

TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM CURRENT AFFAIRS - AUGUST 2021

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CONTENTS

TNPSC BITS	13
TAMIL NADU	21
Silver coin at the Keeladi	21
Tamil scholar R. Ilangumaranar passed away.....	22
Second Transgender Sub Inspector of Police - Tamil Nadu	22
Tamil Nadu legislature turns 100	23
Thagaisal Thamizhar - N. Sankaraiah.....	23
10.5% quota for Vanniyars	24
Excavation begins in Porpanaikottai	24
Trichy Carbine	24
7.5% reservation for government school students	24
Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam	24
Tamil archanai	25
Coimbatore Railway Station - platinum rating.....	25
Mr. India competition	26
White report - Tamilnadu Economy	26
Best Municipal Corporation, Municipality & Town panchayats	27
Rajendra Chola I birth anniversary	28
e-budget - Tamil Nadu	28
Chief pontiff of Madurai Adheenam	29
Agriculture Budget - Tamil Nadu	29
Independence Day awards - Tamil Nadu.....	30
Archakas of all castes get appointed.....	30
Tamil Nadu and freedom struggle	31
Ancient Dagger Found in Tamil Nadu	31
TN Budget highlights.....	32
Agricultural budget important measures	32
Third state to present separate Agri budget - TN	33
National award for teachers.....	33
President of the Science, Music, and Drama Council	33
Memorial for late M Karunanidhi.....	34



Kalaigiar Urban Development Scheme	35
Municipalities to municipal corporations	35
Announcements by Higher Education Minister.....	35
Best Third Gender - Grace Banu	36
7.5% quota for State govt. school students in professional courses	36
Singara Chennai 2.0	37
Welfare package for Sri Lankan Tamil refugees.....	38
Teachers Eligibility Test.....	38
NATIONAL.....	39
Rafale squadron at Hasimara	39
Garima Grihas for transgender persons	39
Marine Aids to Navigation Bill 2021	40
Women unemployment rate - India.....	40
Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill	41
Higher Education in Regional Languages	41
Reservation in medical and dental colleges	41
India's 14 Tiger Reserves Recognized by Global CA/TS	42
National serology survey – state wise	43
Sambandar	43
Lithium exploration projects	44
President of UNSC for August - India	44
Strategic petroleum reserves (SPR) programme	45
Hotline for Sikkim sector	46
e-RUPI Digital Payment Solution	46
Lightest metro train.....	47
Ashwagandha	47
National Research Foundation (NRF)	48
Suicides due to Unemployment	48
Secured Logistics Documents Exchange	48
NSO survey.....	49
Report on Power Distribution Sector	49
Operation Blue Freedom.....	49
Centre de-licenses sugar industry.....	50
Inland Vessels Bill, 2021	50



Samagra Shiksha Scheme for School Education	51
Pardoning Power of Governors - Supreme Court	51
Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill.....	52
Fortune Global 500 list - 2021.....	52
Minervarya Pentali	53
Agro-Automatic Weather Stations	53
Fast Track Special Courts	54
National Policy on Marine Fisheries, 2017.....	54
INS Vikrant	54
INS Khanjar.....	55
World's highest road in Ladakh	55
India nuclear power capacity by 2031	55
Bill to amend Scheduled Tribes list	56
COVAXIN receives Good Manufacturing Practice certificate	56
34th foundation day of TRIFED	57
Self-repairing materials	58
National Farmers Database	58
Plastic-mixed Handmade Paper	58
India's first Heart Failure Biobank	58
Judge-population ratio	59
Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2021	59
Blinken's visit to India	60
J&J's vaccine for emergency use in India.....	60
Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan Scheme.....	61
Ladakh removes Inner Line Permit.....	61
International Conference on Range Technology	62
Zayed Talwar 2021	62
Ujjwala - 2 Scheme	62
PM-DAKSH	63
Water villas in Lakshadweep.....	63
Mixed Covid immunization.....	64
Animal DNA Laboratory	64
127th Constitution Amendment Bill.....	64
Sarla Thukral	65



Rail Madad	65
India's 5-point agenda	66
National Mission on Edible Oil - Oil Palm	66
India's elderly population.....	67
The Tribunal Reforms Bill, 2021.....	67
World's highest mobile Air Traffic Control towers.....	68
N Line of cars - Hyundai	68
Kakori Train Action.....	68
AL-MOHED AL-HINDI 2021	69
GSLV-F10-EOS-3	69
Malabar naval exercises.....	70
Subsonic cruise missile Nirbhay	70
National Vehicle Scrappage Policy	70
APEDA exports apples to Bahrain	71
Common survey to count elephants and tigers.....	72
Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2021	73
Fit India Freedom Run 2.0	73
Periodic Labour Force Survey (2019 - 2020)	74
Doctor - population ratio.....	75
Satellite phone facility	75
Quality of Life for Elderly Index 2021	75
Honour FIRST	76
Partition Horrors Remembrance Day	76
GM Soybean	76
New Wetlands in Ramsar list	77
IBSA Tourism Ministers Meeting.....	77
Nasal vaccine - BBV154.....	77
Vande Bharat trains	78
Diesel - door delivery	78
Sainik Schools for female students.....	78
Energy independent – 2047.....	79
SonChiraiya	80
Rice under all schemes to be fortified	80



TAPAS	81
IndiGau	81
Design resource center – Chennai.....	81
Data on hydro meteorological calamities.....	82
Hindustan-228	82
Bharat Net programme	83
Vriksharopan Abhiyan - 2021	83
Women to appear for NDA exam	84
Student Entrepreneurship Program 3.0	84
Exercise Konkan 2021	85
Amrit Mahotsav Shri Shakti Challenge-2021	85
Bilateral maritime exercise - India and Vietnam.....	86
National Mission on Edible Oils	86
UNITE AWARE.....	87
Ubharte Sitaare Fund	87
Advanced chaff technology.....	88
Public Enterprises Survey 2019-20.....	88
India could get first woman CJI.....	89
First EV-friendly highway in India.....	89
Arogya Dhara 2.0.....	90
All-women team of three armed forces summits Mt Manirang	90
Defence India Start-up Challenge - 5th edition	91
Institute of Economic Growth Society - New president.....	91
Disaster Management - India and Bangladesh.....	92
ZyCoV-D vaccine	92
Small Business Loans Initiative.....	93
AK-103 rifles	93
India's highest herbal park.....	94
Malabar rebellion of 1921	94
Hurun Global 500 Most Valuable Companies list 2021	95
INSACOG study	95
Jalakanyaka	96
ARMY-2021	96
Zair-Al-Bahr Exercise.....	97



N. S. Vishwanathan Panel on Urban Co-operative Banks	97
Yuktdhara portal	98
Indigenous motorized wheelchair ‘NeoBolt’	98
Five women officers to Colonel rank	99
Narayan Rane Arrest	100
Global Manufacturing Risk Index.....	100
Forum for Decarbonizing Transport.....	101
E-Shram Portal.....	101
Iconic Week celebrations.....	102
GUAREX.....	103
First woman Chief Justice of India.....	103
KAZIND-21	104
India’s first mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine	104
SUJALAM	104
Highest ever FRP for Sugarcane	105
The Malabar Exercise	106
Naval exercise - India and Philippines	106
Hydrogen electrolyzer giga factory	107
Greater Male Connectivity Project.....	107
WEP Nxt	108
EASE 4.0	108
NERDSD Goal Index Report & Dashboard.....	109
Ananda mobile app	109
Chairperson of Stop TB Partnership Board	110
SAMRIDH Scheme	110
INDIAsize	111
“Shared Destiny 2021” - Defence Exercise	111
Most surveilled cities	111
India - Germany Joint Exercise	112
Deepar Beel Wildlife Sanctuary.....	112
Gandiv exercise.....	113
INTERNATIONAL	114
Serendipity Sapphire.....	114
Youngest mountaineer to scale K2	114



UNESCO adds 7 sites to World Heritage List	115
Triangular Cooperation for Global Development	115
The Factoring Regulation (Amendment) Bill	115
Global tobacco epidemic report 2021	116
Permanent Forum of People of African Descent.....	116
International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement - Germany.....	117
Ebrahim Raisi	117
Forbes real-time billionaires list	118
DBS bank	118
Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.....	118
Gilgit-Baltistan.....	118
SCO Meeting of Ministers of Justice.....	119
Marburg virus disease.....	119
Global Youth Development Index, 2020.....	120
DABUS receives patent.....	120
28th ASEAN Regional Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting.....	121
Coronavirus innovation rankings	121
Wolf-warrior diplomacy	122
SEACAT exercise	122
Taliban Forces in Kabul.....	123
SAGO	123
Forum of the Election Management Bodies of South Asia.....	123
Cooperation in remote sensing satellite data sharing	124
Vietnam consul office in India.....	124
Colorado River basin - water shortage	124
Changes in Afghanistan.....	125
Hunger in Afghanistan.....	126
Children's Climate Risk Index	126
Covid antibody tests for children aged 3 - Israel.....	127
Tropical storm Henri.....	127
100% fossil-free hydrogen	127
WEF'S Sustainable Development Impact Summit 2021	128
Safe Cities Index 2021	128
Fatah-1	129



World's tallest observation wheel	129
Havana Syndrome	130
Covid-19 to Become Endemic.....	131
ECONOMY.....	132
Retrospective Tax	132
Wealthiest village	132
4 th IT firm to hit Rs 3 trillion market-cap – HCL.....	132
m-cap - TCS.....	133
Financial inclusion index – RBI	133
Radhakishan Damani in Bloomberg Billionaires Index	134
ICICI, StanChart and HSBC enter 'swaption' deals.....	134
2021 Global Crypto Adoption Index.....	135
Cybersecurity Multi-Donor Trust Fund	135
National Monetization pipeline.....	136
Infosys crosses \$100 billion m-cap	136
BharatPe - new app.....	137
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	138
Short gamma-ray bursts	138
World's first reprogrammable commercial satellite.....	138
NISAR Satellite.....	139
Saturn and Earth.....	139
Water molecules on the moon's surface	140
New method to identify proteins in the living brain	140
Covid Test using Pencil Lead.....	140
Origin of asteroid that killed dinosaurs	141
Historic Nuclear Fusion.....	141
Intersection of COVID-19 & Tuberculosis pandemics - study	142
Asteroid 2016 AJ193.....	142
Solar-Driven Change traced on moon	142
JAXA's Aim to Bring Mars Samples Soon.....	143
Merger of three black holes spotted.....	143
Quantum Computer Simulator Toolkit	144
ENVIRONMENT.....	145
International Clean Air Catalyst Programme - Indore	145



Earth Overshoot Day, 2021	145
E-waste Generation	146
Status of Leopards, Co-predators and Megaherbivores - 2018	146
Thailand bans Coral-Damaging Sunscreens.....	147
Oxfam's Report	147
Cyclones over Arabian Sea More Frequent - IMD Study	148
Climate Change 2021 Report.....	148
HouseFresh report.....	149
Kigali Amendment.....	149
Rain at Greenland Summit	149
Animal Discoveries 2020.....	150
STATES.....	151
Export of Raja Mircha	151
Pink Protection project	151
Devaranya scheme	152
Krishikarna project	152
Odisha plans DNA profiling for leopards	152
Twin road tunnel.....	153
Crime and criminal tracking network system	153
SKOCH awards - West Bengal.....	154
Rajiv Gandhi award for IT sector	154
India's first water plus city	155
Forest Resource Rights in Urban Region	155
Color-coded system - Covid tackling.....	155
Assam Cattle Preservation Bill, 2021.....	156
First Drone Forensic Lab and Research Center	156
Patriots' Day - Manipur	157
Gene Bank - New Delhi	157
Smart Health Cards - Odisha	157
Aligarh as Harigarh.....	158
Life of a prisoner	159
Three Water Plus cities in Andhra Pradesh	159
Wanchuwa Festival in Assam.....	160
Mission Vatsalya	160



Sub-category of creamy layer – Haryana	161
PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS	161
UN Best Small Business Winners from India	161
NatWest Group Earth Heroes award	162
Lokmanya Tilak Award 2021	162
Maharashtra Bhushan award 2021.....	163
Eisner award	163
Controller General of Accounts	163
New Vice Chief of Naval Staff.....	164
Prof. C.R. Rao Centenary Gold Medal award	164
Dr. Dhriti Banerjee - new director of ZSI.....	165
Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award	165
Rekha Sharma.....	166
Order of British Columbia award	166
Brunel Medal award	166
AI Gamechanger Award	167
Gallantry awards	167
National Youth Award.....	168
Congressional Gold Medal.....	168
Maki Kaji.....	168
Diksha Shinde	169
Indian Film Festival of Melbourne Awards 2021	169
Sri Basava International Award	170
EASE Reforms Index Award 2021	170
Dr. Gail Omvedt passed away	171
SPORTS	172
Online Chess Title.....	172
PV Sindhu's achievement	172
Paralympic Theme Song launched	173
Lovlina Borgohain	173
Ravi Kumar Dahiya wins silver	174
Indian Men's Hockey - Bronze medal	174
Bajrang Punia - Bronze medal.....	174
Neeraj Chopra - Gold medal	175



Tokyo Olympics 2020 and India	176
Flame of hope	177
Third highest wicket-taker in Test cricket	177
International Army Games	177
Cricket's inclusion in Olympics.....	178
Tokyo Paralympics - Indian contingent	178
Harshit Raja	178
Odisha's sponsor - Indian Hockey teams.....	179
Tokyo 2020 Summer Paralympic Games.....	179
Silver medal in women's long jump - Shaili Singh.....	180
Princepal Singh in NBA	180
Bhavina Patel - Silver medal.....	181
IMPORTANT DAYS	182
Friendship Day 2021 - August 01	182
National Mountain Climbing Day - August 01	182
Muslim Women Rights Day - August 01	182
World Breastfeeding Week - August 1 to 7	182
Hiroshima day - August 06	183
National Handloom Day - August 07	183
International Cat Day - August 08	184
Nagasaki day - August 09.....	184
International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples - August 09	185
Quit India Day - August 09	185
World Lion Day - August 10	186
World Biofuel Day - August 10	186
International Youth Day - August 12	186
National Librarian's Day - August 12	187
International Left-Handers Day - August 13.....	187
National Day of mourning (Bangladesh) - August 15.....	188
World Prediabetes Day - August 14	188
De Jure Transfer Day - August 16	189
Navroz Mubarak Day - August 16	189
World Humanitarian Day - August 19	189
World Photography Day - August 19	190



Akshay Urja Diwas - August 20	190
World Mosquito Day - August 20.....	191
Sadbhavana Diwas - August 20	191
Sanskrit Week - August 19 to 25	192
World Senior Citizen Day - August 21	192
International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism - August 21.....	192
Sanskrit Day - August 22.....	193
International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief - August 22	193
National Honey Bee Day 2021 - August 21.....	193
Madras Day - August 22.....	193
European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Stalinism and Nazism - August 23	194
International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition - August 23.....	194
World Entrepreneurs Day - August 21.....	195
World Water Week - August 23 to 27	195
International Dog Day - August 26.....	195
International Day against Nuclear Tests - August 29	196
National Sports Day - August 29	196
Telugu Language Day - August 29.....	196
International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances - August 30....	197
Small Industry Day - August 30.....	197
International Whale Shark Day - August 30	198
International Overdose Awareness Day - August 31	198
MISCELLANEOUS	199
National Moth Week July 17 - 25, 2021.....	199
Skytrax World Airport Award ranking 2021	199



TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Karnataka has become the first state in the country to provide reservation for the 'transgender community in all the government services.'
 - The state provides one per cent reservation.
- ❖ Kenya and United Kingdom are co-hosting a Global Education Summit in the city of London.
 - The objective is to raise 5 billion USD for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE).
- ❖ India's billionaire investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala has announced to launch his own ultra-low-cost airline called Akasa Air.
 - Airbnb and Par Capital Management are among the investors in Akasa Air.
- ❖ Vaidehi Dongre, a 25-year-old girl from Michigan, has been crowned Miss India USA 2021 at the beauty pageant.
 - She won the 'Miss Talented' title in the pageant for giving a flawless performance of Indian classical dance form Kathak.
- ❖ The Sitio Burle Marx site, a landscape garden in Brazilian city Rio de Janeiro has been added to UNESCO's list of World Heritage sites.
 - The site has been named after Burle Marx, a Brazilian landscape architect.
- ❖ The International Monetary Fund has cut India's GDP growth forecast to 9.5% for the fiscal year 2021-22 due to the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Previously, IMF has forecasted 12.5% GDP growth.
- ❖ The Department of Defence Production which comes under the Ministry of Defence has given its approval for a central sector scheme named 'Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)'.
 - The primary aim of this scheme is to provide financial support to around 300 MSMEs, Start-ups, and individual innovators as well as around 20 partner incubators through the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO).
- ❖ India has overtaken Russia to become the fourth largest country with foreign exchange reserves.
 - Currently, China has the largest reserves followed by Japan and Switzerland.
- ❖ 'Divya Nayan' a personal reading device for the visually impaired developed by the CSIR-Central Scientific Instruments Organization (CSIO), Chandigarh.
 - Using this tool, any printed or digital document can be accessed via voice.
- ❖ The State Bank of India has topped the list of public sector banks that have written off loans in fiscal 2021.



- Union Bank of India and Punjab National Bank are in second and third place respectively.
- ❖ The BRICS Counter-Terrorism Action Plan has been finalized to strengthen BRICS counter-terrorism cooperation.
 - This discussion took place at the sixth meeting of the BRICS Anti-Terrorism Working Group.
- ❖ Myanmar's military has extended emergency for two years.
 - The Military government named itself as "caretaker government" and Min Aung Hlaing as the prime minister.
- ❖ The Chief Ministers of Assam and Mizoram have sought to ease tension along their troubled inter-State border.
 - The two States share a 164.6 km volatile border.
- ❖ Bhubaneswar has become the first Indian city to achieve 100 per cent COVID-19 vaccination.
 - This milestone is credited to the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation running 55 centres at all times for vaccines.
- ❖ The National Geographic has listed Dubai's 'Museum of the Future' as one of the 14 most beautiful museums in the world.
 - This recognition is for its astounding architecture and sophisticated technological innovations.
- ❖ The President of the United States Joe Biden and Prime Minister of Iraq Mustafa al-Kadhimi announced an agreement to formally end the US combat mission in Iraq by the end of 2021.
- ❖ Mumbai and Bengaluru are out of the global top-100 list and are currently ranking at 106 and 110 respectively.
 - This is according to the latest edition of the QS Best Student Cities Ranking.
- ❖ The IndusInd Bank has been empanelled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to act as an 'Agency Bank'.
 - As an Agency Bank, IndusInd becomes eligible to carry out transactions related to all kinds of government-led businesses.
- ❖ The International Clouded Leopard Day is observed Aug 4th.
 - The day creates international awareness and an attempt to increase the profile of Clouded leopards both in captivity and in the wild.
- ❖ The Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee has launched the 'Uttarakhand Bhookamp alert' app.
 - It is India's first Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) mobile app.



- ❖ Natasha Peri, an 11-year-old Indian-American girl has been judged as one of the brightest students in the world by a top US university for her exceptional performance in the SAT and ACT standardised tests.
 - Both the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) and American College Testing (ACT) are standardised tests that many colleges use to determine whether to accept a student for admission.
- ❖ The Government of India, the Central Water Commission, the government representatives of 10 participating states and the World Bank signed a project for long-term dam safety program.
 - This Project will help in improving the safety and performance of existing dams across different states in India.
- ❖ Axis Bank has crossed the milestone of over one million customers on its WhatsApp banking channel.
 - Axis Bank had launched banking services on WhatsApp in January 2021.
- ❖ Indian researchers have come up with a new hydrogen manufacture route.
 - It involves electrolysis of water to produce hydrogen (H₂) in the presence of an external magnetic field i.e. magneto-electrocatalysis.
- ❖ The Indian women's hockey team chief coach Sjoerd Marijne stepped down from his position.
 - He revealed that India's bronze medal match against Great Britain at the Tokyo Olympics was his last assignment with the Indian side.
- ❖ Vandana Katariya became the first Indian woman hockey player to score an Olympic hat-trick.
 - This feat was achieved when India won South Africa by 4-3 at the Oi Hockey Stadium in Tokyo.
- ❖ The Parliament passed a bill which allows the central government to prohibit strikes, lockouts, and layoffs in units engaged in essential defence services.
 - Essential defence services include units or undertakings involved in the production of goods or equipment required for defence.
- ❖ The International Space Station (ISS) was knocked off its course recently after the Russian research module Nauka was docked.
 - Nauka is a Multipurpose Laboratory Module of ISS funded by Roscosmos.
- ❖ The first G20 Culture Ministers Meeting was held in Rome, Italy.
 - The Colosseum and Palazzo Barberini hosted the G20 Summit in Rome.
- ❖ CA Bhavani Devi became the first Indian fencer to represent the nation for the Olympics.



- Bhavani was born in Chennai.
- ❖ The National Bone and Joint Day is observed on 4 August every year.
 - It creates awareness about the need to keep bones healthy.
- ❖ Indian Wrestler Labhanshu Sharma won the Bharat Kesari Wrestling Dangal 2021 organised in Tamil Nadu.
 - 20 years since the formation of Uttarakhand, Labhanshu has broken the drought and won the title of Bharat Kesari for the state.
- ❖ A bill that seeks to establish a central university (Sindhu central university) in the Union Territory of Ladakh was passed in the Lok Sabha.
 - The university will cater to all areas of Ladakh that include Leh and Kargil.
- ❖ International Forgiveness Day aims at seeking and forgiving people around us.
 - It is celebrated across the world on the first Sunday of August (01-08-2021).
- ❖ Recently, the Government of Tamil Nadu has appointed Suba Veera Pandian as a member of the Tamil Nadu Curriculum Advisory Committee.
- ❖ According to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, India's first Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) will be held in October 2021.
 - The IIGF 2021 will be held under the theme - "Inclusive Internet for Digital India".
- ❖ Karnataka has become the first state in the country to issue the order with regard to the implementation of the National Education Policy-2020.
 - The policy will be in effect from the current academic year 2021-2022.
- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has extended the term of service of Rajiv Gauba, as the Cabinet Secretary of India, for a further period of one year.
 - His term of service was to end on August 30, 2021.
- ❖ The Central Government has asked the States and UTs to ensure that people don't use plastic national flags.
 - This announcement has come out ahead of the Independence Day celebrations.
- ❖ On 9th August, National Traders Day is observed in India on the foundation day of Bhartiya Udyog Vyapar Mandal.
 - The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, addressed the traders on the occasion of this day.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has started a public awareness campaign to warn people against digital banking frauds.
 - For this new campaign, the RBI has roped in Olympic Gold medallist Neeraj Chopra.



- ❖ Nagaland has been conferred with seven national awards on the first Van Dhan Annual Awards 2020-21.
 - The awards were given during the celebration of the 34th foundation day of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED).
- ❖ A massive wildfire continues to burn on the northern tip of Greece's second-largest island called Evia, which is close to the mainland.
 - Wildfires or forest fires (or bushfires in Australia) are unplanned fires that burn through natural areas such as forests, grasslands or prairies.
- ❖ The Government of India has approved Bharat Biotech's manufacturing facility in Ankleshwar in South Gujarat for the production of Covaxin.
 - Covaxin is India's first indigenously developed Covid-19 vaccine.
- ❖ The theme of India's 75th Independence Day celebrations will be 'Nation First, Always First'.
 - The country will celebrate its 75th year of Independence at Red Fort this year.
- ❖ World Elephant Day is observed every year on August 12 worldwide for the preservation and protection of the global elephants.
 - The World Elephant Day was initiated on August 12, 2012.
- ❖ Iran's new President Ebrahim Raisi named Mohammad Mokhber as his first vice-president.
 - Mohammad Mokhber has for years headed the foundation known as Setad.
- ❖ The Chief Minister of Delhi Arvind Kejriwal launched the faceless transport services in the National Capital.
 - Under the initiative, 33 transport services will go completely faceless and online, except for the driving tests and fitness tests for the vehicles.
- ❖ Maharashtra state government has decided to give 1 per cent reservation in education and jobs to children orphaned due to corona.
 - It has also been decided to give concessions in age, examination fees, scholarships under education, reimbursement of tuition fees as per Scheduled Castes.
- ❖ The Environment Ministry notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021 recently.
 - These new rules prohibit specific single-use plastic items with "low utility and high littering potential" by the year 2022.
- ❖ The Indian Team SoftWorthy has been conferred the prestigious National Science Foundation Innovation-Corps (NSF I-Corps) Teams Award in the United States.



- SoftWorthy's award-winning project focuses on the growth of novel technological applications like driverless vehicles and energy-efficient smart buildings.
- ❖ In the pandemic-hit financial year of 2020-21, the number of billionaires in India dropped from 141 in FY20 to 136 in FY21.
 - The count is based on the gross total income declared in the income tax returns.
- ❖ The International Wolf Day is marked every year on August 13.
 - This day is observed to raise awareness about these wild dogs.
- ❖ The World Organ Donation Day is celebrated every year on August 13.
 - The day is celebrated to raise awareness about the importance of organ donation and motivate people to donate organs after death.
- ❖ Pakistan carried a successful training launch of surface-to-surface nuclear-capable ballistic missile called Ghaznavi.
 - This training launch was aimed to ensure operational readiness of Army Strategic Forces Command (ASFC).
- ❖ Every year on August 14 is observed as the World Lizard Day.
 - It is to raise awareness among people regarding the extinction of lizards.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched National Hydrogen Mission on August 15, 2021 from Lal Quila.
 - The mission seeks to make India a global hub for green hydrogen production and exports.
- ❖ The Indian women's hockey team player Vandana Katariya will be the brand ambassador of the state's (Uttarakhand) Department of Women Empowerment and Child Development.
- ❖ The All-India Institute of Medical Science, New Delhi has become the first hospital of India to house a fire station inside the hospital premises.
 - For this, AIIMS has collaborated with Delhi Fire Service.
- ❖ Komalika Bari became the new under-21 recurve world champion at the Youth World Championships in Wroclaw of Poland.
 - She became the second Indian woman after Deepika Kumari to claim both the U-21 World Championship and the U-18 title.
- ❖ A 15-year-old young Indian Grandmaster Raunak Sadhwani has won the 19th Spilimbergo Open chess tournament in Italy.
 - Raunak Sadhwani hails from Nagpur.



