prepared as part of National Clean Air Programme for reducing air pollution upto 40 percent by 2025-26.
- For this survey, 131 cities are categorized into three groups based on population. 47 cities are in the first group having population more than 10 lakh.
- 44 cities are in the second group having population between 3 to 10 lakh. Third group consists of 40 cities having population less than 3 lakh.
- Cities are required to do the self-assessment as per the framework provided on the Ministry's online portal.
- This assessment is carried out annually. Cities have to report implementation of activities and measures taken in respect of solid waste and road dust management, management of construction and demolition waste, control of vehicular emissions and industrial pollution.
- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change declared this survey during the last leg of a two-day National Conference of Ministers of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at Ekta Nagar, in Gujarat.
- This conference was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually.

1.114. INDIA CLIMBS TO 40TH RANK IN GLOBAL INNOVATION INDEX OF WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION.

- India has climbed to the 40th rank in the Global Innovation Index of World Intellectual Property Organization. This is a huge leap of 41 places in 7 years.
- The World Intellectual Property Organization released the Global Innovation Index 2022 in which Switzerland has emerged as the world's most innovative economy for the 12th consecutive year.
- Switzerland remains the world's leader in innovation for the 12th consecutive year.
- It leads globally in innovation outputs, and specifically in patents by origin, software spending, high-tech manufacturing, production, and export complexity.
- The second position was secured by the US followed by Sweden, the UK, and the Netherlands

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SUMMITS

1.115. UNITED STATES ANNOUNCES HOSTING FIRST-EVER US-PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRY SUMMIT.

- The United States announced hosting the first-ever US-Pacific Island Country Summit in the last week of this month amid the growing influence of China in the Indo-Pacific region.
- According to the announcement made by the Biden administration, the Summit will be held in Washington from 28th to 29th September.
- The Summit will demonstrate the United States deep and enduring partnership with Pacific Island countries and the Pacific region that is underpinned by shared history, values, and people-to-people ties.
- Notably, the announcement came a week after the United States accused Beijing of expanding its nuclear arsenal and claimed the extreme build-up process could harm the stability of the Indo-Pacific region.
- Addressing a press conference in Indonesia last week, US Indo-Pacific Commander, Admiral John Aquilino said China is the only country that is expanding its nuclear arsenal and it had 300 nuclear silos going in.

1.116. DUBAI HOSTS THE FIRST HOMEOPATHY INTERNATIONAL HEALTH SUMMIT.

First Homeopathy International Health summit:

- The first Homeopathy International Health summit hosted by Dubai aimed to teach and promote a homeopathic system of medicine, medications, and practices.
- Burnett Homeopathy Pvt Limited, a company that deals with homeopathic dilutions, mother tincture, lower trituration tablets, unique medicines including drops, syrups, skincare, hair care, and other homeopathic remedies, organised the summit.
- Homeopathy is one of the greatest techniques to treat any sickness or ailment because its negative effects are so minimal in comparison to others.
- The first global homeopathy health summit was also attended by a large number of top doctors from both India and throughout the world.
- One of the largest health risks to people worldwide is climate change.
- By 2030, it is predicted that the health industry will need to spend between 200 and 400 crore rupees annually due to climate change, as discussed in the first global homeopathy health summit.
- The issue poses a threat to reverse the fifty years of progress made in reducing poverty and improving global health, as well as to exacerbate already-existing health disparities across and within communities.
- The government of India is also taking initiatives to advance homeopathic medical practices.

HISTORY:

- Homeopathy was introduced in India in the early 19th century. It flourished in Bengal at first, and then spread all over India.
- In the beginning, the system was extensively practised by amateurs in the civil and military services and others.
- Mahendra Lal Sircar was the first Indian who became a homeopathic physician.
- A number of allopathic doctors started homeopathic practice following Sircar's lead.
- The 'Calcutta Homeopathic Medical College', the first homeopathic medical college was established in 1881. This institution took on a major role in popularising homeopathy in India.
- In 1973, the Government of India recognised homeopathy as one of the national systems of medicine and set up the Central Council of Homeopathy (CCH) to regulate its education and practice.

1.117. PRIME MINISTER MODI TO INAUGURATE WORLD DAIRY SUMMIT IN NOIDA ON SEPTEMBER 12.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the World Dairy Summit on 12th September in Noida at India Expo Centre and Mart.

- India is organising the summit after almost a 48-year gap bringing together approximately 1500 participants from all over the world including CEOs and employees of dairy processing companies, dairy farmers, and other stakeholders.
- Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', India is committed to sustain its growth in milk production and milk processing in the coming decades.
- Remembering the "Father of White Revolution", Dr Verghese Kurien, on his death anniversary, it must be pointed out that India currently is the largest milk producer in the world, contributing 21 percent of the total global milk production.
- It was under the guidance of former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri that the National Dairy Development Board was formed in 1965 in Gujarat with Dr Verghese Kurien as its first chairman.
- Operation Flood programme was implemented across country in various phases with a mandate to support the creation of the 'Anand pattern' of dairy cooperatives.
- The daily milk consumption in the country was 107 grams per person in 1970 which rose to 427 grams per person in 2020-21.

1.118. APEC 2022 SUMMIT OPENS TO A NEW THEME 'OPEN, CONNECT, BALANCE'.

- Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) 2022 meeting is underway in Thailand, the host nation of its 33rd edition. The meeting is convened to deliberate on ways to reopen and facilitate trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region.
- After closing the economy amid Covid pandemic, member nations of APEC are aspiring to regain the economic pace and connect other economies. So, in keeping with the sentiments of the members, the 2022 summit theme is based on 'Open, Connect, Balance.'
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand had a press conference regarding the summit.
- The spokesperson of the ministry informed media persons about the progress, achievements, and expected outcomes of APEC through an online meeting that took place in Bangkok, the capital of Thailand.

Working on BCG economy model

- While briefing the media, the spokesperson said that the APEC member nations were among the countries of the world that have been heavily impacted by the COVID pandemic. Hence, the priorities of the 2022 edition of APEC are to reconnect the people in the region safely and seamlessly and resume cross-border travel through the inclusive APEC Business travel card.
- He further added that 21 member economies are working on the Bio, Circular and Green (BCG) economy model for post-pandemic recovery.

Climate change, inclusivity and sustainability major concern

- Apart from this climate change, inclusivity and sustainability have been major concerns in the region. So, it is necessary to open the economy to make a balance for the member countries who are facing the issue.
- To offer equal opportunity there might be a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in the region, which already has 186 FTAs.

Emphasis on Women's participation in economy

- There is an emphasis on environmental and social governance. High-level ministerial meetings are also being held for promoting women's participation in the economy.

1.119. THREE-DAY NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH TOURISM MINISTERS BEGINS AT DHARAMSALA.

- A three-day National Conference of Himachal Pradesh Tourism Ministers began in Dharamsala.
- Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister for Culture and tourism G Kishan Reddy said, various issues related to the Tourism sector including the promotion of tourism in India will be discussed at the Conference.
- The Union Minister said, the Tourism business has been affected for about two and a half years due to the Corona pandemic and the visit of foreign tourists to the State is yet to begin.

- He said that the suggestions of Tourism Ministers would be taken to prepare the National Tourism Policy.
- After this, a Tourism Policy will be prepared and brought into the Budget Session.

1.120. INDIA HOSTS 10TH IBSA MINISTERIAL MEET ON SIDELINES OF 77TH UNGA.

- India hosted the 10th Ministerial Commission of Foreign Ministers of the India-Brazil-South Africa Trilateral Cooperative Forum (IBSA), on the sidelines of the 77th United Nations General Assembly. External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar, on a 10-day official visit to the United States, met with his Brazilian counterpart Carlos Franca and South African Health Minister Dr Joe Phaahla.
- The trio reaffirmed the cooperation between India, Brazil and South Africa.
- “Hosted the 10th India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting. Reviewed the IBSA process and recognised its activities. Appreciated its promotion of South-South cooperation, including on global and multilateral issues.”
- The ministers also launched a report by 4 IBSA think tanks.
- The IBSA is a trilateral, developmental initiative between India, Brazil and South Africa to promote South-South cooperation and exchange.
- The ministerial meeting would review the IBSA process and South-South cooperation.
- The idea of South-South Cooperation (SSC) is not new. Its genesis can be traced back to the decades of efforts by countries and groupings working together to ensure South-South solidarity such as the Bandung conference 1955, the Non-Aligned Movement 1961, the G77 grouping, UNCTAD, the Buenos Aires Plan of Action 1978, and the 2009 Nairobi declaration.
- India, Brazil and South Africa have reaffirmed the urgent need for a comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council (UNSC) to help combat contemporary challenges to international peace and security.

1.121. UNION MINISTER SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN INAUGURATED THE 13TH FICCI GLOBAL SKILLS SUMMIT 2022.

- Union Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan **inaugurated and addressed the 13th FICCI Global Skills Summit 2022 on the theme of “Education to Employability - Making It Happen.”** in New Delhi.
- Shri Dharmendra Pradhan **shared his thoughts on leveraging skills to reap the demographic dividend and making India’s skills ecosystem more vibrant.**
- He said that **our country is blessed with a demographic dividend. Education and skills have to play an important role in converting our demographic dividend into a transformative powerhouse.**
- Shri Dharmendra Pradhan also added that **for our economy to be more productive and robust, we must make our workforce more productive. Simplification of labour laws and initiatives like apprenticeship will go a long way in making our workforce more vibrant.**
- Further, he added that from academic bank of credit to the upcoming digital university, we are taking a number of initiatives and undertaking policy reforms to make our education and skills ecosystem more vibrant.
- Shri Dharmendra Pradhan also **called for building a stronger academia-industry-policymaker connect and work with a collective approach to drive further transformation in the education and skills sector.**

1.122. INDIA IS THE FIRST COUNTRY WITH A COOLING ACTION PLAN, SAYS ENVIRONMENT MINISTER BHUPENDER YADAV.

- Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav has said that India is the first country with a cooling action plan based on energy efficiency and thermal comfort, and has launched important initiatives including UJALA Yojana and schemes for industrial energy efficiency.
- Addressing the Ministerial Roundtable for Green Economy at the World Green Economy Summit at the World Trade Center in Dubai.

- Bhupender Yadav said that accelerating low carbon transition across different economic sectors is the need of the hour. He also stressed the importance of addressing environmental and climate objectives alongside economic development.
- After the Roundtable, the Minister also had a bilateral meeting with United Arab Emirates, UAE, Minister of State for Foreign Trade Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi.
- In the meeting, both the leaders discussed issues relating to upcoming Conference of Parties, COP 27, COP 28, MoU on Climate Actions between India and UAE, and global initiatives spearheaded by these countries for combating climate change.

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POLICY AND PROGRAMME

1.123. UNION LABOUR MINISTRY EXTENDS PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICE STATUS FOR THREE INDUSTRIES.

- Ministry of Labour and Employment has extended the public utility service status of **three industries**:
 - Industries engaged in the manufacture or production of mineral oil (crude oil), motor and aviation spirit, diesel oil, kerosene oil, fuel oil, diverse hydrocarbon oils and their blends including synthetic fuels, lubricating oils;
 - Industries engaged in food stuffs;
 - And the iron and steel industry.
- These industries are covered under the first schedule of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 (14 of 1947).

About public utility service

- Public Utility are those organizations, company or corporations which provide the essential services to the public.
- The undertakings which supply the basic necessary services such as electricity, water, gas, power, transport etc. comes under the purview of the public utility services.
- These public utility services are maintained and regulated by the government vis local, state and national government according to their respective level of authority.

1.124. RESERVE BANK INNOVATION HUB TO SOON START PILOT PROJECT FOR DIGITALIZATION OF KISAN CREDIT CARD LENDING.

- The Reserve Bank will soon begin a pilot project for end-to-end digitalization of Kisan Credit Card or KCC lending.
- Stating that digitalization of rural finance is an important objective of RBI's Fintech initiatives, the apex bank has said that the pilot project will commence in select districts of Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu with Union Bank of India and Federal Bank being partner banks respectively.
- Developed by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub, the proposed digitalization of the KCC lending process is expected to make the process more efficient, and reduce costs for borrowers and the Turn Around Time - TAT significantly.
- Currently, the customers are required to visit the bank branch in person along with the proof of land ownership and other documents with the Turn Around Time from loan application to disbursement ranging from two to four weeks.
- Based on the learnings from the pilot, RBI plans to gradually expand the digitalization of KCC lending across the country.
- RBI has said that this pilot project is expected to play a pivotal role in facilitating credit flow to the unserved and underserved rural population.
- According to RBI that the project when implemented fully will have the potential to transform the rural credit delivery system.

About Kisan Credit Card:

- The scheme was **introduced in 1998 for providing adequate and timely credit support from the banking system**, under a single window with flexible and simplified procedure to the farmers for their cultivation and other needs like purchase of agriculture inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc. and draw cash for their production needs.
- The scheme was further extended for the investment credit requirement of farmers viz. allied and non-farm activities in the year 2004.
- In the Budget-2018-19, government **announced the extension of the facility of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to fisheries and animal husbandry farmers** to help them to meet their working capital needs.

1.125. PM MODI ANNOUNCES PM-SHRI SCHEME FOR UPGRADING 14500 SCHOOL ACROSS COUNTRY ON TEACHERS DAY.

- On the occasion of Teacher's Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a new initiative - the development and upgradation of 14 thousand 500 schools across the country under the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) Yojana.
- These PM-SHRI schools will become model schools which will encapsulate the full spirit of National Education Policy.
- The PM-SHRI schools will have a modern, transformational and holistic method of imparting education.
- The emphasis will be given on a discovery oriented, learning centric way of teaching.
- Prime Minister said, the focus will also be on modern infrastructure including latest technology, smart classrooms, sports and more.
- The centrally sponsored scheme will be implemented by strengthening existing schools selected from amongst those managed by the Central government, states, Union Territories and local bodies.

1.126. NATIONAL CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL (NCDC).

- Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya virtually laid the foundation stone for National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) branches in **6 States** namely Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh.
- The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) is an institute under the Indian Directorate General of Health Services, **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- Currently, NCDC has eight branches in States with focus on one or few diseases, these will be repurposed and new branches are being added with the mandate for integrated disease surveillance activities, dealing with **Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR)**, multi-sectoral and **entomological investigations etc**.
- The NCDC has its **headquarters in Delhi** and has **eight outstation branches** located at Alwar (Rajasthan), Bengaluru (Karnataka), Kozhikode-Calicut (Kerala), Coonoor (Tamil Nadu), Jagdalpur (Chhatisargh), Patna (Bihar), Rajahmundry (Andhra Pradesh) and Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh).

1.127. DEADLINE FOR FIXING POLLUTION CONTROL DEVICES.

- The Union Environment Ministry has for the third time extended the deadline by which coal plants must install pollution-control technologies to reduce emissions, drawing criticism from environment and clean-energy activists.

About:

- The Ministry first specified emission norms for the control of sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and mercury (Hg) from coal-fired power plants.
- However, non-compliance and limited progress by the plants led to a new extension following the recent notification pushing it to 2025.
- According to the latest notification, power plants within a 10-km radius of the NCR and in the vicinity of cities with a population of more than one million have until December 31, 2024, to meet the deadline.
- For power plants within a 10-km radius of "critically polluted" areas (as designated by the Environment Ministry), the deadline has been extended to December 31, 2025.
- Finally, for all other power plants across the country, the deadline stands at December 31, 2026.

1.128. CJI INAUGURATED NALSA CENTRE FOR CITIZEN SERVICES.

- The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) Centre for Citizen Services, was inaugurated by Chief Justice of India Uday Umesh Lalit.
- The space at Jaisalmer House which was provided to NALSA would be utilised for the establishment of Legal Assistance Centre for Citizens, Legal Assistance Centre for NRIs, Training Centre, and Digital Command Centre for providing futuristic legal services across the country.

- The NALSA office which was earlier placed at Jamnagar House was shifted to the Additional Building Complex of the Supreme Court of India on November 9, 2021.
- The space at Jaisalmer House which was provided to NALSA would be utilised for the establishment of Legal Assistance Centre for Citizens, Legal Assistance Centre for NRIs, Training Centre, and Digital Command Centre for providing futuristic legal services across the country.

About the NALSA:

- The NALSA has been constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to provide free Legal Services to the weaker sections of the society.
- Its purpose is to provide free legal services to eligible candidates, and to organize Lok Adalats for the speedy resolution of cases.
- While the CJI is the Patron-in-Chief, the second senior most judge of the Supreme Court of India is the executive chairperson of the Authority.
- There is a provision for similar mechanism at the state and district levels also headed by the Chief Justice of High Courts and Chief Judges of District courts respectively. The prime objective of NALSA is speedy disposal of cases and reducing the burden of the judiciary.

1.129. NITI AAYOG APPROVES 32 BENEFICIARIES UNDER PLI SCHEME FOR LARGE-SCALE ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURING.

- The Empowered Committee headed by CEO, NITI Aayog Parameswaran Iyer approved first ever disbursement of incentive for mobile manufacturing under the large-scale electronics manufacturing' sector.
- The Production-Linked Incentive scheme for Large-Scale Electronics Manufacturing is expected to make India a competitive destination for electronics manufacturing.
- It will also give a boost to Aatmanirbhar Bharat while creating more global champions.
- Padget Electronics Private Limited, a domestic company, is the first beneficiary approved by the Empowered Committee to receive incentive under mobile manufacturing based on its incremental investment and sales figures.
- NITI Aayog said, thirty-two beneficiaries had been approved under the PLI scheme for Large-Scale Electronics Manufacturing.
- Of which five global and five domestic companies were approved for mobile manufacturing. For the quarter ending June this year, the applicants under this PLI scheme had undertaken sales of over 1.67 lakh crore rupees, including export of 65,240 crore rupees.
- This PLI scheme has also generated employment of 28,636.

1.130. GOVERNMENT CONSTITUTES 47-MEMBER PANEL FOR DRAFTING NATIONAL COOPERATION POLICY DOCUMENT.

- Recently, the government constituted a 47-member committee, headed by former union cabinet minister Suresh Prabhu to draft a new **national cooperation policy document** .
- This Policy is being formulated to realize the government's vision of 'Sahakar Se Samridhi'.
- It will have a holistic approach from **primary agriculture credit societies (PACS) upwards**.
- It will fulfill the mandate given to the new Ministry of Cooperation, which includes strengthening cooperative movement in the country and deepening its reach up to the grassroots, and promoting cooperative-based economic development model.
- The existing National Policy on Cooperatives was formulated in 2002.
- It will promote a cooperative-based economic development model.
- The new policy will go a long way in strengthening the co-operative movement in the country.
- India has about 8.5 lakh co-operative societies with a member base of around 29 crore. These co-operatives are engaged in varied activities like agro-processing, dairying, fisheries, housing, weaving, credit, and marketing, among others.

1.131. AIIA LAUNCHES AYURVEDA DAY 2022 PROGRAMME.

- **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)** has launched Ayurveda Day 2022 programme.
- The six-week long programme will continue till 23rd of October.
- AIIA has been chosen as the nodal agency for driving the Ministry of Ayush's mandate for Ayurveda Day this year.
- The theme for the celebration is '**Har Din Har Ghar Ayurveda**'.
- Ministry of AYUSH celebrates Ayurveda Day every year on Dhanvantari Jayanti and this year it will be celebrated on **23 October**.
- The Ministry is celebrating it in collaboration with all the Ministries and departments of Government of India so that every person of the nation is made aware of traditional system of medicine.

1.132. PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI TO LAUNCH NATIONAL LOGISTICS POLICY NLP IN NEW DELHI.

- Prime Minister will launch the National Logistics Policy NLP in New Delhi.
- The need for a national logistics policy was felt since the logistics cost in India is high as compared to other developed economies.
- It is imperative to reduce the logistics cost in India for improving the competitiveness of Indian goods both in domestic as well as export markets.
- Reduced logistics cost improves efficiency cutting across various sectors of the economy, encouraging value addition and enterprise.
- Since 2014, the government has put significant emphasis on improving both Ease of Doing Business and Ease of Living.
- National Logistics Policy, a comprehensive effort to address issues of high cost and inefficiency by laying down an overarching interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral, and multi-jurisdictional framework for the development of the entire logistics ecosystem, is yet another step in this direction.
- The policy is an endeavour to improve competitiveness of Indian goods, enhancing economic growth, and increasing employment opportunities.
- It will develop world-class modern infrastructure through integration of all stakeholders in holistic planning and implementation so that efficiency and synergy is achieved in the execution of the project.
- The PM GatiShakti - National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity, launched by the Prime Minister last year, was a pioneering step in this direction.
- PM GatiShakti will get further boost and complementarity with the launch of National Logistics Policy.

1.133. INDIA, EGYPT SIGN MoU TO BOLSTER DEFENCE COOPERATION ACROSS ALL SECTORS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

- India and Egypt have agreed to identify proposals for **expanding cooperation between the defence industries** of the two countries in a time-bound manner.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held bilateral talks with his Egyptian counterpart General Mohamed Zaki in **Cairo**.
- Both sides discussed steps to strengthen defence ties and reached a consensus to enhance conduct of joint exercises and exchange of personnel for training especially in the field of counter-insurgency.
- The two Ministers also exchanged views on regional security and acknowledged the contribution of India and Egypt to peace and stability in the world.
- Following Mr. Singh's call on with President of Egypt Mr Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, both the Ministers agreed to consolidate and focus on enhancing security and defence aspects of bilateral cooperation.
- They also signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** on cooperation in the field of defence to pave the way for enhancing defence cooperation across all sectors of mutual interest.
- Mr Singh said, the signing of the MoU adds new impetus and synergy to the India-Egypt relations.

- He also invited his Egyptian counterpart to the India-Africa Defence Dialogue and IOR Defence Ministers' Conclave scheduled to be held as part of 12th Defence Expo in Gandhinagar next month.

India-Egypt Bilateral Relations

- India and Egypt, two of the world's oldest civilizations, have enjoyed a history of close contact from ancient times.
- In modern times, Mahatma Gandhi and Saad Zaghloul shared common goals on the independence of their countries, a relationship that was to blossom into an exceptionally close friendship between Gamal Abdel Nasser and Jawaharlal Nehru, leading to a Friendship Treaty between the two countries in 1955.
- **Egypt signed the ISA framework agreement** as a founding member in March 2018 and ratified it in January 2019.
- **India Business Forum (IBF) in Egypt** was launched in **2012** by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

1.134. PM PRANAM SCHEME.

- In order to reduce the use of chemical fertilisers by incentivising states, the Union government plans to introduce a new scheme – PM PRANAM, which stands for PM **Promotion of Alternate Nutrients for Agriculture Management Yojana**.

About:

- The proposed scheme intends to **reduce the subsidy burden** on chemical fertilisers, which is expected to increase to Rs 2.25 lakh crore in 2022-2023, which is 39% higher than the previous year's figure of Rs 1.62 lakh crore.
- The scheme will not have a separate budget and will be financed by the "savings of existing fertiliser subsidy" under schemes run by the Department of fertilisers.
- Further, **50% subsidy savings** will be passed on as a grant to the state that saves the money and that 70% of the grant provided under the scheme can be used for asset creation related to technological adoption of alternate fertilisers and alternate fertiliser production units at village, block and district levels.
- The remaining 30% grant money can be used for incentivising farmers, panchayats, farmer producer organisations and self-help groups that are involved in the reduction of fertiliser use and awareness generation.

1.135. DHARMENDRA PRADHAN LAUNCHED RAMAKRISHNA MISSION'S AWAKENING PROGRAMME.

- Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurial **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan** launched the **Ramkrishna Mission 'Awakening' Program** for students of **classes I to V**.
- During the occasion, Secretary of the Ramkrishna Mission **Swami Shantatmanada**, Chairperson CBSE, Smt Nidhi Chibber, and other officials of KVS, NVS, and the Ministry were present.

About Ramkrishna Mission 'Awakening' Program:

- **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan** said that **NEP 2020** is inspired by the philosophy of Swami Vivekananda.
- Social transformation is one of the **key goals of education, and values and wisdom** are more important than material wealth.
- Ramkrishna Mission has a legacy of **imparting applied education**.
- NEP 2020 emphasizes on **creating value-based educational programs for 9th and 12th** in addition to creating programs for classes I to VIII.
- This initiative will ensure **holistic personality development** of a child aligned with the philosophy of **NEP 2020**.
- **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan** stressed on the point that our **education system** must be aligned to national priorities.
- **CBSE** will be an advisory framework for encouraging value-based education in schools from **Balvatika to Class XII**.

1.136. UNION CABINET CLEARS 2ND TRANCHE OF PLI SCHEME TO BOOST MANUFACTURING OF HIGH EFFICIENCY SOLAR PV MODULES.

- The Union Cabinet has approved the second tranche of Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme on 'National programme on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules' for achieving manufacturing capacity of Giga Watt scale in High Efficiency Solar PV Modules.
- The national programme on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules aims to build an ecosystem for manufacturing of high efficiency solar PV modules in India reducing import dependence in the area of Renewable Energy.
- It will strengthen the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative and generate employment.
- The Tranche-2 scheme of High Efficiency Solar PV Modules has been approved with an outlay of 19,500 crore rupees for achieving manufacturing capacity of Giga Watt scale.
- About 65 thousand Mega Watt per annum manufacturing capacity of fully and partially integrated solar PV modules will be installed.
- The scheme will bring direct investment of around 94 thousand crore rupees.
- The scheme will generate direct employment for around 2 lakh persons and indirect jobs to around eight lakh persons.
- The Cabinet also approved modifications in Programme for Development of Semiconductors and Display Manufacturing Ecosystem India.
- Under modified programme, a uniform fiscal support of 50 per cent of Project Cost shall be provided across all technology nodes for setting up of Semiconductor Fabs or semiconductor fabrication plant.
- Given the niche technology and nature of compound semiconductors and advanced packaging, the modified programme shall also provide fiscal support of 50 per cent of Capital Expenditure.
- Earlier there were an incentive in range of 30 to 50 per cent are provided for three schemes related to semiconductor, display and compound semiconductor and packaging schemes.
- Under the modified program and uniform incentive of 50 per cent will be applied to these three schemes.

1.137. SKILL INDIA INITIATIVE: ELECTRONICS SECTOR SKILL COUNCIL OF INDIA SIGNS MOU WITH SAMSUNG TO UPSKILL YOUTHS.

- In a push to the Union government's 'Skill India' initiative, the Electronics Sector Skill Council of India (ESSCI) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with 'Samsung India' to upskill youths and enhance their potential for employability.
- Under the programme '**Samsung Innovation Campus**', it aims to upskill over 3,000 unemployed youths from 18-25 years of age in future technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Big Data and Coding and Programming.
- The ESSCI, which is an approved entity by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), will execute the program through its nationwide network of approved training and education partners.
- Union Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Ministry is said to be in touch with several such firms in the matter.
- The skilling initiative, which is a flagship programme of the Union government, aims to empower youths with industry-relevant skills in emerging technology domains.
- India is billed as the fastest growing economy in the world and virtually has a jump over other countries with regard to its bulging youthful demography.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pitch has been to reap demographic dividends stemming from its burgeoning youth population.
- The Union government's vision is to upskill the youth fast, and consequently facilitate them with a "calling card" to measure up to employment opportunities - both domestic and globally.
- Union Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar during the MoU ceremony said, "Skilling should not just be about equipping the youth with employable skills but act as gateways to employability and employment -- as their "Passports to Prosperity".

- The Centre's emphasis on skilling is to harness the opportunities in an increasingly digitised world and to make India a talent pool.
- The government's thrust is on the NSDC and the Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Ministry evolving closer partnerships between the industry and the skilling ecosystem for sustainable solutions.
- It includes harnessing universities and institutes in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities in the matter.

1.138. ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY (RSC) & CSIR PARTNERS TO SUPPORT CHEMISTRY IN SCHOOLS ACROSS INDIA.

- The Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) and the Council for Industry and Scientific Research (CSIR) have partnered to support an outreach programme designed to promote the chemical sciences in schools and universities.
- About 2000 students across the country participated in RSC's Global Coin experiment organised across over 30 CSIR laboratories.
- The two organisations have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), committing to work together on the CSIR's Jigyasa programme – an India-wide outreach programme aimed at school children and researchers.
- The MoU will be a non-financial one and will be time-bound for at least three years with an option of renewal, stated the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- As per the Ministry, the Jigyasa programme will complement existing educational programmes in India. For example, the RSC-Jigyasa partnership will help to expand the RSC's existing teacher training programme and Chemistry Camps, and will be launching several online education initiatives.
- As part of the launch event for the Jigyasa programme, the collaboration is organising a Global Experiment including all the CSIR's laboratories.
- At least 2,000 schoolchildren, 150 teachers, and 350 volunteers took part in the 'RSC's Global Coin experiment organised across over 30 CSIR laboratories, in which participants are asked to compare batteries made from different types of coins. The participants will then be able to compare their data with that of participants from around the globe.
- The MoU was signed by both organisations at a ceremony on 22 September. It was signed by Dr. Geetha Vani Rayasam from the CSIR and Paul Lewis, Chief Operating Officer, RSC in the presence of Dr N Kalaiselvi, Director General of the CSIR and Dr Venugopal Achanta, Director of National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL).

1.139. AYUSHMAN BHARAT DIGITAL MISSION CROSSES 1 CRORE DIGITALLY LINKED HEALTH RECORDS.

- The health minister confirmed that Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) has crossed the landmark of 1 crore digitally linked health records with over 27 lakh records linked in a day.
- The Government of India launched the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission to promote healthcare digitisation and to build an open, interoperable digital health ecosystem for the country.
- It intends to accomplish this by prescribing common health data standards and developing core modules such as the registry of health facilities, healthcare professionals, and other interoperability requirements, so that various digital health systems can interact with one another by enabling seamless data sharing across various healthcare providers who may use different digital health systems.
- The integration of various resources is the primary focus on digitisation of processes in healthcare institutions. As a result, the goal of ABDM is to bridge the gap between the various stakeholders in the healthcare ecosystem.
- In the same vein, the National Health Authority (NHA) launched a public dashboard for near real-time information on its flagship scheme, ABDM, in May of this year. The ABDM public dashboard provides detailed information on the mission's core registries, which include Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) numbers, Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR), and Health Facility Registry (HFR).

- On August 15, 2020, the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) pilot project was launched in the six union territories of Ladakh, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Puducherry, Lakshadweep and Andaman, and the Nicobar Islands. On September 27, 2021, Prime Minister announced the nationwide rollout of this pilot project under the name "Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission."

1.140. MoHUAM TO LAUNCH SWACHH TOYCATHON, A UNIQUE COMPETITION TO MAKE TOYS FROM WASTE.

- Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry will launch Swachh Toycathon, a unique competition to make toys from waste.
- The competition will be open to individuals and groups to bring forth innovation in toy designs using dry waste.
- It will focus on efficient designs that can be replicated at a larger scale, and toys that comply with minimum safety standards.
- The competition will be hosted on MyGov's innovate India portal. Center for Creative Learning, IIT Gandhinagar is the knowledge partner for the initiative.
- The demand for toys in the country is increasing due to strong economic growth, rising disposable incomes, and several innovations for the junior population.
- National Action Plan for Toys 2020 was introduced to promote the Indian toy industry including traditional handicrafts and handmade toys with the objective of establishing India as a global Toy hub.
- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade along with 14 Ministries of Central Government is currently implementing various aspects of the National Action Plan for Toys.

1.141. GOVERNMENT'S FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME 'MAKE IN INDIA' COMPLETES 8 YEARS.

- The Government's flagship programme 'Make in India' completes eight-year on 25th September 2022. Make in India initiative which was launched in 2014 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi aspires to facilitate investment, foster innovation, enhance skill development, and build best-in-class manufacturing infrastructure.
- Make In India has substantial accomplishments across 27 sectors which include strategic sectors of manufacturing and services as well.
- The government is focusing on key sectors like semiconductors to achieve Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of an 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. Recognising the importance of semiconductors in the world economy, the government has launched a ten billion US dollar incentive scheme to build a semiconductor, display, and design ecosystem in India.
- Complimented by sincere efforts of domestic toy manufacturers, the growth of the Indian Toy industry has been remarkable in less than two years despite Covid-19 pandemic. The import of toys in 2021-22 have reduced by 70 percent to 110 million US dollar.
- India's export of toys registered tremendous growth of 636 percent during the months of April to August this year over the same period of 2013.
- Make India Programme is transforming the country into a leading global manufacturing and investment destination.
- The initiative is an open invitation to potential investors and partners across the globe to participate in the growth story of 'New India'.
- To attract foreign investments, the Government has put in place a liberal and transparent policy wherein most sectors are open to Foreign Direct Investment under the automatic route.
- FDI inflows in India which stood at 45.15 billion US dollar in 2014-2015 reached record FDI inflows for eight years.
- The year 2021-22 recorded the highest ever FDI of 83.6 billion US dollar. The Production Linked Incentive scheme launched across 14 key manufacturing sectors is also giving a boost to Make in India initiative.
- With this initiative at the forefront, the businesses in India are aiming that the products that are 'Made in India' are also 'Made for the World,' adhering to global standards of quality.

1.142. INDIAN RAILWAYS HAS MADE NEARLY 500 RAILWAY STATIONS DIVYANGJAN, AGED & CHILDREN FRIENDLY UNDER SUGAMYA BHARAT ABHIYAN.

- Indian Railways has made nearly 500 railway stations Divyangjan, Aged and Children friendly by installing the lifts and escalators at railway stations across the country under the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan.
- Indian Railways has been consistently trying to improve passenger amenities at various stations.
- It said that provision of escalators and Lifts at the railway platforms is a part of the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan and also a necessity in view of the ever-increasing passenger volumes.
- Such facilities would facilitate improvement at exit and entry of passengers at stations.

About Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan:

- Launched by the Prime Minister of India on International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3rd December 2015.
- Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) has launched Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) as a nation-wide Campaign for achieving universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

It has the following three important components:

- **Built Environment Accessibility:** An accessible government building is one, where persons with disabilities have no barrier in entering it and using all the facilities therein. This covers the built environment – services, steps and ramps, corridors, entry gates, emergency exits, parking – as well as indoor and outdoor facilities including lighting, signages, alarm systems and toilets.
- **Transportation System Accessibility:** The term transportation covers a number of areas including air travel, buses, taxis, and trains. An airport is accessible, if a person with a disability has no barrier in entering it, using all the facilities, and boarding and disembarking from airplanes. This covers the built environment – surfaces, steps and ramps, corridors, entry ways, emergency exits, parking – as well as indoor and outdoor facilities including lighting, signage, alarm systems and toilets.
- **Information and Communication Eco-System Accessibility:** Enhancing proportion of accessible and usable public documents and websites that meet internationally recognized accessibility standards. Enhancing the pool of sign language interpreters.

1.143. GOVT EXTENDS PM GARIB KALYAN ANNA YOJANA SCHEME UPTO DECEMBER.

- Union Cabinet has decided to extend the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY) scheme for a further period of three months from October to December this year.
- The decision will benefit 80 crore people.
- 122 lakh metric tonnes foodgrains will be distributed in the next three months with a total expenditure of more than 44 thousand crore rupees under the 7th phase of the scheme.
- Three lakh 45 thousand crore rupees have been spent on this scheme so far. The Minister said, this decision will bring joy on the face of people in the upcoming festive season.
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, five-kilogram foodgrain is being provided to eligible beneficiary per month free of cost. The scheme was started in March 2020 to provide the food security to poor people during the Covid-19 pandemic.

1.144. MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR TO LAUNCH NATIONWIDE MONTH-LONG CLEAN INDIA 2.0 PROGRAMME FROM 1ST OCTOBER 2022.

- The Department of Youth Affairs of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (Government of India) will launch a month-long nationwide Clean India 2.0 from 1st -31st October, 2022 after the successful campaign of last year.
- The programme is being organised in all the villages across the country through the network of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), affiliated Youth Clubs & National Service Scheme Affiliated Institutions.

- This month-long nationwide programme will be launched to collect waste material mainly single-use plastic and create awareness among people.
- One crore kilogram of waste material including plastic and e-waste will be collected and disposed off with the support and voluntary participation of citizens.
- Hotspots for waste collection will be Tourist Places, Educational Institutes, Bus Stand/Railway Stations and the vicinity, National Highways, Historical and heritage buildings, religious places & surroundings, Hospitals and Water Resource etc.



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ENVIRONMENT

1.145. NOD FOR NANO UREA BASED ON ESTABLISHED RULES: MINISTRY.

- The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers said nano urea, a liquid fertilizer developed by IFFCO to reduce farmers' dependence on packaged urea, had been allowed for commercial use based on existing rules that provisionally allow fertilizers to be used based on data from only two cropping seasons.
- The usual practice for recommending (or rejecting) a new fertilizer for commercial use required three seasons of independent assessment by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), but in the case of nano urea this was reduced to two.
- The established and existing procedure for registration of any fertilizer for notification as per Fertiliser Control Order (FCO), 1985.
- Nano Urea has been provisionally notified under FCO based on encouraging results and feedback received from scientists of ICAR and State Agricultural Universities.
- Central Fertilizer Committee (CFC), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA & FW) has also recommended it based on data and due deliberations in this regard.

1.146. AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT PASSES GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION IN VIEW OF A PLEDGE TO REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS BY 43 PERCENT BY 2030.

- Australian Parliament has passed government legislation in view of a pledge to reduce carbon emissions by 43 percent by 2030 and further bring it to zero by 2050.
- The Senate passed the bill with 37 votes to 26 with amendments from independent senator David Pocock, before being passed by the House of Representatives hours later.
- The legislation, which still needs royal assent before it officially becomes law, will set a target greenhouse gas emissions reduction of 43 percent by 2030. It also enshrines net zero emissions by 2050.
- Minister for Climate Change and Energy Chris Bowen said that the passage of the climate change legislation sends a message to the world that Australia is serious about driving down emissions and serious about reaping the economic opportunities from affordable renewable energy.
- Mr. Bowen said, it also strengthens transparency and accountability through the annual climate change statement and will ensure public debate informs government decisions.
- The bill is passed with the support of the Greens party and independents.
- This is the first step in climate action following Labour Party coming to power this year.

1.147. UT ADMINISTRATION & LADAKH AUTONOMOUS HILL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FOCUSING ON MAKING LADAKH, FIRST ORGANIC UT OF INDIA.

- In Ladakh, the UT Administration and Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council are focusing on sustainable development of the people keeping in view making Ladakh the First Organic UT of India and Mushroom Cultivation is an area of Focus nowadays.
- A batch of 17 Progressive Members of Self-Help Groups from Shargole Constituency were flagged off by Former Executive Councillor & Councillor of LAHDC, Kargil Mohammad Ali Chandan in presence of Dr. Mehdi Akhone, Dr. Faizan and other Officers of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture Sciences and Technology and Krishi Vigyan Kendras to Wadora Sopore Agriculture University.
- The Progressive Farmers will go for a 10-day training programme on 'Mushroom cultivation'.
- Speaking on this occasion, Mohammad Ali Chandan said that this is the first step towards realizing the dream. He dreamt to make Shargole Constituency Mushroom hub in whole UT of Ladakh.
- He said that the support by Dr. Mehdi Akhone and Dr. Faizan has made this day possible and this will lead to start an era for sustainable development through Mushroom Cultivation.
- He informed that these progressive farmers will have another round of training in Himachal Pradesh at the Directorate of Mushroom Research.

- It is pertinent to mention here that the lean period of the winters will be utilized for the progressive farmers to earn a living within a limited space available.
- Mushroom farming is one of the most profitable agri-businesses that one can start with a low investment and less space.
- Mushroom cultivation in the country is growing gradually as an alternative source of income for many people.

1.148. LEH DIHAR DIRECTOR CALLS FOR CREATION OF GENE BANK FOR VARIOUS ENDANGERED SPECIES OF HIMALAYAN REGION.

- Defence Research and Development Organisation's Defence Institute of High Altitude Research, (DIHAR), Leh Director Dr Om Prakash Chaurasia called for the creation of a gene bank for various endangered species of the Himalayan region.
- As part of the GB Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE) annual day celebrations, Dr Chaurasiya delivered the third Himalayan Popular Lecture Ladakh Series on Medicinal Plant Biodiversity of Cold-Arid Ladakh Himalaya, in Leh.
- Dr Chaurasiya said, the conservation of trans Himalayan species has to be on priority. He said, after the exposure, certain invaluable medicinal and herbal value species are on the brink of extinction. Dr Chaurasiya said, the time has come to announce diversified areas, passes and pockets as protected to conserve the rich biodiversity and plants. During the lecture, he explained the various adaptations of plants in the trans-Himalayan region. He said berries, Heeng and Jeera in the Ladakh region are some of the varieties with high commercial value.
- LAHDC Leh Executive Councillor Stanzin Chosphe said, the essence of the lecture series should also reach the students. He also opined to take the lectures to prepare policies for the development of the Ladakh region.
- University of Ladakh Vice Chancellor Prof SK Mehta said, the University has entered into MoUs with all scientific and research organisations and institutions for the benefit of the students and Ladakh.
- He informed that the Department of Science and Technology has agreed to set up a Technical and Research Centre in the University for the benefit of the local scientific and industrial community.
- He also said, with GB Pant NIHE, the University of Ladakh will be setting up a centre to study Climate Change in the region.

1.149. UNION MINISTER JITENDRA SINGH TO LEAD DELEGATION TO US FOR GLOBAL CLEAN ENERGY ACTION FORUM.

- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh will lead the Joint Indian Ministerial Delegation of Power, New and Renewable Energy and Science and Technology to America to take part in Global Clean Energy Action Forum.
- Dr. Singh will leave for Washington for the first leg of the American tour and from there he will proceed to Pittsburgh and later New York.
- He will be on a five-day visit to participate in the joint convening of Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM13) and Mission Innovation (MI-7) from 21st to 23rd September, 2022 at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, United States of America.
- The event will bring together thousands of clean energy leaders from around the world, including CEOs, innovators, young professionals, civil society and Ministers from over 30 countries to accelerate clean energy innovation and deployment
- India plans to highlight its significant efforts in the fields of Bio-Refineries, Sustainable Aviation Fuels, Materials Accelerated Platform, Building Energy Efficiency (Smart Grids), Carbon Capture, Hydrogen Valley Platforms among others to expedite Clean Energy solutions.

1.150. PM MODI TO VIRTUALLY INAUGURATE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS IN GUJARAT.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the National Conference of Environment Ministers held in Gujarat through video conferencing.
- He will also address the gathering on the occasion.
- Taking forward the spirit of cooperative federalism, Conference is being convened to create further synergy amongst the Central and State Governments in formulating better policies on various issues.
- The two-day Conference being organized on 23rd and 24th September will have six thematic sessions with topics focusing on LiFE, Combating Climate Change (Updating State Action Plans on Climate Change for Mitigation of Emissions and Adaptation to Climate Impacts), PARIVESH (Single Window System for Integrated Green Clearances), Forestry Management, Prevention and Control of Pollution, Wildlife Management, and Plastics and Waste Management.