- ❖ Afghanistan's First Vice President Amrullah Saleh declared himself as the legitimate caretaker President of Afghanistan.
- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to set up a training centre for Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) commandos in Saharanpur's Deoband.
 - Deoband is on the Uttaranchal and Haryana border.
- ❖ August 19th is the annual International Orangutan Day.
 - This international event aims to promote the conservation of critically endangered orangutan and encourage the welfare of their habitat.
- ❖ The 2021 edition of the World Athletics U20 Championships has been started in Nairobi, Kenya.
 - The World U20 Championships are held from 17 to 22 August, 2021.
- ❖ Amway India has announced that it has appointed Olympian Saikhom Mirabai Chanu as the brand ambassador for Amway and its Nutrilite range of products
 - Chanu, a weightlifter, won the silver medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics in the women's 49kg category.
- ❖ Lionel Messi joined Paris St Germain Football club after leaving Barcelona after 21 years.
 - Barcelona is the club where he had begun his professional career.
- ❖ National legislature of China formally endorsed the three-child policy.
 - Third child policy is a major policy shift which is aimed at preventing a steep decline in birth rates in China.
- ❖ Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will inaugurate the country's first smog tower at Baba Khark Singh Marg, Connaught Place.
 - The smog tower will clean 1,000 cubic metres of air every second and reduce PM 2.5 and PM 10 levels in Delhi.
- ❖ August 21 is celebrated as World Fashion Day each year.
 - The day basically celebrates the field of fashion and spreads awareness regarding its significance in our day-to-day lives.
- ❖ Harikara Desiga Bhramacharya Swami was crowned as the new chief pontiff of Madurai Adheenam.
 - He is the 293rd chief pontiff.
- ❖ Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has announced to rename the Hisar Airport as Maharaja Agrasen International Airport.
 - The Hisar Airport is a domestic airport and the first DGCA licensed Public Aerodrome of the State.
- ❖ Pragganandhaa won the RTU Open blitz chess title in Riga, Latvia.



- Praggananandhaa is the fifth-youngest person ever to achieve the title of Grandmaster.
- ❖ Senior BJP leader from Tamil Nadu La. Ganesan was appointed as the new governor of Manipur.
 - The post of the governor had fallen vacant after the retirement of Najma Hebdulla.
- ❖ The Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh said that India will add 100 more observatories by 2026.
 - The minister also informed that the country is going to have 35 more earthquake observatories by the end of this year.
- ❖ Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned that his country won't become Europe's refugee warehouse.
 - Anti-migrant sentiment is running high in Turkey as it grapples with economic woes including high unemployment that have been exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic.
- ❖ Mariyappan Thangavelu, 2016 Rio Paralympic Games gold medallist will be replaced by Asian Games gold medallist Tekchand as the new flag-bearer of India at the opening ceremony.
 - The Paralympic Committee of India reported, "On his flight to Tokyo, Mariyappan came in close contact with a Covid positive foreign passenger.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government will implement an urban employment scheme on the lines of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) at a cost of ₹100 crore.
 - This is to improve the livelihood of urban poor.
- ❖ India's complex mission to evacuate its citizens and Afghan partners from Kabul has been named as "Operation Devi Shakti".
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh became the second state in India to implement NEP-2020 following Karnataka.
- ❖ The Government of Cuba announced to recognize and regulate cryptocurrencies for payment in the Island nation.
 - This decision was taken following the popularity of cryptocurrencies increased among a technologically savvy group in Cuba as it became harder to use dollars.
- ❖ August 26 was designated by the U.S. Congress as "Women's Equality Day".
 - The date commemorates the 1920 certification of the nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote.
- ❖ Indian Grandmaster S.P. Sethuraman won the Barcelona Open chess tournament title.

- Karthikeyan Murali from India finished third.
- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind appointed Governor of Tamil Nadu, Banwarilal Purohit, to discharge the functions of the Governor of Punjab, in addition to his own duties.
 - He has also been appointed as the Administrator of Union Territory of Chandigarh.
- ❖ Indian Oil will build India's first Green Hydrogen Plant at Mathura refinery.
 - Indian Oil - India's largest fuel refiner and crude oil importer- in not only developing hydrogen fuel but also plans to expand biofuel manufacturing.

TAMIL NADU

Silver coin at the Keeladi

- ❖ A punch-marked silver coin was found at the Keeladi excavation site in Sivagangai during the 7th phase of excavation.
- ❖ It indicates that people from this region traded with the north India using these coins prevalent in the 6th century BCE.
- ❖ The coin, which is marked with the figures of the sun, moon, bull, taurine, an animal figurine, and geometric designs show that Keeladi inhabitants were a trading community.
- ❖ Silver punch-marked coins were in circulation from the time of Mahajana padas of the 6th century BCE.



Tamil scholar R. Ilangumaranar passed away



- ❖ Tamil scholar R. Ilangumaran, the recipient of Tamil Nadu Government's Thiru.Vi.Ka Award, has recently passed away.
- ❖ He was 94 years old.
- ❖ He was born in Vazhavandaalpuram village in Nellore district.
- ❖ With his creativity he completed the story line of partially availed epic Kundalakesi.
- ❖ The epic was then launched in 1958 at the Meenakshi Amman Temple in Madurai.
- ❖ In 1963, the Prime Minister Nehru published his collection of essays on Tirukural.

Second Transgender Sub Inspector of Police - Tamil Nadu



- ❖ Prithika Yashini from Salem district became the first transgender sub-inspector of Tamil Nadu in 2017.
- ❖ Following her, Sivanya, a transgender from Tiruvannamalai district, has now become the second transgender Sub Inspector of Police of the state.
- ❖ Sivanya lives in Pavupattu village of Tiruvannamalai district.

Tamil Nadu legislature turns 100

- ❖ The Assembly chambers at Fort St. George witnessed a historic event when President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the centenary celebrations of the State legislature.
- ❖ Mr. Kovind also unveiled the portrait of five-time Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi.
- ❖ This is the first time in four decades that a portrait of an eminent figure of the State is getting unveiled by the President.
- ❖ In August 1977, then President N. Sanjeeva Reddi had unveiled the portrait of former Chief Minister K. Kamaraj.

Thagaisal Thamizhar - N. Sankaraiah



- ❖ Veteran Marxist Communist Leader N. Sankaraiah will receive the first Thagaisal Thamizhar Award.
- ❖ The award was instituted by the DMK government this year to honour a distinguished Tamil personality.
- ❖ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin will hand over the award to Mr. Sankaraiah during the Independence Day celebrations in Chennai.
- ❖ The Thagaisal Thamizhar Award carries a cash prize of ₹10 lakh and a citation.



10.5% quota for Vanniyars

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government issued an order to implement the 10.5% internal reservation allocated for Vanniyar community.
- ❖ This reservation will be followed for government jobs and educational institutions from this academic year.

Excavation begins in Porpanaikottai

- ❖ The Tamilnadu Environment Minister Siva V Meyyanathan inaugurated archaeological excavation by Tamil Nadu Open University, at Porpanaikottai, Pudukkottai.
- ❖ There are reports of a fort having stood at Porpanaikottai several years ago.
- ❖ The Archaeologists said the evidence found in the area dates back 1,800 years.
- ❖ In 2013, the archaeology students found a culvert which is 1,800 years old.

Trichy Carbine

- ❖ The Ordnance Factory Tiruchirappalli (OFT) in Tamil Nadu launched a new high-tech and low sound weapon.
- ❖ It is called as TriCa (Trichy Carbine).
- ❖ It is a mini version of the Trichy Assault Rifle (TAR).

7.5% reservation for government school students

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has decided to introduce 7.5% horizontal reservation for students of government schools in admissions to professional courses from the coming academic year.
- ❖ The courses will include engineering, agriculture, veterinary and fisheries courses.
- ❖ A similar reservation policy is already being implemented in medical admissions since the 2020-21 academic year.

Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Aug 5th launched a healthcare scheme, "Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam", to provide healthcare services at the doorstep in Krishnagiri district's Hosur.
- ❖ The government plans to extend this service across the state by the year-end.

- ❖ The scheme was also simultaneously launched in Chennai by Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Minister PK Sekar Babu and Greater Chennai Corporation commissioner Gagan Singh Singh Bedi.

Tamil archanai

- ❖ The Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments P.K. Sekar babu inaugurated the 'Annai Thamizhil Archanai' scheme at 47 major temples in the State.
- ❖ At the request of devotees, priests will chant the 'potri' (archanai) in Tamil.
- ❖ A set of 14 different 'potris' have already been prepared, and the booklets have been distributed to the identified priests.



Coimbatore Railway Station - platinum rating

- ❖ The Coimbatore Railway Station has received the 'platinum' rating from the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).

- ❖ It is the only railway station in Southern Railway and the sixth railway station in India to receive this level of green certification.
- ❖ Apart from Coimbatore, the five other railway stations in Indian Railways with IGBC's 'platinum' certification are Secunderabad, New Delhi, Jaipur, Visakhapatnam and Asansol.
- ❖ IGBC with the support of the Environment Directorate of Indian Railways developed the 'Green Railway Stations Rating System'.
- ❖ This is to facilitate adoption of 'green concepts' in railway stations.
- ❖ This helps in reducing the adverse environmental impacts due to station operation and maintenance.



Mr. India competition

- ❖ Kaushik Ram, a final year student of Chennai Law College, won the title of 'Mr. India' and 'Mr. Tamil Nadu' in the Mr. India competition held in Delhi.
- ❖ The 'Indian Male - 2021' competition was held in Agra, Delhi by the organization 'Star' Life.

White report - Tamilnadu Economy

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Minister for Finance and Human Resources Management P. T. R. Palanivel Thiagarajan published White Paper on the state's finances at the Secretariat in Chennai.
- ❖ The white paper highlighted the fiscal mismanagement during the past 10 years in Tamilnadu.

- ❖ According to the white paper, the average annual growth rate of GSDP in TN has reduced from 10.15 per cent in 2006-11 to 7.22 per cent in between 2016-20.
- ❖ Revenue deficit of TN has been deteriorating for the last eight years.
- ❖ Revenue deficit is 3.16 as percentage of GSDP for FY 2020-21.
- ❖ Fiscal deficit of the state has been primarily increasing due to increase in govt borrowing.
- ❖ Fiscal deficit is 4.43 as percentage of GSDP.
- ❖ The public debt is Rs 2,63,976 per family in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Public debt as percentage of GSDP is 26.69 per cent.
- ❖ State's Own Tax Revenue registered a significant decline.
- ❖ Subsidies has increased to 27.06 per cent of Revenue Expenditure and 3.21 per cent of GSDP in 2020-21.
- ❖ Power subsidy is the highest at 1.10 per cent of GSDP.
- ❖ Food subsidy is at 0.49 per cent of GSDP.
- ❖ Transport subsidy is at 0.19 per cent of GSDP.

Best Municipal Corporation, Municipality & Town panchayats



- ❖ Thanjavur Municipal Corporation has been selected for the Chief Minister's Award for the Best Municipal Corporation of Tamil Nadu for the year 2021.
- ❖ Ooty, Tiruchengode and Chinnamanur were selected for the first, second and third prize respectively as the best Municipalities.
- ❖ Kallakudy in Trichy, Melpattampakkam in Cuddalore, and Kottaiyur in Sivagangai were selected for the first, second and third prize respectively as the best Town panchayats.

Rajendra Chola I birth anniversary

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu tourism, culture and religious endowments department announced that the birth anniversary of Rajendra Chola I will be celebrated as a government event.
- ❖ Rajendra Chola I's birth anniversary is celebrated on the Thiruvathirai star in the Tamil month of Aadi.
- ❖ The 11th century Chola emperor had relocated the capital of Cholas to Gangai Konda Cholapuram in present-day Ariyalur district where he built the Peruvudaiyar temple.
- ❖ The temple was recognised as one of the world heritages sites by the UNESCO.



e-budget - Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Finance Minister P.T.R. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan presented DMK government's first Budget after the election on August 13.
- ❖ It is the first time in the country that a state is presenting an e-budget.
- ❖ The revenue deficit for 2021-22 is expected to go up from the unrealistic interim budget estimates of ₹41,417.30 crore to ₹58,692.68 crore in the revised budget estimates.
- ❖ Mr. Rajan announced a Green Tamil Nadu Mission to increase the total areas under forest and tree cover to 33% of the land areas in the state.
- ❖ Mr. Rajan also unveiled the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission to focus on climate change adaptation and mitigation activities.
- ❖ The allocation for the mission is ₹500 crore.
- ❖ The State government also announced a waiver of loans to the tune of ₹2,756 crore due from self-help groups to the co-operative credit societies.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has already borrowed ₹36,000 crore so far in 2021-22.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is the top borrower among the States.

Chief pontiff of Madurai Adheenam



- ❖ Arunagirinatha Gnanasambantha Desika Paramacharya, one of the oldest Saivite mutts, passed away at the age of 77.
- ❖ He was the 292nd pontiff of Madurai Adheenam.
- ❖ the monastery, said to have been established nearly 1,300 years ago.
- ❖ It was revived by Saivite saint Thirugnanasambandar.

Agriculture Budget - Tamil Nadu

NEW KALAI GNAR PLAN FOR VILLAGES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Incentive price of ₹100/quintal for procuring grade-A paddy varieties, ₹75 per quintal for common varieties > Special incentive of ₹150 per tonne of sugarcane > 10 small-scale Uzhavar Sandhais in 10 districts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Agriculture museum to be set up in Chennai > Minor millet rice to be distributed to PDS in Chennai & Coimbatore > Nammazhvar organic farming research centre to come up in TN agricultural university

- ❖ The first exclusive budget for agriculture (34220 crores) was presented in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on 14th August 2021.
- ❖ A scheme for judicious use of water will be executed.
- ❖ It is proposed to install micro-irrigation structures in 1.5 lakh hectares.
- ❖ The government would implement a scheme called Kalaignarin Anaithu Grama Orunginaintha Velaan Valarchi Thittam in a span of five years.

- ❖ This scheme is to ensure overall agricultural development and self-sufficiency in all villages.
- ❖ The State government will implement the scheme to promote solar pumps to meet the increasing demand for electricity for well irrigation in Tamil Nadu.

Independence Day awards - Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin presented the Kalpana Chawla Award for Courage and Daring Enterprise to P. Shanmuga Priya, posthumously.
- ❖ The late Dr. Shanmuga Priya was a medical officer at the Annuppanadi Primary Health Centre in Madurai.
- ❖ The Chief Minister presented the Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam award to Dr. M. Lakshmanan, Professor of Eminence, Bharathidasan University.
- ❖ He also presented the first Thagaisal Thamizhar Award to veteran Communist leader and centenarian, N. Sankaraiah.
- ❖ K. Narayanasamy, Director, Government Corona Hospital, Guindy was conferred the Chief Minister's Best Practices Award.
- ❖ Presidency College was also conferred the award for facilitating independent learning of differently abled students.
- ❖ The Avvaiyar Award was conferred on Santhi Duraisamy.
- ❖ Best Third Gender award was conferred on Grace Banu, Thoothukudi.

Archakas of all castes get appointed



- ❖ DMK government appointed 24 trained 'archakas' of various communities as priests in shrines.
- ❖ The State already has two non-Brahmin archakas in temples run by the Department of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments.

- ❖ The first priest, Marisamy, was appointed in 2018 to an Ayyappan temple in Madurai.
- ❖ Second, Thyagarajan, to a Ganesha temple in Madurai in 2020.
- ❖ Now, Suhanjana Gopinath has been appointed as 'Odhuvār' at the Dhenupureeswarar temple in Chennai.
- ❖ She became the first woman Othuvar in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu and freedom struggle

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government will compile and publish a document detailing the contribution made by Tamil Nadu to the Indian Freedom struggle.
- ❖ Mr. Stalin also inaugurated a pillar at the junction of Sivananda Salai and Kamarajar Salai in Chennai.
- ❖ The pillar was built to commemorate the 75th Independence Day.
- ❖ He also announced an increase in the pension for freedom fighters from ₹17,000 to ₹18,000 and the family pension from ₹8,500 to ₹9,000.
- ❖ The Chief Minister also said that the Gandhi Memorial Museum in Madurai would be renovated.



Ancient Dagger Found in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ A rusted iron dagger preserved in a burial urn was discovered in Konthagai village, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Konthagai is considered as a burial site for the Keeladi civilization.

- ❖ Burial urns filled with bones, weapons and other objects were discovered there.
- ❖ This type of weapon was used by warriors during the Sangam period (3rd century BCE - 3rd century CE).
- ❖ Based on the archaeological evidence, some researchers now say the Sangam period began earlier than previously thought, around 600 B.C.E.



TN Budget highlights

- ❖ The Maternity leave period extended to 12 months from 9 months.
- ❖ The New Siddha University is to come up in Palani.
- ❖ A Defence Industrial Park is to come up in Coimbatore.
- ❖ A Massive tree planting drive as part of 'Green Movement' initiative will be taken up in the next ten years.
- ❖ Anna Marumalarchi Scheme will be launched to provide basic amenities in hamlets.
- ❖ The New integrated bus stand and commercial complexes is proposed in Tiruchirappalli.
- ❖ The Construction of Financial Tech city in Nandambakkam in Chennai.

Agricultural budget important measures

- ❖ A separate wing for organic farming will be created under the Agriculture Department.
- ❖ Scheme of 'Rural Youth Agricultural Skill Development Mission' will be rolled out.
- ❖ To motivate the educated youth to take up agriculture to next level in their native places.
- ❖ An Integrated Farming System will be implemented.
- ❖ Agricultural Zonal Committees will be formed to protect the farmers from natural calamities.



- ❖ A separate museum for agriculture will be set up in Chennai.
- ❖ Modern cold storages will be set up in Oddanchatram and Panruti.
- ❖ The government will set up an integrated rural agricultural market complex at Edapally village situated on the borders of Coonoor and Kotagiri.
- ❖ A 'Modern Agricultural Marketing Centre' will be set up at Kolathur in Chennai Corporation.
- ❖ A new horticulture college will be set up at Jeenur near Krishnagiri district.
- ❖ Turmeric Research Centre will be established at Bhavani Sagar near Erode.

Third state to present separate Agri budget - TN

- ❖ Tamil Nadu became the third state to have a separate agricultural budget.
- ❖ That is after Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The tradition of having an exclusive budget for agriculture was started by Karnataka in 2011-12.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh followed in 2013-14.

Note

- ❖ Article 202 of the Constitution of India enables states to issue an estimated statement of receipts and expenditure for a financial year (commonly referred to as 'Budget' or 'Annual Financial Statement').

National award for teachers

- ❖ Asha Devi is one of the recipients of national award for teachers given away by the Union government.
- ❖ She is the headmistress of the Panchayat Union Middle School at Piratiyur, Trichy.
- ❖ Asha Devi is one among the 44 teachers selected across the country for the award, and among the only two teachers from Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The second teacher from Tamil Nadu to receive the award was D Lalitha.
- ❖ She is the headmistress of Government Girls Higher Secondary School in Modakurichi.

President of the Science, Music, and Drama Council

- ❖ Actor and former MLA Vagai Chandrasekhar has been appointed as the new chairman of the Tamil Nadu Science, Music and Drama Council.

- ❖ It has been said that Chandrasekara has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Science, Music and Drama Council to implement the objectives of the Union Government's organization named Sangeetha Nataka Academy at state level, to preserve and develop the Tamil arts, to benefit the artists through the projects of the Government of Tamil Nadu and to implement various art works and projects.
- ❖ He is the recipient of the Kalaimamani Award in 1991 and the National Award for Best Actor in 2003.



Memorial for late M Karunanidhi

- ❖ The Memorial for late DMK president and former Chief Minister M Karunanidhi will be constructed at the Marina on Kamarajar Salai in Chennai.
- ❖ This is in recognition of his efforts to create a "Modern Tamil Nadu".
- ❖ Chief minister Stalin made this announcement under the rule 110 of the Tamil Nadu legislative assembly.
- ❖ Under rule number 110, The minister can announce or bring any resolution to the assembly which can be passed without any discussion.





Kalaigarnar Urban Development Scheme

- ❖ The Tamilnadu government will implement the Kalaigarnar Urban Development Scheme.
- ❖ The objective of the programme was to provide employment to urban poor, who had lost their jobs because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ A committee headed by former RBI Governor C Rangarajan had also recommended that the Tamil Nadu government start an employment scheme in urban areas in the wake of the pandemic.
- ❖ Through this, Infrastructure including community hall, markets, modern libraries will be created in municipalities and town panchayats.

Municipalities to municipal corporations

- ❖ Tambaram, Kancheepuram, Kumbakonam, Karur, Cuddalore and Sivakasi municipalities would be upgraded to municipal corporations.
- ❖ Tambaram municipal corporation would be created by annexing Pallavaram, Chempakkam, Pammal and Anagaputhur municipalities and neighbouring town panchayats and panchayats.
- ❖ The upgradation would not come in the way of elected representatives of local bodies.
- ❖ They will continue in their posts till the completion of their tenure.

Announcements by Higher Education Minister

- ❖ State government is to open 10 arts and science colleges, including a women's college in Koothanallur in Thiruvavur district.
- ❖ New colleges would come in Thiruchuli in Virudhunagar district, Thirukovilur in Kallakurichi, Thalavadi in Erode, Ottanchathiram in Dindigul, Manur in Tirunelveli, Dharapuram in Tirupur, Eriyur in Dharmapuri, Alangudi in Pudukottai and Serkadu in Vellore.
- ❖ The objective is to increase students' enrolment and provide higher education equally in all areas.
- ❖ Diploma courses in civil engineering and mechanical engineering would be launched in Tamil from the next year.
- ❖ The Institute of Road and Transport Technology, Erode, would be converted into the Government Engineering College.

Best Third Gender - Grace Banu

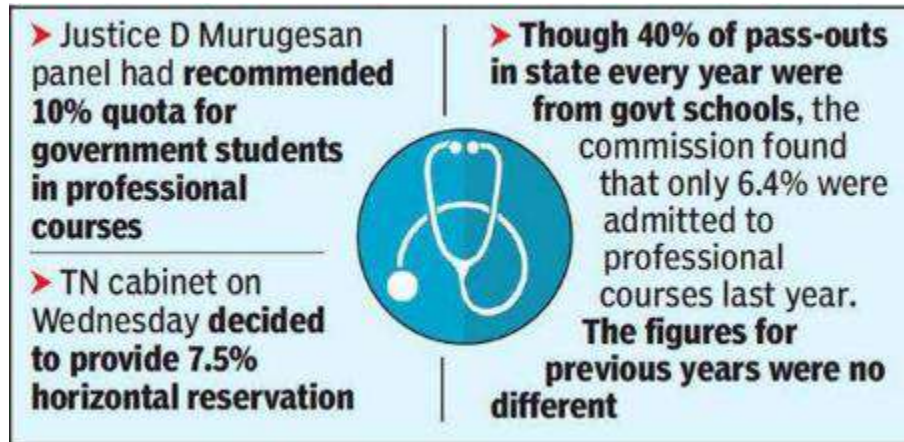
- ❖ 30-year-old transgender activist Grace Banu has been conferred the first ever 'Best Third Gender' award by the Tamil Nadu government.
- ❖ This is for her services rendered towards the welfare of the society.
- ❖ The award was organised by the Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department.
- ❖ This has been introduced for the first time by the government of Tamil Nadu to recognise transgenders and their contributions to the society.



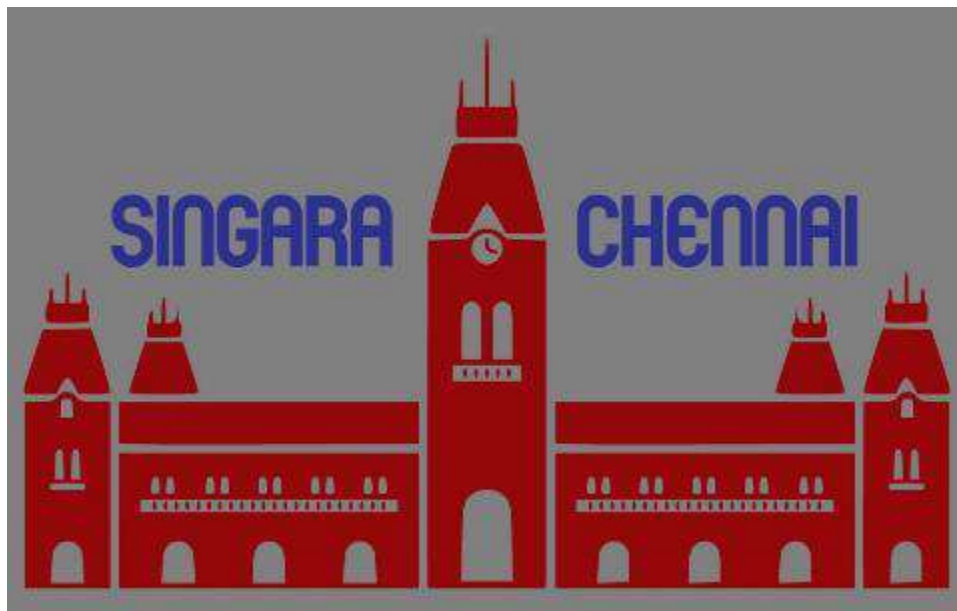
7.5% quota for State govt. school students in professional courses

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly adopted a Bill to earmark 7.5% of seats on “preferential basis” for students from State government schools.
- ❖ This is for their admission of undergraduate courses in engineering, agriculture, veterinary, fisheries, law and other professional programmes offered in universities, private colleges, government-aided and government colleges.
- ❖ These students would have to have studied from Class 6 to 12 in the State government schools in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ This bill seeks to take affirmative action to bring about real equality between students who studied in government schools and in private schools.

- ❖ The existence of “de facto inequalities” between the government and private school students was evident from the report submitted by the Justice D. Murugesan Commission.



Singara Chennai 2.0



- ❖ Tamilnadu CM revives the ‘Singara Chennai’ project.
- ❖ After the DMK won in the 1996 elections, M K Stalin, who was then the mayor of the capital city, rolled out a slew of projects to keep the city clear of garbage and spruce it up with road infrastructure like flyovers under the ‘Singara Chennai’ umbrella.
- ❖ The 2.0 edition also aims to continue with clean and green, but the focus is also to take advantage of the city’s coastline, culture and lifestyle.
- ❖ The project plans include a Chennai that’s free from posters and litter.

- ❖ It also includes water tap and sewerage connection to every household and access to 'quality toilets'.
- ❖ Cultural events such as 'Chennai Day' and 'Chennai Sangamam' will also be promoted.

Welfare package for Sri Lankan Tamil refugees

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin announced a Rs 317.40 crore welfare package for the welfare of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees living in special camps in the State.
- ❖ The Chief Minister said that it will be allocated to ensure housing and infrastructure in the Srilankan refugee camps in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has already been providing a monthly stipend to the Srilankan Tamil refugees living in the camps.
- ❖ The monthly stipend will be increased from Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500 per head of household and Rs 750 to Rs 1,000 for other members and from Rs 250 to Rs 400 for children under 12 years.
- ❖ The Sri Lankan Tamil Refugee camps will from now on be called Sri Lankan Tamil Rehabilitation camps.

Teachers Eligibility Test

- ❖ As the Tamil Nadu Government announcement, the Teachers Eligibility Test (TET) certificate will be extended for a lifetime.
- ❖ It was before valid for seven years.
- ❖ This order is also applicable to the TET certificate already issued by the teacher's recruitment board.



NATIONAL

Rafale squadron at Hasimara

- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) operationalised its second Rafale fighter squadron by formally inducting jets into the No. 101 Squadron at Air Force Station Hasimara in West Bengal.
- ❖ The IAF has so far inducted 26 Rafale jets in eight batches; the previous batch was inducted on July 21.
- ❖ The squadron, bestowed with the title 'Falcons of Chamb and Akhnoor', was formed on May 1, 1949 at Palam.
- ❖ It has operated the Harvard, Spitfire, Vampire, Su-7 and MiG-21M aircraft in the past.
- ❖ The squadron saw active participation in 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pak wars.
- ❖ The first Rafale squadron, the No.17 Golden Arrows, is based at Ambala.



Garima Grihas for transgender persons

- ❖ The Garima Grihas for transgender persons is being set up with the help of community-based organizations.
- ❖ 12 pilot shelter homes have been initiated with the aim of providing safe and secure shelter to transgender persons.
- ❖ Such shelter homes have been set up in the states of Maharashtra, Delhi, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu and Odisha.

Marine Aids to Navigation Bill 2021

- ❖ The Parliament passed the landmark 'Marine Aids to Navigation Bill 2021'.
- ❖ This bill will repeal and replace the Lighthouse Act 1927.
- ❖ The Bill seeks to provide a framework for the development, maintenance, and management of aids to navigation in India.
- ❖ As per the bill, the central government will appoint Director General, Deputy Director Generals or Directors for districts.
- ❖ The Director General can advise the central government on matters related to aids to navigation, among others.
- ❖ The provisions of the bill will apply to the entire country including various maritime zones including territorial waters, continental shelf and exclusive economic zone.



Women unemployment rate - India

- ❖ Unemployment rate for women fell to 4.2% in 2019-20 from 5.1% in 2018-19.
- ❖ This is according to Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by National Statistical Office (NSO).
- ❖ The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for women has increased from 24.5% in 2018-19 to 30% in 2019-20.
- ❖ Out of total employment generated (in person days) under MGNREGS, women's share has increased to around 207 crore person days in 2020-21.

Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill

- ❖ This Bill has been passed recently.
- ❖ This bill seeks to increase the role of additional district magistrates and district magistrates regarding the matters which concern adoption and child care.
- ❖ This Bill seeks to amend the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.
- ❖ The Act states that only on the issuance of an adoption order by the civil court child adoption becomes final.
- ❖ The Bill will amend the rule and instead of the court, the additional district magistrate as well as district magistrate will issue adoption orders.

- The Bill seeks to amend the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.
- The amendments include authorizing District Magistrate including Additional District Magistrate to issue adoption orders to ensure speedy disposal of cases and enhance accountability.
- Defining eligibility parameters for appointment of Child Welfare Committee members and the categorizing previously undefined offences as serious offences are some of the other aspects of the Bill.

Higher Education in Regional Languages

- ❖ The All-India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) has announced that it is creating a database of resources so that colleges can offer more programmes in the regional languages of the country.
- ❖ This step has been taken so as to promote regional languages in the field of technical education.
- ❖ In eight states, 14 engineering colleges are going to start engineering studies in five Indian languages.
- ❖ They are Bengali, Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, and Marathi.

Reservation in medical and dental colleges


- ❖ The centre has announced 27% reservation for OBCs and a 10% quota for students from the economically weaker sections (EWS) for undergraduate and postgraduate medical and dental courses under the All-India Quota (AIQ) scheme.
- ❖ Under the AIQ scheme, 15% of seats at the UG level and 50% seats at the PG level are kept domicile free in government medical and dental colleges against

which students from other states to are offered admission while the rest of the seats are kept only for students from within the state.

- ❖ The AIQ scheme was introduced in 1986 under the direction of the Supreme Court.

The Quota story | A brief timeline of reservations under the all India quota (AIQ):

- AIQ was introduced in 1986 for domicile-free merit-based opportunities to medical aspirants of a State to study in a college in another State
- Under it, 15% and 50% of the UG and PG seats, in government medical colleges are allocated
- In 2007, the Supreme Court introduced reservation of 15% of seats in the AIQ for the SCs and 7.5% for the STs
- On July 19, the Madras High Court said that the Centre cannot delay indefinitely the implementation of reservation to OBCs under the scheme. It granted the Centre a week's time to indicate the mode and manner of implementation



India's 14 Tiger Reserves Recognized by Global CA/TS

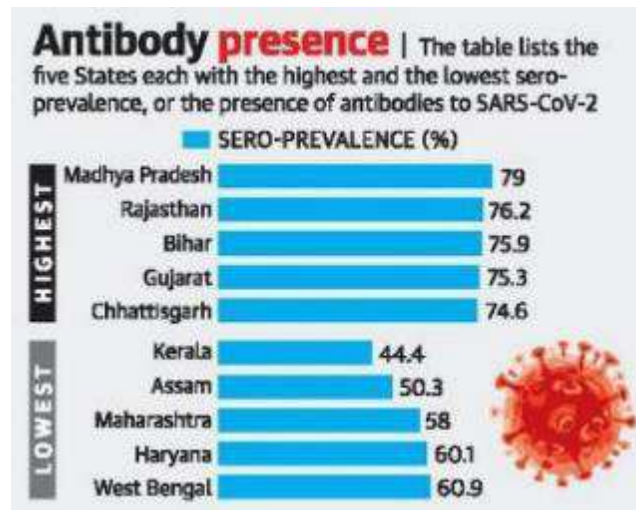


- ❖ The 14 Tiger Reserves in India received the accreditation of the Global Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS).
- ❖ 14 tiger reserves - Manas, Kaziranga, Orang (Assam), Satpura, Kanha, Panna (MP), Pench (Maharashtra), Valmiki (Bihar), Dudhwa (UP), Sunderbans (West

Bengal), Parambikulam (Kerala), Bandipur (Karnataka) and Mudumalai and Anamalai (Tamil Nadu).

- ❖ Officially launched in 2013, CA|TS has been agreed upon as accreditation tool by the global coalition of Tiger Range Countries (TRCs).
- ❖ It sets minimum standards for effective management of target species and encourages assessment of these standards in relevant conservation areas.

National serology survey – state wise



- ❖ Madhya Pradesh (79%) has the highest seroprevalence, or the presence of antibodies to the novel coronavirus.
- ❖ It is followed by Rajasthan (76%) and Bihar (75%).
- ❖ Kerala has the lowest among 21 States studied.
- ❖ After Kerala, the least antibody prevalence was in Assam (50%) and Maharashtra (58%).
- ❖ These are according to the Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR) fourth national serology survey.

Sambandar

- ❖ Dancing child-saint Sambandar of 12th century belongs to Chola dynasty.
- ❖ The National Gallery of Australia (NGA) has announced that it would return 14 works of art from its Asian art collection to India including Sambandar.
- ❖ Sambandar was one of the Nayanmars.
- ❖ Nayanmars is a group of sixty-three saints active in South India from the sixth to the ninth century.

- ❖ They were instrumental in popularizing the worship of Shiva through devotional poetry and song.



Lithium exploration projects

- ❖ The Geological Survey of India (GSI), under the government's energy security plans, has taken up seven lithium exploration projects in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Jammu & Kashmir.
- ❖ Lithium exploration in the states of Rajasthan and Karnataka has also been undertaken by Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMDER) which comes under the ambit of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).

Note

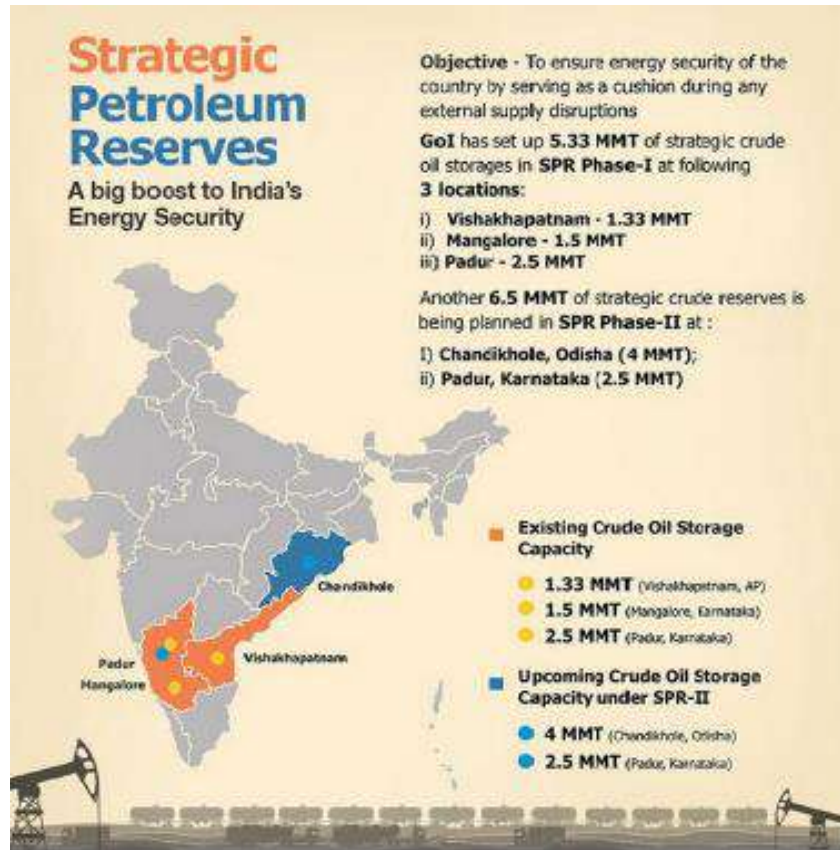
- ❖ India lacks lithium reserves for the manufacturing of lithium-ion batteries and other usages.
- ❖ Most lithium batteries are imported into the country.

President of UNSC for August - India

- ❖ India will be the president of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for August month.
- ❖ The nation will host various events in the three major areas of fight against terrorism, maritime security and peacekeeping.
- ❖ S. Tirumurti India's permanent representative to the UN will hold a press conference on the Security Council's work plan for the month.
- ❖ On January 1, 2021 India's two-year term as a non-permanent member of the Security Council began.

- ❖ The August presidential term will be India's first chairmanship during its non-permanent membership of the Security Council in 2021-22.

Strategic petroleum reserves (SPR) programme



- ❖ Two more commercial-cum-strategic facilities at Chandikhol and Padur of 6.5 MM storage capacity to be established under phase-2 of SPR Programme.
- ❖ Under Phase I of strategic petroleum reserves (SPR) programme, Government of India has established petroleum storage facilities with total capacity of 5.33 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) at 3 locations.
- ❖ They were,
 - Vishakhapatnam
 - Mangaluru and
 - Padur.
- ❖ Strategic petroleum reserves are huge stockpiles of crude oil to deal with any crude oil-related crisis like the risk of supply disruption from natural disasters, war or other calamities.

Hotline for Sikkim sector

- ❖ The Indian and Chinese armies have established a hotline in the North Sikkim Sector.
- ❖ This is established in order to further boost the confidence along the Line of Actual Control in the region.
- ❖ The hotline has been established between the Indian Army in Kongra La, North Sikkim, and China's People's Liberation Army at Khamba Dzong in Tibetan Autonomous Region.
- ❖ This is the sixth such hotline between the ground commanders along the 3,488-km Line of Actual Control.
- ❖ Now, there are two hotlines each in eastern Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim.



e-RUPI Digital Payment Solution

	e-RUPI is a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payment developed by National Payments Corporation of India
	Connects sponsors of the services with beneficiaries & service providers in a digital manner without any physical interface
	Assures timely payment without involvement of any intermediary .
	It can also be used for delivering services meant for providing drugs & nutritional support under Mother & Child welfare schemes, TB eradication programmes, etc

- ❖ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched “e-RUPI Digital Payment Solution” on August 2, 2021.
- ❖ e-RUPI is an e-voucher-based payment solution.
- ❖ e-RUPI initiative was launched to limit touch points between government and beneficiary.
- ❖ This Platform will also ensure that benefits reach its intended beneficiaries in a targeted and leak-proof manner.
- ❖ e-RUPI is a one-time payment mechanism that will allow users to redeem voucher without using card, digital payments app or internet banking access.
- ❖ The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) developed e-RUPI platform on its UPI platform.
- ❖ It was launched in collaboration with Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and National Health Authority.

Lightest metro train

- ❖ According to Titagarh Wagons Ltd, its plant in Italy has rolled out first train for Pune Metro coach.
- ❖ In total, 34 trains will be sent from Italy.
- ❖ Each train will comprise of three coaches.
- ❖ These metro coaches for Pune metro are manufactured with Aluminium for first time in India.
- ❖ Titagarh Wagons is a railway wagon manufacturer based in Titagarh, West Bengal.



Ashwagandha

- ❖ AYUSH Ministry is to conduct clinical trials of “Ashwagandha”.



- ❖ It is to be done in the collaboration with UK's London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM).
- ❖ This Team will check its efficacy on COVID-19 infection.
- ❖ All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) and LSHTM signed a memorandum of understanding to conduct clinical trials of Ashwagandha, recently.
- ❖ Clinical trials would be conducted in three UK cities namely Leicester, Birmingham and London.
- ❖ This is the first time Ministry of AYUSH has collaborated with foreign institution to check its efficacy on COVID-19 patients.

Note

- ❖ Ashwagandha is scientifically called as withania somnifera.
- ❖ It is commonly called as 'Indian winter cherry'.

National Research Foundation (NRF)

- ❖ Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education announced that the government of India is planning to set up a National Research Foundation (NRF).
- ❖ Its primary aim to strengthen the country's research ecosystem.
- ❖ The NRF will be functioning as a structure that will connect the industry, academia and the R&D of the country.

Suicides due to Unemployment

- ❖ From 2016 to 2019, the suicide cases due to unemployment have increased by 24 per cent.
- ❖ This is according to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data.
- ❖ Karnataka registered the greatest number (553) of suicides due to unemployment in 2019.
- ❖ Karnataka is followed by Maharashtra with 452 cases and Tamil Nadu with 251 cases.

Secured Logistics Documents Exchange

- ❖ The government has launched the Secured Logistics Document Exchange.
- ❖ The initiative has been launched to reduce logistics cost, improve logistics efficiency and sustainability and promote multi-modality in a big way.
- ❖ A Calculator for Green House Gas Emissions has also been launched.

- ❖ These digital initiatives have been launched by the government to fill the gaps where no action has been taken either by the government or the private players of the country.

NSO survey

- ❖ The National Statistical Office has published the eighth periodic labour force survey recently.
- ❖ According to the survey, unemployment rate in India has increased to 13.3 per cent in the period of July-September 2020.
- ❖ Unemployment rate was 8.4 per cent in July-September 2019.
- ❖ In September 2020, labour force participation rate for all ages was 37 per cent.
- ❖ Joblessness or unemployment rate was 20.9 percent in April-June 2020.



Report on Power Distribution Sector

- ❖ NITI Aayog has released a report on Power Distribution Sector that presents reform pathways to transform India's power distribution sector.
- ❖ This Report was released providing steps to improve policy making in distribution sector.
- ❖ This Report is titled as "Turning Around the Power Distribution Sector".
- ❖ It has been jointly authored by NITI Aayog, RMI and RMI India.

Operation Blue Freedom

- ❖ The government of India has accorded sanctions to Team CLAW to lead a team of people with disabilities to scale Siachen Glacier.

- ❖ It will be a new world record for the largest team of people with disabilities.
- ❖ This expedition is being undertaken as part of 'Operation Blue Freedom'.
- ❖ The Operation Blue Freedom was launched in 2019 by CLAW Global.
- ❖ CLAW Global is a team of former Special Forces Operatives of the Indian Army and the Indian Navy.



Centre de-licenses sugar industry

- ❖ The Union Government has de-licensed the sugar industry to encourage the setting up of new sugar mills in the country.
- ❖ This was informed by Consumer Affairs and Food and Public Distribution Minister Piyush Goyal.
- ❖ Government is encouraging sugar mills to divert excess sugarcane to ethanol blended with petrol a long-term measure to deal with the problem of excess sugar.
- ❖ This will not only serve as a green fuel but also save foreign exchange on account of crude oil import.

Inland Vessels Bill, 2021

- ❖ The Parliament has passed the Inland Vessels Bill, 2021 recently.
- ❖ This legislation is to replace the Inland Vessels Act, 1917.
- ❖ The bill seeks to introduce a uniform regulatory framework for inland vessel navigation across the country.
- ❖ It provides for a central database for recording the details of vessel, vessel registration and crew on an electronic portal.
- ❖ The bill defines mechanically propelled inland vessels to include ships, boats, sailing vessels, container vessels and ferries.

- ❖ To operate in inland waters, all vessels must have a certificate of survey and a certificate of registration.
- ❖ Each state will constitute a development fund which will be utilised for various purposes including emergency preparedness, containment of pollution and boosting inland water navigation.

Samagra Shiksha Scheme for School Education



- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of Samagra Shiksha Scheme for School Education for five years from April 1, 2021 till March 31, 2026.
- ❖ The Samagra Shiksha Scheme is an integrated scheme that aims to cover the whole school education from school to class XII.
- ❖ The scheme is in line with Sustainable Development Goal for Education (SDG-4).
- ❖ It aims to ensure that all children have access to quality education.

Pardoning Power of Governors - Supreme Court

- ❖ The Supreme Court of India held that, Governor of state can pardon prisoners, including in the death sentence cases.
- ❖ The Governor can pardon the prisoners even before they have completed minimum 14 years of prison sentence.
- ❖ The Bench also held that, Governor's power to pardon overrides a provision given under Section 433A of Code of Criminal Procedure.
- ❖ The Section 433A mandates that sentence of prisoner can be remitted only after 14 years of jail.
- ❖ The Court noted, sovereign power of Governor to pardon prisoner under Article 161 is exercised by the State government and not the Governor on his own, in reality.



Note

- ❖ Article 161 of the Indian constitution provides the Governor of a State with power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites or to remit punishment or to suspend, remit or commute sentence of any person convicted of any offence against laws.
- ❖ As of now, only President had the power to pardon in all cases including that in death sentence cases.
- ❖ However, this provision for Governor has been reversed by Supreme court recently.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill

- ❖ The Parliament passed Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill recently.
- ❖ Bill replaces the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 that was promulgated on April 4, 2021.
- ❖ Recent amendment bill will provide for an alternate insolvency resolution process for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
- ❖ This resolution will be called as “pre-packaged insolvency resolution process (PIRP)”.
- ❖ It will introduce a time-bound process to resolve issues of insolvency of the corporate debtors within 330 days.
- ❖ This process of resolution is called as Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP).
- ❖ Under the CIRP, debtor or its creditors will be able to apply for initiation of CIRP in case there is default of Rs. 1 lakh.
- ❖ A committee of creditor will also be constituted under CIRP to decide on insolvency resolution.

Fortune Global 500 list - 2021

- ❖ Seven Indian companies have found a place in 2021 Fortune’s Global 500 list.
- ❖ The Fortune Global 500 is an annual ranking of the top 500 enterprises globally, as measured by business revenues.
- ❖ Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd is the highest-ranked Indian company on the list in terms of revenue.
- ❖ It is placed at 155th spot globally.
- ❖ Globally, Walmart has topped the list in terms of revenue for the eighth consecutive year and the 16th time since 1995.

List of 7 Indian Companies

- Reliance Industries (155)
- State Bank of India (205)
- Indian Oil (212)
- Oil & Natural Gas (243)
- Rajesh Exports (348)
- Tata Motors (357)
- Bharat Petroleum (394)

Minervarya Pentali



- ❖ The newly discovered species is endemic to the southern Western Ghats (Kerala and Tamil Nadu).
- ❖ This species is also among the smallest known Minervaryan frogs.
- ❖ It belongs to the family Dicroglossidae.
- ❖ The species is named after Prof. Deepak Pental in appreciation of his tremendous support and encouragement for setting up of Systematics Lab at University of Delhi.

Agro-Automatic Weather Stations

- ❖ Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has undertaken installation of Agro-Automatic Weather Stations (AWS).
- ❖ This is to provide exact weather forecast to people with special focus on farmers.
- ❖ Installation was done at District Agromet Units (DAMUs) located in Krishi Vigyan Kendras under Indian Council of Agriculture Research network.
- ❖ Agro-AWS is being installed at 200 DAMUs to provide block level Agromet Advisory Services (AAS) under the scheme called Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS).



Fast Track Special Courts

- ❖ Recently, the Union Government approved the continuation of more than 1023 Fast Track Special Court (FTSCs) as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for two years (April 2021-March 2023).
- ❖ It includes 389 exclusive POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Courts.
- ❖ The Central share will be provided from the Nirbhaya Fund.
- ❖ Fast track courts (FTCs) were first recommended by the Eleventh Finance Commission in 2000.

National Policy on Marine Fisheries, 2017

- ❖ The Government has notified National Policy on Marine Fisheries, 2017 (NPMF, 2017) to encourage marine fishing in the Indian waters.
- ❖ NPMF provides guidance for promoting 'Blue Growth Initiative', which focuses on ushering 'Blue Revolution'.
- ❖ It aims to ensure the health and ecological integrity of marine living resources of India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) through sustainable harvests for the benefit of present and future generations of the nation.
- ❖ Strategy of NPMF is based on 7 pillars.
- ❖ They are Sustainable development, socio-economic upliftment of fishers, principle of subsidiarity, partnership, inter-generational equity, gender justice and precautionary approach.

INS Vikrant

- ❖ India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant, conducted its maiden sea trails.
- ❖ This encourages making of military equipment within India.
- ❖ It will be fully operational by 2022.
- ❖ Navy will accept this warship and then conduct aviation trials.
- ❖ Under the aviation trials, take-off and landing of Russian MiG 29K fighter jets would take place.
- ❖ INS Vikrant is a 44000-tonne carrier.
- ❖ It has been built at state-owned Cochin Shipyard in Kochi, Kerala.

INS Khanjar

- ❖ Indian Naval Ship Khanjar becomes the first Indian Navy ship to call at the heritage coastal port of Gopalpur in Odisha.
- ❖ The two-day visit was organised as part of Aazadi ka Amrit Mahotsav as well as Swarnim Vijay Varsh celebrations.
- ❖ This is to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Independence and the 50th anniversary of the 1971 War respectively.

World's highest road in Ladakh



- ❖ Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed and black-topped the highest road in the world at Umlingla Pass in Eastern Ladakh.
- ❖ The highest motorable road in the world is situated at an altitude of 19,300 feet.
- ❖ The road is a 52-km long stretch.
- ❖ It passes through Umlingla Pass, connecting important towns in the Chumar sector of Eastern Ladakh.

India nuclear power capacity by 2031

- ❖ India's nuclear power capacity is expected to reach 22,480 Mega Watts by 2031 from the current 6,780 Mega Watts.
- ❖ There are presently 22 reactors and one reactor, KAPP-3 (700 MW) has been connected to the grid in January 2021.
- ❖ Ten nuclear power reactors with 8000 MW capacity (including 500 MW PFBR being implemented by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited [BHAVINI] are under construction.

- ❖ Additionally, ten indigenous Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) of 700 MW each are to be set up in fleet mode.



Bill to amend Scheduled Tribes list

- ❖ The Rajya Sabha has passed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2021.
- ❖ The Bill amends the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.
- ❖ The Bill removes the Abor tribe from the list of identified STs in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ It replaces certain STs with other tribes.
- ❖ This includes Tai Khamti, Mishmi-Kaman (Miju Mishmi), Idu (Mishmi) and Taraon (Digaru Mishmi).
- ❖ The Constitution empowers the President to specify the Scheduled Tribes (STs) in various states and union territories.
- ❖ Further, it permits Parliament to modify this list of notified STs.

COVAXIN receives Good Manufacturing Practice certificate

- ❖ COVAXIN, a COVID -19 vaccine manufactured by Bharat Biotech received a certificate of Good Manufacturing Practice compliance from the authorities of Hungary.
- ❖ This marks the 1st EUDRAGDMP compliance certificate received by Bharat Biotech from European regulatory.



34th foundation day of TRIFED



- ❖ Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India (TRIFED) has celebrated its 34th foundation day on 6th August.
- ❖ TRIFED was founded to drive tribal development through marketing support for tribal products, both, handicrafts and Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP).
- ❖ TRIFED was established on the 6th of August 1987.
- ❖ It was established as a National level Cooperative body with the major objective of socio-economic development of tribals.



Self-repairing materials

- ❖ The Researchers from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Kolkata, in collaboration with IIT Kharagpur, have developed piezoelectric molecular crystals.
- ❖ These crystals can repair their own mechanical damages with electrical charges generated by the mechanical impact.
- ❖ The research supported by the Department of Science and Technology, Govt of India has been published in the journal 'Science'.
- ❖ The piezoelectric molecules developed by the researchers are called bipyrazole organic crystals.