1.151. NGT IMPOSES ENVIRONMENT COMPENSATION OF Rs 100 CRORE ON HARYANA FOR GREEN DAMAGES.

- National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Chief Secretary of Haryana to deposit a sum of Rs 100 crore towards environmental compensation for continuing damage to the environment.
- The bench headed by Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel also constituted a nine-member committee, to be headed by the Chairman of the Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB). The Committee may appraise the performance of the contractor engaged as per the Concession Agreement and if it is found that the contractor has failed to perform as expected, the Committee may make suitable alternative arrangements to replace the contractor, as previously observed by the Tribunal.
- The Tribunal noted that the matters related to the same issue i.e. failure to maintain environmental norms for handling and disposing of legacy municipal solid waste dump sites to the prejudice of environment and public health and also adjoining forest areas.
- The dump site in question is the Bandhwari landfill site at Gurugram where about 33 lacs of Metric tonnes of solid waste is dumped for years.
- The Tribunal was hearing a matter stating that a Waste Management project has been developed and a contract was assigned to a Chinese company– Eco-green Energy Private Limited in the year 2017.
- However, the steps taken are inadequate, the waste is being burnt causing huge air pollution which has the potential to affect not only the inhabitants but also the Asola Bhati Wildlife Sanctuary having 193 species of birds, a large number of medicinal plants and more than 80 species of butterflies, black buck, Golder Jackal, and leopards.
- The State is under the obligation to protect eco-sensitive zone by controlling the adverse impact of violation of the environmental norms, said the Green Court.
- Tribunal while passing the direction on September 23 also said, having regard to the emergency situation, the State authorities may exercise their jurisdiction to use the nearest available land as per the law applicable for a temporary period on payment of user charges. If any plant is required to be established which requires Environment Clearance (EC), such plants will benefit the environment, grant of EC need not be awaited but all the environmental issues may be followed, including with regard to the forest, wildlife and waterbodies.
- NGT further said that the Bandhwari site which is already in existence for many years and 10 acres of land which is already been cleared may be utilized for setting up waste processing facilities to handle the waste generation of the local bodies in question. In case of non-suitability of the land, alternative arrangements should be explored.
- The Committee will be free to coordinate with statutory regulators for a levy of compensation from those who have contributed to the pollution, following due process of law.
- The Committee expected to achieve meaningful progress in the matter within six months with substantial headway within three months, said the NGT order.

GEOGRAPHY

1.152. SUPER TYPHOON 'HINNAMNOR'.

- According to a forecast from Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA), the storm is expected to move towards parts of Southwestern Japan, Eastern China and South Korea over the next few days.
- As of September 1, 2022, the category 5 typhoon — the highest classification on the scale — was about 230 km away from Japan's Okinawa prefecture.
- One of the factors contributing to the Super Typhoon rapidly intensifying and expanding is the fact that it has started absorbing other local meteorological systems.
- Warm tropical waters and other pre-existing meteorological disturbances have also led to the system's escalation.

About Typhoons

- Typhoons are a kind of storm. The storms, depending on where they occur, may be called **hurricanes, typhoons or cyclones**.
 - **Typhoons:** In the China Sea and Pacific Ocean.
 - **Hurricanes:** In the West Indian islands in the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean.
 - **Tornados:** In the Guinea lands of West Africa and southern USA.
 - **Willy-willies:** In north-western Australia and
 - **Tropical Cyclones:** In the Indian Ocean Region.

1.153. INDIAN NAVY REVIVES NAVAL TRAINING AREA AT MANASBAL LAKE IN KASHMIR AFTER 33 YEARS.

- In a significant move, the Indian Navy has revived the Naval training area at Manasbal Lake in Kashmir's Ganderbal district after 33 years to provide training to National Cadet Corps (NCC) Cadets.
- Addressing a press conference, NCC Group Commander, Brigadier K S Kalsi said that around one hundred NCC Cadets including girls from various colleges in Jammu and Kashmir are going to participate in the training camp.
- He said that the revival of the Naval training area will go a long way and is a historic day as, after a gap of 33 years, NCC training activities are being revived.
- The training in the area was suspended in the early 1990s.

1.154. SCARY TYPHOON NANMADOL IN JAPAN.

- **Typhoon Nanmadol** has recorded furious winds and rainfall in several parts of Japan. Typhoon Nanmadol is one of the **biggest storms to hit Japan** in years. **Prime Minister Fumio Kishida** has delayed his departure to New York, where he is due to deliver a speech at the **UN General Assembly**. The **Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA)**, has advised people to be highly vigilant and prepared for heavy rains, high waves, gales, and storm surges.

About Typhoon Nanmadol:

- Typhoon Nanmadol is the **14th typhoon in Japan**.
- Typhoon Nanmadol made landfall near **Kagoshima city** and later the typhoon took over the **western island of Kyushu** and the **main island of Honshu**.
- Till now, the death of one person is recorded due to a flooded river in the typhoon Nanmadol, and **69 people were injured**.
- About **3,40,000 households** were without electricity during the typhoon.
- The **Kyushu Railway Co** halted operations in Kyushu.
- **Japan Airlines Co Ltd** and **ANA Holdings** canceled about 800 flights.

1.155. HURRICANE FIONA HEADS NORTHWARD, CAUSES DAMAGE TO PUERTO RICO & THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

- Hurricane Fiona was headed northward after it bore down on the tiny Turks and Caicos archipelago September 20, and caused severe damage to Puerto Rico and then the Dominican Republic.
- Fiona made landfall in Puerto Rico on September 18, dumping huge amounts of rainfall on it, and then on the Dominican Republic.
- A public health emergency was declared by US Health Secretary Xavier Becerra for Puerto Rico, which allows the freeing up of federal funds and equipment to assist the island.
- The power category 3 storm dumped heavy rains, triggering floods on the Caribbean archipelago.
- The US National Hurricane Center (NHC) said that the hurricane had moved 75 miles north of Turks and Caicos and was strengthening with wind speeds of 125 mile per hour.

Categorization of Hurricanes:

- Hurricanes are categorized on the **Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale**, which rates them on a scale of 1 to 5 based on wind speed.
- Hurricanes that reach category three or higher are classified as major hurricanes.

1.156. PHILIPPINES EVACUATES COASTS, CANCELS SEA TRIPS AS SUPER TYPHOON NORU NEARS.

- The Philippine authorities started evacuating people from coastal areas on Sunday and hundreds were unable to travel by sea as the main island Luzon, including Manila, braced for a category 3 typhoon that continues to strengthen, officials said.
- Typhoon Noru became a super typhoon "after a period of explosive intensification", with sustained winds increasing from 120 km per hour to 185 km per hour on Saturday evening, the disaster agency said in an advisory.
- It will continue intensifying and may make landfall with 185 to 205 kph of sustained winds.
- Noru, the 11th tropical cyclone to hit the Philippines this year, will bring heavy to torrential rains over the capital region and nearby provinces.
- The Philippine Coast Guard said more than 1,200 passengers and 28 vessels were stranded in ports south of the capital.

1.157. HURRICANE IAN HAS MADE LANDFALL IN WESTERN CUBA AS A CATEGORY THREE STORM, BRINGING WIND SPEEDS OF UP TO 205 KILOMETRES PER HOUR.

- A hurricane is a type of storm called a tropical cyclone, which forms over tropical or subtropical waters.
- A tropical cyclone is a rotating low-pressure weather system that has organized thunderstorms but no fronts (a boundary separating two air masses of different densities).
- Tropical cyclones with maximum sustained surface winds of less than 39 miles per hour (mph) are called tropical depressions. Those with maximum sustained winds of 39 mph or higher are called tropical storms.
- When a storm's maximum sustained winds reach 74 mph, it is called a hurricane.
- Hurricanes originate in the Atlantic basin, which includes the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico, the eastern North Pacific Ocean, and, less frequently, the central North Pacific Ocean.
- "Hurricane Season" begins on June 1 and ends on November 30, although hurricanes can, and have, occurred outside of this time frame.

HEALTH

1.158. SCIENTIFIC COMPLETION OF INDIA'S FIRST INDIGENOUSLY DEVELOPED VACCINE FOR ELIMINATING CERVICAL CANCER ANNOUNCED.

- Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh announced the scientific completion of India's first indigenously developed quadrivalent HPV vaccine.
- It is India's first indigenously produced affordable and cost effective qHPV vaccine for eliminating cervical cancer.
- Scientific completion implies that R&D activities pertaining to the vaccine are complete and now the next step of making them available to the public would take place.
- Despite being largely preventable, cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women globally, according to the WHO.
- In 2018, an estimated 570,00 women were diagnosed with the disease and it accounted for 311,000 deaths across the world.
- India accounts for about a fifth of the global burden of cervical cancer, with 1.23 lakh cases and around 67,000 deaths per year.
- Cervavac was developed by the Pune-based Serum Institute of India in coordination with the Government of India's Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- HPV vaccines are given in two doses and data has shown that the antibodies that develop after both are administered can last up to six or seven years.
- Until now, the HPV vaccines available in India were produced by foreign manufacturers at an approximate cost of Rs 2,000 to Rs 3,500 per dose.
- Cervavac is likely to be significantly cheaper, slated to cost approximately Rs 200 to 400. It has also demonstrated a robust antibody response that is nearly 1,000 times higher than the baseline against all targeted HPV types and in all dose and age groups.

1.159. RASHTRIYA POSHAN MAAH BEGINS ACROSS INDIA WITH KEY FOCUS ON "MAHILA AUR SWASTHYA" AND "BACHA AUR SHIKSHA."

- Ministry of Women and Child Development is celebrating the 5th Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2022 across the nation till 30th September.
- This year, the objective of the Poshan Maah is to trigger Poshan Maah through Gram Panchayats as Poshan Panchayats with key focus on "Mahila aur Swasthya" and "Bacha aur Shiksha". Rashtriya Poshan Maah serves as a platform to bring focus to the discourse of nutrition and good health.
- In the 5th Rashtriya Poshan Maah the aim is to convert Jan Andolan into Jan Bhagidari to fulfill the Prime Minister's vision of a Suposhit Bharat.
- The Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition- POSHAN Abhiyaan is Government's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children under six years, adolescent Girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the programme from Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan on 8 March, 2018.
- Focusing on the aims of POSHAN Abhiyaan, the government has launched Mission Poshan 2.0 as an integrated nutrition support program.

1.160. UP: BHARTAUL BECOMES FIRST VILLAGE IN STATE TO HAVE RO WATER IN EVERY HOUSEHOLD.

- Bhartaul has become the first village in Uttar Pradesh to achieve the distinction of supplying RO water to every household.
- Bhartaul is located in Bithiri Chainpur block of Bareilly. It has around 7,000 people and every household is provided with clean and safe RO water.

- The installation of RO has been under the Adarsh Gram Panchayat initiative enabling the Village to get access to clean drinking water.
- Till now, four RO plants have been installed in the village and more ROs are underway. These RO plants have been connected to the main supply tanks which helps to provide clean water to every household.
- The village head Pravesh Kumari is in charge and has been taking care of the installation of the RO plants in the village.
- The Chief Development Officer, Bareilly, Jag Pravesh said that the installation of ROs in the village will decrease water-borne diseases.

About Reverse Osmosis

- Reverse Osmosis is a technology that is used to remove a large majority of contaminants from water by pushing the water under pressure through a semi-permeable membrane.
- An RO membrane rejects contaminants **based on their size and charge**
- Reverse Osmosis is also used to produce water that is suitable for many industrial applications that **require demineralized or deionized water**

Issues with RO System

- **Wastage:** RO systems now recover only 20 per cent of water while 80 per cent go waste.
- **Can remove beneficial mineral:** The process can cut the levels of calcium and magnesium, which are vital nutrients.

1.161. BHARAT BIOTECH'S INTRA-NASAL COVID VACCINE GETS EMERGENCY USE APPROVAL.

- **Bharat Biotech's** ChAd36-SARS-CoV-S COVID-19 (Chimpanzee Adenovirus Vectored) recombinant nasal vaccine has been approved by Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) for primary immunization against COVID-19 in 18+ age group for restricted use in emergencies.
- This is **India's first intranasal vaccine for COVID-19.**

About INCOVACC

- The product – **INCOVACC** – is stable at 2-8°C for easy storage and distribution.
- Bharat Biotech has established large manufacturing capabilities at multiple sites across India including Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Telangana with operations pan-India.
- iNCOVACC has the double benefit of enabling faster development of variant-specific vaccines and easy nasal delivery that enables mass immunisation to protect from emerging variants of concern.
- “iNCOVACC is a recombinant replication-deficient adenovirus vectored vaccine with a pre-fusion stabilized spike protein. This vaccine candidate was evaluated in Phase-I, II and III clinical trials with successful results.
- iNCOVACC has been specifically formulated to allow intra-nasal delivery through nasal drops. The nasal delivery system has been designed and developed to be cost-effective in low- and middle-income countries.
- iNCOVACC was developed in partnership with Washington University St. Louis, which had designed and developed the recombinant adenoviral vectored constructs and evaluated them in preclinical studies for efficacy.

1.162. HEALTHCARE SECTOR IN INDIA EXPECTED TO REACH SIZE OF 50 BILLION DOLLAR BY 2025: GOVT

- Science and Technology Minister Dr Jitendra Singh has said that Healthcare sector in India is expected to reach a size of 50 billion dollar by 2025.
- Addressing the 14th CII Global MedTech Summit in New Delhi, Dr Singh said, over the past two years healthcare has become more focused on innovation and technology.

- He said, 80 per cent of healthcare systems are aiming to increase their investment in digital healthcare tools in coming five years.
- India aims to achieve 10 to 12 per cent of the global market share of the medical devices sector.

1.163. PRESIDENT MURMU LAUNCHES PRADHAN MANTRI TB MukT BHARAT ABHIYAAN.

- President Droupadi Murmu has said that Jan Bhagidari is the key to eliminate tuberculosis from the country.
- The President was speaking after virtually launching the Pradhan Mantri TB MukT Bharat Abhiyaan to reinvigorate the mission of TB elimination from the country by 2025.
- During the event, President Murmu also launched the Ni-kshay 2.0 initiative, a portal to provide a platform for donors to provide various forms of support to those undergoing TB treatment.
- She said that under the world's biggest Aushman Yojana, the wellness centres have been especially geared to work towards the elimination of Tuberculosis.
- Emphasising on the commitment of New India to fighting against TB, President Murmu said that India's response to COVID-19 is a testimony to India's seriousness on the matter.
- She emphasised on the importance of role of public representatives in the success of the cause.
- Recalling the adage of prevention is better than cure, the President said that the TB prevention programme will be initiated soon.
- She asked people to not feel any sort of inhibition and come forward to help in early detection and elimination of tuberculosis.
- The President said that the new portal Nikshay 2.0 has been upgraded to make the information easily available to people.
- Speaking on the occasion, Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya recalled Prime Minister Narendra Modi's clarion call to end TB in the country five years ahead of the Sustainable Development Goals of 2030.
- He added that through people's participation, India will defeat the tuberculosis.
- The initiative of Nikshay Mitra is based on the concept of community support for TB extinction.
- To become a Nikshay Mitra, the mentor will have to register on.
- The Nikshay Mitra can choose nutritional, diagnostic, vocational and additional nutritional supplements support.
- The Nikshay Mitra can choose the duration of support ranging from one year to three years. They can also choose the state, district, block, health facilities.
- The district TB officer will facilitate the process of become Nikshay Mitra.

1.164. NATIONAL LIST OF ESSENTIAL MEDICINES.

- Recently, the **National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2022**, was released, with 384 drugs in it across 27 categories.
- While 34 new drugs are on the list, 26 drugs from the earlier NLEM were dropped.

About National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM)

- The National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) is a list released by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
 - The medicines listed in the NLEM are sold below a price ceiling fixed by the **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)**.
- In India, it was framed on the lines of the **Essential Medicines List (EML)** released by the WHO.
- It is a dynamic document and is revised on a regular basis considering the changing public health priorities as well as advancement in pharmaceutical knowledge.
- It was first formulated in 1996 and was revised thrice in 2003, 2011 and 2015, before 2022.
- They have to be licensed by the DCGI, have proven efficacy, a safety profile based on scientific evidence and are cost effective.

Purpose:

- Guide safe and effective treatment of priority disease conditions of a population.
- Promote the rational use of medicines.
- Optimize the available health resources of a country. It can also be a guiding document for:
 - State governments to prepare their list of essential medicines
 - Procurement and supply of medicines in the public sector.

1.165. UN WORLD FOOD PROGRAM WARNS WORLD IS FACING GLOBAL EMERGENCY AS AROUND 345 MILLION PEOPLE MARCHING TOWARD STARVATION.

- The UN World Food Program has warned that the world is facing a global emergency of unprecedented magnitude, as around 345 million people marching toward starvation.
- The executive director of the U.N. World Food Program, David Beasley said that 345 million people facing acute food insecurity in 82 countries.
- He said it is incredibly troubling that 50 million of those people in 45 countries are suffering from very acute malnutrition.
- UN Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Martin Griffiths said, the widespread and increasing food insecurity is a result of the direct and indirect impact of conflict and violence.
- He also urged the Security Council to leave no stone unturned in trying to end these conflicts.

About the World Food Programme (WFP):

- The **World Food Programme (WFP)** is the leading humanitarian organization saving lives and changing lives, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience.
- It was founded in 1961 by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** and **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** with its headquarters in Rome, Italy.
- It is also a member of the **United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG)**, a coalition of UN agencies and organizations aimed at fulfilling the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
- The international community has committed to end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition by 2030.
- WFP **works in over 120 countries and territories** to bring life-saving food to people displaced by conflict and made destitute by disasters.

1.166. JHARKHAND BECOMES THE 3RD STATE TO HAVE FOOD SECURITY ATLAS.

- Jharkhand has become the third state after Bihar and Odisha in eastern India to have Food Security Atlas for its rural areas. Odisha and Bihar had their Atlas launched in 2018.
- Food Security Atlas of Rural Jharkhand 2022' launched in Ranchi.
- Finance Minister of Jharkhand, Dr Rameshwar Oraon assured that the government would make efforts towards giving quota and green cards to the food insecure districts of Jharkhand.

Key Points of the Atlas:

- This Atlas is an effort toward mapping the food security situation in the state.
- It has been prepared by the **Delhi-based Institute for Human Development (IHD)** as part of the research initiative of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai.
- This document will play an important role in informing policy.
- Given the poor monsoon this year there is a drought-like situation in many districts of the state.
- Hence, the availability of food is an issue due to the low extent of irrigation and ensuring food security is an even bigger issue wherein 75 per cent of the people need attention whose hunger needs to be eradicated.

1.167. A&N BECOMES INDIA'S FIRST STATE/UT TO ACHIEVE 100 PERCENT COVERAGE OF PRECAUTIONARY DOSE.

- Andaman Nicobar Islands becomes India's first state/UT to achieve a cent percent coverage of precautionary dose. To date, more than 2,87,216 beneficiaries aged 18 have been vaccinated with a precautionary dose.
- The rate of vaccination has seen a spike after the 15th of July when Government decided to provide precautionary doses free of cost under 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- To intensify the campaign, healthcare workers reached households and numerous camps have organized in urban and rural areas, which received a good response, at last, the set target have been achieved before the set time limit of the 30th of Sept.
- First, the Nicobar district has been fully vaccinated with a precautionary dose. Afterward, the North and Middle Andaman and South Andaman districts were fully covered. Corbevax along with Covishield have been administered as a precautionary dose in the islands.
- Apart from this, the set target of youths under 15-18 yrs and 12-14 yrs age category have been also fully vaccinated.
- A&N Islands have achieved this milestone in all the above three categories. The vaccination drive continues to go on in the islands.

1.168. CENTRE CALLS FOR “POSHAN VATIKAS” THROUGHOUT COUNTRY.

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has called for the creation of “Poshan Vatikas” throughout the country in anticipation of the month-long Poshan Maah celebrations in September 2021.
- The government said that four lakh 37 thousand Anganwadi Centres have set up Poshan Vatikas or Nutri-gardens to provide easy and affordable access to fruits, vegetables, medicinal plants and herbs.
- The Nutri-gardens have been set up under the Poshan Maah Scheme (2018) and aimed at improving nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- Under the Poshan Maah Scheme, efforts are being put into setting up Nutri gardens with backyard poultry and fishery units across the country.
- Around 1.10 lakh medicinal saplings have also been planted across some selected districts of six states. More than 75 thousand sensitization camps have been conducted to promote millets and backyard kitchen gardens. Beyond the locally available wholesome produce, these Nutri-gardens will reduce external dependency and will make communities proactive in maintaining their nutritional security.
- To replicate the idea of Nutri-gardens around new Anganwadi centres, close to 40 thousand land identification drives have been conducted. Also, more than 1.5 lakh events on these nutria-gardens have been reported so far.
- The main idea behind setting up of these gardens is to provide a fresh and regular supply of locally produced fruits, vegetables and medicinal plants to women and children straight from a Nutri-garden at or near an Anganwadi Centre. They can also play an important role in enhancing dietary diversity by providing key micronutrients through local fruits and vegetables.
- Launched in 2018, POSHAN Abhiyaan is a key component of Mission Poshan 2.0 which seeks to address the challenges of malnutrition in children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers through a strategic shift in nutrition content and delivery. It also aims at promoting practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity.
- In India, child malnutrition has been improving gradually. As per reports, comparing the two National Family Health Surveys conducted in the years 2016 and 2021, children who are underweight reduced by 3.7 percentage points, those who are stunted reduced by 2.9 percentage points, and those who are wasted reduced by 1.7 percentage points.

1.169. WHO LAUNCHES NEW INITIATIVE TO STOP SPREAD OF INVASIVE MALARIA VECTOR IN AFRICA.

- A new World Health Organization (WHO) initiative has been launched that aims to stop the further spread of this **invasive mosquito species** in the region.
- The WHO had identified the spread of **Anopheles stephensi** as a significant threat to malaria control and elimination in 2019 – particularly in Africa, where the disease hits hardest. Originally native to parts of South Asia and the Arabian Peninsula, An. stephensi has been expanding its range over the last decade, with detections reported in Djibouti (2012), Ethiopia and Sudan (2016), Somalia (2019) and Nigeria (2020).
- Unlike the other main mosquito vectors of malaria in Africa, it **thrives in urban settings**.
- “With more than 40 per cent of the population in Africa living in urban environments, the WHO said the invasion and spread of An. stephensi could pose a significant threat to the control and elimination of malaria. But large-scale surveillance of the vector is still in its infancy, and more research and data are urgently needed.”
- WHO’s new initiative aims to support an effective regional response to An. stephensi on the African continent through a **five-pronged approach**.
- These approaches include increasing collaboration across sectors and border; strengthening surveillance to determine the extent of the spread of An. stephensi and its role in transmission; and improving information exchange on the presence of An. stephensi.
- These efforts also aim at developing guidance for national malaria control programmes on appropriate ways to respond to An. stephensi and prioritizing research to evaluate the impact of interventions and tools against An. stephensi.
- “Where feasible, national responses to An. stephensi should be integrated with efforts to control malaria and other vector-borne diseases, such as dengue fever, yellow fever and chikungunya.
- The WHO Global vector control response 2017-2030 provides a framework for investigating and implementing such integration.