National Farmers Database

- ❖ The government has been planning to create a federated National Farmers Database using digitized land records.
- ❖ It will help to offer proactive and personalized services to the farmers.
- ❖ The Ministry of Agriculture in consultation with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is in the process of bringing out a data policy for the agriculture sector.

Plastic-mixed Handmade Paper

- ❖ Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has secured Patent registration for its innovative Plastic-mixed Handmade Paper.
- ❖ The plastic-mixed handmade paper was developed under Project REPLAN (REducing PLAstic from Nature).
- ❖ The project was launched in September 2018 as part of KVIC's commitment to Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan.
- ❖ This is the first of its kind project in India.
- ❖ Here the plastic waste is de-structured, degraded, diluted and used with paper pulp while making handmade paper.

India's first Heart Failure Biobank

- ❖ The first Heart Failure Biobank in the country has come up at the National Centre for Advanced Research and Excellence in HF (CARE-HF) at the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Kerala.
- ❖ The Biobank is open to study genetic, metabolomics and proteomic markers of health outcomes in heart-failure patients.



Judge-population ratio

- ❖ The judge-population ratio in India stood at 21.03 judges per million people in 2020.
- ❖ The judge-population ratio in 2018 stood at 19.78 judges per million people and 20.39 in 2019.
- ❖ India has 25 high courts.
- ❖ The sanctioned strength of judges in Supreme Court increased from 31 in 2014 to 34 in the year 2020.
- ❖ The sanctioned strength of judges of high courts increased from 906 judges in June 2014 to 1,079 judges in December, 2020.
- ❖ The sanctioned strength of judges of district and subordinate courts increased from 19,518 in the year 2014 to 24,225 in 2020.

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2021

- ❖ The Parliament had passed the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2021 recently.
- ❖ The bill seeks to encourage smaller airports to expand air connectivity to relatively remote and far-flung areas.

- ❖ The Bill will amend the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) of India Act, 2008, by modifying the definition of 'major airport' under the AERA Act 2008.
- ❖ The Amendment of AERA Act 2008 will now refer to an airport with annual passenger traffic of 35 lakh as a 'major airport'.
- ❖ The previous traffic threshold was 15 lakh.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lok Sabha passed AERA amendment Bill to modify definition of 'major airport' ■ A major airport is one which handles or is designed to handle 3.5 mn passengers annually ■ There are around 25 major airports in the country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Amendment will allow the Centre to privatise a small loss-making airport, along with each of the six airports, by dubbing them ■ Currently, AERA determines tariff of a single airport; amendment will allow for tariff fixation of more than one airport
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Blinken's visit to India

- ❖ Blinken's first visit to India after assuming charge as the US secretary of state happened recently.
- ❖ Blinken called on Modi after holding wide-ranging talks with external affairs minister S Jaishankar.
- ❖ The talks covered a range of issues including the situation in Afghanistan, Indo-Pacific engagements and Covid-19 response mechanism among others.

J&J's vaccine for emergency use in India

- ❖ Johnson and Johnson's single-dose COVID-19 vaccine was approved for emergency use in India.
- ❖ With this vaccine, India has five Emergency Use Authorization vaccines.
- ❖ This vaccine, also called as Janssen COVID-19 vaccine, has been developed by Janssen Vaccines in Leiden, Netherlands.

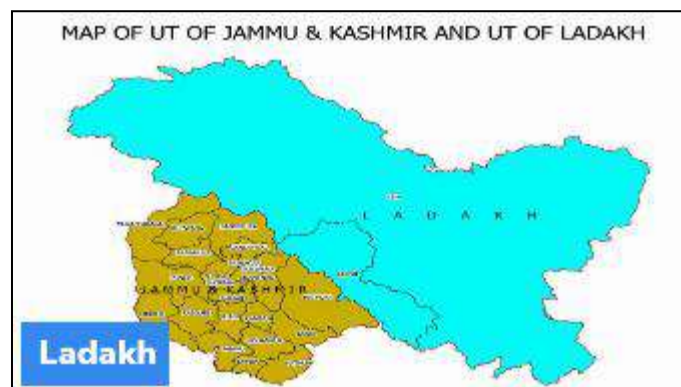


Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan Scheme



- ❖ The Government announced that approximately five crore beneficiaries have been enrolled and four crores have been trained under this Scheme as of August 2, 2021.
- ❖ This scheme was launched to make six crore persons residing in rural areas, across States and UTs, digitally literate.
- ❖ It was launched with the aim of bridging digital divide and specifically targeting rural population.
- ❖ It also includes marginalised sections of society such as Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Minorities, Below Poverty Line (BPL), women, differently-abled persons and minorities.
- ❖ This scheme is being initiated under Digital India Programme.
- ❖ This Scheme is applicable only in rural areas of India.
- ❖ All the households where not a single family member is digitally literate will be eligible under the Scheme.
- ❖ Only one person per eligible household would be provided with training in the age group of 14 – 60 years.

Ladakh removes Inner Line Permit





- ❖ The Ladakh Administration has removed the need of an Inner Line Permit (ILP) for all Indian nationals who seeks to visit protected areas of the union territory.
- ❖ Restriction on stay of foreign tourists has also been relaxed from seven days to 15 days in tour circuits of bordering areas like Nyoma, Nubra and places in Leh and Kargil districts.
- ❖ ILP is a document required by non- natives to visit or stay in states which are protected under ILP system.
- ❖ Presently, four North-eastern states Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland are covered under this system.

International Conference on Range Technology

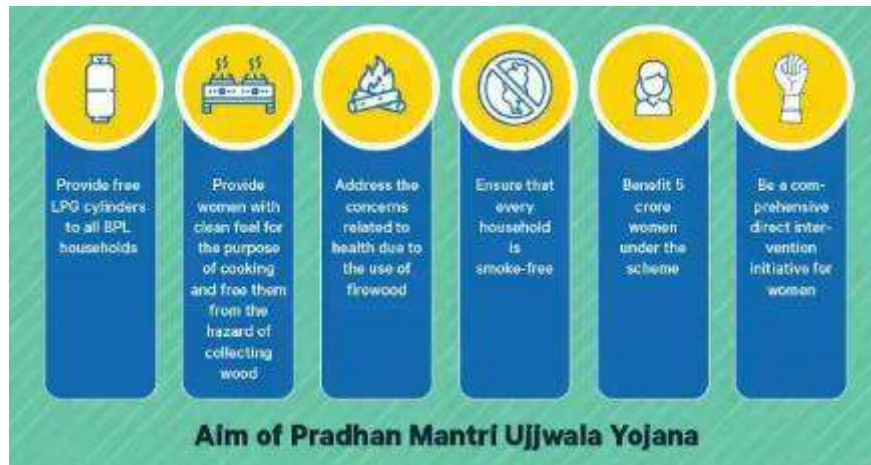
- ❖ The 2nd Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) International Conference on Range Technology was held virtually.
- ❖ The conference has been organised by Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur.
- ❖ In the event, speakers from across the globe will present their technological achievements in multiple subjects related to Tests and Evaluation of defence systems.

Zayed Talwar 2021

- ❖ The Indian Navy and UAE Navy conducted the bilateral naval exercise 'Zayed Talwar 2021' off the coast of Abu Dhabi.
- ❖ The main objective of this naval exercise was to enhance interoperability and synergy between the two navies.
- ❖ Indian Navy participated with INS Kochi, with two integral Sea King MK 42B helicopters, deployed in the Persian Gulf.

Ujjwala - 2 Scheme

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to launch the second edition of the government's free LPG connection scheme called Ujjwala.
- ❖ The Second edition of this scheme was launched from poll-bound Uttar Pradesh on August 10.
- ❖ First version of the scheme was launched in 2016 from Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Launch of Ujjwala - 2 scheme will be marked by handing over of one crore additional LPG connection by Prime Minister through video conferencing at Mahoba district in Uttar Pradesh.



PM-DAKSH



- ❖ The union minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr Virendra Kumar has unveiled a portal and mobile application named 'PM-DAKSH'.
- ❖ It aims to make the skill development schemes accessible to the target groups.
- ❖ The 'PM-DAKSH' stands for Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana.

Water villas in Lakshadweep

- ❖ Maldives style water villas will soon be set up in Lakshadweep in a bid to attract tourists to scenic beauty in the Union Territory.
- ❖ This project is first of its kind in India.
- ❖ These villas would be set up in Minicoy, Suheli and Kadmat islands in Lakshadweep.
- ❖ Villas would be constructed under public-private partnership model.



Note

- ❖ Lakshadweep is an archipelago of 36 islands in Arabian sea
- ❖ Kavaratti is the capital of Lakshadweep.
- ❖ It is having jurisdiction under the Kerala High Court.
- ❖ It originally comprised of 36 islands.
- ❖ But its Island called “Parali 1” has been submerged in water due to sea erosion.

Mixed Covid immunization

- ❖ A dose of Covishield followed by one of Covaxin is safe and produces a better immune response.
- ❖ This is according to the study of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- ❖ The Study titled ‘Serendipitous Covid-19 Vaccine-Mix in Uttar Pradesh, India: Safety and Immunogenicity Assessment of a Heterologous Regime’ was led by ICMR scientist Rajni Kant.

Animal DNA Laboratory

- ❖ Delhi gets the first “Animal DNA Laboratory” set up at Forensic Science Laboratory in Rohini.
- ❖ The Wildlife forensics is a new field of criminal investigation.
- ❖ The animal DNA laboratory will be used by Delhi Police for timely disposal of cases of cow slaughter, illegal trade of animals and other such animal-related cases.

127th Constitution Amendment Bill

- ❖ The Union Government introduced the 127th Constitution (amendment) bill, 2021 in Lok Sabha on August 9, 2021.
- ❖ It was introduced in the Parliament to clarify some provisions of the 102nd Constitutional Amendment Bill, restoring the power of states to identify backward classes.

Note


- ❖ Articles 15 (4), 15 (5), and 16 (4) of the Indian constitution confer power on the State Government to declare and identify a list of socially and educationally backward classes.
- ❖ The Central and state governments draw separate OBC lists as a practice.

Empowering the States | The 127th Constitution Amendment Bill benefits 671 castes in the country and restores the States' rights to make their own list of OBCs

- 1** The Bill seeks to restore the power of the States to identify OBCs that are socially and educationally backward after a Supreme Court order in May 2021 empowered only the Centre for this
- 2** The amendment was thought necessary because the SC, in its order on Maratha reservations, upheld the 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act, which said the President of India, in consultation with Governors, would specify socially and educationally backward classes, taking away the powers of the State governments to do so
- 3** Several parties also demanded a caste-based census to get a real idea of the number of OBCs in the country and to remove the 50% cap on reservations currently in place


You (BJP) tweaked the Constitution by bringing the 102nd Constitutional Amendment Bill, which gave people the opportunity to go to court and finally the SC removed the States' power

ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY, CONGRESS LEADER



When the Amendment was brought, the government's intent was that both at the Central and State level, OBC lists will be maintained

BHUPENDRA YADAV, LABOUR MINISTER



Sarla Thukral



- ❖ Google paid tribute to Sarla Thukral-India's first female pilot, on her 107 birth anniversary (August 8, 2021).
- ❖ Google designed a Doodle on the occasion of Thukral's birth anniversary.
- ❖ Born in 1914, Thukral became the first woman to accomplish an 'A' grade license after 1,000 hours of flying.

Rail Madad

- ❖ The Indian Railways has launched an integrated one-stop solution called "Rail Madad".
- ❖ It has merged a number of existing helplines that were used for various purposes into one.



- ❖ The Railway ministry toll-free number 139 can be used for all kinds of enquiries and making complaints.
- ❖ The helpline facility is available round-the-clock in 12 languages.

India's 5-point agenda

- ❖ The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, has chaired the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) open debate.
- ❖ The UN Security Council then adopted India's presidential statement on maritime security.
- ❖ PM Modi has become the first Prime Minister of India to chair a UNSC open debate.
- ❖ The theme of the high-level open debate was 'Enhancing Maritime Security – A Case for International Cooperation'.
- ❖ Five-point agenda had been laid down by PM to increase the maritime cooperation.
- ❖ They are
 - Removal of barriers to legitimate maritime trade.
 - Resolution of maritime disputes peacefully in accordance with international law.
 - Fight threats from natural disasters, non-state actors.
 - Conservation of marine resources.
 - Promoting responsible maritime connectivity.

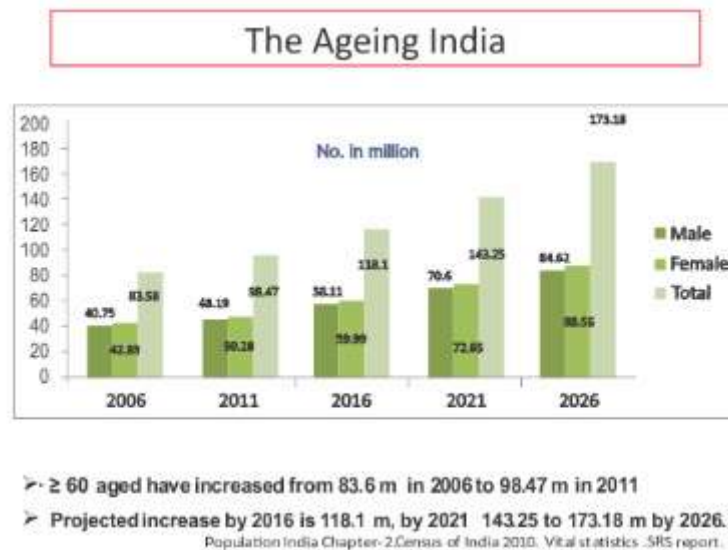
National Mission on Edible Oil - Oil Palm

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced this new national initiative on palm oil production to help increase farm incomes.
- ❖ Aims and Objectives of the scheme are given below,
 - Achieve self-reliance in edible oil.
 - Harness domestic edible oil prices that are dictated by expensive palm oil imports.
 - To raise the domestic production of palm oil by three times to 11 lakh MT by 2025-26.
- ❖ The special emphasis of the scheme will be in India's north-eastern states and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Note

- ❖ India is the largest consumer of vegetable oil in the world
- ❖ Palm oil is currently the world's most consumed vegetable oil.

India's elderly population



- ❖ India's elderly population (aged 60 and above) is projected to touch 194 million in 2031 from 138 million in 2021 (41 per cent increase).
- ❖ This is according to the National Statistical Office (NSO)'s Elderly in India 2021 report.
- ❖ According to the report, Kerala currently has the highest elderly population.
- ❖ It is followed by Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Himachal Pradesh is in third place.
- ❖ Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Assam have the least proportion.

The Tribunal Reforms Bill, 2021

- ❖ The Tribunal Reforms Bill, 2021 was passed in the parliament.
- ❖ The bill sets at abolishing as many as nine appellate tribunals set up under various acts.
- ❖ All the pending cases before these tribunals will be transferred to the High Court or Commercial Court.
- ❖ The Tribunal Reforms Bill will also provide for the uniform terms and the conditions of service for Chairperson and members of various tribunals.

World's highest mobile Air Traffic Control towers

- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) has constructed one of the world's highest mobile Air Traffic Control (ATC) towers at the Advanced Landing Ground in the Ladakh region.
- ❖ The Air Traffic Control (ATC) towers to aid in control operations of the fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters operating in the eastern Ladakh region.
- ❖ IAF has also been deploying fighter aircraft including MiG-29s and Rafale in eastern Ladakh.

N Line of cars - Hyundai

- ❖ Hyundai Motor India Ltd. announced its debut first N Line of cars for India in 2021.
- ❖ According to the South Korean carmaker, N Line models will offer customers motor sport-inspired styling cues.
- ❖ i30 was the first N-branded vehicle, which was launched in 2017.
- ❖ In India, N Line model will be launched through i20.

Kakori Train Action

- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh government has renamed the landmark freedom movement event "Kakori Train Conspiracy" as "Kakori Train Action".
- ❖ This is done as a tribute to the revolutionaries who were hanged for robbing a train at Kakori to buy weapons in 1925.

Note

- ❖ The train robbery took place in Kakori, a village near Lucknow.
- ❖ The robbery was planned by Ram Prasad Bismil and Ashfaqullah Khan.
- ❖ They belonged to the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA).
- ❖ Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan and Roshan Singh were hanged to death for their involvement in the robbery on December 19, 1927.



AL-MOHED AL-HINDI 2021

- ❖ India and Saudi Arabia is all set to conduct their first ever naval exercise called “AL-MOHED AL-HINDI 2021”.
- ❖ To participate in the exercise, India’s guided-missile destroyer INS Kochi reached Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ The joint naval exercise will showcase the reflection of growing defence and military cooperation between India and Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ INS Kochi reached to Saudi Arabia after conducting a naval exercise with the UAE Navy off the coast of Abu Dhabi.

INS Kochi

- ❖ It is the second ship of Kolkata-class stealth guided-missile destroyers.
- ❖ It was built for Indian Navy under the code name Project 15A.
- ❖ The ship was constructed by Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) in Mumbai.
- ❖ It was commissioned to Indian Navy service in September 2015.

GSLV-F10-EOS-3

- ❖ India’s attempt to place a geo-imaging satellite (GISAT-1) with its GSLV-F10-EOS-3 mission did not succeed.
- ❖ The GSLV-F10 rocket of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was blasted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota
- ❖ It had to launch the Earth Observation Satellite EOS-3 into space.
- ❖ The cryogenic upper stage ignition did not happen due to a technical anomaly and caused the failure.



Malabar naval exercises

- ❖ The Quad country navies will be conducting the annual Malabar naval exercises off the coast of Guam, in the Indo-Pacific.
- ❖ Quad country includes India, the US, Japan and Australia.
- ❖ The objective of the Malabar series of Exercises is to increase the interoperability of naval powers of the four QUAD countries.

Subsonic cruise missile Nirbhay

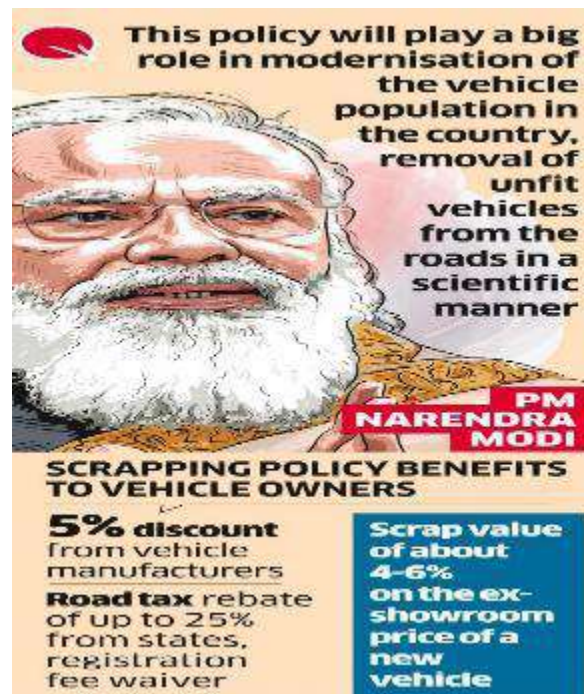
- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully test-fired medium-range subsonic cruise missile Nirbhay.
- ❖ It was test fired from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, off Odisha coast.
- ❖ Nirbhay is India's first Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM).
- ❖ ITCM Nirbhay was successfully test-launched with a Made-in-India Manik turbofan engine.
- ❖ This was the first successful test-firing of the missile with the indigenous booster engine.



National Vehicle Scrappage Policy

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Vehicle Scrappage Policy recently.
- ❖ The National Vehicle Scrappage Policy is also dubbed as “voluntary vehicle-fleet modernisation programme”.
- ❖ This programme aims to modernise India's “vehicular population”.

- ❖ It also seeks to remove unfit vehicles from roads in an environment-friendly and scientific manner.
- ❖ It is in line with India's goal for 21st century to achieve a clean, congestion-free and convenient mobility.
- ❖ Under the policy, vehicles will be scientifically tested through authorised and automated centres before it is finally scrapped.



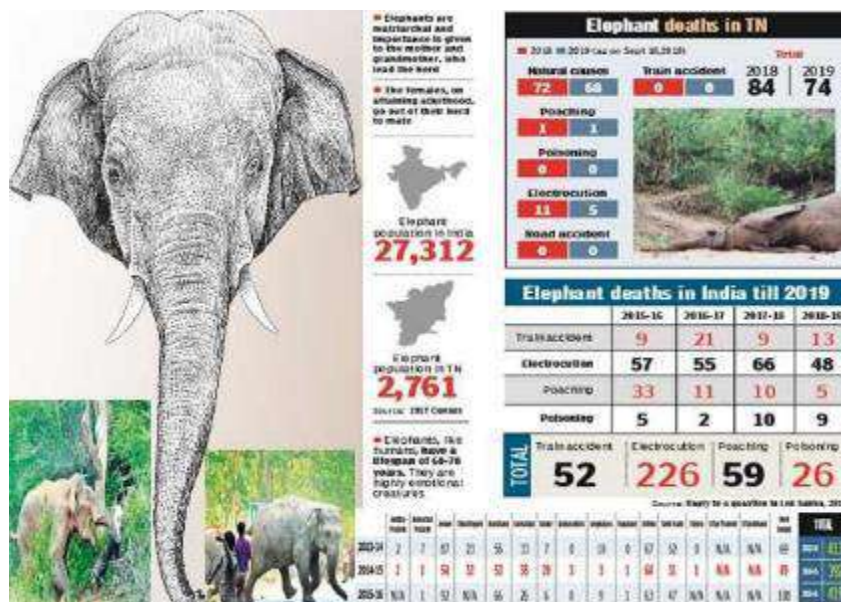
APEDA exports apples to Bahrain

- ❖ APEDA in collaboration with Himachal Pradesh Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Ltd (HPMC) exported first consignment comprising of five unique varieties of apples.
- ❖ This is to promote agricultural and processed food products exports to newer destinations.
- ❖ Five varieties of apples including Dark Baron Gala, Royal Delicious, Scarlet Spur, Red Velox and Golden Delicious were exported to Bahrain.
- ❖ First consignment was exported by APEDA registered DM Enterprises.
- ❖ Apples will be showcased at the apple promotion programme organized by leading retailer called Al Jajira group.
- ❖ The apple promotion programme started from 15th August, 2021 on the occasion of commencement of 75th year of India's independence celebration.



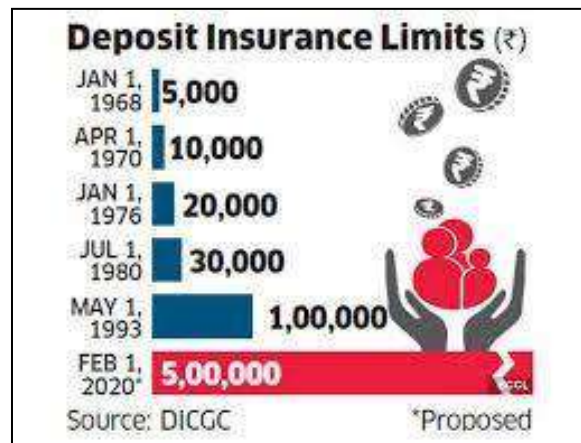
Common survey to count elephants and tigers

- ❖ India is planning to adopt the new population estimation protocol in the all-India elephant and tiger population survey in 2022.
- ❖ As per the new protocol, India will move to a system that will count tigers and elephants as part of a common survey.
- ❖ Currently, the tiger survey is usually held once in four years and elephants are counted once in five years.



- ❖ According to the most recent 2018-19 survey, there were 2,997 tigers in India.
- ❖ According to the last count in 2017, there were 29,964 elephants in India.

Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2021



- ❖ The Parliament had passed this bill recently.
- ❖ The bill seeks to amend the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961.
- ❖ The Bill seeks to provide depositors time-bound access to their insured deposit amount, in case they are restricted from accessing their bank deposits.
- ❖ It provides that the Corporation will be liable to pay the insured deposit amount to depositors on an interim basis.
- ❖ The Bill mandates the Corporation to pay the insured amount to the depositors within 90 days of the date such liability arises.
- ❖ Speaking on the Bill, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that insurance cover limit has been raised from one lakh to five lakh.

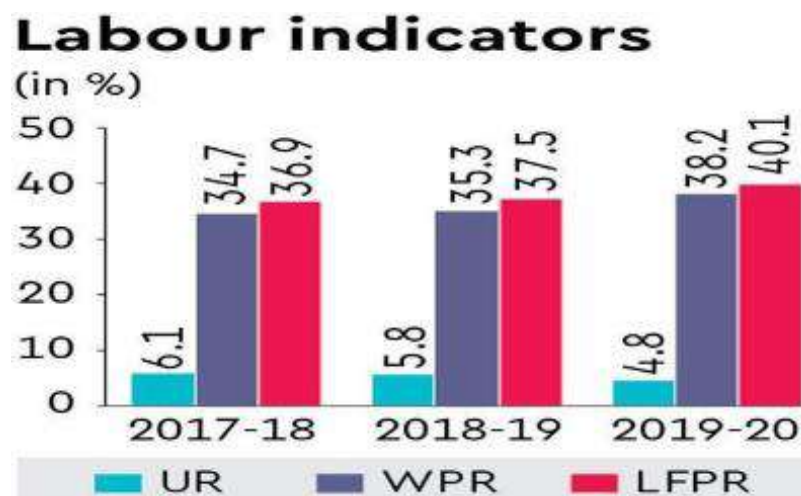
Fit India Freedom Run 2.0

- ❖ Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Thakur, launched a nationwide programme of Fit India Freedom Run 2.0 on August 13, 2021.
- ❖ This is to celebrate the Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav.
- ❖ The programme has been launched at 75 'iconic' locations.
- ❖ The Fit India Freedom Run 2.0 will conclude on October 2, 2021.
- ❖ During this period, people from each district and each village will participate in the freedom run movement.

- ❖ Fit India Freedom Run 2.0 was flagged off from Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi.
- ❖ Government has planned to reach out to every household with the mantra of 'Fitness ki dose 'aadha ghanta roz' in order to keep Indians fit.
- ❖ First edition of the 'Fit India Freedom Run' was organized from August 15 to October 2, 2020.

Periodic Labour Force Survey (2019 - 2020)

- ❖ It is India's first computer-based survey launched by the National Statistical Office (NSO) in 2017.
- ❖ The findings of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2019-2020 was released recently.
- ❖ It offers a credulity-stretching picture of a decline in the unemployment rate between 2017-18 and 2019-2020, together with an increase in the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR).
- ❖ PLFS reports a reduction in the usual - status unemployment rate from 6.1% in 2017-18 to 5.8% in 2018-19 and further to 4.8% in 2019-20.
- ❖ It also shows a corresponding increase in the proportion of people participating in the country's labour force from 36.9% to 37.5% and then further to 40.1% in 2019-20.
- ❖ These positive trends have occurred amid a decline in the economy's real growth rate from 7% to 4.2% over that period.
- ❖ Thus, from a paradox of jobless growth in the past, India seems to have come full circle with 'growthless employment'.





Doctor - population ratio

- ❖ India is well on the path to achieving the World Health Organisation-recommended ratio of one doctor per thousand population by 2024.
- ❖ India is also increasing the number of hospital beds from 11 lakh to 22 lakh.
- ❖ In the last 75 years, India has made significant progress in the health sector.
- ❖ At the time of independence, the average life was just 28 years and it has now reached close to 70 years.

Satellite phone facility

- ❖ Kaziranga National Park (KZP) in Assam has become the first National Park in India to be equipped with satellite phones.
- ❖ In a first-of-its-kind move to provide assistance to prevent poaching and ensure coordinated functioning.
- ❖ BSNL will be the service provider and the park authorities will bear the monthly expenses.

Quality of Life for Elderly Index 2021

- ❖ Dr Bibek Debroy, Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) released the Quality of Life for Elderly Index 2021.
- ❖ It measures the quality of life led by the elderly in India.
- ❖ It has been created by the Institute for Competitiveness.
- ❖ The report identifies the regional patterns of ageing across Indian States and assesses the overall well-being of the ageing population in India.
- ❖ The index analysed 45 different indicators across four key domains viz. Financial Well-being, Social Well-being, Health System, and Income Security.
- ❖ Among the 4 domains, the domain of Health System observed the highest national average of 66.97, followed by 62.34 in Social Well-being, 44.7 in Financial Well-being, and 33.03 in Income Security.
- ❖ The index also provided 'Quality of Life for Elderly Scores' in 4 categories viz. Aged states, Relatively Aged States, Union Territory (UT), and North-East States.
- ❖ Rajasthan has topped the ranking of Aged states.
- ❖ Himachal Pradesh is top-scorer in Relatively Aged States.
- ❖ The Aged States refer to States with an elderly population of more than 5 million.
- ❖ Relatively Aged States refer to States with an Elderly population of less than 5 million.

- ❖ Chandigarh and Mizoram are top-scoring regions in Union Territory (UT) and North-East States category, respectively.
- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) scored the lowest among UTs.
- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh, among the north eastern states, scored the lowest score.
- ❖ In the aged states, Telangana scored the lowest.
- ❖ In relatively aged states categories Gujarat ranked last.

Honour FIRST

- ❖ The Indian Navy has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC).
- ❖ This is the first Bank to initiate 'Honour FIRST'.
- ❖ 'Honour FIRST' is a premium banking solution for serving personnel and veterans of the Indian Navy.

Partition Horrors Remembrance Day

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared that, August 14 will be observed as 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day'.
- ❖ It is also called as 'Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas'.
- ❖ This is observed in memory of people's struggles and sacrifices during the partition of the country in 1947.



GM Soybean

- ❖ The Union government has decided to allow the import of crushed genetically modified (GM) soybean.
- ❖ It is a major ingredient of poultry feed.



- ❖ A GM or transgenic crop is a plant that has a novel combination of genetic material obtained through the use of modern biotechnology.

Note

- ❖ The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is the apex body that allows for commercial release of GM crops.
- ❖ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is the authorised body to regulate the imported crops in India.

New Wetlands in Ramsar list

- ❖ Four more wetlands from India have been added to the Ramsar list.
- ❖ They have been recognized as wetlands of global importance in accordance with the Ramsar Convention.
- ❖ The four sites that have been included are,
 - Thol from Gujarat
 - Wadhvana from Gujarat,
 - Sultanpur from Haryana and
 - Bhindawas from Haryana.
- ❖ The number of Ramsar sites in India have now reached to 46.

IBSA Tourism Ministers Meeting

- ❖ India organized the IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa) Tourism Ministers meeting through the virtual platform.
- ❖ The Union Minister of Tourism of India G. Kishan Reddy chaired the meeting.
- ❖ The meeting provided a platform to promote tourism cooperation among the member states.

Nasal vaccine - BBV154

- ❖ India's first nasal vaccine against COVID-19 has received the nod to conduct phase 2 and 3 clinical trials by the Department of Biotechnology.
- ❖ Nasal Covid Vaccine has been developed by Bharat Biotech.
- ❖ The nasal vaccine is the first of its kind COVID-19 vaccine that is undergoing human clinical trials in India.

Note

- ❖ Bharat Biotech has developed the first ever nasal vaccine called BBV154.

- ❖ It is a novel adenovirus vectored.
- ❖ This intranasal vaccine was developed to build immunity against COVID-19.



VACCINE TO BE GAMECHANGER

2 Drops needed in each nostril	➤ Early Feb Company expects trials to start, sources said	➤ Phase I Trials expected on around 375 volunteers
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Bharat Biotech has already put in place a strategy to produce enough to vaccinate one billion people with the single dose intranasal vaccine

— **Dr KrishnaElla** | BHARAT BIOTECH CHAIRMAN

Vande Bharat trains

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that 75 'Vande Bharat' trains will connect different parts of the country in 75 weeks.
- ❖ This is to mark the ongoing 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- ❖ 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' is the central government's initiative to mark 75 years of Independence from British rule.
- ❖ Vande Bharat is an indigenous semi-high speed train set.

Diesel - door delivery

- ❖ Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) launched door-to-door delivery of 'High Speed Diesel'.

BPCL

- ❖ It is an Indian government-owned oil and gas corporation, operating under the parent head of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- ❖ It is headquartered in Mumbai.
- ❖ Company operates two large refineries in Kochi and Mumbai.
- ❖ It is considered as second-largest downstream oil company of India.

Sainik Schools for female students

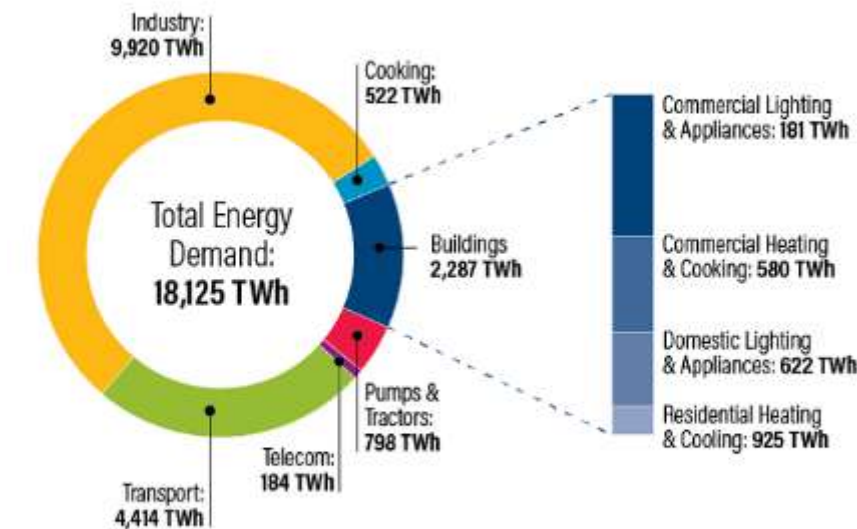
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that Sainik Schools across India will now be open for female students as well.

- ❖ Girls were first allowed in Sainik schools of Mizoram about 2.5 years ago.
- ❖ Sainik Schools are system of schools that was established and managed by Sainik Schools Society.
- ❖ It comes under the Ministry of Defence (MoD).
- ❖ Establishment of Sainik schools was led by V. K. Krishna Menon in 1961, who was the then Defence Minister of India.
- ❖ As of now, there were 33 Sainik Schools.



Energy independent – 2047

India's Projected Energy Demand by 2047



Note: TWh = terawatt hours
Source: India Energy Security Scenarios 2047
(Determined effort scenario, all level 2)

- ❖ India targets to become 'energy independent' by 2047.
- ❖ That is when India celebrates its 100th year of Independence.
- ❖ PM has announced a 'Mission Circular Economy' that will replace petroleum with other forms of energy to make India achieve self-reliance in energy production by 2047.
- ❖ The Roadmap for India to become energy independent include,
 - Increasing usage of natural gas in the economy,
 - Setting up a network of CNG and piped natural gas network throughout India and
 - Blending 20 per cent ethanol in petrol and electric mobility.

SonChiraiya

- ❖ The 'SonChiraiya' brand and logo was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for marketing urban Self-Help Group (SHG) products.
- ❖ This initiative will prove as a step in the right direction towards increased visibility and global access for the products made by urban SHG women.

Rice under all schemes to be fortified

WHAT IS FORTIFIED RICE?

Fortification is the practice of deliberately increasing the content of an essential micronutrient, i.e. vitamins and minerals (including trace elements) in food to improve its nutritional quality and provide a public health benefit with minimal risk to health



<p>➤ The fortification factor does not last for more than 45 days, so it isn't advisable to store fortified rice for long</p>	<p>➤ According to National Family Health Survey, 78.7% children and 75% in the district are anaemic and suffer from malnutrition</p>	<p>➤ In the first phase, fortified rice will be distributed in Badangi, Bobbili, Ramabhadrapuram and Terlam mandals</p>
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- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced to provide fortified rice to poor under various schemes by 2024.
- ❖ This decision was taken in the view that, malnutrition and lack of essential nutrients among poor women and poor children is a major hurdle in their development.

- ❖ Government distributes rice under schemes covered under National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.

TAPAS

- ❖ Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has launched an online portal named TAPAS (Training for Augmenting Productivity and Services).
- ❖ This is to provide filmed lectures/courses and e-study material in the field of social defence.
- ❖ TAPAS is the initiative of the National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

IndiGau

- ❖ Dr Jitendra Singh has released India's first cattle genomic chip called 'IndiGau'.
- ❖ This is for the conservation of pure varieties of indigenous cattle breeds like, Gir, Kankrej, Sahiwal, Ongole etc.
- ❖ The chip has been developed by scientists of National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NAIB), Hyderabad, under the aegis of the Department of Biotechnology.
- ❖ The chip will help in achieving the goal of conservation of our own breeds with better characters and help towards doubling farmers' income by 2022.

Design resource center – Chennai



- ❖ The Union Ministry of Textiles is setting up a design resource centre at the weaver's service centre in Chennai.
- ❖ The aim is to build and create design-oriented excellence in the handloom sector.

- ❖ Also, it is to facilitate weavers, exporters, manufacturers and designers access design repositories to improve samples/products.
- ❖ The Ministry has roped in NIFT (National Institute of Fashion Technology) in this initiative.
- ❖ Similar resource centres were set up in seven centres earlier.
- ❖ And one was inaugurated at Kancheepuram recently.

Data on hydro meteorological calamities

- ❖ Nearly 6,800 people lost their lives in the country over the past three years due to hydro meteorological calamities.
- ❖ Hydro meteorological calamities include flash floods, landslides and cyclones.
- ❖ West Bengal has recorded the highest deaths among all States (964 deaths).
- ❖ This amounts to 14% of deaths due to hydro meteorological calamities.
- ❖ Other than West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh recorded 833 deaths, followed by Kerala 708.
- ❖ In both the States, the spike in the casualties has been caused by floods.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has recorded 201 casualties.

Hindustan-228



- ❖ Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has successfully carried ground tests for making a civilian aircraft named 'Hindustan-228'.
- ❖ Hindustan-228 aircraft has been built with the aim of supporting the regional connectivity scheme-UDAN.

- ❖ It will be utilised by civil operators and state Governments for their intra and inter-state connectivity.
- ❖ HAL is a state-owned aerospace and defence company.
- ❖ It is headquartered in Bangalore.

Bharat Net programme

- ❖ Six lakh villages in India will get internet connectivity by 2024 under the Bharat Net programme.
- ❖ Government is working towards its aim to provide internet facility for each household and to provide access to internet with a low-cost device for every member in a family.

Bharat Net initiative

- ❖ It is a flagship mission that is being implemented by Bharat Broadband Network Ltd. (BBNL).
- ❖ This Special Purpose Vehicle was set up Government of India under Companies Act, 1956.



Vriksharopan Abhiyan - 2021

- ❖ Vriksharopan Abhiyan - 2021 of Coal Ministry is launched on August 19, 2021.
- ❖ It is a key event under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations in coal sector.
- ❖ It will bring environment sustainability in mining operations
- ❖ In this year, coal PSUs of the Ministry of Coal is to launch “Go Greening” drive.
- ❖ Areas will be covered under bio-reclamation or plantation.

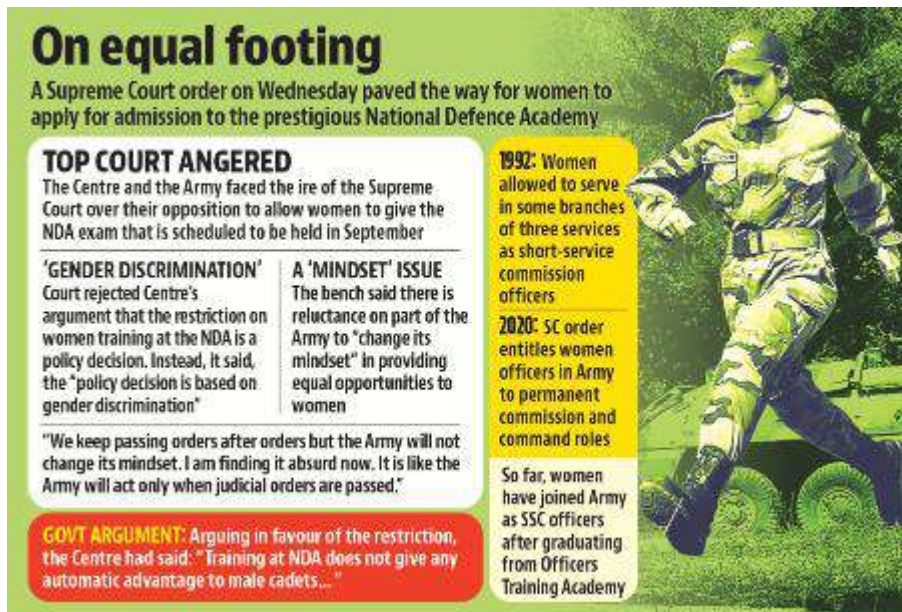
- ❖ Go Greening drive will be provided the right boost by launching Vriksharopan Abhiyan 2021.
- ❖ This Mission will be launched by Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary affairs, Prahalad Joshi.

Women to appear for NDA exam

- ❖ The Supreme Court has allowed the women to appear for National Defence Academy (NDA) exam.
- ❖ Kush Kalra filed petition, seeking permission for women to sit in the NDA entrance exam.
- ❖ This Petition highlighted the issue of violation of Articles 14, 15, 16 and 19 of the Constitution.

NDA

- ❖ NDA is the joint defence service training institute of Indian Armed Forces.
- ❖ It is located in Khadakwasla in Pune, Maharashtra.
- ❖ This academy is world's first tri-service academy.



On equal footing
A Supreme Court order on Wednesday paved the way for women to apply for admission to the prestigious National Defence Academy

TOP COURT ANGERED
The Centre and the Army faced the ire of the Supreme Court over their opposition to allow women to give the NDA exam that is scheduled to be held in September

'GENDER DISCRIMINATION'
Court rejected Centre's argument that the restriction on women training at the NDA is a policy decision. Instead, it said, the "policy decision is based on gender discrimination"

A 'MINDSET' ISSUE
The bench said there is reluctance on part of the Army to "change its mindset" in providing equal opportunities to women

"We keep passing orders after orders but the Army will not change its mindset. I am finding it absurd now. It is like the Army will act only when judicial orders are passed."

GOVT ARGUMENT: Arguing in favour of the restriction, the Centre had said: "Training at NDA does not give any automatic advantage to male cadets..."

1992: Women allowed to serve in some branches of three services as short-service commission officers

2020: SC order entitles women officers in Army to permanent commission and command roles

So far, women have joined Army as SSC officers after graduating from Officers Training Academy

Student Entrepreneurship Program 3.0

- ❖ Third series of Student Entrepreneurship Program 3.0 (SEP 3.0) was launched for the young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL).
- ❖ This program was launched by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog in collaboration with La Foundation Dassault Systems.

- ❖ Theme of SEP 3.0 is 'Made in 3D – Seed the Future Entrepreneurs Program'.
- ❖ Under this program, a team from each school comprising of 6 students and a teacher will be allocated seed funding in order to create their own start-up and design.

Exercise Konkan 2021

- ❖ The Indian Naval Ship Tabar arrived at Portsmouth in England, to undertake the annual bilateral drill 'Exercise Konkan 2021' between the Indian Navy and Britain's Royal Navy.
- ❖ The bilateral naval exercise Konkan is being held every year since 2004.
- ❖ It is held to enhance the interoperability, synergy and cooperation between both navies.
- ❖ HMS Westminster of the Royal Navy took part from Britain's side.



Amrit Mahotsav Shri Shakti Challenge-2021

- ❖ The union minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnav launched the 'Amrit Mahotsav Shri Shakti Challenge-2021'.
- ❖ This to encourage technology solutions developed by Women Entrepreneurs that facilitate Women's Safety and Empowerment.
- ❖ The aim is to empower women to help them achieve their full potential.



Bilateral maritime exercise - India and Vietnam

- ❖ The Indian Navy and Vietnam People's Navy (VPN) undertook a bilateral maritime exercise in the South China Sea.
- ❖ This is to strengthen the defence ties among the two navies.
- ❖ From India, INS Ranvijay and INS Kora took part in the exercise.
- ❖ From the Vietnam People's Navy, frigate VPNS Ly Thai To (HQ-012) participated in the drill.
- ❖ The bilateral interaction aims to consolidate the strong bond shared by the two navies and would be another step towards strengthening India-Vietnam defence relations.
- ❖ This visit also holds special importance as Indian Naval ships celebrated the country's 75th Independence Day in Vietnam.

National Mission on Edible Oils

- ❖ The Cabinet approved the 'National Mission on Edible Oils — Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)'.
- ❖ This approval was given in order to promote the domestic cultivation of oil palm in next five years.
- ❖ It will help in reducing India's dependence on imports.
- ❖ The decision was taken after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced this new Central scheme on August 15.





About the scheme

- ❖ The National Mission on Edible Oils is a centrally sponsored scheme.
- ❖ This scheme will subsume the “National Food Security Mission-Oil Palm programme.
- ❖ It was launched in line with the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat scheme.
- ❖ The National Mission on Edible Oil was launched with the aim of covering oil palm in an additional area of 6.5 lakh hectare by 2025-26.
- ❖ It seeks to reach the target of 10 lakh hectares.

UNITE AWARE

- ❖ The External Affairs Minister (EAM), S Jaishankar, announced the rollout of “UNITE AWARE” tech to help protect UN peacekeepers.
- ❖ He made this announcement at the UN headquarters in New York while he was chairing UN security council open debate on “Technology and Peacekeeping”.
- ❖ UNITE AWARE is a mobile tech platform developed by India to provide terrain-related information to the UN peacekeepers.
- ❖ This is to ensure their safety.
- ❖ It is developed in partnership with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Operational Support.

Ubharte Sitaare Fund

- ❖ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is set to launch an ambitious ‘Ubharte Sitaare Fund’ on August 21, 2021.
- ❖ It will be launched for export-oriented firms and startups.
- ❖ Ubharte Sitaare fund has been set up jointly by Exim Bank and SIDBI
- ❖ It will be launched in Lucknow.
- ❖ Finance minister will also launch India Exim Bank’s study on ‘Exports from Uttar Pradesh: Trends, Opportunities and Policy Perspective’.
- ❖ Ubharte Sitaare Programme (USP) will identify Indian companies that have the capability to be future champions in domestic arena while meeting the global demands.
- ❖ This fund is a mix of structured support, debt and technical assistance to the Indian companies.

Advanced chaff technology



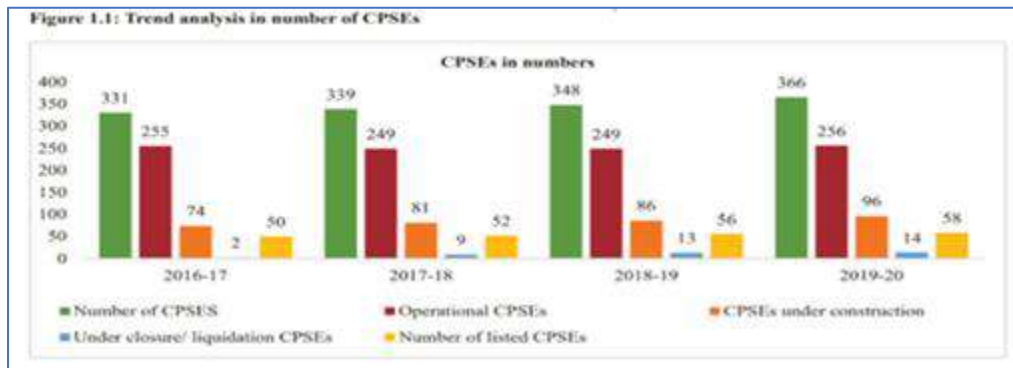
- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed an advanced chaff technology.
- ❖ The objective is to safeguard the Indian Air Force Fighter Jets from enemy missiles.
- ❖ Chaff is an electronic counter-measure technology which is used by militaries across the world.
- ❖ It is used to protect high-value targets like fighter jets or naval ships from radars as well as radio frequency (RF) guiding mechanisms of the enemy missiles.

Public Enterprises Survey 2019-20

- ❖ The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), Ministry of Finance, once a year brings out the Survey on the performance of various Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).
- ❖ The 60th Public Enterprises (PE) Survey 2019-20 was released Recently.
- ❖ The number of CPSEs falling within the scope of this year's PE Survey as on March 31, 2020 is 366.
- ❖ Out of this, 256 are operating CPSEs, 96 CPSEs are under Construction, and the rest are under closure/liquidation.

Note

- ❖ CPSEs are classified into 3 categories namely Maharatna, Navratna and Miniratna.
- ❖ Presently, there are 10 Maharatna, 14 Navratna and 74 Miniratna CPSEs.



India could get first woman CJI

- ❖ The Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) N V Ramana has recommended nine names, including three women judges for appointment as judges in the top court.
- ❖ The three women judges recommended by the SC Collegium are Justice B V Nagarathna of Karnataka HC, Justice Hima Kohli of Telangana HC, and Justice Bela M Trivedi of Gujarat HC.
- ❖ Of the three women judges, Justice B V Nagarathna of Karnataka HC could become the first woman Chief Justice of India (CJI) in 2027 if SC Collegium's recommendations of names are considered by the Union Government.

First EV-friendly highway in India



- ❖ With a network of solar-based electric vehicle charging stations, Delhi-Chandigarh Highway has become the country's first EV-friendly highway in the country.
- ❖ The network of stations was set up by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL).
- ❖ It was setup under the FAME-1 (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) & Electric Vehicles) scheme of the Ministry of Heavy Industries.

Arogya Dhara 2.0

- ❖ Arogya Dhara 2.0 was launched by Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on August 18, 2021.
- ❖ This is in order to increase the reach of Ayushman Bharat – Jan Arogya Yojana.
- ❖ Arogya Dhara 2.0 also seeks to create more awareness regarding the Ayushman Bharat Scheme.
- ❖ On the occasion, minister launched three initiatives namely,
 - Adhikar Patra,
 - Ayushman Mitra and
 - Abhinandan Patra.
- ❖ Adhikar Patra will be issued to the beneficiaries when they will be hospitalised for treatment under the PM-JAY scheme.
- ❖ This patra will make beneficiaries aware of their rights in a way that they can claim free and cashless health care services.
- ❖ Abhinandan Patra is a ‘thank you note’.
- ❖ It will be issued to the beneficiaries when beneficiaries will be discharged after their treatment under PM-JAY.
- ❖ Ayushman Mitra is an initiative launched to encourage citizens to participate in motivating eligible beneficiaries to get verified under PM-JAY scheme.
- ❖ It also seeks to help beneficiaries to get the Ayushman Cards issued.



All-women team of three armed forces summits Mt Manirang

- ❖ An ‘All Women Tri-Services Mountaineering Team’ successfully scaled Mt Manirang on August 15, 2021.
- ❖ Mt Manirang (21,625 ft) is in Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ They unfurled the national flag as a part of commemorative activities for ‘Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav’.

- ❖ The team was led by Wing Commander Bhavana Mehra of the Indian Air Force.



Defence India Start-up Challenge - 5th edition

- ❖ Defence Minister of India, Rajnath Singh, launched the 5th edition of the Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC).
- ❖ DISC was launched under Innovations for Defence Excellence – Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO).
- ❖ This challenge is meant to achieve self-reliance and foster innovation and technology development across the defence and aerospace sectors.
- ❖ This challenge was launched by Ministry in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission.
- ❖ It was launched with the aim of providing support to Startups, MSMEs and Innovators to create prototypes or commercialize products and solutions in the fields of National Defence and Security.



Institute of Economic Growth Society - New president

- ❖ Chairman of 15th Finance Commission, NK Singh, has been elected as the new president of Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) Society.
- ❖ He succeeded former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh who was the President of IEG since 1992.

Institute of Economic Growth

- ❖ It is an autonomous, multidisciplinary centre that is used for advanced research and training.

- ❖ It was founded by VKRV Rao in 1952, but became operational in 1958.
- ❖ It is located at University Enclave of University of Delhi, New Delhi.



Disaster Management - India and Bangladesh

- ❖ Union Cabinet has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Disaster Management between India and Bangladesh that was signed in March, 2021.
- ❖ MoU was signed between National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Ministry of Home Affairs of India and Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief of Bangladesh.
- ❖ MoU involves Cooperation in the field of Disaster Management, Resilience and Mitigation.