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SPORTS

1.170. HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH LAUNCHES ANTHEM & MASCOT OF 36TH NATIONAL GAMES IN AHMEDABAD.

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the mascot and the anthem for the 36th National Games at Trans Stadia in Ahmedabad.
- The mascot is named as Savaj which means cub in Gujarati.
- The theme of the anthem is Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.
- The National Games will be organised between September 29 to October 12 at six cities in the state namely Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot and Bhavnagar.
- Addressing the gathering, the minister said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has left no stone unturned to promote sports in the country.
- He said the budget allocated for sports in the year 2014 was 866 crore which was increased to 2 thousand crores in 2022.
- The minister said be it Olympic or commonwealth games, number of India's medal is increasing.
- The event also witnessed the closing of 11th Khel Mahakumbh.
- Winners of Khel Mahakumbh were given away prizes at the hands of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
- Four Parathletics from Gujarat were also felicitated with **Khel Pratibha awards** on the occasion.
- Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur as well as eminent dignitaries were present at the curtain raiser event.

1.171. ALL SET TO HOST FIRST EVER MOUNTAIN BICYCLE WORLD CUP IN LEH.

- In Leh, all is set to host the first-ever Mountain Bicycle, MTB, World Cup- the 'UCI MTB Eliminator World Cup' in India.
- Ladakh Police in collaboration with the Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh and Cycling Association of India is organizing this International Cycling event on Sunday.
- Ladakh leg of Eliminator world cup is part of series of ten professional races held in various cities across the world.
- UCI MTB Eliminator World Cup is a short track race with Cross Country Eliminator, XCE, format of five hundred meters with natural and artificial obstacles.
- Twenty international, 55 national and local cyclists are participating in the event.
- Ladakh MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, Leh CEC Tashi Gyaltson and Ladakh ADGP SS Khandare will flag off time trials for men and women, Kids joy ride and Cross Country Eliminator, XCE, for men respectively.
- Ladakh Lieutenant Governor RK Mathur will flag off the Cross-Country Eliminator Heats and Finals at Leh main bazaar.

1.172. 68TH EDITION OF NEHRU TROPHY BOAT RACE TO BE HELD AT PUNNAMADA LAKE IN KERALA.

- In Kerala, the 68th edition of the prestigious Nehru Trophy Boat Race will be held at Punnamada lake in Alappuzha district.
- 20 snake boats (chundan valloms) will be competing for the coveted trophy, which bears the signature of the first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.
- The event is marked by vigour, sportsman spirit and revelry.
- Competitions are held in nine categories in which nearly 77 boats including snake boats will take part. The heat rounds are being held.
- 24 shikara paddlers from Dal Lake in Srinagar are also participating in the boat race this time.
- They will be part of the snake boat St Pious Tenth, paddled by Kumarakom Town Boat Club.
- **Nehru Trophy is also associated with Hockey.**

1.173. HARMANPREET SINGH NOMINATED FOR FIH PLAYER OF YEAR AWARD; PR SREEJESH AND SAVITA PUNIA SHORTLISTED IN GOALKEEPERS CATEGORY.

- Indian hockey team players PR Sreejesh, Harmanpreet Singh and Savita Punia have been shortlisted for the 2021-22 year-end FIH awards. Harmanpreet Singh has been nominated for the FIH Men's Player of the Year award while PR Sreejesh and Savita Punia are in the running for the FIH Men's and Women's Goalkeeper of the Year, respectively.
- All three had won the awards in their categories in the 2020-21 edition.
- Indian men's team head coach Graham Reid is in the shortlist for the FIH Men's Team Coach of the Year award while women's team coach Janneke Schopman is also in the running for the women's coach of the year honour.
- Graham Reid was voted the men's team coach of the year for 2020-21.

1.174. NEERAJ CHOPRA BECOMES FIRST INDIAN TO WIN ZURICH DIAMOND LEAGUE FINAL IN SWITZERLAND.

- Tokyo Olympic gold medallist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has achieved yet another historic feat as he became the first Indian to win the prestigious Zurich Diamond League Final 2022 in Switzerland.
- Neeraj Chopra's second throw, measuring 88.44 metre, won him the Diamond League trophy.
- Olympic silver medallist Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic finished second with a best throw of 86.94 metre which he registered in his fourth attempt.
- Julian Weber of Germany was third with a best of 83.73metre.

1.175. US OPEN: CARLOS ALCARAZ BEATS CASPER RUUD TO CLINCH HIS MAIDEN MEN'S SINGLES TITLE.

- Spanish teenager Carlos Alcaraz beat Casper Ruud to win Men's Singles title at the US Open tennis in New York.
- Alcaraz defeated Ruud in a four-set thriller to clinch his maiden Grand Slam.
- The 19-year-old Alcaraz is the youngest men's Grand Slam champion since Rafael Nadal won the French Open in 2005.
- The US Open title win also sees him become the youngest world number 1.

1.176. UNION CABINET OF INDIA APPROVES SIGNING OF GUARANTEES FOR HOSTING FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (FIFA) UNDER 17 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP 2022 IN INDIA.

- FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022 is scheduled to be held in India between 11th and 30th October 2022.
- The seventh edition of the biennial youth tournament will be the first-ever FIFA women's competition to be hosted by India.
- Carrying on the positive legacy from the FIFA Under-17 Men's World Cup 2017, the nation is preparing for a seminal moment for women's football when the best young female footballers from across the world will be showcasing their skills to lift the coveted trophy.
- Financial outlay of Rs. 10 crore assistance to All India Football Federation (AIFF) for Field of play Maintenance, Stadium power, Energy & Cabling, Stadia & Training Site Branding etc will be met from the budgetary allocation for the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs).

1.177. BAJRANG PUNIA BAGS BRONZE MEDAL AT WORLD WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS AT BELGRADE, SERBIA.

- In Wrestling, ace Indian wrestler and Olympic medalist Bajrang Punia captured a bronze medal in the men's 65 kg category at World Wrestling Championships yesterday.

- He defeated Puerto Rico's Sebastian C Rivera by 11-9. This is Punia's fourth medal at the Championships, starting his journey with bronze in 2013.
- He went on to win silver in the 2018 Championships and followed it with another bronze in 2019. Now, he has four championship medals.
- This is India's second medal at the ongoing edition of the World Wrestling Championships.
- Indian wrestler and Commonwealth Games 2022 gold medalist Vinesh Phogat captured a bronze medal in the women's 53 kg category at the ongoing World Wrestling Championships 2022 in Belgrade.

1.178. INDIAN NAVY CONDUCTS ENC YACHTING CHAMPIONSHIP AT VISAKHAPATNAM.

- **ENC Yachting Championship** was conducted by INWTC, INS Circas under the aegis of HQENC at Vishakhapatnam.
- Prize distribution and closing ceremony were facilitated by the Chief Guest, **Comde Sumantra Hazarika, Director MWC (V)**.

About ENC Yachting Championship:

- In total 38 races were conducted in Enterprise Dinghy, **ILCA 6, ILCA 7 classes, and BicNova Wind Surfer**.
- A total of **46 yachtsmen and 8 yatchwomen** took part in the ENC Yachting Championship.
- The races were conducted among **seven different teams** of ENC.
- Local **Ashore B was declared the overall winner** and Fleet B was runner-up for the ENC Yachting Championship.
- The main of the championship was to inculcate **sportsmanship, camaraderie, and a spirit of adventure** among the participants.

1.179. BANGLADESH SCORE A HISTORIC WIN TO LIFT SAFF WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP.

- Bangladesh won a historic victory at the SAFF Women's Championship to lift the maiden title at the Dashrath Rangshala Stadium in Kathmandu. The Bangladesh team defeated hosts Nepal by 3-1 in the finals.
- Bangladesh skipper Sabina Khatun was the top scorer of the tournament with 8 goals in 5 matches.
- She was also named as the Most Valuable Player of the tournament for her extraordinary game.
- The Bangladesh team won the fair play award also.
- Skipper Sabina dedicated the SAFF Women's Championship trophy to the people of Bangladesh.
- Goalkeeper Rupna Chakma from Bangladesh was named the best goalkeeper. She conceded just one goal in the tournament.

About SAFF

- The SAFF Women's Championship, also called the South Asian Football Federation Women's Cup, is the main association football competition of the women's national football teams, governed by the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF). All seven members are eligible to participate in this tournament.
- The current SAFF members are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- Formerly, eight members used to compete, prior to the departure of Afghanistan from SAFF
- It is held every two years and **India won first 5 edition** so far.

1.180. FORMER INDIA HOCKEY CAPTAIN DILIP TIRKEY UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED AS PRESIDENT.

- Dilip Tirkey, a former India hockey captain and member of the gold medal-winning team at the 1998 Asian Games, was unanimously elected as Hockey India (HI) president.
- First time in history, a former sportsperson and an Olympian has gone on to head the national body.
- Tirkey, 44, has a record 412 international matches as a defender in his career spanning more than 15 years.
- He represented India at the Olympic Games in Atlanta in 1996, Sydney in 2000, and Athens in 2004.
- The Hockey India elections were supposed to be completed by October 9, according to the deadline set in August by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) and the Committee of Administrators (CoA).

- Prior to Tirkey's election as president, Hockey India was subject to the COA's jurisdiction on the orders of the Delhi High Court due to an alleged violation of the National Sports Act.

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AWARDS

1.181. UNION MINISTER GIRIRAJ SINGH EXHORTS SARPACHES, GRAM PRADHANS TO ENSURE PARTICIPATION IN REVAMPED NATIONAL PANCHAYAT AWARDS.

- Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Giriraj Singh have exhorted Sarpaches and Gram Pradhans to ensure participation of all Gram Panchayats in the selection process of the revamped National Panchayat Awards.
- The process of inviting applications for revamped National Panchayat Awards will commence from 10th of this month. The last date for online submission of entries is 31st October this year.
- The Minister informed that the format, procedures, and categories of the National Panchayat Awards have been comprehensively revised to establish a multi-level competition to reorganize, felicitate and incentivize the best performing Panchayats at the Block, District, State, and National levels.
- Mr Singh said, to accelerate the pace of localization and achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in Panchayats, the format and categories of National Panchayat Awards has been substantially modified.
- 24th April is observed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj as National Panchayati Raj Day every year to celebrate the constitutional status accorded to Panchayati Raj system in the country.
- On this occasion, Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been awarded the best performing Panchayats, States, and Union Territories across the country.

National Panchayat Awards

- Incentivization of Panchayats scheme is one of the central components of Centrally Sponsored scheme of revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA).
- Under this scheme, 'National Panchayat Awards' are given to the best performing Panchayats, including financial incentives for award winning Panchayats, in recognition of their performances under various priority sectors/themes.
- These awards are usually given annually on 24th April, celebrated as National Panchayati Raj Day to commemorate 73rd Constitution Amendment Act, 1992 which came into force with effect from 24th April, 1993.
- To nudge PRIs for a systematic planning, implementation, monitoring and accountability towards achieving LSDGs at the Panchayat level, the National Panchayat Awards have been restructured.

Incentivization of Panchayats scheme, through National Panchayat Awards aims to:

- Assess the performance of PRIs in attainment of SDGs through 9 identified themes
- Promote competitive spirit among PRIs
- Catalyze the process of 'Localization of SDGs through PRIs' and sensitizing the PRIs about significance of attaining LSDG by 2030

1.182. 64TH RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARD 2022 ANNOUNCED.

- The Ramon Magsaysay Awards Foundation (RMAF), which is widely regarded as the "Nobel Peace Prize of Asia," recently announced this year's awardees in a global announcement ceremony.
- The 2022 Ramon Magsaysay Awardees are Sotheara Chhim (Cambodia), Bernadette Madrid (Philippines), Tadashi Hattori (Japan) and Gary Benchehib (Indonesia).

About recipients Ramon Magsaysay Award 2022:

- **Sotheara Chhim**-He is a mental health advocate from Cambodia. He is a leading voice in Cambodian trauma syndrome. He is being recognized for "his calm courage in surmounting deep trauma to become his people's healer". As a child, he was forced to work in Khmer Rouge camps for more than three years until their rule ended in 1979.
- **Tadashi Hattori**-He is a sight-saving humanitarian from Japan. He is being recognized for his simple humanity and extraordinary generosity as a person and a professional. He decided to become a doctor at age 15 when he witnessed the rude treatment that his cancer-stricken father received in a hospital.

- **Bernadette J. Madrid**-She is a children's rights crusader from the Philippines. She is being recognized for "her unassuming and steadfast commitment to noble and demanding advocacy. Since 1997, she has led the country's first child protection centre at the Philippine General Hospital in Manila. It has served more than 27,000 children as of last year.
- **Gary Benchehib**-He is an anti-plastic pollution warrior from Indonesia. He is being recognized for Emergent Leadership for "his inspiring fight against marine plastic pollution.

About Ramon Magsaysay Award:

- The Ramon Magsaysay Award, established in 1957, is Asia's greatest honour and distinction. The award is managed by RMAF.
- It is named after Ramon Magsaysay, the third president of the Philippines. The award is regarded around the world as "Asia's Nobel Prize".
- The prize is annually presented in a ceremonial ceremony in Manila, Philippines on August 31.
- The first Ramon Magsaysay Awards ceremony was held on 31st August 1958.

1.183. GRSE AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS 'RAJBHASHA KIRTI PURASKAR' FOR 2021-22.

- **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineering Limited (GRSE)**, Kolkata, has been awarded with the '**Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar**' by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. GRSE was awarded by the **Government of India** for the best implementation of official language under public sector undertakings in region 'C' for the year 2021-22.

GRSE

- The '**Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar**' was presented to Shri Ajay Kumar Mishra, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Home.
- The award was presented during the **Hindi Diwas Celebration** organized at Surat.
- The Hindi Diwas Celebration was organized under the chairmanship of Shri Amit Shah, **Hon'ble Union Minister of Home Affairs and Corporation**.
- The event was facilitated by **Shri Bhupendra Bhai Patel**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat, **Shri Nishith Pramanik**, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, and other Union and State Cabinet Ministers, MPs, and MLAs were also present.
- GRSE has received the 'Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar' for the best official language Implementation during **2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017**.
- The '**Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar**' is the highest award given by the government of India in the field of **official Language Implementation**.
- GRSE is the only **Defence, and public sector undertaking in Kolkata** to receive this award.

1.184. INDIA BAGS UN AWARD FOR ITS INITIATIVE TO CONTROL, PREVENT HYPERTENSION UNDER NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION.

- In a significant achievement and recognition to country's efforts against hypertension, India has won a UN award for its initiative to control and prevent hypertension under the government's National Health Mission.
- The India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI) which is a large-scale hypertension intervention under National Health Mission, has been recognized for its exceptional work within India's existing primary healthcare system.
- The IHCI won the '2022 UN Interagency Task Force and WHO Special Programme on Primary Health Care Award' at the UN General Assembly side event held at New York in USA.
- The award recognizes the outstanding commitment and action of India to prevent and control Non-Communicable Diseases and deliver integrated people-centric primary care.
- The IHCI has been able to leverage and strengthen the existing healthcare delivery system, and hypertension control interventions under National Health Mission.

- The initiative was launched in 2017 and expanded in a phased manner to cover more than 130 districts across 23 states.
- Under the initiative, more than 34 lakh people with hypertension are taking treatment in government health facilities, including Ayushman Bharat Health Wellness Centres.

1.185. LEGENDARY ACTRESS ASHA PAREKH TO BE HONOURED WITH DADASAHEB PHALKE AWARD ON SEPTEMBER 30 IN NEW DELHI.

- Legendary actress Asha Parekh will be honoured with Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year 2020. The award will be presented to her at the National Film Award ceremony in New Delhi on September 30.
- Announcing the decision, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said that the Dadasaheb Phalke Selection Jury has decided to award Ms. Parekh for her exemplary lifetime contribution to Indian Cinema.
- He also announced that the 68th National Film Awards will be held on 30th September and will be presided over by President Droupadi Murmu.
- Ms. Asha Parekh is a renowned film actress, director and producer and an accomplished Indian classical dancer. Starting her career as a child actor, she made her debut as lead heroine in Dil Deke Dekho and has gone on to act in over 95 movies.
- She has acted in various films like Kati Patang, Teesri Manzil, Love in Tokyo, Aya Saawan Jhoom Ke, Aan Milo Sajna, Mera Gaon Mera Desh. Ms. Parekh is also a winner of Padma Shri, which was awarded to her in 1992. She has also served as the head of Central Board for Film Certification from 1998-2001.

About the Dadasaheb Phalke Award:

- The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is the highest honour in Indian cinema.
- The award was instituted in 1969, the award is the highest honour for an artiste in Indian cinema.
- Devika Rani was the first winner, while actor Rajinikanth is the most recent winner of the prestigious honour, in 2021.

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STATE NEWS

1.186. PM MODI TO INAUGURATE SCIENCE CONCLAVE AT SCIENCE CITY IN AHMEDABAD, GUJARAT ON 10TH SEPTEMBER 2022.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Science Conclave at Science City in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on the 10th September 2022.
- Science and Technology Ministers of all the States, Administrators of Union Territories, senior officials of various Ministries, Departments and CEO of over 100 Start-ups are expected to take part in the two-day conclave.
- Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said, this time the conclave will be held in a different format with focus on new technologies and their optimum application for ease of living.
- The conclave will strengthen the science, technology and innovation ecosystem through greater synergy across the country.
 - The conclave will foster proactive engagements between the Centre and States in the area of science and technology.
- It will also create a mechanism to facilitate the flow of information, data sharing, and capacity building of scientists, technologists and professionals.
- He said, the Centre and States will work together to promote private sector participation in research and development. Dr. Singh informed that all States and UTs will be asked to bring individual Science, Technology and Innovation policies along the lines of national policy.
- The Minister said, the Centre will assist States in formulating their policies as a true spirit of cooperative federalism.
- The Centre will also work with States to address their specific science, technology, and innovation needs and challenges.
- He stressed that States must be able to explore solutions to their local problems through Science and Technology interventions.

1.187. J&K: 9.8 KM TUNNEL ON BANIHAL-KATRA RAILWAY LINK COMPLETED.

- In Jammu and Kashmir, the 9.8 km railway tunnel connecting two stations on the 111 km under construction Banihal-Katra railway link of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line (USBRL) project has been completed.
- The Dugga railway station located on its Jammu end has been connected with Basindadar (Sawalkote) railway station towards Srinagar end by the completion of this tunnel.
- This is the third tunnel following the 12.6 km tunnel T-49B, the longest tunnel of Indian Railways, which was completed in January this year.
- On August 14, the world's highest rail bridge over the Chenab River in Kouri area of Reasi district achieved a milestone when the overarch deck of the bridge was completed with a golden joint.

1.188. SJVN PROPOSES TO DEVELOP 5000 MW SOLAR POWER PROJECTS IN PUNJAB.

- SJVN Chairman and Managing Director Nand Lal Sharma called on Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann at Chandigarh and expressed keen interest in developing 5000 MW renewable energy projects in the state.

5000 MW solar Power projects in Punjab

- SJVN Chairman and Managing Director proposed to develop the 5000 MW renewable energy projects through Solar Projects, Canal Top Solar Projects and Floating Solar Projects across the state, by way of Joint Ventures formation, Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs).
- The Chief Minister assured him of extending all possible support in the development of solar projects and assured any approval related to the project will be processed in time
- Nand Lal Sharma made a comprehensive presentation and apprised that SJVN a trans-national company has 42,000MW in its kitty, which includes a strong renewable portfolio.

- SJVN has outlined a Roadmap for developing Renewable Energy in the State of Punjab due to exponential power demand as a result of various developmental activities.
- SJVN looks forward to be a strategic partner in this growth story of Punjab by harnessing Green Energy.
- SJVN is already developing a 100 MW Solar Power Project in Punjab and the PPA for the same was signed on 23 June, 2022 with PSPCL.

Development of Power projects in Punjab

- The Project is being developed at the cost of Rs 545 crores and will generate 245.28 MU in the first year, while the cumulative energy generation over a period of 25 years would be around 5643.52 MU.
- Recently the company has also signed an MoU with the Government of Rajasthan for developing 10,000 MW solar project parks.
- SJVN is aggressively poised to contribute to the growth story of the nation by marching ahead to meet its shared vision of 5000 MW by 2023, 25000 MW by 2030 and 50000 MW by 2040.

1.189. MEGHALAYA CM CONRAD K SANGMA LAUNCHED 'RURAL BACKYARD PIGGERY SCHEME'.

- Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma has launched the 'Rural Backyard Piggery Scheme' to ensure the farmers earn a sustainable livelihood through different livestock farming activities.
- The Chief Minister said that the government through different welfare schemes is successfully providing income generation opportunities and economic prosperity to the farmers.

Under Rural Backyard Piggery Scheme – phase 1:

- The government has earmarked Rs 15.18 crore under which four high-yielding improved varieties will be distributed to 6000 families.
- Rs 25 crore will be earmarked to roll out the second phase of the programme.
- To make the state self-sufficient in pork, the government is implementing one of the largest piggery development programmes the 'Meghalaya Piggery Mission'.
- Under this mission, zero interest loan is provided for setting up fattening and pig breeding.
- So far 250 piggery cooperative societies have availed loans amounting to Rs 43.67 crore.

1.190. HIMACHAL PRADESH GOVT TO START MUKHYA MANTRI SHODH PROTSAHAN YOJNA.

- Himachal Pradesh Government announced to start **Mukhya Mantri Shodh Protsahan Yojna** wherein monthly fellowship of **Rs 3000** would be given to **research scholars** for a period of three years from the date of registration.
- The decision was announced after a state cabinet meeting held in Shimla under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur.
- This initiative has been taken to motivate the youth for quality research in different fields.

Research Institute in Himachal Pradesh

- The **Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS)** is a research institute based in Shimla.
- It was set up by the Ministry of Education, Government of India in 1964 and started functioning from 20 October 1965.