ZyCoV-D vaccine



- ❖ The Drug Controller General of India has approved ZyCoV-D vaccine by Zydus Cadila for Emergency Use Authorization.
- ❖ ZyCoV-D vaccine is the world's first and India's indigenously developed DNA-based vaccine for COVID-19.
- ❖ It will be administered to humans including children and adults aged 12 years and more.
- ❖ Zydus Cadila developed this vaccine in partnership with the Department of Biotechnology under Mission COVID Suraksha.
- ❖ It will be implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).
- ❖ It is a three-dose vaccine.
- ❖ Zydus Cadila is also known as Cadila Healthcare Limited.
- ❖ It is headquartered in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Small Business Loans Initiative

- ❖ Facebook India has launched a new initiative called the "Small Business Loans Initiative"
- ❖ This initiative was launched in partnership with online lending platform, Indifi.
- ❖ It will extend help to small and medium businesses who advertise on Facebook in order to get quick access to credit with the help of independent lending partners.
- ❖ India is the first country where Facebook rolled out this initiative.

AK-103 rifles



- ❖ India and Russia have signed a deal to immediately procure AK-103 Rifles.

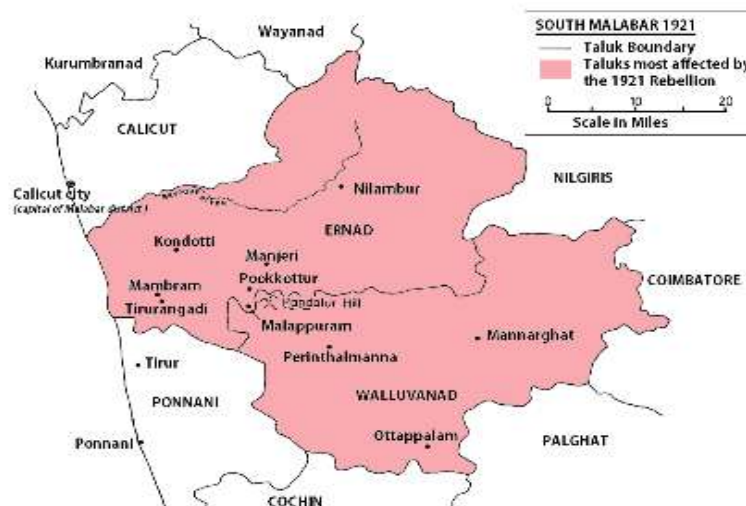
- ❖ This deal was inked as a part of mega infantry modernisation programme.
- ❖ This rifle will be manufactured under the joint venture Indo-Russia Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL).
- ❖ IRRPL is a rifle-manufacturing facility in Korwa village of Amethi district in Uttar Pradesh.

India's highest herbal park

- ❖ India's highest herbal park (height of 11,000 feet) was inaugurated near Indo-China border at Mana village in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand.
- ❖ This park was inaugurated with the aim of conserving various medicinally and culturally important alpine species.
- ❖ It also aims to conduct research on propagation and habitat ecology of these species.

Malabar rebellion of 1921

- ❖ The Mapilla rebellion or Malabar rebellion is also termed as Moplah Rebellion (Moplah Riots).
- ❖ The Malabar rebellion of 1921 was the culmination of a series of riots by Moplahs (Muslims of Malabar) in the 19th and early 20th centuries against the British and the Hindu landlords in Malabar (Northern Kerala).
- ❖ The uprising, which began as part of the Khilafat Movement, took place in regions which are under the Malappuram district, Kerala.
- ❖ It was an armed revolt led by Variyam kunnath Kunjahammed Haji.
- ❖ The year 2021 will mark the 100th year anniversary of the uprising.



Hurun Global 500 Most Valuable Companies list 2021

- ❖ Apple is the world's most valuable company, according to the Hurun Global 500 Most Valuable Companies list 2021.
- ❖ The world's top six valuable companies remained unchanged as Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, Alphabet, Facebook and Tencent.
- ❖ Globally, the US topped the list in 243 companies.
- ❖ India ranked 9th in this list with 12 companies.

Rank	Company	Value (US\$bn)	Change (%)
1 -	Apple	2,443	15%
2 -	Microsoft	2,114	29%
3 -	Amazon	1,802	12%
4 -	Alphabet	1,733	42%
5 -	Facebook	967	19%
6 -	Tencent	697	-3%
7 ↑	Berkshire Hathaway	635	16%
8 ↑	Tesla	621	14%
9 ↓	Alibaba	586	-18%
10 *	TSMC	567	27%

Source: Hurun Research Institute
 ↑ Rank increase yoy ↓ Rank decrease yoy - No Rank change yoy * New to Top 10

INSACOG study

- ❖ INSACOG Highlights that, Continuing COVID-19 outbreaks in India are the result of
 - Delta variant,
 - susceptible population and
 - reduced vaccine effectiveness in breaking the transmission.
- ❖ INSACOG is a genome sequencing government consortium of Laboratories in India.



DELTA + K417N LINEAGE OF SARS-COV-2 (CALLED AS AY.1)

- Delta Plus is a **variant of interest**, but not a variant of concern as on date
- Characterized by the **Spike K417N** mutation which is otherwise present in the Beta VoC
- K417N corresponds to change of amino acid **lysine (K) to asparagine (N)**
- Delta plus is **resistant to the COVID 19 monoclonal antibody** treatment (like Imdevimab, Casirivimab)¹

¹ (Shang and Axelsen, Tegally et al. 2020, Wang et al. 2021, Hoffmann et al. 2021, Greaney et al. 2021)

Jalakanyaka

- ❖ A new marine algae species with an umbrella-like cap named Jalakanyaka, has been discovered on Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ The new algae species has been named 'Acetabularia jalakanyakae', after the Sanskrit word 'Jalakanyaka'.
- ❖ It means the 'goddess of oceans' or 'mermaid'.
- ❖ This species is the 1st of the genus Acetabularia to be discovered in India.



ARMY-2021

- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) of India is participating in the International Military-Technical Forum 'ARMY-2021' at Kubinka, Moscow.
- ❖ At the forum ARMY-2021, DRDO will showcase its indigenously built fighter aircraft LCA Tejas, Arjun Main Battle Tank (MK1A), Anti-Tank Guided Missiles among other products at the India Pavilion.



Note

- ❖ The International Military-Technical Forum 'ARMY-2021' is organized by the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation that offers the opportunity for exhibition and demonstration of military equipment.
- ❖ ARMY-2021 is the 7th International Military-Technical Forum.

Zair-Al-Bahr Exercise



- ❖ The 2nd edition of Bilateral Maritime Exercise Zair-Al-Bahr (Roar of the Sea) 2021 was conducted in the Persian Gulf.
- ❖ The exercise is between the Indian Navy and Qatar Emiri Naval Force.
- ❖ Indian Navy Guided Missile Stealth Frigate INS (Indian Naval Ship) Trikanth arrived at Qatar's capital city, Doha for participation in the sea phase.
- ❖ The exercise focuses on the fight against terrorism, maritime piracy, and maritime security.

N. S. Vishwanathan Panel on Urban Co-operative Banks

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India had appointed committee headed by N. S. Vishwanathan to make suggestions on structure for the urban cooperative banks (UCBs).
- ❖ This Panel was set up to suggest structure on the basis of deposits, prescribed different capital adequacy as well as regulatory norms for them with respect to their sizes.

Recommendations by panel

- ❖ As per this committee, UCBs can be split into four categories. They are,
 - Tier-1- with deposits up to Rs 100 crore;
 - Tier-2 with deposits between Rs 100-Rs 1000 crore,
 - Tier-3 with deposits between Rs 1000 crore to Rs 10000 and
 - Tier-4 with deposits more than Rs 10000 crore.
- ❖ It suggests that, minimum Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) for these tiers can vary between 9 per cent to 15 per cent.
- ❖ While, for Tier-4 UCBs the Basel III prescribed norms can be followed.
- ❖ It suggests separate ceilings for loan against gold ornaments, home loans and unsecured loans for different categories of UCBs.
- ❖ The Supervisory Action Framework (SAF) should follow a twin-indicator approach.
- ❖ It can consider only asset quality and capital measured through NNPA and CRAR, rather than going with triple indicators approach at present.

Yuktdhara portal

- ❖ The government launched a new geospatial planning portal called 'Yuktdhara' under Bhuvan.
- ❖ This new portal will help in facilitating new MGNREGA assets with the help of remote sensing as well as geographic information system-based data.
- ❖ This Portal will also serve as a repository of geotags that have been created under several national rural development programmes.
- ❖ The portal has been jointly developed by ISRO and the Ministry of Rural Development.
- ❖ The Geoportal Bhuvan is a rich information base of ISRO.
- ❖ It provides satellite images and analytical capabilities.



Bhuvan - Yuktdhara
Geospatial Planning Portal for Geo-MGNREGA
Features: Landscape Familiarization | Activity & Area Identification | Map Composition

Indigenous motorized wheelchair 'NeoBolt'

- ❖ IIT Madras has developed India's first indigenous motorized wheelchair vehicle named 'NeoBolt'.

- ❖ This can be used not only on roads but even on uneven terrains.
- ❖ It has a maximum speed of 25 kmph.
- ❖ It is powered by a Lithium-Ion Battery.



Five women officers to Colonel rank

- ❖ The Indian Army's Selection Board for the first time promoted five women officers to Colonel rank.
- ❖ The five women officers have already completed 26 years of service.
- ❖ The women officers promoted to Colonel Time Scale rank are
 - Lt Col Navneet Duggal and Lt Col Sonia Anand from the Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME),
 - Lt Col Sangeeta Sardana from Corps of Signals, Lt Col Richa Sagar and Lt Col Reenu Khanna from the Corps of Engineers.
- ❖ Earlier, only women officers serving in the Army Education Corps, Judge Advocate General, and the Army Medical Corps were applicable for promotion to the Colonel Time Scale rank.



Narayan Rane Arrest

- ❖ The Union minister Narayan Rane was arrested after his statement against Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.
- ❖ A union minister or a Member of Parliament enjoys certain privileges but most of them are available when Parliament is in session.
- ❖ If Parliament is not in session, police or other law enforcement agencies may arrest a Union cabinet minister in a criminal case.
- ❖ But, under Section 222A of the Rules of Procedures and Conduct of Business of the Rajya Sabha, the police or a judge issuing an arrest order is required to intimate the Rajya Sabha Chairman about the reason for and place of arrest.
- ❖ The Chairman gets it published in Rajya Sabha.

Note

- ❖ A union minister or an MP enjoys protection from arrest 40 days before the start of a Parliament session, during its sittings and 40 days after its conclusion.
- ❖ So, under Section 135 of the Code of Civil Procedure, Narayan Rane has the protection from arrest in a civil case as Parliament's Monsoon Session ended earlier this month.
- ❖ However, his arrest came in a criminal case.
- ❖ And, the protection from arrest does not cover criminal offences or preventive detention.

Global Manufacturing Risk Index



- ❖ India has emerged as a global manufacturing hub.
- ❖ It has effectively surpassed the United States to become the world's second most desired manufacturing destination.
- ❖ This indicates the growing interest in India by manufacturers as a preferred manufacturing hub over other countries.
- ❖ The top position is retained by China.
- ❖ India's ranking was reflected in Cushman & Wakefield's 2021 Global Manufacturing Risk Index.
- ❖ The index ranks 47 countries across Europe, the Americas, and the Asia Pacific.

Forum for Decarbonizing Transport

- ❖ NITI Aayog and World Resources Institute (WRI), India, jointly launched the 'Forum for Decarbonizing Transport' in India.
- ❖ NITI Aayog is the implementing partner for India.
- ❖ The aim of the project is to bring down the peak level of GHG emissions (transport sector) in Asia.
- ❖ The Forum has been launched under the NDC-Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA) project.
- ❖ The NDC Transport Initiative for Asia (TIA 2020-2023) is a joint programme of seven organizations that will engage China, India, and Vietnam in promoting a comprehensive approach to decarbonizing transport in their respective countries.



E-Shram Portal

- ❖ The Ministry of Labour and Employment launched the E-Shram portal.
- ❖ E-Shram Portal will be the National Database of Unorganised workers (Shram Yogis).
- ❖ The portal will do the targeted identification of the unorganized workers.

- ❖ It will help take social security schemes to their doorstep.
- ❖ Registered workers will be provided with an e-SHRAM card that will have a 12 digit unique number.
- ❖ This move will integrate the Centre's social security schemes.



Iconic Week celebrations



- ❖ The union minister for information and broadcasting Anurag Thakur has kicked off a series of activities to celebrate the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

- ❖ The activities organised by the ministry will aim to 'showcase the convergence of the values and glories of the freedom struggle of the past with the aspirations and dreams of a young, new and iconic India'.
- ❖ Thakur kicks off the 'Iconic Week' which attract participation from across the country under the overall spirit of 'Jan Bhagidari and Jan Andolan'.

GUAREX



- ❖ India's first sectoral index in the Agri commodities basket i.e. GUAREX was launched by the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX).
- ❖ GUAREX is a price based sectoral index that tracks the movement in the futures contracts of guar gum refined splits and guar seed on a real-time basis.
- ❖ This index product will offer a lot of opportunities to the value chain.
- ❖ The weightage of guar seed and guar gum refined splits in the index will be 63 per cent and 37 per cent, respectively.
- ❖ India is the world's largest guar producer.
- ❖ Rajasthan is the country's top producer.

First woman Chief Justice of India



- ❖ All nine names recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium were cleared by the Centre.

- ❖ This paved the way for India to see its first woman Chief Justice of India in 2027.
- ❖ The nine names include those of three women judges Justice Hima Kohli, Justice BV Nagarathna, Justice Bela Trivedi.
- ❖ According to the order of seniority, Justice Nagarathna may be appointed CJI in 2027.

KAZIND-21



- ❖ The 5th edition of Indo- Kazakhstan Joint Training Exercise, “KAZIND-21” will be held from August 30 to September 11, 2021.
- ❖ This joint training exercise will be conducted as a part of military diplomacy.
- ❖ It seeks to strengthen the growing strategic relation with Kazakhstan.
- ❖ Training exercise will be conducted at Aisha Bibi in Kazakhstan.
- ❖ A battalion of the Bihar Regiment will represent the Indian Army contingent.

India's first mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine

- ❖ The Drugs Controller General of India gave nod for Phase-2 and Phase-3 trials of India's first mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine.
- ❖ First mRNA-based covid-19 vaccine is as called HGCO19.
- ❖ It is being developed by a Pune-based biotechnology company, Genova Biopharmaceuticals Ltd. in collaboration with HDT Biotech Corporation of USA.

SUJALAM

- ❖ Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched a '100 days campaign' named SUJALAM.
- ❖ This is to create more and more Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus villages by undertaking wastewater management at the village level.



Highest ever FRP for Sugarcane

- ❖ Union cabinet has approved the highest ever fair & remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane farmers.
- ❖ FRP (Fair and remunerative price) for sugarcane has been increased to Rs 290 per quintal for 2021-22.
- ❖ This price will be based on 10% recovery.



- ❖ If recovery is less than 9.5%, then farmers will be given a FRP of Rs 275 per quintile.
- ❖ FRP has been increased for marketing year October-September.
- ❖ FRP is the minimum price at which sugarcane is purchased by sugar mills from farmers.
- ❖ This price is fixed by Union government based on the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

The Malabar Exercise

- ❖ Navies of the four member nations of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, or the Quad (India, the United States, Japan, and Australia) are participating in the 25th edition of the Malabar Exercise.
- ❖ This began off the coast of Guam in the Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ Malabar began as a bilateral naval exercise between India and the U.S. in 1992.
- ❖ It was expanded into a trilateral format with the inclusion of Japan in 2015.



Naval exercise - India and Philippines

- ❖ India and the Philippines conducted a naval exercise in the South China Sea recently.
- ❖ Indian Navy had deployed its guided missile destroyer INS Ranvijay and guided missile corvette INS Kora.
- ❖ The Philippine Navy has deployed its frigate BRP Antonio Luna, in the exercise.

Note

- ❖ The South China Sea region has been witnessing growing Chinese military expansionism.

Hydrogen electrolyzer giga factory

- ❖ Ohmium launches India's first green hydrogen electrolyzer giga factory
- ❖ US-based Ohmium International has started India's first green hydrogen electrolyzer manufacturing unit at Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ❖ The factory will manufacture India-made Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) hydrogen electrolyzers.
- ❖ The PEM hydrogen electrolyzer is the main equipment for the production of green hydrogen.
- ❖ It uses power generated from renewable resources to break water into hydrogen and oxygen.
- ❖ Green hydrogen is made from non-fossil sources against blue hydrogen that is made from fossil sources.

Greater Male Connectivity Project

- ❖ Maldives government has officially signed an agreement with Mumbai-based company AFCONS, for the construction of the Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP).
- ❖ This infrastructure project is the largest-ever by India in the Maldives.
- ❖ It involves the construction of a 6.74-km-long bridge and causeway link that will connect the Maldives capital Malé with the neighbouring islands of Villingili, Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi.
- ❖ This project was funded by India in a grant of \$100 million, with a line of credit of \$400 million.
- ❖ The Line of Credit is not a grant but a 'soft loan' provided on concessional interest rates to developing countries, which has to be repaid by the borrowing government.



WEP Nxt

- ❖ NITI Aayog in partnership with Cisco has launched the next phase of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) titled “WEP Nxt”.
- ❖ This is to foster women entrepreneurship in India.
- ❖ WEP was launched by NITI Aayog in 2017.
- ❖ WEP is a unified portal that brings together women from diverse backgrounds and offers them access to a multitude of resources, support, and learning.
- ❖ WEP Nxt Platform is the next phase of this WEP.



EASE 4.0



- ❖ Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman has unveiled the fourth edition of the Public Sector Bank (PSB) Reforms Agenda ‘EASE 4.0’ for 2021-22.
- ❖ It is a simplified, tech-enabled and collaborative banking.

- ❖ The major theme for EASE 4.0 is “Technology-enabled, simplified, and collaborative banking.”
- ❖ EASE stands for Enhanced Access & Service Excellence (EASE).

NERDSD Goal Index Report & Dashboard

- ❖ The first edition of the North Eastern Region District Sustainable Development (NERDSD) Goal Index Report and Dashboard 2021-22 was launched recently.
- ❖ This will be first of its kind region-wide district SDG index in India.
- ❖ This index has been prepared by collaborative efforts of NITI Aayog and DoNER Ministry.
- ❖ It will measure the performance of the districts across eight States.
- ❖ East Sikkim District has topped in terms of meeting the sustainable development goals in this Index
- ❖ Nagaland's Kiphire district has featured at the bottom of this index.



Ananda mobile app

- ❖ Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) launched a mobile app called “Ananda mobile app” for its agents and intermediaries in order to onboard the prospective customers.
- ❖ ANANDA stands for Atma Nirbhar Agents New Business Digital Application.
- ❖ ANANDA is the paperless solution for new business processes.

Chairperson of Stop TB Partnership Board

- ❖ Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Mansukh Mandaviya, took charge as the Chairperson of Stop TB Partnership Board
- ❖ He will hold the responsibility with immediate effect and hold the position until 2024.
- ❖ He will now lead the efforts of Stop TB Partnership Secretariat, partners, and TB community in order to reach towards reaching United Nations TB targets by 2022.
- ❖ This partnership was established in the year 2000 in a bid to eliminate tuberculosis (TB) as a public health problem.



SAMRIDH Scheme



- ❖ Start-up Accelerators of MeitY for pProduct Innovation, Development and growth (SAMRIDH) programme was launched by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY).
- ❖ SAMRIDH will create a conducive platform to growing Indian Software Product start-ups that are ready for acceleration stage to enhance their products and secure investments for scaling their business.
- ❖ It will provide them with funding support, mentorship and other supports that are required by start-ups at this stage.

INDIAsize

- ❖ Ministry of Textile and National Institute of Fashion Technology launched an India size survey, in order to do away with the confusion of size.
- ❖ It has been titled as INDIAsize.
- ❖ This initiative was launched with the aim of introducing a new standardised size chart in ready-to-wear clothing sector in India.
- ❖ At present, only 18 countries have their own sizing charts.

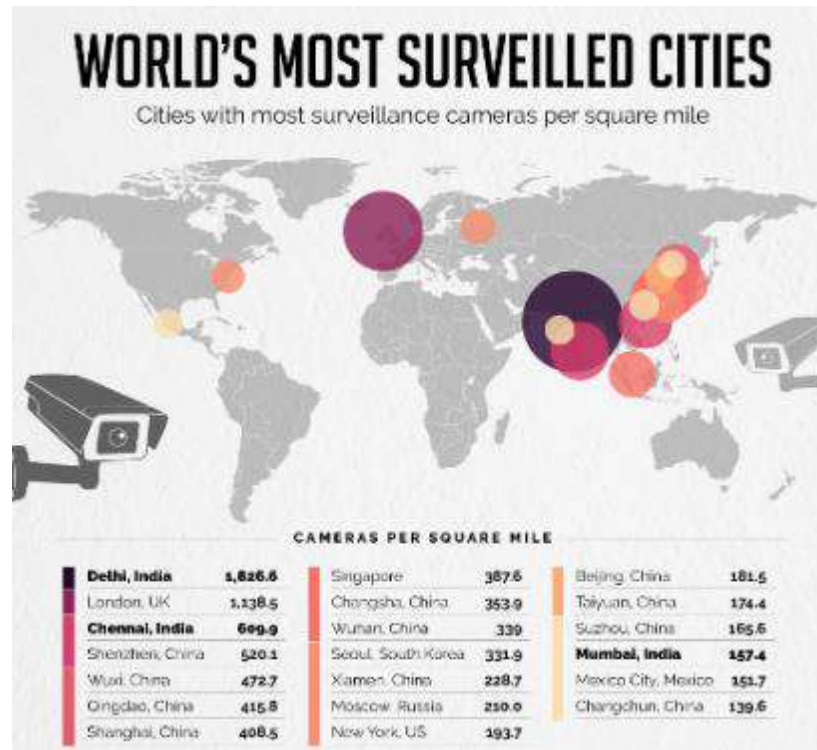


“Shared Destiny 2021” - Defence Exercise

- ❖ Militaries of China, Mongolia, Thailand and Pakistan are set to take part in a multinational peacekeeping exercise called “Shared Destiny-2021”.
- ❖ It will be organised by the China’s People’s Liberation Army at the combined-arms tactical training base in central Henan province of China.
- ❖ This is the first multinational peacekeeping live exercise, involving four nations.
- ❖ Henan is a landlocked province of China and often referred as Zhongyuan or Zhongzhou.

Most surveilled cities

- ❖ Data for the world's most surveilled cities shows that India's capital city New Delhi ranks first with 1,826.6 cameras per square mile.
- ❖ Chennai ranks third in this.
- ❖ Further, London is second and Mumbai is at 18 in this.



India - Germany Joint Exercise

- ❖ The Navies of India and Germany conducted a joint exercise in Gulf of Aden.
- ❖ The joint exercise included helicopter landings as well as search & seizure operations.
- ❖ The Frigate 'Trikanth' from the Indian Navy exercised with the German frigate called 'Bayern'.
- ❖ INS Trikanth is deployed for anti-piracy patrol in Gulf of Aden region.
- ❖ The exercise enhanced the interoperability and facilitated exchange of best practices between them in the maritime domain.
- ❖ The Navies of India and Germany conducted the first ever joint exercises in 2008 after both the nations signed an 'anti-piracy co-operation agreement' in 2006.

Deepar Beel Wildlife Sanctuary

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the eco-sensitive zone of the Deepar Beel Wildlife Sanctuary on the south-western edge of Guwahati.
- ❖ Deepar Beel is one of the largest freshwater lakes in Assam.
- ❖ It is the State's only Ramsar site besides being an Important Bird Area.

Note

- ❖ The Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) or Ecologically Fragile Areas (EFAs) are areas notified by the MoEFCC around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- ❖ The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 does not mention the word “Eco-Sensitive Zones”.



Gandiv exercise

- ❖ The third edition of the week-long annual exercise called ‘Gandiv’ was launched by the NSG.
- ❖ The synchronised commando drills as part of a national mock exercise were carried out by the counter-terrorism force National Security Guard (NSG).
- ❖ This is to check its response time and reaction to hostage and hijack-like situations.
- ❖ Gandiv was the name of Arjuna’s bow in Mahabharata.
- ❖ The NSG was raised as a federal counter-terrorism force in 1984 to undertake surgical commando operations in order to neutralise terrorist and hijack threats.



INTERNATIONAL

Serendipity Sapphire

- ❖ The world's largest star sapphire cluster was found Ratnapura area, Sri Lanka.
- ❖ It weighs around 510 kilograms or 2.5 million carats.
- ❖ The cluster has been named the "Serendipity Sapphire".



Youngest mountaineer to scale K2

- ❖ A 19-year old Pakistani climber became the youngest person in the world to reach the summit of K2.
- ❖ K2 is the second-highest peak in the world.
- ❖ Mr. Shehroze Kashif from Lahore achieved the feat of scaling the 8,611-metre high peak with the aid of bottled oxygen.
- ❖ Pakistan, Nepal, and China are home to the 14 highest peaks in the world, also known as the 8,000ers.
- ❖ Five 8,000-metre peaks, including K2 and Nanga Parbat are in Pakistan.





UNESCO adds 7 sites to World Heritage List

- ❖ The World Heritage Committee added seven sites to UNESCO's World Heritage List.
- ❖ Four of the sites have been inscribed for their rich biodiversity. They are
 - Amami-Oshima Island, Tokunoshima Island, northern part of Okinawa Island, and Iriomote Island (Japan),
 - Getbol, Korean Tidal Flats (Republic of Korea),
 - Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex (Thailand) and
 - Colchic Rainforests and Wetlands (Georgia).
- ❖ The three cultural sites are the
 - Dutch Water Defence Lines;
 - Arslantepe Mound archaeological tell in Turkey; and
 - Colonies of Benevolence in Belgium and the Netherlands.