1.191. SARDAR PATEL UNIVERSITY SIGNS MOUs.

- The Sardar Patel University, Mandi signed MoUs with the Indian Institute of Technology Mandi (IIT-Mandi), Thakur Ram Singh Itihas Shodh Sansthan NERI, Hamirpur, GB Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment, Almora (UK), CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT) Palampur, Chettinad Academy of Research and Education, Kelambakkam, Tamil Nadu, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, for higher education academic partnership.

- Prof DD Sharma, Vice-Chancellor of the Sardar Patel University in Mandi said the relation between the SPU and these institutes assumes importance particularly when education is undergoing a transformational change though the mandate of the National Education Policy (NEP-2020).
- Prof Sharma said the overall objective of these MoUs is to promote collaboration for cooperation in research, education and faculty/student exchange.

About Sardar Patel University

- Sardar Patel University has been established as a second state University by an Act passed by Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha in the year 2021.
- It is situated in Mandi District.
- The University started its operations with effect from 1st April 2022.
- The University is established for the purpose of affiliating, teaching and ensuring proper and systematic instructions, training and research in the Higher Education system.

1.192. TRIPURA SETS UP THE INDIA'S FIRST BIO-VILLAGES.

- **Tripura** becomes the first state in India to have the **first modified bio-village**.
- The **Daspara village** of Tripura is converted into a **nature-based lifestyle and livelihood** and reduced the use of chemical fertilizers.
- Daspara is a home for 64 families which depends on agriculture and fishery.
- Daspara is one of the five successful bio-village 2.0 conceptualized in Tripura.

About:

- Tripura Government has aimed to set up a total of **100 bio villages** in the state.
- 10 bio villages are completed, and the first bio village has been set up at Daspara in Charilam constituency of Sepahijala district.
- The **bio village project** aims to provide **sustainable livelihood and food security** to ensure holistic socio-economic development among rural communities.
- The project supports the development of **solar-powered agricultural equipment, energy-saving electrical devices, biogas, and biofertilizers** at the local level.
- The main objective of the project is to **promote green technology** like solar water pumps, biomass cook stoves, and biogas plants for sustainable production of agricultural and allied sector-related products.

1.193. UTTARAKHAND GOVT LAUNCHED 'SAMARTH' E-GOVERNANCE PORTAL.

- The **Uttarakhand education department** launched an e-governance portal "**Samarth**".
- **This portal** provides all administrative and educational updates including information about entrance exams, salary structures, and appointments from five state universities and **140 public schools**.
- The initiative has been taken in a bid to make the education system more transparent in the state.

About the portal:

- The portal also provides access to 40 academic study modules.
- 200 assistant professors of science subjects will be sent to the **Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru** for special training, while teachers of state universities will be given training at **IIM Kashipur**.
- The **new education policy (NEP-2020)** will be also implemented in the state from this session in September.
- In addition, to provide quality education to students, a teacher-sharing format that will connect multiple private and government schools across the country will also be introduced soon.

1.194. ARMY'S FIRE AND FURY CORPS EXTENDS 'IGNITED MINDS' PROJECT TO KARGIL.

- In Ladakh, Indian Army's Fire and Fury Corps extended 'Ignited Minds', a project to train the students for Medical and Engineering entrance exams, to Kargil.

- The project 'Ladakh Ignited Minds', an Indian Army initiative to provide holistic educational training for Ladakhi youth.
- A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and National Integrity and Educational Development Organization (NIEDO) to provide full time residential training program exclusively for Kargil girls.
- Under this joint initiative, Kargil girls get full and free residential coaching for Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) and National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET). Ladakh domiciled 12th students who passed with 70 percentage of marks or appeared this year, whose family income is less than three and half lakhs annual income are eligible to apply.
- Ignited Minds project launched last year has been successful in Leh. Kanpur based NGO, NIEDO will execute the project while Army will provide administrative and logistic support and funding by HPCL.

1.195. BORDER TOURISM PICKS UP IN JAMMU & KASHMIR, LADAKH.

- The new concept of **border tourism** has proved a hit in the Union Territories of **Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir** with the respective governments opening border destinations along the **international border (IB)** and **Line of Control (LOC)** for tourists.
- Tourists have started thronging the border destinations that give an eyeball-to-eyeball experience with people across the IB and LOC.
- **Teetwal** on the LOC in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, **Suchetgarh** along the IB in the Jammu district and **Turtuk** on the LOC in Ladakh have registered an increased footfall of tourists following patronage of the respective governments.
- Militarily strategic Turtuk was captured by India during the 1971 war with Pakistan and it has become India's northernmost village on the LOC. It is attracting a large number of tourists keen to witness the **Baltistani culture** and stone utensils made locally.
- Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha has given a push to border tourism at Suchetgarh. In order to promote Teetwal as tourist destination under Border Tourism in the Valley, the Tourism Department in collaboration with district administration of Kupwara, Lolab- Bungus-Dringyari Development Authority (LBDDA), Cultural Academy and Army organised a border tourism festival on the banks of **Kishen Ganga** at Teetwal near zero line.
- The Director Tourism said that the aim of the Border Tourism Festival at historical Teetwal was to promote the area as a tourist destination besides providing a platform to local artists to showcase their talent.
- He further said that the border tourism has a potential to change the socio-economic condition of the people. He urged the people to get registered for home stays as tourists prefer home stays to enjoy rich cultural heritage.

1.196. UP GOVT TO PROVIDE A UNIQUE FARM ID SIMILAR TO AADHAR NUMBER TO FARMERS.

- Uttar Pradesh government will provide a unique farm ID similar to Aadhar number to the farmers, which will be linked with Aadhar to provide them benefits of all government schemes.
- Aadhar verification will be used to implement this scheme in the coming days.
- Speaking at a workshop regarding the recent initiatives taken to make the use of Aadhar more simple, Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra said that with the help of Aadhar, UP Government has given the benefit of the government schemes to maximum number of people.
- He said the government has saved around 8400 crore rupees with the use of Aadhar verification.
- Around one crore 92 lakh school children are also getting the benefit of various schemes with the help of Aadhar card verification.
- Mr Mishra also said that Uttar Pradesh government will start providing Family ID very soon as it is already working on the scheme.
- He said that Government will bring those families into the ambit of this scheme who are not getting any kind of benefits till now.

- Chief Executive Officer of Unique Identification Authority of India, Saurabh Garg Said that the credibility of the Aadhar is being discussed worldwide and many African countries also want to implement Aadhar system.

1.197. GUJARAT GOVT ANNOUNCES FIRST-EVER CINEMATIC TOURISM POLICY IN AHMEDABAD.

- Gujarat government announced the first-ever Cinematic Tourism Policy in Ahmedabad.
- The policy will be effective for five years from 2022 to 2027. Announcing the policy, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said, this policy will help in strengthening the film infrastructure in the state.
- It will also bring all the service providers associated with filmmaking on one platform and will boost tourism activities in the State.
- This scheme aims to promote cinematic tourism through the development of film infrastructure and the creation of attractive opportunities for cinema in Gujarat.
- This scheme offers various financial and non-financial incentives for filmmakers.
- Four MoUs worth 1022 crore rupees were signed in the presence of Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and various leading investors from the film industry including famous Bollywood actor Ajay Devgan.

1.198. NAUNI SCIENTIST BAGS YOUNG RESEARCHER AWARD.

- Pramod Sharma, Senior Scientist, Department of Fruit Science, Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, has bagged the 'Outstanding Young Researcher Award in Plant growth-promoting rhizobacteria (PGPR)' for sustainable agriculture at the 7th Asian International Conference for Sustainable Agriculture held at Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia recently.
- The conference was organised by the Asian PGPR Society and the Malaysian PGPR Society.
- The award was given in recognition of his service, scientific innovations and accomplishments. Pramod was additionally awarded 'Certificate of Appreciation' for oral presentation on a research paper.

1.199. CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DECLARED SCHEDULED TRIBE STATUS TO TRANSGIRI AREA OF HIMACHAL PRADESH.

- This decision taken in the meeting of the Union Cabinet has been announced by the Minister of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Affairs Arjun Munda during a press conference in the presence of Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur.
- It will benefit the 1,60,000 people from the Hati community of Sirmaur would be benefitted by the cabinet's decision.

1.200. PUNJAB WILL BE THE FIRST STATE IN THE COUNTRY TO PROVIDE WELFARE SCHEMES' PENSION PAYMENT THROUGH THE PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (PFMS).

- Punjab minister Dr Baljit Kaur told, Punjab govt. was continuously working to provide hassle-free services and timely social welfare schemes benefits to the elderly, widows and destitute women, dependent children and disabled.
- She said that under these initiatives, the government would utilise the PFMS for prompt payment of pension.
- The state government is providing financial assistance to the beneficiaries in the form of a pension of Rs 1,500 per month.
- At present, 30.25 lakh beneficiaries were getting the benefit of pension under these schemes in the state.

1.201. ADDITION OF TRIBES TO THE LIST OF STs.

- Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the addition of four tribes to the list of Scheduled Tribes, including those from Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh.

- The Hatti tribe in the Trans-Giri area of Sirmour district in Himachal Pradesh, the Narikoravan and Kurivikkaran hill tribes of Tamil Nadu and the Binjhia in Chhattisgarh, who were listed as ST in Jharkhand and Odisha but not in Chhattisgarh, were the communities newly added to the list.
- Further, the Cabinet approved a proposal to bring the Gond community residing in 13 districts of Uttar Pradesh, under the ST list from the Scheduled Caste list.
- This includes the five subcategories of the Gond community (Dhuria, Nayak, Ojha, Pathari, and Rajgond).

Process of Inclusion

- The process to include tribes in the ST list begins with the recommendation from the respective State governments, which are then sent to the Tribal Affairs Ministry, which reviews and sends them to the Registrar General of India for approval.
- This is followed by the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes' approval before the list is sent to the Cabinet for a final decision.

1.202. JHARKHAND RAISES RESERVATIONS FOR SC, ST, OTHERS TO 77%.

- The Jharkhand Government recently approved a proposal to grant 77 per cent reservation in the state government jobs for people belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, backward classes, OBC and other economically weaker sections.
- The state government of Jharkhand has approved a bill to amend the Jharkhand Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services Act, 2001.
- The amendment bill provides 77 per cent reservation to SC, ST, BC, OBCs and economically weaker sections.
- It has increased the OBC reservation to 27 per cent from the present 14 per cent.
- It provides quota of 12 per cent for people belonging to local SC communities and 28 per cent for local ST communities.
- The extremely Backward Class people are given 15 per cent reservation and OBCs are given 12 per cent reservation.
- Economically backward individuals who are not included in other reserved categories are given 10 per cent reservation.
- The reservations in the government jobs would curtail migration of people to other states across India.
- Increasing reservation limits, especially for other backward classes (OBCs) has been a long-pending demand in Jharkhand.
- The state government also approved the "Jharkhand definition of local persons and for extending the consequential, social, cultural and other benefits to such local persons Bill, 2022".
- Those who are landless or do not have their or their families' names in the 1932 Khatiyan, respective gram sabha would have the power to certify them based on language and customary traditions.
- This decision comes after the tribes demanded that the last land survey conducted by the British in 1932 must be used for determining who the local inhabitants were.
- The State Government has decided to request the Central Government to include the bill in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.

1.203. PEACE AGREEMENT INKED TO END DECADE-OLD CRISIS OF TRIBALS AND TEA GARDEN WORKERS IN ASSAM.

- A tripartite peace agreement was signed between the Centre, Assam Government and eight tribal groups of Assam to end decade old crisis of tribals and tea garden workers.
- The tribal groups which signed the agreement include Birsa Commando Force, Adivasi People's Army, All Adivasi National Liberation Army, Adivasi Cobra Military of Assam and Santhal Tiger Force.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah presided over the signing of the agreement in New Delhi yesterday.
- Terming this a historic day for the North East region, Mr. Shah said, several steps have been taken to ensure peace and development in the North East under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

- Mr. Shah said, the Centre is committed to resolve all border disputes between the North Eastern States and all disputes related to armed groups by 2024.

1.204. NAGA PEACE TALKS.

- The extremist National Socialist Council of Nagalim or the Isak-Muivah faction of the NSCN has agreed to resume peace talks with the Centre based on the Framework Agreement signed on August 3, 2015.

About:

- The Nagaland Peace Accord is a peace treaty, signed, on 3 August 2015, between the Government of India, and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN), to end the insurgency in the state of Nagaland in Northeast India.
- The decision follows a meeting between the 11 representatives of the NSCN(I-M) and the 22-member Core Committee on Naga Political Issue comprising MPs and MLAs of Nagaland at Chumoukedima near the State's commercial hub, Dimapur.
- There are reports that a Central team has been working on a new set of "formulation papers" for packaging a set of offers, along with the old, to facilitate the final peace deal.

1.205. LADAKH: OVER 2000 RUNNERS PARTICIPATE IN KARGIL INTERNATIONAL MARATHON 'RUN FOR APRICOT'.

- In Kargil Ladakh, over 2000 runners have participated in Kargil International Marathon. Kargil Hill Council and Ladakh Police have organized the marathon in collaboration with Sarhad Pune. Runners have participated in the full, half, 10K, and 5K categories in the event. The marathon is being organized with the slogan 'Run for Apricot', to celebrate the International market entry of Ladakh Apricots.
- Jigmet Namgial and Disket Dolma won the 42 KM Full Marathon in the Men and Women Category respectively.
- CEC LAHDC Kargil Feroz Ahmad Khan said, Kargil and UT Administrations are focused on developing the region as an ultimate destination for adventure tourism and leisure tourism as well. He said, the Kargil International Marathon will be organised on the 17th and 18th of September every year.
- He said, such events are also an opportunity for children to excel in sports and make healthy individuals.
- UT Advisor Umang Narula said, the Administration is promoting Ladakh for Marathon Runs in both Kargil and Leh districts.

1.206. GOLD AND SILVER FROM HIMACHAL TEMPLES TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO COINS.

- Himachal Pradesh is also referred to as Devbhoomi and millions of devotees visit the state every year to explore a variety of sacred sites.
- Religious tourists donate millions of dollars at these shrines, in addition to copious amounts of gold and silver. Now the donated gold and silver stored in the Himachal temples will be transformed into coins. Instructions have been provided to the District Commissioners of the corresponding districts to ensure **minting of coins from the gold and silver** stored in the **temples**, and to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Mines and Minerals Trading Corporation (MMTC)**.
- The government's action will give the temple management more financial clout.
- According to the Himachal Pradesh Language and Culture Department, the state government has requested all 36 of the government-run temples to sign an agreement with MMTC. Following the signing of this MoU, the gold and silver pyrite found in Himachal Pradesh's temples can be transformed into gold cookies and coins.
- It will be offered for sale to visitors to the temple, and the proceeds will go toward the development and building of the temple. The 36 temples that the state government controls, store tonnes of gold and silver, crores of rupees, and enormous bank deposits.

- The **Chintpurni temple** is the **wealthiest** in the state; it has cash offerings totaling Rs. 1.57 crores, fixed deposits worth Rs. 102 crore, 1.98 quintals of gold, and 71.42 quintals of silver. The **Naina Devi temple** in Bilaspur comes in **second place** with Rs. 11.47 crore in cash offerings and Rs. 58.97 crore in fixed deposits.
- The total gift offerings made by the pilgrims to the temple include 1.80 quintals of gold and 72.92 quintals of silver. Baba Balak Nath Temple in Hamirpur, has cash in hand totaling Rs 16.66 crore, fixed deposits totaling Rs 28.45 crore, 26.649 kg of gold, and 3.82 quintals of silver.
- Despite the fact the government controls 36 temples; a court lawsuit surrounding the Shri Sadashiv Mahadev Temple in the Sirmaur district is still unresolved.
- The temple trusts are in charge of these temples' upkeep and maintenance in addition to building new buildings and improved infrastructure, and the funds raised through offerings are used for that purpose.

1.207. GI TAGGING OF KASHMIRI SAFFRON REACHES NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PLATFORMS: DIRECTOR AGRICULTURE KASHMIR.

- With the GI tagging of Kashmiri Saffron in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the farmers have been able to market their produce on national and international marketing platforms.
- This was stated by Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal, who visited **India International Kashmir Saffron Trade Centre at Dussu** in the **Pampore** area of **south Kashmir's Pulwama district** to take stock of its functioning there.
- Speaking on the occasion, the Director of Agriculture expressed satisfaction over the performance of IIKSTC over the period of the last two years.
- He said, the lab at IIKSTC which the Department uses on trial bases for the last two years has been able to process more than **3000 kgs of fresh saffron flowers** from which more than **300 kgs of saffron was harvested**.
- He said the e-auctioning and GI tagging facility has helped our products to reach global markets like Dubai and other international destinations.
- Mr Chowdhury said, we are expecting much better results in the coming times and asked the concerned officers to ensure that all the set parameters of quality adhere to every time.
- He observed that MoU has been made with different global marketing platforms and in coming times, it could be expected that the Kashmiri Saffron will cover more marketing platforms on a global level.

1.208. BIHAR GOVT IS SET TO INTRODUCE 'NO-BAG DAY' IN SCHOOLS.

- **The Bihar government** is set to introduce a **"no-bag day" rule in schools** and a mandatory games period at least once a week to reduce the burden on students.
- The weekly "no-bag day" will have task-based practical classes.
- At least once a week, students will come to school only with their lunch boxes. They do not need to carry books.
- The day will be devoted to practical and experiential learning.
- The objective of such a policy is to engage students in various activities which can positively impact their learning.
- The new initiative by the state government is in line with the National Education Policy 2022 and it would be implemented across private and government run schools.
- Players of the state, according to their position at the national-level sporting events, are provided with a subsidiary grant to avail the facility of sports kits, and treatment and enrolment in the course of the National Institute of Sports.
- Adding Rs 21.02 lakh was provided as a subsidiary grant to 70 players in 2020-21 Sportspersons from Bihar won six medals in the recently concluded World Championship of Arnis Games in the Philippines.

1.209. NAGALAND: GOVERNMENT TO LAUNCH ITS OWN HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME CMHIS ON 1ST OCTOBER.

- Nagaland Government will be launching its own health insurance scheme called the Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme (CMHIS) on 1st of October.
- The CMHIS aimed to reduce out-of-pocket expenditure on hospital care for all bonafide citizens of the state.
- The scheme will cover two beneficiary categories-State government employees and pensioners including legislators/ex-legislators and their dependents, and all the Indigenous and or Permanent residents of the State who are not beneficiaries under AB PM-JAY or any public-funded insurance scheme.
- The beneficiary families will be entitled to free health insurance coverage of up to five lakh rupees per family per year.
- Additionally, the first category which is Government employees, pensioners, legislators, or ex-legislators should have additional staggered benefits as notified by the Government.

HPAS Prelims Test Series



Total Tests - 18

Fee - 999/-

**10 Sectional +
4 GS + 4 CSAT**

HPAS Prelims Crash Course

(GS + CSAT)

Fee - 7500/-

**GS + CSAT +
Prelims Test
Series**

CSAT Course

Fee - 3000/-

HPGK Prelims

Fee - 5000/-

**Himachal Pradesh
Economic Survey +
Budget included**



HIMACHAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

1.210. CENTRE GRANTS APPROVAL TO BULK DRUG PARK AT HAROLI IN UNA DISTRICT.

- The Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers has finally granted in-principle approval for providing grant-in-aid for a bulk drug park proposed at Haroli in Una district.
- This will give a major boost to the state's pharma sector which accounts for 40 per cent of nation's drug formulations. Annual demand of bulk drugs in the state is about Rs 30,000 to Rs 35,000 crore.
- The setting up of the Bulk Drug Pharma Park at Una would help reduce India's dependency on China for raw material for producing various drugs.
- According to CM, there is almost 100 per cent dependence on China for raw material required for producing erythromycin and norfloxin, 95 per cent for producing tetracycline and 68 per cent for making betadine B 12 drugs. So, setting up of a drug park will help reduce dependence on China.
- He said that the government had made serious efforts for the bulk drug pharma park, as Baddi was the biggest pharma hub in Asia.
- He said the pharma park would attract Rs 50,000 crore investment, besides creating employment for 20,000 people and 10,000 indirect jobs.
- "The approval was granted primarily due to the fact that we had spelt out several incentives like Rs 3 per unit rate of power for 10 years, zero maintenance charges for 10 years, exemption in stamp duty and 70 per cent exemption in the SGST for 10 years.
- Thakur said 1,405 acres would be required for the project, including 1,366 acres of the government and 39 acres belonging to private parties. The total projects cost would be Rs 1,190 crore.
- The Central government would provide grant-in-aid of Rs 1,000 crore while the state government would provide Rs 190 crore.

1.211. WOMEN FARMERS TO MARKET CERTIFIED NATURAL PRODUCE IN HIMACHAL

- Women farmers are set to become the 'change makers' in the agro-marketing field with the registration of the first all-women Farmer Producer Company (FPC) for collective marketing of certified chemical-free natural produce in the state.
- The FPC comprises farmers from three panchayats namely Jabal Jamrot, Haripur and Deothi in Solan district.
- These women first switched from chemical-based farming to non-chemical, low cost and climate resilient natural farming technique few years back after getting training under the Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Kisan Yojana (PK3Y). They are now heading towards becoming entrepreneurs.
- The Solan Natural Farmer Producer Company has ten primary shareholders (five women farmers on the board of directors and five others as promoters). 60 more women farmers are ready to be part of this FPC for marketing of natural produce, including a range of vegetables, fruits and milk products.

1.212. 35 BADDI UNITS GET NOTICE OVER POLLUTION NORMS.

- Thirty-five industrial units in the Baddi-Barotiwala-Nalagarh (BBN) belt have been served a show-cause notice by the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) for flouting norms.
- Several violations like having non-functional air pollution control devices and a lack of record of effluent treatment plants and the storage and disposal of hazardous waste were found at these units during a recent surprise check conducted by the board.
- Praveen Gupta, Chief Environmental Engineer, SPCB, Baddi, said the show-cause notice had been issued to the 35 units engaged in manufacturing textiles, pharmaceuticals, home appliances, etc, for various violations under Sections 41,43 and 44 of the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act,1974**, and Section 31-A of the **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act,1981**.
- The BBN industrial units are already under the scanner of the **National Green Tribunal** for failing to adhere to the norms and for flagrantly discharging toxic effluent into the water bodies.
- The SPCB was directed to take strict action against such units and also monitor the working of the Common Effluent Treatment Plant in Baddi after laxities were found in its working.

- The **Sirsa river** stretch in **Baddi** is rated the **most polluted** and contaminated by the Central Pollution Control Board. Various water bodies of the BBN area drain into this river.
- **Baddi** also figures in the **Central Pollution Control Board's list of non-attainment cities** as it does **not meet the national ambient air quality standards**.

1.213. HIMURJA GETS 3 RUNNERS-UP AWARDS.

- Himurja, the state government's nodal agency for renewable energy programmes, has been awarded with three runners-up awards by the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- It bagged the awards for installing the second highest number of solar street lights till March 31 this year, for installing the second highest small hydro power installed capacity and the highest small hydro power capacity during 2021-22.
- The awards were received by Himurja CEO Rahul Kumar at Willingdon Island Kochi, Kerala on the occasion of the eighth foundation day of the Association of Renewable Energy Agencies of States.
- Himurja has so far installed 90 small hydroelectric projects with the installed capacity of 334.25 MW.

1.214. HIMACHAL: RS 398 CRORE GST REVENUE IN AUGUST; RISES BY 14%.

- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) of around Rs 398 crore, an increase of 14 per cent, was collected in August in the state.
- According to Commissioner, State Taxes and Excise, Yunus that the GST collection in the first five months of the current financial year had increased to Rs 2,255 crore as compared to Rs 1,634 crore collected during the same period last year.
- He said that continuous improvement in return filing, speedy scrutiny of returns, timely completion of GST audits and strengthened enforcement continue to be the focus areas for the department so as to achieve the target of 25 per cent cumulative growth in the current financial year.
- Yunus said the department had verified 5.6 lakh e-way bills in the current financial year. The department remains committed to improving voluntary compliance with time-bound redress of the issues of the stakeholders under the Tax Haat Programme.

1.215. PANELS FORMED TO SEE PROGRESS OF MEDICAL PARK AT NALAGARH.

- In order to smoothly implement all the works related to the construction and establishment of the proposed Himachal Medical Devices Park at Nalagarh, Solan district, the state government has constituted two committees under the ambit of the HP State Industrial Development Corporation (HPSIDC).
- A high-level committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Administrative Secretary (Industries). Administrative Secretary (Jal Shakti Department) and Administrative Secretary (Power) will be its members while Director of Industries has been appointed its member secretary.
- Other members include Director of the Department of Environment, Science and Technology; Managing Director of the HPSIDC; a representative of the Pharmaceutical Department of the Central Government; Director of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) and a representative of the Center for Innovation and Bio-Design (CIBOD), PGIMER. Co-opted members decided by the committee could also be included.
- This committee would be the highest decision-making body on any aspect of the project. It would take policy and strategic decisions in consonance with the detailed project report (DPR) approved by the Union Government and would be responsible for approving the annual budget of the Medical Devices Park (MDP).
- Apart from this high-level committee, an executive committee had also been constituted under the chairmanship of the Director of the Industries Department. Additional Director would be its convener.

1.216. HIMACHAL RANKS HIGH IN TRACKING CRIMINALS & SHARING DATA.

- Himachal has not only attained the top position in the Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) ranking in the country, but has also managed to bring down crime against women.
- The ICJS ranking for July was released recently by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). The ICJS is an initiative of the e-Committee of the Supreme Court to enable seamless transfer of data and information among different pillars of the criminal justice system like courts, police, jails and forensic science laboratories.
- The ICJS was implemented in Himachal in December 2020.
- This platform is backed by Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and System (CCTNS) and Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences (ITSSO).
- The state has also topped among the hilly states in the CCTNS ranking and stands fourth overall.
- The compliance rate under ITSSO has increased from 22.9 per cent in 2018 to 82.6 per cent in 2022 due to weekly monitoring.
- The ITSSO is an online module that helps monitor the investigation into sexual offences. There are 3,927 sexual offenders in the state.
- As a result of several initiatives aimed at checking crime against women, the number of cases from January to July had declined marginally from 960 in 2021 to 936 in 2022.

1.217. EXHIBITION ON SPITI VALLEY BEGINS AT SOBHA SINGH ART GALLERY AT ANDRETTA.

- A photo exhibition by Dr Madhumeet Singh, entitled “The Spiti valley”, depicting various hues of the tough terrain of the Spiti valley of Lahaul and Spiti district was inaugurated at Artist Residency at Sobha Singh Art Gallery at Andretta.
- Prof Dhara Pathania and Bibi Gurcharan Kaur, daughter of artist Sobha Singh, jointly inaugurated the exhibition.
- They said the services of such artists depicting the beauty of the state should be utilised by the agencies concerned as brand ambassadors of the state.
- Organised on the eve of Teachers’ Day, the exhibition has been dedicated to his teacher parents by photo artist Dr Madhumeet.
- He said the 30 exhibited photographs depicted geography, flora and fauna, art and culture and life of the Spiti valley.

Sobha Singh Art Gallery- Andretta

- Andretta is a village located near Palampur in the Kangra District.
- The Sobha Singh Art Gallery is a very significant art center and an integral part of Punjab’s history.
- The majority of the paintings here are influenced by the Kangra School of art and have been executed in western classical oil painting techniques.
- Sculptures and busts of M.S. Randhawa, Prithviraj Kapoor, and Nirmal Chandra can be found in the art gallery.
- Sobha Singh has created portraits of many Indian national heroes such as Bhagat Singh, Kartar Singh Sarabha, Mahatma Gandhi, and Lal Bahadur Shastri in addition to that of the Sikh Gurus.

About S. Sobha Singh

- S. Sobha Singh, regarded as one of India’s best painters of the twentieth century, was born on November 29, 1901, in Sri Hargobindpur (Gurdaspur), Punjab, India.
- He learned and perfected painting by self-study. As a draughtsman, S.Sobha Singh joined the British Indian Army and was stationed in Iraq.
- He was much inspired by the works of English painters and studied European paintings.
- He left the army in 1923 and returned to Amritsar, where he established an art studio. On the auspicious day of Baisakhi of the same year, he married Bibi Inder Kaur.
- He had studios in Amritsar, Lahore (1926), and Delhi (1931).
- S. Sobha Singh had the opportunity to participate in art shows in Delhi, where he received accolades and medals.

- Being a portrait painter, he was commissioned to paint portraits of various Indian Emperors.
- S Sobha Singh painted hundreds of paintings during his 38-year residence at Andretta. Sikh Gurus, their lives and work, where his main emphasis.
- His dedication to the spiritual souls was manifested in his depiction of Gurus. He used to say, “ I have painted Gurus to inspire people.” Guru Nanak, he believed, was a manifestation of his meditation.
- He also painted powerful portraits of various national heroes such as Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh, Kartar Singh Sarabha, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Mahatma Gandhi, and others, as well as many Indian army war heroes.
- Sobha Singh, popularly known as people’s painter passed away on 22 August 1986 at Chandigarh and was cremated with full state honors.

1.218. HIMACHAL TEACHERS VIRENDER KUMAR, YUDHVEER TANDON BAG NATIONAL AWARD.

- Dedicated efforts to improve the **handwriting** of about 90,000 students and training teachers to make the the teaching-learning process more effective and hi-tech have helped **Virender Kumar** become a proud recipient of a national award for teachers.
- Virender Kumar is serving as a teacher at **Government Senior Secondary School, Dhorogra, in Sunni (Shimla)**.
- The other recipient of the national award from the state is **Yudhveer Tandon**, a teacher of **Government Primary School, Anoga, in Sundla (Chamba)**.
- He strongly believes in the implementation of old concepts and has implemented the concepts of honesty shop, Bal Samachar Patrika, Bal Sansad, Swachhta Committee and computer-based intervention in his school.

1.219. HIMACHAL APPROVES 6-MONTH CHILD ADOPTION LEAVE FOR WOMEN STAFF.

- The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet approved child adoption leave of **180 days** for regular women employees of the State government.
- The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting in Shimla chaired by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur.
- The nod was given by adopting **Rule 43-B of CCS (Leave) Rules, 1972**.

About:

- **The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017**, recognizes that adoptive mothers too need to take some time off to tend to their children, represents some progress.
- Adoption in India is a contested issue rife with legal and bureaucratic hurdles.
- It’s governed under **two different laws: the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956; and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015**.
- There are several strict rules in place that determine the eligibility and suitability of prospective parents.
- These include parameters on composite age for couples, rules of adoption for single parents, a minimum duration of marriage for couples seeking to adopt, and the age of the prospective adopted child.

1.220. TRIBAL HEROES' CONTRIBUTION TO FREEDOM STRUGGLE LAUDABLE: HIMACHAL PRADESH CM.

- Brave heroes, who belonged to tribal areas, have contributed significantly to the freedom struggle, said Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur while presiding over a programme on the theme “Contribution of Tribal Heroes to the Freedom Struggle”.
- The Institute of Tribal Studies, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, New Delhi, and the All India Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram organised the programme.
- He said that freedom fighter Tilka Majhi organised the Paharia tribe against the atrocities of British East India Company and attacked the Company Fund, for which he was sentenced to death.
- Another freedom fighter Bhagwan Birsa Munda took part in the struggle to end the British rule.

- CM said, “Many tribal heroes such as Thalakal Chanthu, Nilambar, Radho ji Bhangre took part in the freedom struggle for which they were tortured.
- Many freedom fighters were sent to jail and some were hanged. Several of them like Munshi Saje Ram, Thakur Devi Singh, Thakur Shiv Chand from Lahaul and Spiti and Jangi Ram and Bhag Saran from Kinnaur played an important role in the movement.”
- He announced Rs 2 crore for the alumni building at the HPU.

1.221. KULLU DASEHRA TO BEGIN FROM OCTOBER 5.

- Deputy Commissioner Ashutosh Garg presided over a meeting to review the preparations for the Kullu Dasehra festival.
- He said that after two years, cultural evenings would be organised in the open air auditorium at the Kala Kendra during the seven-day festival, which would commence on October 5. Every cultural evening would have a special theme.
- Garg said that a Sufi Sandhya would be organised on the first day, a Punjabi song and music show on the second, a Qawwali night on third, comedy on fourth, Amrit Mahotsav night with police band on fifth, superstar night on sixth and a Pahari night on the seventh day of the festival.
- He said that this year, the festival would be linked to the ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’.
- He added that local artistes would be given preference but care would be taken to maintain international standards of the festival.

About Kullu Dussehra

- According to historians, the idol of Lord Raghunath was brought to Kullu from Ayodhya in 1651 when Raja Jagat Singh was the ruler of Kullu state.
- Dussehra celebrations in Kullu started after 1660 when the Raja invited all deities before Lord Raghunath
- The village gods and minor deities are also a part of this celebration. The centre of the festivities is the Dhalpur maidan.
- Kullu Dussehra was declared an international event in 1972.

1.222. HAMIRPUR: NADAUN'S VANSHIKA PARMAR CROWNED MISS EARTH INDIA

- Vanshika Parmar of Nadaun, Hamirpur, is the first-ever girl from the state to become Miss Earth India 2022 at the tender age of 19.
- The Miss Earth India finale was held this week at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi, where Vanshika was selected as India’s official representative for Miss Earth 2022.
- Now, Vanshika will represent India internationally at the Miss Earth pageant in November in the Philippines where she will compete with representatives from over 90 countries for the coveted crown.
- Miss Earth is one of the top three alpha and mega beauty pageants of the world. Miss Divine Beauty is the licensed franchise holder of Miss Earth India that sends representatives from India to Miss Earth.
- Vanshika is currently pursuing her majors from Miranda House, University of Delhi. In addition to being a beauty queen, she is an academic scholar.
- She is the granddaughter of Colonel Shakti Chand Parmar (Retd). Her father SK Parmar is a Group Captain in the Indian Air Force.

1.223. HIMACHAL WRITES TO CENTRE TO DECLARE LSD AS EPIDEMIC.

- The state government today urged the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to declare the lumpy skin disease (LSD) as an epidemic. There has been a sudden spurt in cases of the disease among cattle in nine districts of the state.
- On August 10, the State Animal Husbandry Department had declared the LSD as a scheduled disease under Chapter II, Section 6 of the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animal Act 2009.
- However, seeing the recent surge in cases, Sudesh Mokta, Director-cum-Special Secretary, Revenue, wrote to the Central government, requesting it to declare the disease as an epidemic.

- The disease has witnessed a spurt in the past few days. As many as 2,309 head of cattle have died and 55,926 have been infected with the disease in the state till now,” he wrote in the letter to the Joint Secretary, Disaster Management Division, Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
- He added that the disease had cast a shadow on the livestock in the state and so needs to be declared as an epidemic.
- Mokta said, “It is only after the disease is declared as an epidemic that the disaster, relief and rehabilitation component of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) can be provided to aggrieved farmers.
- Nine districts have been affected by the disease but Sirmaur, Shimla and Solan are the worst-hit districts.
- Kinnaur, Lahaul and Spiti and Kullu have so far not reported any LSD case.
- Kangra has also been affected badly. It has witnessed the death of 566 head of cattle while 18,625 head of cattle have been infected.
- Una district has reported the death of 556 head of cattle while 8,585 head of cattle have been infected.
- Solan district has witnessed 336 deaths while 7,491 head of cattle have been infected with the disease.
- The Animal Husbandry Department claimed that over 1.40 lakh vaccines had been provided to curb the spread of the disease.
- The Himachal Kisan Sabha has demanded that the LSD be declared as an epidemic, as a large number of farmers in the state are dependent on dairy farming.

1.224. KULLU GIRL CONQUERS KUN PEAK IN KARGIL.

- Ishani Singh Jamwal from Pahnala village of Kullu has created history by scaling the Kun peak of Kargil.
- Ishani was a member of the first women’s expedition from the Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF) to successfully scale 7,077-metre high Kun peak of Kargil on September 4.
- The first national women expedition to Mt Kun having eight female members left for the expedition on August 24.
- Out of the team, four female mountaineers, Shanti Rai from Sikkim, Ishani Singh Jamwal from Himachal Pradesh, Dashmat Batti from Chhattisgarh and Sabita Mahto from Bihar successfully scaled Mt Kun.
- Mt Kun is a highly technical peak in the Zaskar region of Ladakh. The other teams that had left for Mt Kun around on these dates were unable to summit the peak.
- This expedition was led by Shanti Rai, who has led expeditions to several challenging peaks in India. Shanti summited the peak at 9.44 am followed by Ishani Singh Jamwal, who summited the peak at 10.11 am.
- Ishani Singh was the only mountaineer from Himachal Pradesh in this national expedition of the IMF which was organised in collaboration with the Chhattisgarh government.

1.225. 582 SCRUB TYPHUS CASES REPORTED IN HIMACHAL THIS YEAR.

- Scrub typhus, also known as bush typhus, is a disease caused by a bacteria called Orientia tsutsugamushi
- As many as 582 cases of scrub typhus have been reported this year in the state. The cases this year are lesser in comparison to the last year.
- According to health officials, the guidelines for the prevention, management and control of the disease had already been disseminated to all the health institutions.
- All patients diagnosed with scrub typhus were given free medicines in the government health facilities.
- Health officials advised that a person should immediately report to the nearest health facility in case of high fever, headache and joint pain.
- “Generally, people involved in agricultural work are more prone to scrub typhus. One should keep the whole body covered while working in the fields, and surroundings around the house should also be kept clean, bereft of grass and weeds,”

1.226. MUSHROOM FAIR HELD IN SOLAN.

- The 26th Annual Mushroom Fair was organised at the Indian Council of Agriculture Research’s Directorate of Mushroom Research (DMR).

- Various premium varieties of mushroom were displayed during the fair.
- It is organised every year to celebrate declaration of Solan as the Mushroom City of India, where new varieties and their technicalities are shared with the growers.
- The fair was inaugurated by former Shimla MP Virender Kashyap.
- He lauded the efforts of the DMR in popularising mushroom cultivation, which had tripled in the last few years.
- Kashyap said the DMR played a key role in making quality mushroom seeds available to the growers across the country.
- He stressed on disseminating knowledge about medicinal mushrooms among growers to enhance its cultivation.
- Priced at a lakh per kg, cordyceps mushroom particularly drew the attention of the visitors. The mushroom has anti-aging and anti-tumor properties, besides other health benefits.
- DMR Director VP Sharma said that the cordyceps mushroom is highly priced for its medicinal properties.
- The directorate has been imparting training to grow this premium variety since past five years.

1.227. 1.71 LAKH FARMERS TAKE TO NATURAL FARMING IN HIMACHAL.

- The aim of Prakritik Kheti Khushal Kisan Yojana is to increase the income by reducing cost of crop production and to save soil and humans from the ill-effects of chemical farming.
- At present, 9,421 hectares are being cultivated by natural method by 1.71 lakh farmers of the state.
- For the year 2022-23, the state government has set a target of bringing 50,000 acres under the natural farming.
- Apart from developing a natural farming model in all 3,615 panchayats of the state, work is being done to convert 100 villages into natural farming villages.
- To make the farmers self-reliant, a target of establishing 10 new FPOs (Farmer-Producer Organisation) based on natural farming has been set up in the state.

1.228. DRONE SURVEYS UNDERWAY IN CANTT TOWNS.

- Drone surveys are underway in various cantonment towns like Kasauli, Dagshai and Subathu to identify various land parcels owned by the state government, defence and private individuals. This is part of the nationwide drone surveys going on in 62 cantonments. There are seven cantonments in the state namely Subathu, Kasauli, Dagshai, Jutogh, Bakloh, Dalhousie and Yol where the survey was being conducted.
- Dagshai Cantonment was founded in 1847 and is among the oldest cantonments. Subathu and Kasauli were established as cantonments in the year 1850 during the British era. The Kasauli Cantonment is situated on an area spread over 643.96 acres out of which 47.45 acres forms the notified civil area.
- Bengaluru-based Edall Systems has been entrusted the task of conducting this drone survey where various structures like buildings, streets, street lights, sewage scheme, schools, hospitals, etc, are being digitally mapped.
- Governed by The Cantonment Act 2006, the residents have been demanding exclusion of the civilian areas from the cantonment. The stringent building bylaws have stunted growth of these towns.
- The most popular town of Kasauli recorded a growth rate of mere 13.79 per cent. A majority of these towns have recorded low growth rate ranging from -8.99 to 27.13 per cent as per the 2001 Census. Only Subathu and Jutogh Cantonments have witnessed higher growth rates of 54.56 per cent and 47.74 per cent, respectively.
- The civilians residing in the cantonment towns have been demanding their exclusion from the cantonments as they faced numerous problems. Once excluded, the benefits of various state government schemes would be available to the residents. Funds would also be made available for repair of roads and other civic amenities in the civilian areas from the state and central government schemes.

1.229. CWG MEDALLISTS TO BE FELICITATED AS PER NEW SPORTS POLICY.

- Athletes from the state, who won medals at the Commonwealth Games, will get cash awards as per the new sports policy that was enacted a few months back. As per the policy, the CWG medallists will get Rs 50 lakh for gold, Rs 30 lakh for silver and Rs 20 lakh for bronze.
- “Two athletes won medals while one other participated from the state at the CWG 2022. Renuka Thakur was part of the Indian Women’s Cricket team, which won the silver medal. Weightlifter Vikas Thakur won silver medals.
- Rajesh Bhandari, who was the chef de mission of the Indian contingent to Birmingham, said the increased cash awards would encourage and motivate the sportspersons to perform better.

1.230. IN-PRINCIPLE NOD TO SHIMLA URBAN ROPEWAY PROJECT.

- The Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, has given an in-principal approval to the innovative Urban Transport Ropeway project worth Rs 1,546.4 crore for Shimla.
- The ropeway network will have a length of 14.9 km, with several boarding and disembarking points
- Tourists to park their vehicles at entry points of Shimla. They will then use the ropeway network
- Eco-friendly mode of transportation as the project will be carbon neutral
- The ropeway project would start off from Taradevi and would have a combination of smart parkings, lifts and escalators integrated with the existing transport networks,” said Thakur.

1.231. DIVYA OF DHARAMSHALA CONQUERS KHARDUNGLA CHALLENGE OF 72 KM.

- In the world's highest ultra marathon Khardungla Challenge, Divya Vashisht of Dharamsala has secured the second position in the Veteran category.
- In the competition held in Leh on September 9, Divya completed the race in the senior category of 50 plus age in 12:48 hours in the tough Khardungla Challenge Marathon of 72 km.
- In the marathon which started at 3:00 am in minus degree temperature, Divya has completed this race on her own strength

Khardung La

- Khardung La or Khardung Pass is a mountain pass in the Leh district of the Indian union territory of Ladakh. The pass is on the Ladakh Range, north of Leh, and connects the Indus river valley and the Shyok river valley. It also forms the gateway to the Nubra valley, beyond which lies the Siachen Glacier.

1.232. HP, KASHMIR UNIVERSITIES SIGN MOU FOR RESEARCH.

- CSK HP Agriculture University (CSKHPAU) and Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), Kashmir, have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to foster academic and research cooperation.
- The MoU was signed by Professor HK Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor (VC) of the CSKHPAU and Dr Nazir Ahmad Ganai, VC of the SKUAST at Srinagar.
- Chaudhary said that the MoU would facilitate exchange of students under sandwich and twinning postgraduate degree programme. The students under the programme could pursue their course work or research or both at the partner university during their residency period.
- The universities would also undertake joint research work and their faculty members would formulate research projects and human resource development plans.
- Apart from this, joint sponsored and consultancy projects could be undertaken with long term and short-term goals.
- Chaudhary said the collaboration would benefit exchange of research technologies, students and faculty. Ganai said there would be an ample scope of joint research programmes, conferences, seminars and workshops in the areas of common interests.

1.233. SJVN, TATA POWER SIGN RS 613 CR PACT FOR GUJARAT PROJECT.

- The SJVN has entered an engineering procurement and construction contract for a 100 MW solar power project at Raghnesda in Gujarat with Tata Power Solar Systems Limited.
- “The Rs 612.71 crore contract includes end-to-end delivery of the commissioned solar plant to the SJVN, including comprehensive operation and maintenance of the plant for three years,” said SJVN Chairman Nand Lal Sharma.
- He said that the project was scheduled to be commissioned in 2023 and would generate 252 MU energy annually with capacity utilisation factor of 28.8 per cent.