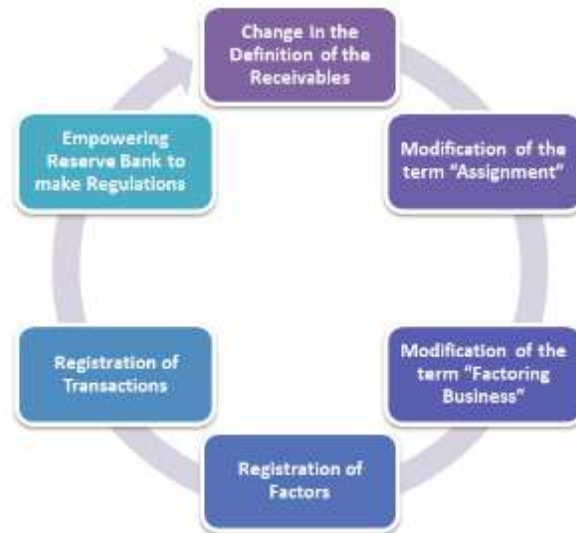
Triangular Cooperation for Global Development

- ❖ India and the US renewed for five years a global development partnership agreement to work together in African and Asian countries.
- ❖ They will work on key issues such as regional connectivity, clean energy and disaster risk reduction.
- ❖ The two countries signed the second amendment to the Statement of Guiding Principles on Triangular Cooperation for Global Development.
- ❖ The SGP agreement, originally inked in November 2014, provides a framework for development cooperation in third countries, especially in Asia and Africa.
- ❖ The second amendment to the SGP agreement extends the validity of the pact till September 2026.

The Factoring Regulation (Amendment) Bill

- ❖ The Bill that seeks to open up factoring business to non-bank lenders was passed in the parliament.
- ❖ The Bill will provide relief to micro, small and medium enterprises and help them, ensuring a smoother capital cycle and healthier cash flow.
- ❖ The current law on factoring business was enacted in 2011.
- ❖ It gave the Reserve Bank of India authority to allow non-bank finance companies to remain in factoring business only if it was their principal business.

- ❖ That is, more than half of assets were to be deployed and income earned from factoring business.
- ❖ The Bill removes this threshold.



Global tobacco epidemic report 2021

- ❖ The “WHO report on the global tobacco epidemic 2021: Addressing new and emerging products,” presented data on e-cigarettes and other ENDS for the first time.
- ❖ ENDS means electronic nicotine delivery systems.
- ❖ According to the report Tobacco kills more than 8 million people each year.
- ❖ More than 7 million of those deaths are the result of direct tobacco use.
- ❖ Around 1.2 million are the result of non-smokers being exposed to second-hand smoke.

Note

- ❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) recommended a complete ban on e-cigarettes and other ENDS.

Permanent Forum of People of African Descent

- ❖ UN General Assembly has approved a resolution to establish a Permanent Forum of People of African Descent.
- ❖ This permanent forum of people will provide expert advice in addressing the challenges of racism, xenophobia, racial discrimination and intolerance.
- ❖ Resolution was adopted by consensus by the 193-member world body.

- ❖ New forum will comprise of 10 members.
- ❖ Five will be elected by General Assembly from all regions.
- ❖ Five will be appointed by Human Rights Council in consultations with regional groups as well as organizations of people of African descent.

International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement - Germany

- ❖ Germany became the 5th country to sign the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement.
- ❖ This was made possible after amendments entered into force, opening the Membership of international solar alliance to all Member States of the United Nations.

Note

- ❖ Membership to the ISA was earlier limited to 121 countries.
- ❖ The countries were partially or entirely located within the tropics.
- ❖ This didn't allow major solar energy economies such as Germany to join the alliance.

Ebrahim Raisi

- ❖ Ebrahim Raisi was officially sworn in as the new president of Iran.
- ❖ He won the 2021 Iranian presidential election in June, with 62 per cent of the vote.
- ❖ The 60-year-old Raisi succeeds Hassan Rouhani.
- ❖ He is also been the Chief Justice of Iran since March 2019.



Forbes real-time billionaires list

- ❖ Louis Vuitton chairman Bernard Arnault has surpassed Amazon founder Jeff Bezos to become the world's richest person.
- ❖ This is according to Forbes real-time billionaires list.
- ❖ Tesla and SpaceX Chief Elon Musk is placed third.

DBS bank

- ❖ DBS has been honoured as the global winner for Most Innovative in Digital Banking by Financial Times publication, The Banker.
- ❖ The bank was also recognised as the Asia-Pacific winner and won in the Cyber Security category for its Secure Access and Remote Working Solution.
- ❖ DBS is named Asia's Best Bank & Asia's Best Digital Bank in the Euromoney Regional Awards.

Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

- ❖ Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) has been joined in by 25 countries and seven international organisations as member till date.
- ❖ Canada and Bangladesh are the new entrant to CDRI.
- ❖ Prime minister launched the CDRI on September 23, 2019 during his speech at the UN Climate Action Summit.
- ❖ Its primary objective is to promote research and knowledge sharing in fields of infrastructure risk management, financing, standards and recovery mechanisms.



Gilgit-Baltistan

- ❖ Pakistani authorities have finalised a law to award provisional provincial status to strategically located Gilgit-Baltistan.

- ❖ Gilgit-Baltistan is one of the disputed territories of India.
- ❖ It is a chunk of high-altitude territory located on the north western corner of the Union Territory of Ladakh.
- ❖ It is located strategically as it borders Pakistan, Afghanistan and China.
- ❖ The region is claimed by India as part of the erstwhile princely state of Jammu & Kashmir as it existed in 1947 at its accession to India.
- ❖ However, it has been under Pakistan's control since 4th November, 1947, following the invasion of Kashmir by tribal militias and the Pakistan army.
- ❖ Gilgit-Baltistan is an autonomous region now and after the bill is passed, it will become the 5th province of the country.
- ❖ Currently, Pakistan has four provinces namely Baluchistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, and Sindh.



SCO Meeting of Ministers of Justice

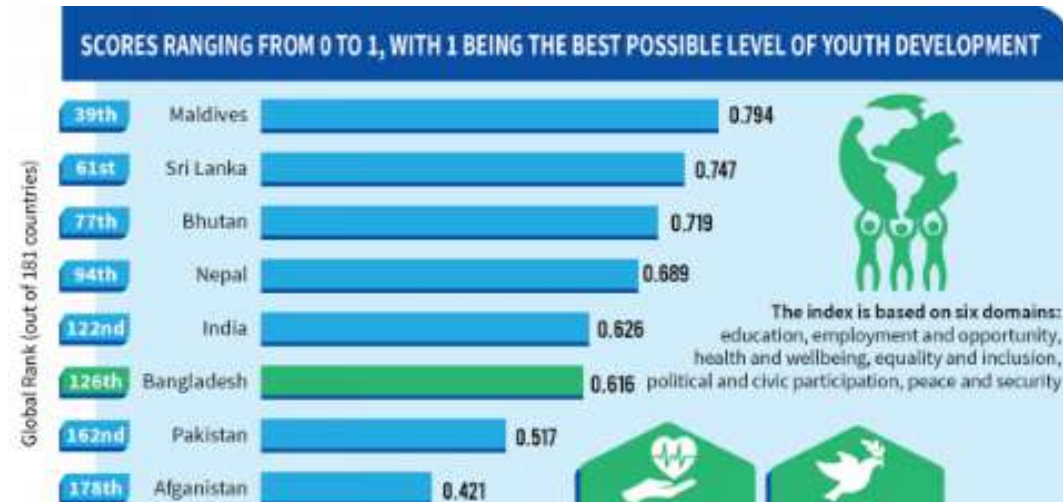
- ❖ The three days meeting was hosted by Tajikistan.
- ❖ It was chaired by Tajikistan's Justice Minister, MK Ashuriyon.
- ❖ The Ministers of (Law and) Justice and senior officials and experts from the Ministries of Law & Justice of 'India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan' participated in the meeting.
- ❖ The Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju has virtually attended the meeting.
- ❖ The Minister of State for Law & Justice, Prof SP Singh Baghel also attended the meeting.

Marburg virus disease

- ❖ The World Health Organization has confirmed the Marburg virus disease in southern Gueckedou prefecture, West Africa.

- ❖ Marburg virus is carried by bats and has a fatality rate of up to 88 per cent.
- ❖ Marburg is a highly virulent disease that causes haemorrhagic fever and is in the same family of viruses that cause Ebola.

Global Youth Development Index, 2020



- ❖ India was ranked at 122nd position among 181 countries in Global Youth Development Index, 2020.
- ❖ Commonwealth Secretariat released this triennial ranking of youth development for 181 countries.
- ❖ The index measures the status of young people among 181 countries across the world.
- ❖ Singapore was ranked at the top for the first time.
- ❖ It is followed by Slovenia, Norway, Malta and Denmark.
- ❖ Bottom countries in the index include Chad, Central African Republic, South Sudan, Afghanistan and Niger.

DABUS receives patent

- ❖ South Africa, first time in the world, has granted a patent to an 'artificial intelligence system'
- ❖ Patent is related to a "food container based on fractal geometry" to an artificial intelligence (AI) system called DABUS.
- ❖ DABUS (which stands for "device for the autonomous bootstrapping of unified sentience") is an AI system created by Stephen Thaler.

28th ASEAN Regional Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting

- ❖ The Minister of State for External Affairs, Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh led India's delegation to the 28th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Foreign Ministers Meeting.
- ❖ The Meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Brunei Darussalam.
- ❖ The ARF Ministers adopted a Joint Statement on Promoting the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Agenda.

Coronavirus innovation rankings



- ❖ India fell six spots to the 32nd place in the global coronavirus innovation rankings for countries.
- ❖ This is as per a report prepared by StartupBlink in association with Health Innovation Exchange, UNAIDS.
- ❖ The report features the top-ranked 40 countries and 100 cities in the world based on innovative solutions developed to face the pandemic.
- ❖ India has two cities featured - Bengaluru, 49th rank, New Delhi, 55th rank – among the top 100.
- ❖ India has 15 Covid-related innovations mapped this year. They include
 - four in 'prevention',
 - three in 'grants and support initiatives',

- one in 'information',
 - three in 'treatment' and
 - four in 'diagnostics.
- ❖ The US remains on top of the list.

Wolf-warrior diplomacy

- ❖ Recently the Chinese foreign ministry has taken an increasingly strident tone against the United States, Australia, and other countries.
- ❖ Dubbed as “wolf-warrior diplomacy,” this new approach seems popular inside China.
- ❖ It reinforces a presumed transition of Chinese diplomacy from conservative, passive, and low-key to assertive, proactive, and high-profile.
- ❖ Wolf Warrior and Wolf Warrior II are Chinese action blockbusters that highlight agents of Chinese special operation forces.
- ❖ Wolf-warrior diplomacy, named after these movies, describes offensives by Chinese diplomat to defend China’s national interests, often in confrontational ways.

SEACAT exercise

- ❖ The Indian Navy participated in the U.S. Navy-led Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) military exercise in Singapore.
- ❖ The main objective of SEACAT 2021 was to enhance the interoperability and shared maritime security concerns and preserve rules -based international order.
- ❖ This is the 20th edition of the exercise.
- ❖ SEACAT was held for the first time in 2002.



Taliban Forces in Kabul

- ❖ Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani tendered his resignation, as the government has surrendered to the Taliban forces.
- ❖ After this, Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani fled to Tajikistan.
- ❖ Afghan military troops surrendered the capital city, Kabul to the Taliban.
- ❖ Taliban leader Abdul Ghani Baradar is likely to be the new President of Afghanistan.



SAGO

- ❖ World Health Organization (WHO) has created a new advisory group.
- ❖ It is named The International Scientific Advisory Group for Origins of Novel Pathogens, or SAGO.
- ❖ The function of SAGO will be to systematically study the emergence of future emerging pathogens with pandemic potential, and advise the development in this regard to WHO.
- ❖ The group will also work towards finding the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Forum of the Election Management Bodies of South Asia

- ❖ 11th Annual meeting of the Forum of the Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA) for the year 2021 was inaugurated by Chief Election Commissioner of India & Chairman of FEMBoSA, Sushil Chandra.
- ❖ He was accompanied by the Election Commissioners Rajeev Kumar and A.C. Pandey.

- ❖ This virtual meeting was hosted by the Election Commission of Bhutan.
- ❖ Logo of the FEMBoSA with golden pearls stands for eternal values of democracy, transparency, impartiality and cooperation.
- ❖ FEMBoSA meeting was held under the theme of 'Use of Technology in Elections'.



Cooperation in remote sensing satellite data sharing

- ❖ BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) signed an agreement for cooperation in remote sensing satellite data sharing.
- ❖ The deal will enable building a virtual constellation of specified remote sensing satellites of BRICS space agencies and their respective ground stations will receive the data.
- ❖ The BRICS agreement was signed under India's Chairmanship of the bloc.

Vietnam consul office in India

- ❖ Vietnam opened its first-ever consul office in India in Bengaluru.
- ❖ It is appointed N.S Srinivasa Murthy as its consul.
- ❖ India is the 26th investment partner of Vietnam.
- ❖ Vietnam is India's fourth-largest trading partner in the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Colorado River basin - water shortage

- ❖ For the first time the federal government in the US declared a water shortage for the Colorado River basin due to a historic drought.
- ❖ Since the year 2000, this Colorado River Basin has been experiencing a prolonged drought.

- ❖ This persistent drought has led to lowering down of the water levels in the basin's reservoirs to meet the demand over the years.
- ❖ Lake Mead and Lake Powell are the two reservoirs at the centre of this water shortage.
- ❖ The Colorado river, which flows from the Rocky Mountains into southwestern US and into Mexico.
- ❖ The river is fed by snow melt from the Rocky and Wasatch mountains.



Changes in Afghanistan

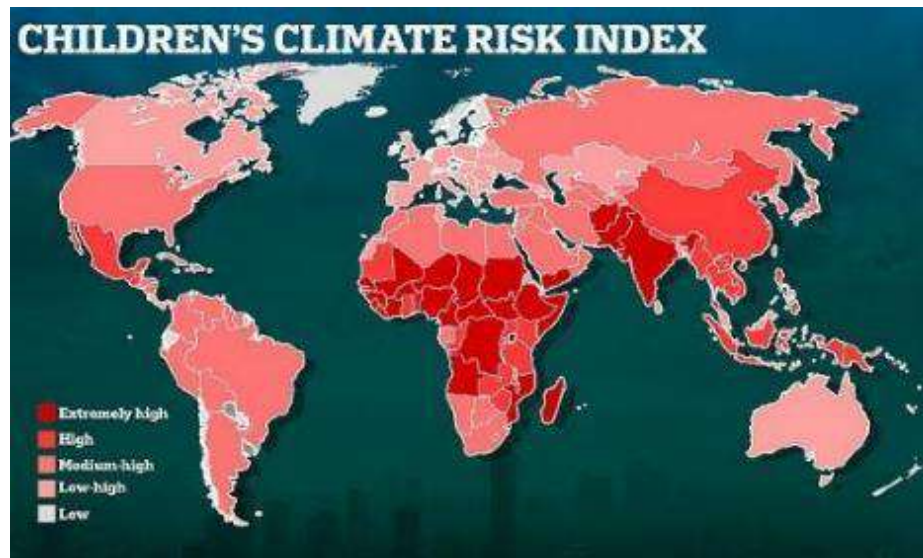
- ❖ Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, has been declared the new President of Afghanistan.
- ❖ The country's name has been changed to the "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan".
- ❖ The white flag with shahadah on it has been re-introduced.



Hunger in Afghanistan

- ❖ According to World Food Programme (WFP), people in Afghanistan are facing severe hunger.
- ❖ This is the second drought in three years that country is facing.
- ❖ This year, drought is combined with fighting.
- ❖ WFP is the food-assistance branch of United Nations.
- ❖ It is the world's largest humanitarian organization.
- ❖ It was founded in 1961 with its headquarter in Rome.

Children's Climate Risk Index



- ❖ 'The Climate Crisis Is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index' [CCRI] is released by UNICEF.
- ❖ It ranks countries based on children's exposure to climate and environmental shocks such as cyclones and heatwaves.
- ❖ Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and India are among four South Asian countries where children are at extremely high risk of the impacts of the climate crisis.
- ❖ They rank 14th, 15th, 25th and 26th respectively.
- ❖ CCRI has placed India as one of the 33 extremely high-risk countries with flooding and air pollution being the repeated environmental shocks leading to socio-economic adverse consequences for women and children.
- ❖ Twenty-one of the world's 30 cities with the most polluted air in 2020 were in India.

Covid antibody tests for children aged 3 - Israel

- ❖ Israel launched antibody testing for children aged three.
- ❖ This is in order to get the exact number of unvaccinated youths who have developed antibody against coronavirus.
- ❖ These tests were launched in the backdrop of opening up of schools.
- ❖ Israel already started vaccinating children aged 12 and above.

Tropical storm Henri



- ❖ Tropical Storm Henri has made its landfall near western Rhode Island recently.
- ❖ Rhode Island is a state in New England region of the United States.
- ❖ With respect to area, it is the smallest U.S. state.
- ❖ This is the first hurricane in 30 years to hit New England.

100% fossil-free hydrogen

- ❖ Swedish green steel venture HYBRIT, had made the 'world's first' customer delivery of steel produced without using coal.
- ❖ The steel was made using Hydrogen Breakthrough Ironmaking Technology.
- ❖ This technology uses 100% fossil-free hydrogen instead of coal and coke.
- ❖ The venture has started delivering the fossil-free steel to the Volvo Group as part of its trial run.



WEF'S Sustainable Development Impact Summit 2021

- ❖ The World Economic Forum's annual Sustainable Development Impact Summit will take place on September 20-23, 2021 in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly, the summit convenes under the theme "Shaping an Equitable, Inclusive and Sustainable Recovery".



Safe Cities Index 2021

- ❖ Copenhagen, the capital city of Denmark, has been named as the world's safest city from among 60 global cities in Safe Cities Index 2021.
- ❖ This index is released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).
- ❖ Yangon is at the bottom of the index.
- ❖ New Delhi is placed at 48th position and Mumbai is at 50th place.



Fatah-1

- ❖ Pakistan conducted a successful test flight of Fatah-1.
- ❖ Fatah-1 is a Pakistan-made guided multi-launch rocket system.
- ❖ Pakistani army had conducted a successful test launch of Shaheen 1-A, a medium-range ballistic missile, in March 2021.

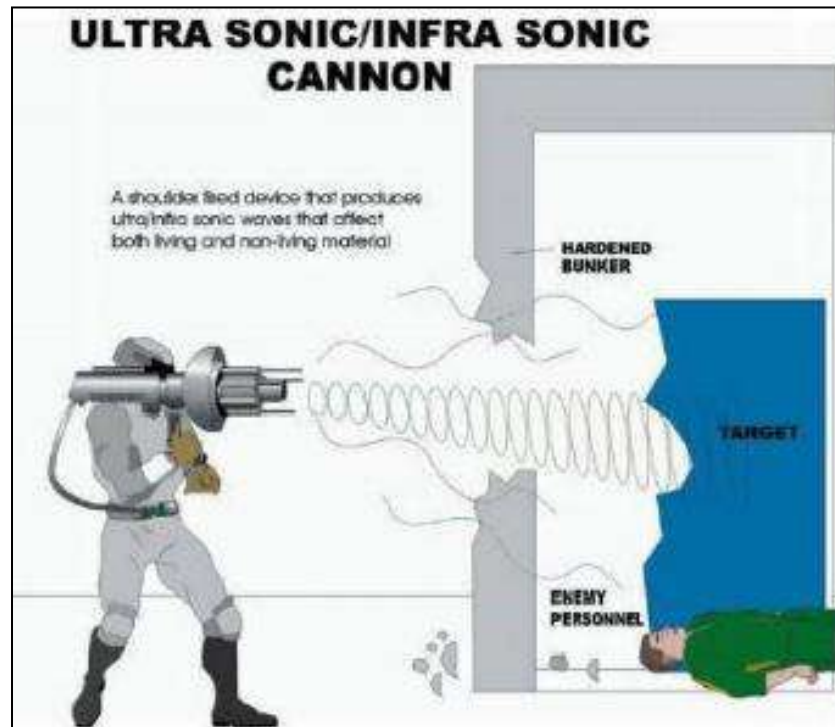
World's tallest observation wheel



- ❖ The world's largest and tallest observation wheel is set to be unveiled in Dubai, UAE.
- ❖ The observation wheel called as 'Ain Dubai', is 250 m (820 ft) in height, located at Bluewaters Island.
- ❖ The record-breaking wheel is taller than the current world's tallest observation wheel, High Roller, in Las Vegas.

Havana Syndrome

- ❖ Recently the mystery illness which is referred to as Havana Syndrome was found in Hanoi in Vietnam.
- ❖ Havana Syndrome was first reported in US diplomats who were stationed in Cuba in 2016.
- ❖ The US diplomats and other employees who stationed in Havana reported feeling ill after hearing strange sounds and experiencing odd physical sensations.
- ❖ Recently a report by the National Academies of Sciences (NAS) has found "directed" microwave radiation to be its "plausible" cause.

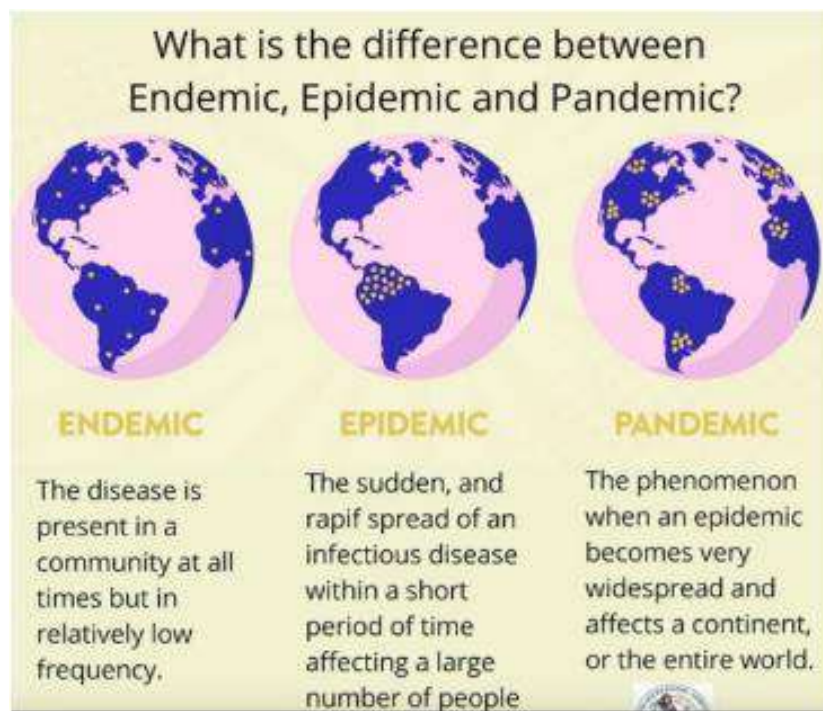


Covid-19 to Become Endemic

- ❖ The World Health Organization Chief Scientist, Dr. Soumya Swaminathan said that Covid-19 may be entering a stage where it will become endemic.
- ❖ This announcement means that some people will get infected but the levels at which it will circulate will be low to moderate, depending upon
 - Natural immunity,
 - Vaccine-induced immunity and
 - Geographical area's population
- ❖ A modelling study said that in a few years, SARS-CoV-2 may be no more virulent than the common cold.

Note

- ❖ Endemic refers to the constant presence and/or usual prevalence of a disease or infectious agent in a population within a geographic area.



ECONOMY

Retrospective Tax

- ❖ The Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, introduced a Bill in Parliament to nullify the provisions of Income Tax Act.
- ❖ This Bill will withdraw the retrospective amendments in the Income Tax Act of 1961 that raised demands on Vodafone, Cairn and some others.
- ❖ This bill seeks to attract foreign investments.
- ❖ As per the bill, no tax demand would be raised in future based on the retrospective amendment for any indirect transfer of Indian assets, in case transaction was undertaken before May 28, 2012.

WAS INTRODUCED IN MARCH 2012	
2007: Hutch sells 67% interest in Hutch Essar to Vodafone's Dutch affiliate through a Cayman Islands entity holding direct and indirect stake in the Indian company telco > I-T demands \$2.2bn capital gains as it involved Indian firm. Vodafone refuses to pay, says deal carried out offshore. Bombay HC rules for tax dept	Jan 2014: Tax probe against Cairn
Jan 2012: Supreme Court rules in favour of Vodafone March 2012: Govt introduces 'retro amendment' to tax laws	March 2015: Cairn begins international arbitration under India-UK investment treaty 2016: Vodafone seeks arbitration under India-Netherlands treaty Sept 2020: Vodafone wins arbitration award Dec 2020: Int'l tribunal rules in favour of Cairn, orders govt to refund \$1.4bn (with interest) 2021: Govt challenges rulings

Wealthiest village

- ❖ The residents of Madhapar village in Gujarat have a cumulative deposit of ₹ 5,000 crores in over 17 banks.
- ❖ With this Madhapar village in Gujarat is reportedly the wealthiest village globally.
- ❖ Madhapar is located in the Kutch district of Gujarat.

4th IT firm to hit Rs 3 trillion market-cap – HCL

- ❖ HCL Technologies' market capitalisation (market-cap) touched Rs 3 trillion for the first time.
- ❖ It became the fourth Indian information technology (IT) firm to achieve this milestone after Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Infosys and Wipro.
- ❖ HCL Tech is the third-largest Indian IT services company by revenue, after TCS and Infosys.

THE LEADERBOARD		
Rank	Name	Mcaps (₹ Trn)
1	Reliance Industries	14.23
2	TCS	12.81
3	HDFC Bank	8.44
4	Infosys	7.26
5	Hindustan Unilever	5.65
6	ICICI Bank	4.88
7	HDFC	4.88
8	State Bank of India	3.85
9	Bajaj Finance	3.71
10	Kotak Mahindra Bank	3.54
11	Bharti Airtel	3.50
12	Wipro	3.37
13	HCL Technologies	3.04
14	Asian Paints	2.87
15	ITC	2.60

Source: BSE, Collated by BS Research Bureau

m-cap - TCS



- ❖ Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) company has become the second Indian company to cross the market value of Rs 13 lakh crore.
- ❖ TCS has become the second company after Reliance.
- ❖ TCS is headquartered in Mumbai.