1.234. CHERRY TREES BEING INFECTED BY PHYTOPLASMA IN UPPER SHIMLA.

- The University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, confirmed that cherry trees in the Baghi region in the upper Shimla were being infected by a rare disease phytoplasma, which generally attacks stone fruits.
- Director, Research, of the university Sanjeev Chauhan said, “Samples collected from the affected trees were tested in laboratory”.
- The presence of phytoplasma was confirmed through fluorescence microscopy.
- The spread of this pathogen is through the insect leaf hopper.
- The cherry farmers from the Baghi region had apprised the university a week back of an unknown disease due to which several cherry trees had dried up.
- The university had sent an expert team to inspect the trees. Dr Chauhan said the university would organise awareness camps in September and October to apprise the farmers about the management and control the spread of the disease.
- The university has also issued an advisory of management practices to control the disease.
- “The disease spreads slowly, giving the farmers time to control and curb it.
- It can be controlled if the growers follow the protocols that the university have suggested,” said a scientist requesting anonymity.
- This is not the first time the disease has been detected in the state.
- Phytoplasma was had affected peach trees in Rajgarh of Sirmaur district two decades ago. A farmer of Rajgarh, Prakash Chauhan, said, “Rajgarh was known as the peach bowl of Asia before phytoplasma came.
- The disease was like a slow poison. It destroyed a majority of the peach tree in the region.”
- Deepak Singha, the president of the Plum Growers Association, said immediate steps should be taken to contain the disease.
- “An effective spray schedule should be designed, and the pesticides needed to control the disease should be made on subsidised rates”.

Remedial measures:

- Drench the plants with jeevamrit 2-3 times at weekly intervals.
- Avoid the use of bud sticks from symptomatic trees.
- Use only healthy planting material for raising disease-free nurseries.
- Remove and destroy diseased twigs/branches while pruning.
- Restriction on movement of planting material, including bud sticks, from the affected area.

1.235. A FIRST, DRAGON FRUIT PROCESSING PLANT SANCTIONED IN UNA.

- The state’s first dragon fruit processing plant will be set up in Behad Vitthal village of Gagret subdivision in Una district.
- The Horticulture Department has given the nod for the letter of intent given by Riva Sood, a woman entrepreneur.
- A sum of Rs 1.65 crore will be spent on the unit, while the promoter will get a 35-per cent subsidy on the overall cost.
- As per a government press release, the cultivation of dragon fruit is being promoted in Una district and the provisions of MGNREGA have been detailed to provide benefit to farmers taking to the cultivation of the exotic fruit.

- Quoting Riva Sood, the press release said the climate of Una district was suitable for the cultivation of dragon fruit and many farmers had begun its cultivation.
- Consequently, the processing unit will help address the marketing issues of the farmers.
- The unit will provide direct employment to 15 persons, while about 50 more will be able to earn their livelihood as supply chain links and in nursery rearing.
- The farmers will be able to diversify their agriculture pattern and earn more by switching to cultivation of exotic fruits.
- Dragon fruit has a longer shelf life as compared to many other fruits and fetches Rs 300 to 400 per kg.
- Deputy Commissioner Raghav Sharma said 2,700 dragon fruit saplings have been planted in different parts of Una district through MGNREGA, of which 2,100 have been planted in Bangana subdivision, while the remaining 600 have been planted in Oel village of Gagret subdivision.
- The DC said job card holders of MGNREGA, who are interested in the cultivation of dragon fruit, can contact their respective Block Development Officers or panchayat secretaries.

1.236. KANGRA BEST GOVERNED-DISTRICT IN HIMACHAL PRADESH.

- Kangra has been adjudged the best governed district in Himachal Pradesh, as per the criteria adopted by the state Department of Economic and Statistics for performance evaluation. Kangra Deputy Commissioner Nipun Jindal received the award from Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur at an event organised in Mandi.
- Thakur released the District Good Governance Index Annual Report-2021 at the Vipasha Sadan in Mandi.
- Kangra improved its position from seventh to first rank while Una improved from sixth rank in 2020 to third rank in 2021. Bilaspur maintained its position and was second in 2021 as well.
- Chamba district improved its rank to sixth in 2021 from 11th in 2020.
- The state government gives away rewards of Rs 50 lakh, Rs 35 lakh and Rs 25 lakh to the top three districts ranked on the basis of the Good Governance Index in order to promote competition among districts to perform better.
- As per the ranking for 2021, Kangra bagged the first prize (Rs 50 lakh), Bilaspur second (Rs 35 lakh) and Una got the third prize (Rs 25 lakh).

1.237. CLASS I OFFICERS OF HIMACHAL PRADESH TO ADOPT ANGANWARI CENTRES.

- All Class I officers of the state will adopt at least one anganwari centre in their area of jurisdiction.
- The initiative has been started to strengthen the efforts to ensure all-round well-being, with special focus on health and nutrition, of children in anganwari centres.
- "Through this initiative, officials will help out anganwari centres and children using their personal resources and influence.
- The officials will be expected to spend time with the children and develop a bond with them," said Rupali Thakur, Director, Department of Women and Child Development.
- She has adopted two anganwari centres.
- The work of allotting centres to officials is underway and some adoptions have already happened.
- As it is a new initiative, we will hold orientation programmes to sensitise the officials about what the initiative entails and what would be expected of them," said Aditya Negi, Deputy Commissioner, Shimla.
- Negi has adopted the anganwari centres in the district's remote areas of Dodra Kwar and Rampur's 15/20 area. "I chose these centres as there is a lack of infrastructure in these remote areas," said the Deputy Commissioner.

1.238. ALL-INDIA POSTAL KABADDI TOURNEY BEGINS IN SHIMLA.

- The **34th All-India Postal Kabaddi Tournament 2022-23** commenced at Rajiv Gandhi Government Degree College, Chaura Maidan, **Shimla**.

- Manish Kumar, Director General of National Academy of Audit and Accounts, inaugurated the event. International Kabaddi player DSP Ajay Thakur was the guest of honour. As many as **12 teams from various postal circles** in the country are participating in the tournament.
- In the first round, Gujarat defeated Chhattisgarh by 43-32, Karnataka beat Rajasthan by 56-21, Maharashtra defeated Haryana by 54-16 while the Delhi and Himachal match ended in a draw with 30-30.
- The four-day competition will conclude on September 23. The orchestra of the HP Police, Harmony of the Pines, will perform at the cultural programme, besides performing arts students of Himachal Pradesh University, said a spokesperson for the Department of Posts.
- Meanwhile, National Postal Week will be organised starting October 9 (World Post Day). The week-long celebrations will include Banking Day, Postal Life Insurance Day, Philately Day, Business Development Day and Mails Day.

1.239. KAYAKALP INITIATIVE LAUNCHED AT IGMC SHIMLA.

- Urban Development Minister Suresh Bhardwaj kicked-off Kayakalp Initiative at **Indira Gandhi Medical College and Hospital**. The minister donated Rs 5 lakh from MLA Fund to help the hospital run the initiative smoothly.
- IGMC was the first hospital in the state to implement the Kayakalp Initiative.
- A part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA), the '**Kayakalp**' initiative was **launched** by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in **2015**.
- The **main objectives** of the initiative include promotion of cleanliness, hygiene and infection-control practices in public healthcare facilities through incentivising and recognising the public healthcare facilities that show exemplary performance in adhering to standard protocols of cleanliness and infection control.
- "There are **six themes** in the initiative – hospital upkeep, sanitation and hygiene, waste management, infection control, hospital support services and hygiene promotion. We will focus on all six themes to provide quality service to the patients."

1.240. EXTRADOSED BRIDGE TO COME UP ON KAITHLIGHTAT-DHALLI STRETCH.

- The "world's longest extradosed single-span bridge", which is slated to be constructed on 620-foot-high pillars (approximately equal to the height of three Qutub Minars) near Shakaral on the Kaithlightat-Dhalli stretch of the Parwanoo-Shimla four-laning project, is set to become another tourist attraction.
- There will be only two pillars in this 280-m-long single-span extradosed cable bridge to be constructed at a cost of Rs 600 crore in three years and the height of the bridge (top of the pillar) from the ditch will be 826 feet, said National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) regional officer Abdul Basit.
- He said the bridge would be built by the state-of-the-art technology on the Shakral-Dhalli section of the stretch by Gawar Infrastructure Company, Gurgaon.
- "This will be the world's first extradosed bridge with a span length of 280 m, surpassing the 275-m-long span extradosed bridge in Japan, as per information collected from Google," said detailed project report (DPR) consultant, Intercontinental Techno Consultant, Neeraj Choudhary.
- He said the new highway would bypass Shimla and reduce the distance between Kaithlightat and Dhalli from 40.1 km to 28.4 km. The stretch would be constructed in two sections. The Kaithlightat-Shakaral (17.46 km) section would be constructed by the HP Singla group while the Shakral-Dhalli (10.98 km) section would be constructed by Gawar Infrastructure Company.
- The total cost of the project is Rs 3,915 crore, which includes the construction of five tunnels measuring 5.14 km in length and five major and one minor bridge, besides 22 viaducts.
- The length of the longest and shortest tunnels is 2.66 km and 242 m, respectively. The bypass would be linked at seven points with Shimla city.

1.241. RAFTING TOURNEY BEGINS AT KULLU.

- Education Minister Govind Singh Thakur inaugurated the National Rafting Championship at Pirdi in Kullu.
- It will be organised in Beas River.

- Nearly 200 players from 11 different states are participating in the championship.
- Rafting is an Adventure sports.
- River Beas from Manali to Bhuntar, a stretch of 50 km with a number of rapids, is most popular for recreational river rafting runs.
- For safety reasons rapids of rivers in Himachal Pradesh have been graded in accordance with international guidelines.
- It has been categorised in **six categories** ranging from **easy moving water** for **beginners** to **Un-runnable water** for only **experts**.

1.242. HIMACHAL FIRST SMOKELESS STATE OF COUNTRY: MINISTER

- Food and Civil Supplies Minister Rajinder Garg said Himachal had attained saturation in providing LPG connections as every household in Himachal had been provided with a gas connection.
- He said there was not a single house which did not have a LPG connection. "It is because of this that Himachal had become the first smokeless state of the country.
- Every household was provided free LPG connection under Mukhya Mantri Grahini Suvidha Yojna in 2018 and Govt. has provided over 3.40 lakh gas connection.

1.243. SETTLEMENT POLICY FOR KANGRA CENTRAL COOPERATIVE BANK LOAN DEFAULTERS.

- In order to recover bad loans and reduce Non-Performing Assets (NPA), the Board of Director (BoD) of Kangra Central Cooperative Bank Ltd has launched a one-time settlement policy facilitating the loan defaulters to clear their debts.
- This was stated by Rajiv Bhardwaj, Chairman of the Kangra Central Cooperative Bank Ltd. (KCCBL).
- He said the BoD had issued a notification to implement this policy.
- It has its Head Office at Dharamshala.

History of KCCB:

- Came into existence on 17th March 1920.
- Indora Banking Union was merged and 2nd Branch of the Bank opened at Nurpur in Jan'1956
- Palampur Banking Union was merged and 3rd Branch of the Bank opened at Palampur in Jan'1957
- Nanaon Banking Union was merged and 4th Branch of the Bank opened at Hamirpur in Oct'1958
- The Bank entered into the deposit mobilisation scheme of Pong Dam Area aggressively and secured maximum share of Deposit Bank Deposits increased from Rs. 256 Lacs in 1971-72 to Rs. 1054 Lacs in 1973-74.

1.244. HIMACHAL CM INAUGURATES NEW MILKFED PLANT AT CHAKKAR, MANDI.

- Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur inaugurated a new Milkfed plant at Chakkar in Balh area of Mandi district. Constructed at a cost of Rs 16.32 crore, the new plant would increase its capacity to over 50,000 litres.
- This plant would process milk in a semi-automatic way, which would provide the facility of procurement of more milk from the farmers.
- The HP Milkfed collected about 395 lakh litres of milk from 47,295 farmers of the state during 2021-22 and Rs 110.56 crore was paid to farmers.
- The purchase of milk has increased by 78 per cent, that is, from 219.00 lakh litres in 2017-18 to 395.39 lakh litres in 2021-22.
- The total turnover of Himachal Pradesh Milk Federation in the year 2017-18 was Rs 99 crore, which has increased to Rs 172 crore in 2021-22, he added.
- An increase of Rs 9 per litre was made in the price of milk purchased from farmers, from Rs 22.90 per litre in the year 2017-18 to Rs 31.90 per litre in 2022-23.
- The commission of milk societies was increased from 4.5 per cent to 5 per cent and the Milk Federation was paying the best price to the milk producers in the country.

- The Milkfed has 11 milk processing plants, one cattle feed plant and one powder plant functioning in the state.
- With the commissioning of milk plant Chakkar, Mandi, the daily capacity of milk has increased from 100000 litres to 130000 litres. He said that another milk processing plant of 50,000 litres capacity was under construction in Duttanagar, of which 70 per cent work has been completed.
- This plant would facilitate about thousands of farmers from Mandi, Kullu and other districts.

1.245. MEDICAL OFFICERS UNION PROTESTS AGAINST MOBILE CLINIC SCHEME.

- Himachal Medical Officers Association (HMOA) has alleged that the government was trying to implement the Mobile Clinic Scheme without the required manpower and facilities.
- The Chief Minister had announced that doctors would be recruited separately for the scheme.
- According to HMOA official, the doctors for the scheme are being drawn from PHCs and CHCs.
- According to HMOA official, there is also lack of some basic facilities for the diagnosis of the patients.
- Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur had announced this scheme during the Budget Session.
- Under this scheme, a mobile medical unit, comprising a doctor, a pharmacist and a lab technician, would provide healthcare services in remote and un-serviced areas in all 68 Assembly constituencies.

1.246. CENTRE AUTHORISES HPAU TO CONDUCT LSD TESTING.

- CSK HP Agriculture University has been authorised to conduct testing of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) samples from all over the state.
- Vice-Chancellor HK Chaudhary, said that as per the recent notification from the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, “The Department of Veterinary Microbiology, Dr GC Negi College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences in the varsity, has been granted the status of authorised laboratory to conduct testing of LSD samples from livestock across the state for rapid screening.”
- He said that the Department of Veterinary Microbiology was fully equipped to carry out screening of the samples in collaboration with the state Department of Animal Husbandry.
- The VC said that the designated LSD laboratory would help in faster management of the disease. The samples would no longer need to be sent to the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases, Bhopal, for testing. He asked the scientists to help the livestock keepers of the state to tide over the situation created by the LSD.
- Dr Mandeep Sharma, Dean, Dr GC Negi College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, and Dr Rajesh Chahota, Professor and Head, Department of Veterinary Microbiology, said that for screening of samples, sensitive molecular techniques like conventional PCR and real-time PCR would be used for providing test results quickly to field veterinarians for better disease control and prevention.
- They added that this would enable field veterinarians to timely intervene to control and prevent LSD so that there are minimum financial losses to livestock owners.

1.247. ORCHARDS TO COVER 6,000 HA IN KANGRA, SOLAN, BILASPUR.

- Agriculture Minister Virender Kanwar today thanked the Union government for sanctioning Rs 1,036 crore for the Himachal Pradesh Sub Tropical Horticulture Irrigation Value Addition (HP-SHIVA) Project to be implemented in seven districts of the state. He said the state government will spend an amount of Rs 264 crore.
- Kanwar said the project will be implemented on 6,000 hectares of land in 28 development blocks of seven districts — Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi, Solan, Una, Bilaspur and Sirmaur. As many as 15,000 farmers would be benefitted under the project, he added. The project will be implemented from 2022-23 to 2027-28 and one crore saplings of citrus fruit species, guava, pomegranate, litchi, oriental persimmon and mango will be planted.
- The minister said high density cultivation of orange, guava, litchi and pomegranate has already been done on 200 hectares through 17 farmer clusters in Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi and Bilaspur, which has been highly successful.

1.248. SHIMLA GETS AIR CONNECTIVITY AFTER MORE THAN 2 YEARS.

- After a gap of nearly two-and-a-half years, the state capital finally got air connectivity with the Alliance Air aircraft from Delhi landing at the Jubbarhatti airport.
- Though the flights were to resume on September 6, inclement weather conditions hampered the restoration of the flights.
- The flight will not just connect the state capital to Delhi but also with Dharamsala and Kullu. Air Alliance has acquired a new fixed-wing aircraft ATR-42 (600). The resumption of flights will give a major impetus to tourism, especially during the festive season.
- Resumption of flights from Shimla has been a long-pending demand of the hoteliers. While the flight between Shimla and Delhi will operate on all days of the week, the flight linking Shimla-Kullu will be operational four days a week while the one between Shimla and Dharamsala will operate thrice a week.
- While the two airports at Bhuntar in Kullu and Gaggal in Dharamsala have regular and reliable air connectivity, the tourism sector in Shimla has suffered due to the absence of regular and dependable flights from Jubbarhatti airport.

1.249. GOVERNOR URGES INDUSTRIALISTS TO HELP MAKE STATE TB-FREE.

- Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar called upon industrialists to contribute towards making Himachal Pradesh a tuberculosis (TB) free state.
- The Governor, while addressing industrialists at Nalagarh, said, "Though tuberculosis has been eradicated from most of the countries, India still has a large number of TB patients. The Prime Minister has set a target of making the country TB-free by 2024."
- The Governor said that the state government had decided to achieve the target by 2023. He added that the target could be easily achieved if TB patients were adopted for treatment.
- He said, "We need to work as a social organisation. The Baddi-Barotiwala-Nalagarh Industries Association (BBNIA) has always discharged its social responsibility and I hope it will contribute to achieving the target."
- As per the data, 12.30 lakh TB cases were reported in India in 2021. The total TB notification rate in the state was 191 cases per lakh population.
- The total TB cases in the state last year was 14,492, out of which 2.6 per cent were in tribal areas, 74 per cent in rural and 23.4 per cent in urban areas.
- Rajesh Sharma, Secretary to the Governor, urged the investors to help the 9,000 TB patients in the state, who had given their consent to register themselves on the Nikshay portal.
- Gopal Beri, Deputy Managing Director, National Health Mission, said that Himachal was adjudged the best state in effectively implementing the TB eradication programme.
- Subodh Gupta, president, CII Himachal Pradesh; Gagan Kapoor, vice-president, CII; and Rajender Guleria, president, BBNIA; were also present on the occasion.

1.250. PANEL FORMED TO ASSESS CARRYING CAPACITY OF ECO-SENSITIVE ZONES.

- Acting on the directions of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), the government has constituted a state-level committee for the assessment of carrying capacity of eco-sensitive zones.
- Presiding over the first meeting of the State-Level Joint Committee, Additional Chief Secretary (Environment, Science and Technology) Prabodh Saxena said the committee had been constituted as per the directions of the NGT. It was also decided to constitute a sub-committee so that the process could be expedited.
- Saxena directed the Forest Department to provide a list of notified eco-sensitive zones. "Besides environmental issues, other important aspects like economic, social, eco-tourism, tribal, wildlife and disaster management will also be taken into consideration while assessing the carrying capacity of the zones and a comprehensive report will be drafted," he said.
- In the first phase, reports of four or five zones would be prepared on a pilot basis. The services of the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, the National Institute of Technology, Hamirpur, the GB

Pant Institute, Kullu, the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun, and other institutions could be taken for the assessment of the carrying capacity of the zone.

- He said, besides senior officers of the Department of Environment, Science and Technology, Forest, Urban Development, Town and Country Planning, PWD, Rural Development, Transport, Pollution Control Board, representatives of the Himachal Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, the HFRI, Shimla, the State Disaster Management Authority, experts from top institutes had also been included.
- Director, Environment, Science and Technology, Lalit said previous studies and reports of the departments could also be included in the assessment reports.

1.251. TAKE HELP OF GRAM SABHAS FOR VOTERS' AWARENESS: CEO

- Gram sabhas are an appropriate platform for creating awareness among voters and all Deputy Commissioners, who are also the District Election Officers (DEOs), should effectively utilise this platform for propagating SVEEP-related activities, said Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Maneesh Garg.
- He said, "A gram sabha is scheduled to be held on October 2 and this platform should be used to motivate, inform and facilitate all eligible citizens to enroll themselves and participate in the electoral process in a festive spirit."
- Garg said that special focus should be laid on inclusion of eligible voters, especially those in the 18-21 age group, in the electoral process. He stressed the need for effective and active supervision by the DEOs to make electoral rolls error free.
- Garg said people willing to link their Aadhaar cards with the electoral rolls should be encouraged to fill Form-6B.
- Besides, he urged panchayat members to cooperate in verification of the photo electoral rolls.

About SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation)

- Started in 2009, as the flagship program of the ECI for voter education.
- Primary goal is to build an inclusive & participative democracy by encouraging all eligible citizens to vote and make an informed decision & ethical choice.

1.252. RS 14 CRORE APPROVED FOR LANDSLIDE PROTECTION IN CHAMBA DISTRICT.

- The government has approved Rs 14.22 crore under the 15th Finance Commission for landslide protection works in various disaster-affected areas of Chamba district under the State Disaster Mitigation Fund.
- Deputy Commissioner DC Rana said the amount had been sanctioned for the first time for carrying out landslide protection works in six different disaster affected areas of the district.
- Around Rs 1.36 crore, from this amount, was earmarked for the conservation of landslide works in upper and lower parts of Bairagarh roadway drain and around Rs 1.82 crore for conservation of landslide works at Jukyani Ghar on the Tissa-Sai-Jhajjakothe road, the DC said.
- He said protection works were being carried out to reinforce the Pucca Tala Ghaar with about Rs 3.23 crore. He added that work on the Pucca Tala road was being done on a war footing so that pedestrians could walk through the road safely.
- The DC said Rs 4.58 crore had been earmarked for carrying out flood control works along the Chamba-Bharmour National Highway and the Durgathi nullah restoration works, including 15 houses and 10 shops.
- Besides this, Rs 1.88 crore had been allocated for carrying out flood control works at Kamotha village in Kalhel area under the 'Jal Shakti Vibhag'. Restoration works would also be carried out in 120 houses, 25 shops and 70 hectares of cultivable land, which was affected by the floods at Kamotha village.

1.253. NABARD OKAYS 113 PROJECTS WORTH RS 609 CRORE.

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned 113 projects worth Rs 609.54 crore to Himachal Pradesh under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) during 2022-23.

- NABARD under the RIDF provides concessional loans to state governments for the development of basic infrastructure. The sanctioned projects include 26 drinking water supply schemes, 30 minor irrigation, 40 rural roads, four bridges and 13 sewerage schemes.
- Around Rs 200.78 crore has been sanctioned for 40 rural roads and four bridges, which will be utilised for development of 103.65 km roads and improvement and upgrade of 132.89 km roads. An amount of Rs 121.75 crore has been sanctioned for 13 sewerage projects, which will benefit of 65,000 people. Besides, Rs 118.87 crore has been sanctioned for 26 rural drinking water supply schemes, which will benefit 2.94 lakh people.
- An amount of Rs 168.14 crore has been sanctioned for 30 minor irrigation projects, which will benefit 4541.85 hectares of agricultural land.

1.254. IIT-MANDI RESEARCHERS DESIGN DEVICE TO 'DETECT' ISCHEMIC STROKE.

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi, in collaboration with the PGIMER, Chandigarh, claim to have developed a simple, portable and cost-effective device to detect and diagnose strokes caused by impaired blood flow to the brain.
- According to medical experts, an ischemic stroke caused by insufficient or interrupted blood supply to part of the brain, which affects one out of 500 Indians every year.
- Surveys have shown that around 10 to 15 per cent of all strokes affect people below 40 years of age.
- Dr Shubhajit Roy Chowdhury, Associate Professor, IIT-Mandi, said, "The efficient management and treatment of stroke depend upon early identification and diagnosis. Currently, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and computer tomography (CT) techniques are considered the gold standard for ischemic stroke detection.
- While these are indeed reliable methods, they require considerable infrastructure and high cost, and are inaccessible to many communities in India. There is only one MRI service for every 1 million people in the country."
- "We are working towards finding a low-cost diagnostic technique to precisely detect ischemic stroke at the point of care so that such tests can be used in rural, poor and remote areas. Our team has designed and developed a small wearable device that makes use of Near Infrared Spectroscopy to detect an ischemic stroke. In this device, a near-infrared light emitting diode (NIRS LED) emits light in the range of 650 nm to 950 nm," he said.
- "This light interacts with the coloured components of the blood like haemoglobin and provides information on blood characteristics such as regional oxygen saturation, regional oxygen consumption and regional blood volume index,"
- "The IIT-Mandi team performed studies measuring the bio-markers under ischemic conditions at the forearm and at the frontal lobe of the brain. The researchers also validated their detector prototype through experimental occlusion of the forearm and evoked ischemic stroke at the frontal lobe, and found excellent diagnostic potential," he remarked.
- Dalchand Ahirwar, research scholar, IIT-Mandi, said, "A combined matrix of this information reflects the temporal dynamics of blood haemoglobin, which can help in identifying impaired or abnormal blood flow conditions at a local tissue.
- The biomarkers that we have used to study ischemic conditions are oxygen saturation, regional oxygen consumption and regional blood volume index that could better predict ischemic conditions than other techniques."

1.255. NIT, IIT SIGN MOU FOR COLLECTIVE RESEARCH.

- National Institute of Technology, Hamirpur, and Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for collective academic and scientific research.
- Laxmidhar Behera, Director of IIT Mandi, and Hiralal Murlidhar Suryawanshi, Director of NIT Hamirpur, signed the MoU.
- The NIT director said that the MoU would enable undergraduate and postgraduate students to carry out their studies and research work in joint consultation with the faculty of both the institutions.

- He said that the faculty would also share academic knowledge and jointly publish research papers. The agreement would also enhance the quality of technical education in the institutions. The IIT director apprised students about the ongoing research in the field of robotics and drone technologies at his institution.

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OTHER IMPORTANT ONE LINERS

1. Ministry of Women and Child Development is celebrating 5th Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2022 from 1st to 30th September 2022. This year, with the main focus on “Mahila aur Swasthya” and “Bacha aur Shiksha”, Poshan Maah is to be started as Poshan Panchaya
2. Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani-starrer Shershaah won the “Best Film” in popular awards category at the 67th Filmfare Awards 2022.
3. Actor Ranveer Singh received the Filmfare Award for Best Actor for his role in Kabir Khan’s ‘83’.
4. The International Day for People of African Descent is celebrated on 31 August globally.
5. Veteran Bollywood director and producer Subhash Ghai was conferred with the Lifetime Achievement award at the 67th Filmfare awards.
6. India has now overtaken China and UK to become the world’s 10th largest life insurer.
7. The Rajasthan cabinet has recently approved the “Rajasthan Handicrafts Policy-2022”. Through this policy, work will be done for the upliftment of handicrafts in the state and participation in the development of the state will be ensured by empowering them.
8. Gopal Krishna Hegde, a wildlife enthusiast and photographer, found Ghatiana Dwivarna, a freshwater crab that lives under small rocks in the dense forests of the Western Ghats of Karnataka.
9. Recently, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma launched an ambitious flagship program – “Rural Backyard Piggery Scheme” for farmers under National Livestock Mission at Birnihat in Ri-Bhoi district of Meghalaya.
10. The World Coconut Day (WCD) is observed every year on September 2 to enhance coconut farming with focus on productivity and product diversification.
11. Union Home Minister Amit Shah recently launched a new online portal ‘e-Awas’ for CAPF personnel.
12. National Teachers Award 2022: President Droupadi Murmu to confer selected teachers on Sept 5, complete list.
13. Lehigh Cycling World Cup: German cyclists stand first in both men, women categories.
14. The Department of Pharmaceuticals has recently given ‘in-principle’ approval to the proposals to set up bulk drug parks in three states- Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh under the scheme of “Promotion of Bulk Drug Parks”. This is a major initiative to support bulk drug manufacturing in the country.
15. Pallathuruthi Boat Club recently won the 68th edition of the Nehru Trophy for a boat race held on the Punnamada Lake in Alappuzha district of Kerala.
This edition of the Boat Race, held after a gap of two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was flagged off by DK Joshi, the Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar.
16. Former Kerala Health Minister K. K. Shailaja rejects Ramon Magsaysay award offered to her for her contributions to preventing COVID-19 and Nipah virus, says it was a collective effort.
17. Former Tata group chairman Cyrus Mistry, 54, dies in car accident on Mumbai-Ahmedabad route.
18. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today jointly unveiled Unit-I of the Maitree Super Thermal Power Project following bilateral and delegation level talks in Delhi. The project is being constructed under India’s concessional financing scheme. It will add 1320 MW to Bangladesh’s National Grid.
19. UK: Foreign Minister Liz Truss elected new leader of the governing Conservative Party, becomes next PM of Britain
20. GOVT to Rename Rajpath as kartavya path.
21. Nepal’s President Bidya Devi Bhandari confers honorary title to Indian Army chief Gen. Manoj Pande in Kathmandu
22. National teachers day is celebrated on 5th September. The theme for this year’s teachers’ day is ‘Leading in crisis, reimagining the future.’
23. Search engine giant Google honored Dr Bhupen Hazarika on his 96th birth anniversary (8 September 1926) with a doodle on its webpage. The doodle has been created by Mumbai-based guest artist Rutuja

- Mali. About Bhupen Hazarika Born in 1926 in Sadiya, Assam, Dr. Bhupen Hazarika is today a stalwart in the archives of India's cultural.
24. Mongolia: President Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh gifts horse 'Tejas' to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
 25. India's National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) and the UK Government in collaboration with BAE Systems successfully designed & conducted the Cyber Security Exercise for 26 Countries as part of the International Counter Ransomware Initiative- Resilience Working Group which is being led by India under the leadership of National Cyber Security Coordinator (NCSC).
 26. President, V President, PM greet countrymen on occasion of Onam
 27. Govt to establish 3 lakh Primary Agricultural Credit Societies in next 5 years, says Union Minister Amit Shah
 28. The Karnataka government has appointed Kannada actor Sudeep as the brand ambassador for "Punyakoti Dattu Yojana" a cattle adoption scheme.
 29. Former Team India cricketer Suresh Raina has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket including IPL.
 30. The International Day of Clean Air for blue skies is observed globally on September 07 to promote and facilitate actions to improve air quality.
 31. Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat have been ranked as the top three states among larger states in terms of the overall implementation of the Centre's flagship Poshan Abhiyaan, according to a Niti Aayog report.
 32. The 2022 US Open is a tennis tournament played on outdoor hard courts at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. It was the overall 142th edition of the US Open, the fourth and final Grand Slam event of the year 2022.
 33. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated the country's largest rubber dam and a steel bridge over the Falgu river near Vishnupad temple in Bihar. CM Nitish Kumar had laid its foundation stone on 22 September 2020.
 34. President Droupadi Murmu nominates Gulam Ali from J&K to Rajya Sabha.
 35. Rajasthan launches 'Indira Gandhi Urban Employment Scheme' to provide 100 days of employment in a year to families residing in urban areas.
 36. Dwarka peeth Shankaracharya Swami Swaroopanand Saraswati dies at 99 in Narasinghpur (MP).
 37. Army conducts Exercise Parvat Prahar in Ladakh sector.
 38. Karnataka win 75th Senior National Aquatic Championships held in Guwahati.
 39. India will assume the Presidency of the G20 for one year from 1st December this year to 30 November next year. It is expected to host over two hundred G20 meetings across the country.
 40. India becomes power surplus nation with electricity capacity of over four lakh Mega Watt. India is the world's third largest producer of renewable energy, with 40 per cent of its installed electricity capacity coming from non-fossil fuel sources.
 41. Govt launches several initiatives as run-up to International Year of Millets 2023 to create awareness about ancient and forgotten golden grains
 42. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has launched programme. SETU (Supporting Entrepreneurs in Transformation and Upskilling) in San Francisco, US.
 43. World First Aid Day is celebrated every year on the second Saturday of September. This year, World First Aid Day 2022 falls on 10 September 2022.
 44. The US President Joe Biden appointed Dr Renee Wegrzyn as the inaugural director of the ARPA-H (Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health) and detailed her role during his speech on the 60th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's moonshot speech in Rice University.
 45. The first batch of cheetahs are currently being brought from Namibia to be introduced into Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh. Prime Minister Modi would release 8 cheetahs into the national park on September 17.
 46. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) have jointly published a report titled "Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) report".

47. The International Equal Pay Day is observed to highlight the issue of gender pay gap and raise awareness about the same at the international level. It seeks to put an end to the problem of women getting lesser salaries than their male counterparts.
48. Vigyan Pragati is a popular science magazine released by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
The magazine has received the National Rajbhasha Kirti Award at the Second All India Rajbhasha Sammelan held at Surat from Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs. 'Vigyan Pragati' magazine aims at communicating Science and Technology to the masses in simple language.
49. The Tamil Nadu government has decided to celebrate every year the birth anniversary of reformist leader E V Ramasamy Periyar on September 17 as "Social Justice Day," Chief Minister M K Stalin announced in the Assembly
50. A state level institution on the lines of NITI Aayog will be established in Maharashtra. It will help to bring drastic changes in sectors like agriculture, health, education, employment, environment etc. in the state. Chief executive officer of NITI Aayog and other experts made a presentation on how Maharashtra will be assisted by the Aayog in various sectors.
51. The Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park of Darjeeling has been recognized as the best zoo in the country.
52. Federal Bank was ranked 63rd on the Best Workplaces in Asia 2022 and becomes the only bank in India to be listed by Great Place to Work, the global authority on workplace culture.
53. Delhi Police has become the first police force in the country to make collection of forensic evidence mandatory in crimes punishable by more than six years.
54. Manipur: CM N. Biren Singh launches 'CM Da Haisi' web portal to address public grievances
55. Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya launched a countrywide mega drive 'Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav' for voluntary blood donation from 17th September to 1st October 2022.
56. Scientists in China have successfully cloned wild Arctic Wolf for the first time.
- A Beijing-based gene firm had succeeded in cloning the Arctic Wolf to prevent the endangered species from going extinct.
 - The newly cloned wolf was named Maya, which means good health.
 - The donor cell of the wolf came from a skin sample of a wild female Arctic Wolf. Its oocyte was obtained from a dog.
57. 171 people have died because of Lassa fever in Nigeria despite the government's measures to reduce the spread of the viral infection across the country.
58. Union Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar virtually inaugurated 9 model District Disability Rehabilitation centres (DDRC), which had been upgrading to model DDRCs.
DDRCs were established to provide effective rehabilitation services to the persons with disabilities (PwDs) for the last twenty years.
59. India has become the largest bilateral lender to Sri Lanka by disbursing a total of USD 968 million in loans in four months of 2022, surpassing China.
60. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addresses virtually Global Fintech Conference in Mumbai
Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today said that India is moving very fast on solar and wind energy and the government is going ahead with its commitment for promotion of renewable energy.
61. Valery Polyakov, who held the record for the achieving the longest single stay in space, has passed away at the age of 80.
62. Gujarati film 'Chhello Show' is India's official entry for Oscars 2023; titled 'Last Film Show' in English, the movie is directed by Pan Nalin.
63. India's "longest river cruise service" (4,000 km) between Varanasi (UP) and Bogibeel (Assam) to start in 2023: Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.
64. Indian Navy decommissions INS Ajay at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai after 32 years of service.
65. The Asia-Pacific Institute of Broadcasting Development (AIBD) has unanimously extended India's presidency for one more year.

66. Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar virtually addresses 'LEADS-2022 conference' organized by FICCI in New Del.
67. Popular comedian Raju Srivastava passes away.
68. Veteran Assamese swimmer Elvis Ali Hazarika becomes the first from North East to cross North Channel.
69. The Indian Government is looking to use special AC train to promote the proposed Ambedkar Circuit that covers various places in India associated with B.R. Ambedkar.
70. India wins UN award for India Hypertension Control Initiative under National Health Mission.
71. The US central bank has pushed interest rates to the highest level in almost 15 years as it fights to rein in soaring prices in the world's largest economy. The Federal Reserve yesterday announced the increase in key rate by another 0.75 percentage points.
72. In Uttar Pradesh, monsoon session of the legislative assembly is going on today and only women legislators are speaking and raising their issues in both the House. The whole day is reserved for women members to raise women-centric issues, which is happening for the first time in the history of the UP assembly.
73. Patrol vessel Samarth commissioned with Indian Coast Guard.
74. Indian Army activated satellite broadband-based internet service on the world's highest battlefield, Siachen Glacier.
75. The International Day of Peace is observed globally on September 21. The United National General Assembly marks the day by promoting ideals of peace among nations and people by observing non-violence and ceasefire for 24 hours.
76. The Gujarat Legislative Assembly had unanimously withdrawn the Cattle Control Bill after protests from cattle-rearing communities across the state
77. NCC (National Cadet Corps), UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) sign MoU in New Delhi to tackle the issue of plastic pollution.
78. 10th IBSA (India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum) Trilateral Ministerial Commission meeting held in New York
79. Minister of State for Culture Meenakshi Lekhi unveils 'Wall of Delhi' mural depicting 75 historical sites
80. The e-auction of gifts presented to Prime Minister Narendra Modi is going on and it will continue till 2nd October. One thousand 222 mementos will be E-auctioned during this period. The lowest base price of the gift is one hundred rupees and the highest base price is five lakh rupees.
81. Project "Saaras" for menstruation health launched by Israeli embassy in Ghaziabad.
As part of project "Saraas," an initiative of the Israeli embassy in India in conjunction with NGO Khushii, which aims to raise awareness about menstruation health and cleanliness and improve skills and capacity for women, the centre was opened by Naor Gilon, the Israeli ambassador to India.
82. Nagaland Prison Department goes digital by introducing the mobile attendance application for Prison staff. Advisor for Prisons, Printing & Stationery, H. Haiying launched the Prison staff Attendance App at the District Jail Kohima.
The mobile app was initiated by the State Prison Department in collaboration with Excellogics Technology Solution Private Limited.
83. Lt General V K Saxena inaugurated 'We Care' a community policing initiative here aimed at spreading awareness about various schemes of the Delhi Police among people.
84. Dharmendra Pradhan introduces SCALE app: The SCALE (Skill Certification Assessment for Leather Employees) app was unveiled on September 20th by Minister of Education and Skill Development Dharmendra Pradhan at the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)-Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) in Chennai.
This app provides a one-stop solution for the education, testing, and employment requirements of the leather sector.
85. Abhyas drill: The Coast Guards of India and the United States participated Off the coast of Chennai in the massive Abhyas drill or the Abhyas joint drill.
86. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Honours Four Leaders With 2022 Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards .

87. World Rose Day for the welfare of cancer patients worldwide is celebrated annually on the 22nd of September. This day aims to encourage and support those people who are fighting their battle against cancer.
88. The QUAD countries have signed the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) partnership guidelines recently.
89. Amazon announced its first solar project in India with three new solar farms in Rajasthan, with a combined energy capacity of 420 megawatts (MW).
Amazon aims to use 100% renewable energy across its business by 2025. The Indian project includes a 210-MW project to be developed by ReNew Power, a 100-MW project to be developed by Amp Energy India, and a 110-MW project to be developed by Brookfield Renewable Partners.
90. Book on PM's speeches titled 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas-Prime Minister Narendra Modi Speaks released.
91. M. Srinivas appointed Director of AIIMS-Delhi as Dr Randeep Guleria retires.
92. Rajiv Bahl appointed new director general of ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research).
93. India's foreign exchange reserves fall by 545.652 billion: RBI data.
94. Most successful woman bowler Jhulan Goswami to play her last match at Lords today as India & England lock horns in third & last ODI of series.
95. Asian Palm Oil Alliance (APOA) was formed at the Globoil Summit organized in Agra on September 21.
96. A new type of crystal was discovered by researchers in China from the near side of the Moon.
97. The Breakthrough Prizes was created in 2010 by a group of Silicon Valley entrepreneurs, including a venture capitalist Milner, Mark Zuckerberg and his wife, Priscilla Chan, of Facebook and Sergey Brin of Google.
The 2023 winners of the Breakthrough Prizes, also known as the 'Oscars of Science' were announced recently in the life sciences category, one for mathematics and one for physics. The winners will split a total of more than USD 15 million.
98. India's Public sector lender UCO Bank is the first bank to receive the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) approval for rupee trade.
99. The Kolkata-based bank will open a special vostro account with Gazprombank of Russia for trade settlement in Indian rupees. In July, RBI announced its decision to allow Indian banks to settle trade in Indian currency in July. RBI also allowed trade settlements between India and other countries, including Sri Lanka and Russia
100. President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated a ten-day Mysuru Dasara festival by offering prayers to Goddess Chamundeshwari atop Chamundi hills today. Starting her speech in Kannada, the President extended her greetings to the people on the festive occasion. She sought the blessings of Goddess Chamundeshwari for the well-being of the country and her people.
101. The International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons is observed on September
102. Memorial made of ashes collected from rhino horns were unveiled recently at the Kaziranga National Park in Assam.
103. The CBI launched the Operation Megh Chakra to combat the spread of Child Sexual Abuse Materials online.
104. President Droupadi Murmu inaugurates Integrated Cryogenic Engines Manufacturing Facility of HAL in Bengaluru.
105. Veteran actor Asha Parekh to be conferred Dada Saheb Phalke Award, announces I&B Minister Anurag Thakur.
106. Chhattisgarh government has decided to launch a campaign on women's safety titled 'Hamar Beti Hamar Maan' (our daughter, our honour).
107. Every year on September 25, World Pharmacist Day is commemorated with the goal of highlighting and advocating the pharmacist's contribution to health improvement.
108. PM Modi virtually attends inaugural ceremony of Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar Chowk in Ayodhya on her 93rd birth anniversary.
109. Chandigarh Airport renamed Shaheed Bhagat Singh International Airport on his 115th birth anniversary.
110. Cabinet extends PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana scheme for another 3 months.

- 111.** UNESCO observes the International Day for Universal Access to Information on September 28 every year.
- 112.** The Central Government has banned the Popular Front of India for 5 years.
- 113.** Indigenously developed special aviation fuel AVGAS 100 LL was launched by the Indian Government.
- 114.** PM Modi launches several development projects worth over Rs 3400 cr in Surat; Says DREAM city project will make city one the safest, most convenient diamond trading hubs in the world
- 115.** All women, married or unmarried, entitled to safe and legal abortion till 24 weeks of pregnancy, rules Supreme Court
- 116.** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has launched a multi-phase Operation GARUDA to dismantle drug networks with international linkages. The CBI is doing this in close coordination with enforcement actions across international jurisdictions through INTERPOL and Narcotics Control Bureau with special focus on Indian Ocean Region.
- 117.** Indian-origin British Home Secretary Suella Braverman has been named the winner of the first-ever Queen Elizabeth II Woman of the Year award.
- 118.** Cochin International Airport Ltd has won the Airport Service Quality award-2022 instituted by Airport Council International (ACI) for its meticulous implementation of a programme 'Mission Safeguarding' in 2021-22.
- 119.** World Rabies Day is celebrated each year on September 28 as a tribute to Louis Pasteur – the inventor of the first effective rabies vaccine in the world.
According to the World Health Organisation, the theme of World Rabies Day 2022 is 'Rabies: One Health, Zero Deaths.' The theme is to emphasize the connection between the environment, people, and animals.
- 120.** The VSHORADS missile have been successfully tested at the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha.
- 121.** With the release of the five volumes of "Encyclopedia of Tribes in Odisha", Odisha became the first state in India to start an encyclopaedia on tribal communities and document their historic and unique traditions.
- 122.** Kumar Sanu (2021), Shailendra Singh (2019), Anand-Milind (2020) get Lata Mangeshkar Award of MP govt.
- 123.** UNESCO-MONDIACULT 2022 World Conference being held in Mexico City
- 124.** Pullampara in Thiruvananthapuram has become the first digitally literate gram panchayat in Kerala. Pullampara became the first panchayat in the country to attain full digital literacy among its residents.

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