Financial inclusion index – RBI

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the formation of a composite Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) to capture the extent of financial inclusion across the country.

- ❖ The FI-Index for the period ended March 2021 stood at 53.9 compared with 43.4 for the period ended March 2017.

About the index

- ❖ The annual FI-Index will be published in July every year.
- ❖ The index incorporates details of banking, investments, insurance, postal as well as the pension sector in consultation with the government and respective sectoral regulators.
- ❖ The index captures information on various aspects of financial inclusion in a single value ranging between 0 and 100.
- ❖ Here 0 represents complete financial exclusion.
- ❖ 100 indicates full financial inclusion.
- ❖ It has been constructed without any 'base year'.

Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index)

- Introduced by RBI.
- Made without any 'base year'.
- Will be published annually in July every year.
- Its value ranges from 0 (complete financial exclusion) to 100 (full financial inclusion).
- Comprises of three parameters viz., Access (weightage 35%), Usage (weightage 45%) and Quality (weightage 20%).

Radhakishan Damani in Bloomberg Billionaires Index

- ❖ Billionaire promoter of the DMart chain of supermarkets, Radhakishan Damani has made it to the top 100 of the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.
- ❖ The Index ranks the world's top billionaires based on net worth.
- ❖ Damani ranks 98th on the list.

ICICI, StanChart and HSBC enter 'swaption' deals

- ❖ ICICI Bank cut India's first set of 'swaption' deals with HSBC and Standard Chartered Bank.
- ❖ It leads to a new era of risk management in the country's interest-rate derivatives market that needs to introduce world-class solutions to draw more overseas funds into local debt assets.

- ❖ The 'swaption' interest-rate derivative product should help both local borrowers and investors to rein in funding costs in a rising rate scenario and retain investment returns in a falling rate scenario.
- ❖ In June, 2019, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued guidelines for 'swaption' deals.

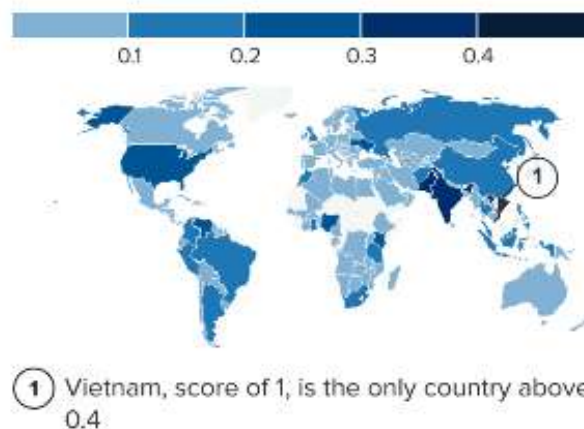
2021 Global Crypto Adoption Index

- ❖ India has ranked second in terms of crypto adoption worldwide behind Vietnam.
- ❖ This is according to the 2021 Global Crypto Adoption Index by blockchain data platform Chainalysis.
- ❖ Bitcoin is the most popular coin in India, followed by Ripple, Ethereum and Bitcoin Cash, according to the report.

The Chainalysis 2021 Global Crypto Adoption Index

Countries are scored on three metrics: Total crypto activity, trading activity of non-professional users, and peer-to-peer exchange trade volume. All are weighted by purchasing power parity per capita.

Countries are scored on a scale of 0 to 1.



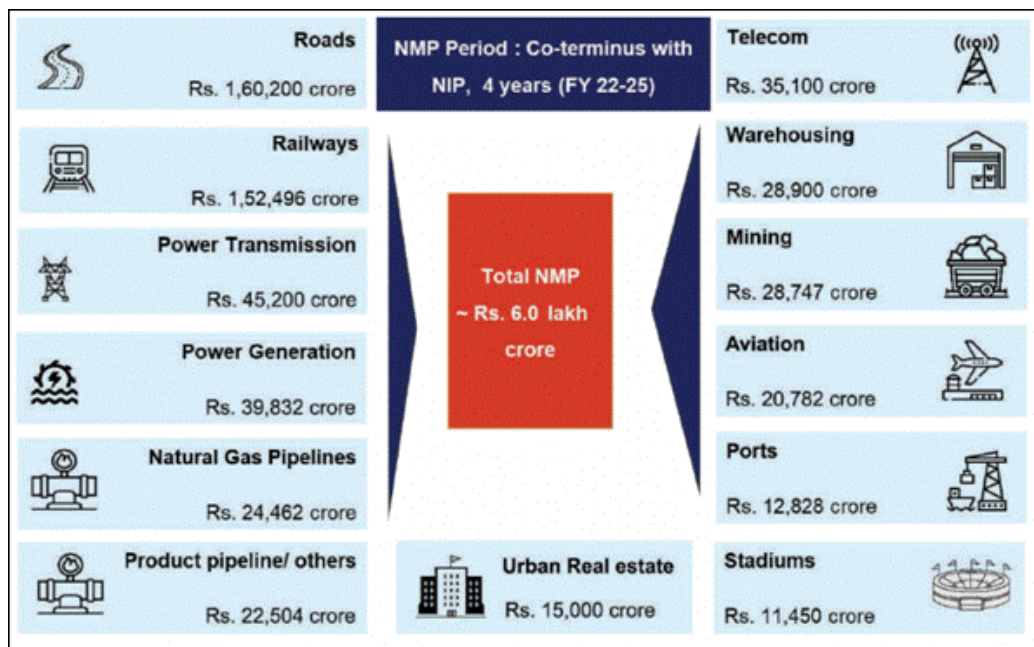
Cybersecurity Multi-Donor Trust Fund

- ❖ The World Bank announced the launch of a new Cybersecurity Multi-Donor Trust Fund under the broader Digital Development Partnership (DDP) umbrella program.
- ❖ The new fund aims to better define and systematically roll out the cybersecurity development agenda.

- ❖ This helps to ensure a more substantial reflection of cybersecurity considerations across World Bank programs and financing.
- ❖ The launch of the Trust Fund is made possible with donor contributions from Estonia, Germany, Japan, and the Netherlands.

National Monetization pipeline

- ❖ The Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the National Monetisation pipeline.
- ❖ It efforts to list out the government's infrastructure assets to be sold over the next four-years.
- ❖ The NMP comprises a four-year pipeline of the government's brownfield infrastructure assets.
- ❖ In the Union Budget 2021-22, the government laid a lot of emphasis on asset monetisation as a means to raise innovative and alternative financing for infrastructure, and included a number of key announcements.



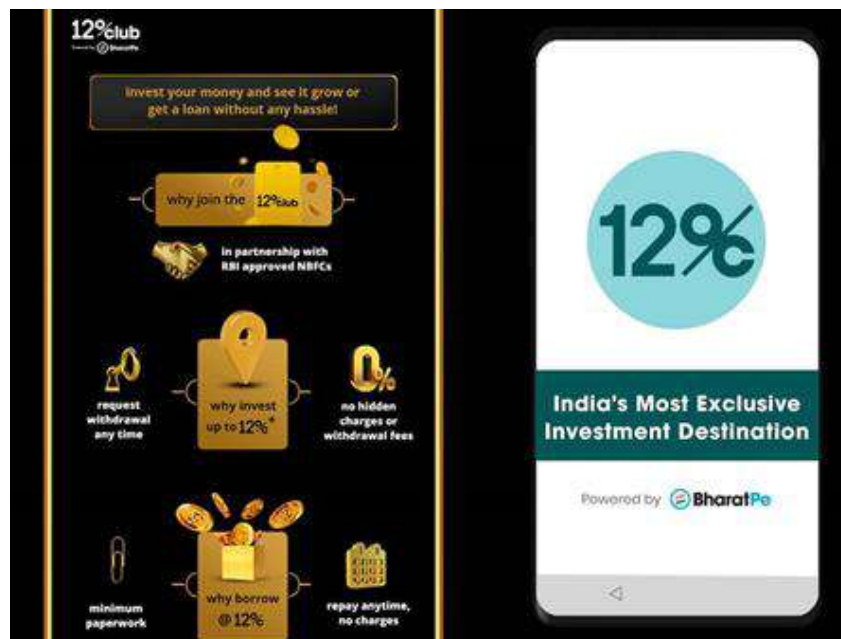
Infosys crosses \$100 billion m-cap

- ❖ The shares of Information Technology major, Infosys crossed \$100 billion in market capitalisation.
- ❖ Infosys is the fourth Indian company to achieve this milestone.
- ❖ Reliance Industries, Tata Consultancy Services and HDFC Bank are the other Indian firms in the club with Infosys.



BharatPe - new app

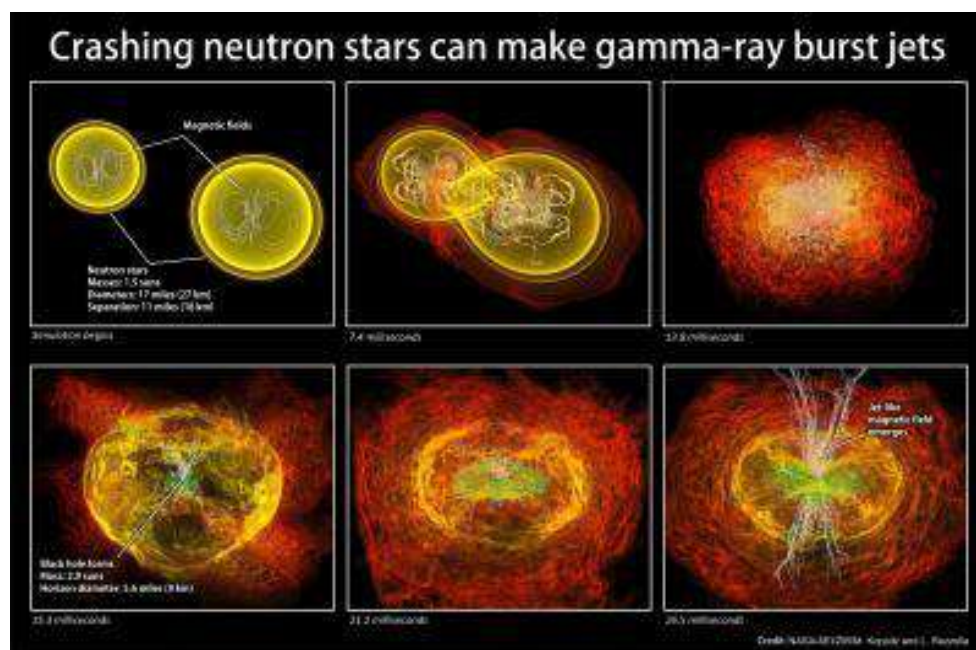
- ❖ BharatPe has launched a “12% Club” app.
- ❖ The app that will allow consumers to invest and earn up to 12 per cent annual interest or borrow at a similar rate.
- ❖ BharatPe has partnered with LenDenClub (RBI-approved NBFC) for this app and lending arrangement.
- ❖ Consumers can invest their savings anytime by choosing to lend money on the “12% Club” app.
- ❖ Apart from this, consumers can avail of collateral-free loans of up to Rs 10 lakh on the 12 per cent Club app for tenure of 3 months.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Short gamma-ray bursts

- ❖ A group of astronomers, including from India, has detected a very short, powerful burst of high-energy radiation.
- ❖ It lasted for about a second.
- ❖ It had been racing towards the earth for nearly half the present age of the universe.
- ❖ The burst detected by NASA's Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope turned out to be the shortest gamma-ray burst (GRB) caused by the death of a massive star.



World's first reprogrammable commercial satellite

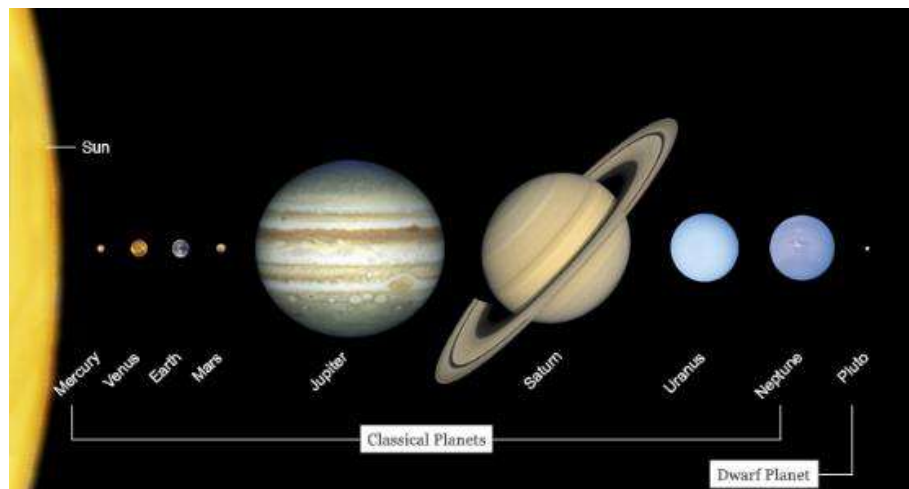
- ❖ The European Space Agency is all set to launch the world's first commercial fully re-programmable satellite.
- ❖ It is called the Eutelsat Quantum.
- ❖ The Quantum will be launched from the Guiana Space Centre in Latin America as a part of the payload for an Ariane 5 rocket.
- ❖ The Eutelsat Quantum has been developed under an ESA Partnership Project with satellite operator Eutelsat and manufacturer Airbus.
- ❖ The Quantum will offer coverage for a large geographical area ranging from Asia to West Africa for 15 years.



NISAR Satellite

- ❖ The ISRO-NASA joint mission NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite, aimed at making global measurement of land surface changes using advanced radar imaging, is proposed to be launched in early 2023.
- ❖ It is a dual-band (L-band and S-band) radar imaging mission.
- ❖ It could observe minor changes in land, vegetation and cryosphere.
- ❖ NASA is developing L-band SAR and associated systems.
- ❖ ISRO is developing S-band SAR, spacecraft bus, the launch vehicle and associated launch services.
- ❖ NISAR is one of the crucial collaborations of the ISRO and NASA.
- ❖ India and the U.S. had agreed upon this mission during then-President Barack Obama's visit to India in 2015.

Saturn and Earth





- ❖ Saturn and Earth were closest to each other on August 2, 2021.
- ❖ The event happens every year when both the planets are closest while revolving in their own orbital path around the sun.
- ❖ In scientific terms, this phenomenon is called Opposition.

Water molecules on the moon's surface

- ❖ ISRO's Chandrayaan-2 orbiter has detected water molecules on the moon's surface.
- ❖ There was widespread lunar hydration and unambiguous detection of OH and H₂O signatures on the moon between 29 degrees north and 62 degrees north latitude.
- ❖ The findings were published in Current Science Journal.
- ❖ According to the researchers, the formation of hydroxyl or water molecules occurs due to a process called space weathering.
- ❖ Space weathering happens when the solar winds blow over the lunar surface.

New method to identify proteins in the living brain

- ❖ Researchers, for the first time, have come up with a new and successful approach to identify the proteins inside different types of neurons in the brain of a living animal.
- ❖ The new study was led by North western University and the University of Pittsburgh.

Note

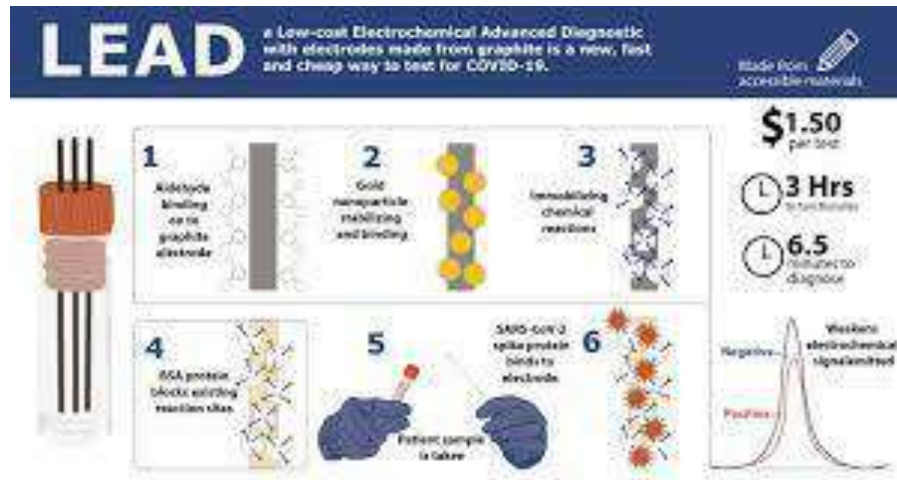
- ❖ Researchers in the new study designed a virus to send an enzyme to a precise location in the brain of a living mouse.
- ❖ The enzyme, derived from soybeans, genetically tagged its neighbouring proteins in a predetermined location.
- ❖ This technique took a snapshot of the entire set of proteins inside the living neurons, which can then be analysed post-mortem with mass spectroscopy.

Covid Test using Pencil Lead

- ❖ Researchers from University of Pennsylvania in US have developed a new cheaper, faster and more accurate Covid diagnostic test.
- ❖ It uses electrodes made from graphite to test the SARS CoV-2 Virus.
- ❖ It is the material found in pencil lead.

Graphite

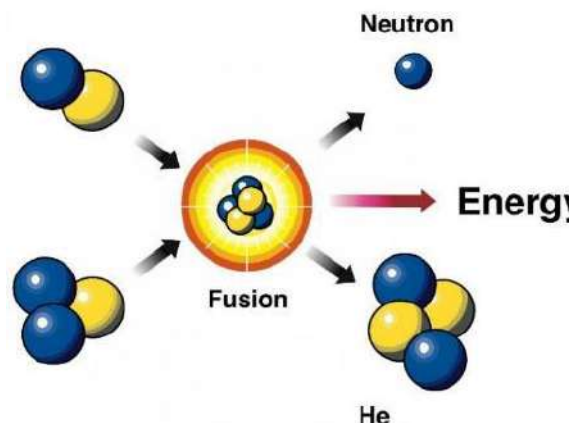
- ❖ Graphite is a crystalline form of element carbon.
- ❖ In Graphite, atoms of carbon are arranged in a hexagonal structure.
- ❖ Graphite is also called as plumbago.



Origin of asteroid that killed dinosaurs

- ❖ The asteroid that was responsible to wipe out the dinosaurs from the face of the Earth had hit near Mexico.
- ❖ The large rocky object is dubbed as Chicxulub impactor.
- ❖ The mass extinction of dinosaurs and several other species took place 66 million years ago.
- ❖ It has come to be widely accepted as the end of the Mesozoic era.

Historic Nuclear Fusion





- ❖ Physicists in California, using lasers the size of three football fields, have generated a huge amount of energy from fusion.
- ❖ This offers hope for the development of a new clean energy source.
- ❖ In this experiment, scientists used two isotopes of hydrogen, giving rise to helium.

Intersection of COVID-19 & Tuberculosis pandemics - study

- ❖ The Ministry of Science and Technology, India informed that a consortium of researchers and doctors from Brazil, Russia, India, and South Africa have partnered to conduct a study on the epidemiological impact and intersection of Tuberculosis and COVID pandemic in these countries.
- ❖ Brazil, India, Russia, and South Africa currently rank 2nd to 5th in the number of cases of Coronavirus.
- ❖ These countries also belong to 24 nations that are recognized by the World Health Organisation with the highest burden of Tuberculosis in the world.
- ❖ Moreover, BRICS countries have the largest number of cases of drug-resistant tuberculosis.

Asteroid 2016 AJ193

- ❖ A huge asteroid fled past Earth very closely on August 21, 2021.
- ❖ The asteroid, named 2016 AJ193, is reportedly is rushing inward towards the sun in its 5.91-year orbit.
- ❖ The asteroid was classified as a Potentially Hazardous Asteroid by NASA/JPL but there is no risk of impact.

Solar-Driven Change traced on moon

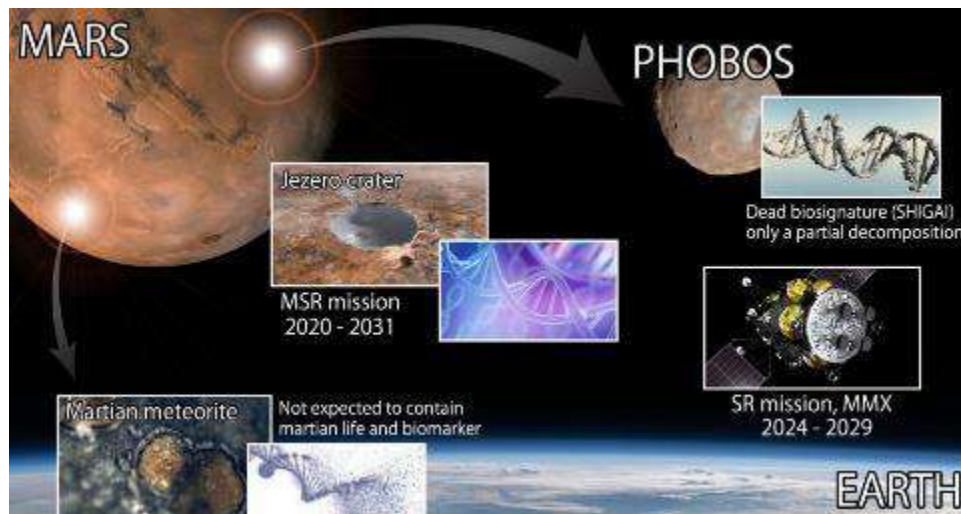
- ❖ A study led by scientists at Northern Arizona University has highlighted clues to help in understanding the active lunar surface.
- ❖ In the study, tiny iron-nanoparticles were found naturally on the Earth and have been found everywhere on the moon.
- ❖ The Researchers have found that solar radiation is the more significant source of lunar iron nanoparticles than it was earlier thought.

Note

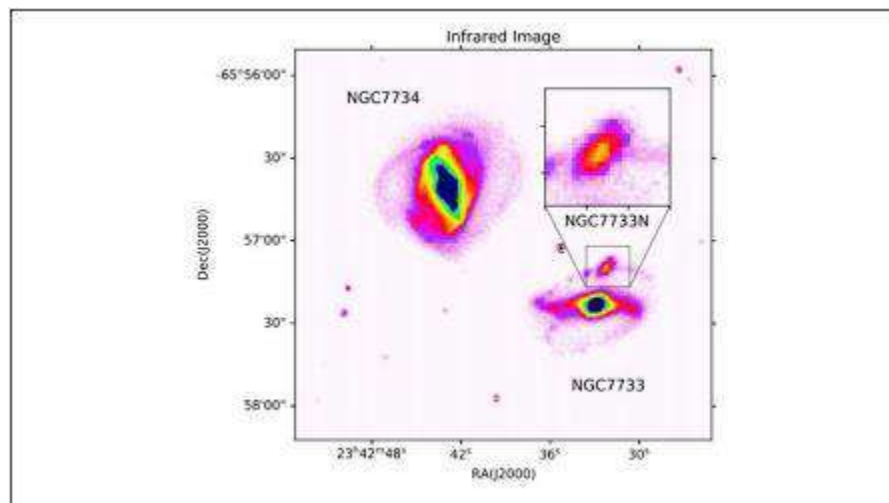
- ❖ Asteroids as well as solar radiation break down the lunar rocks and soil, which form iron nanoparticles.
- ❖ These nanoparticles are detectable from the instruments on satellites orbiting around the moon.

JAXA's Aim to Bring Mars Samples Soon

- ❖ Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) has planned to bring soil samples from the Mars ahead of the US and China.
- ❖ JAXA plans to launch an explorer in 2024 to land on Phobos.
- ❖ This is to collect 10 grams of soil and bring it back to Earth in 2029.
- ❖ Phobos is a Martian moon.
- ❖ By studying Phobos soil samples including material from Mars, scientists hope to learn about the evolution of the Martian biosphere.



Merger of three black holes spotted



- ❖ A rare merging of three supermassive black holes has been spotted by a team of astrophysicists in India.
- ❖ All three merging black holes were part of galaxies in the Toucan constellation.

- ❖ The discovery was made using data from the
 - Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (UVIT) onboard the first Indian space observatory ASTROSAT,
 - European integral field optical telescope called MUSE mounted on the Very Large Telescope (VLT) in Chile and
 - Infrared images from the optical telescope (IRSF) in South Africa.

Quantum Computer Simulator Toolkit

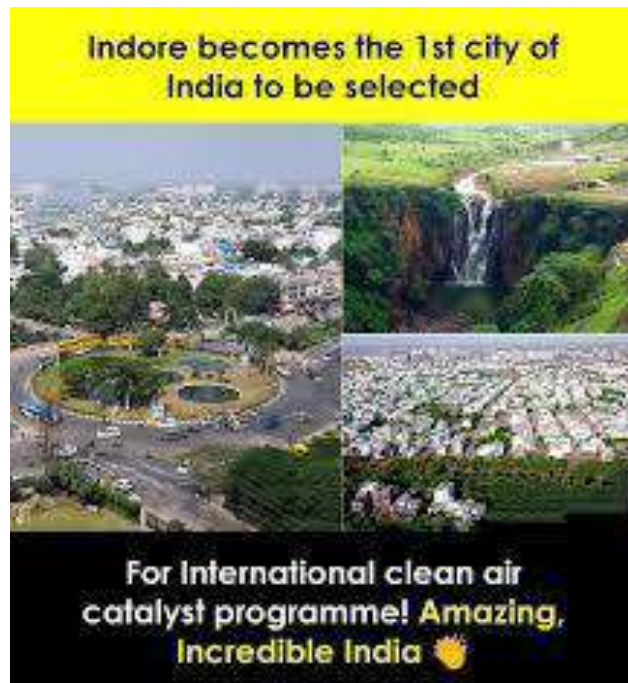
- ❖ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has launched the India's first 'Quantum Computer Simulator (QSim) Toolkit'.
- ❖ QSim is the first-of-its-kind toolkit, indigenously developed in India.
- ❖ It meant to be a vital tool of learning and understanding the practical aspects of programming with the help of Quantum Computers.
- ❖ This toolkit has been developed jointly by scientists of IIT Roorkee, C-DAC and IISc Bangalore.
- ❖ It was developed with the support and funding of MeitY.



ENVIRONMENT

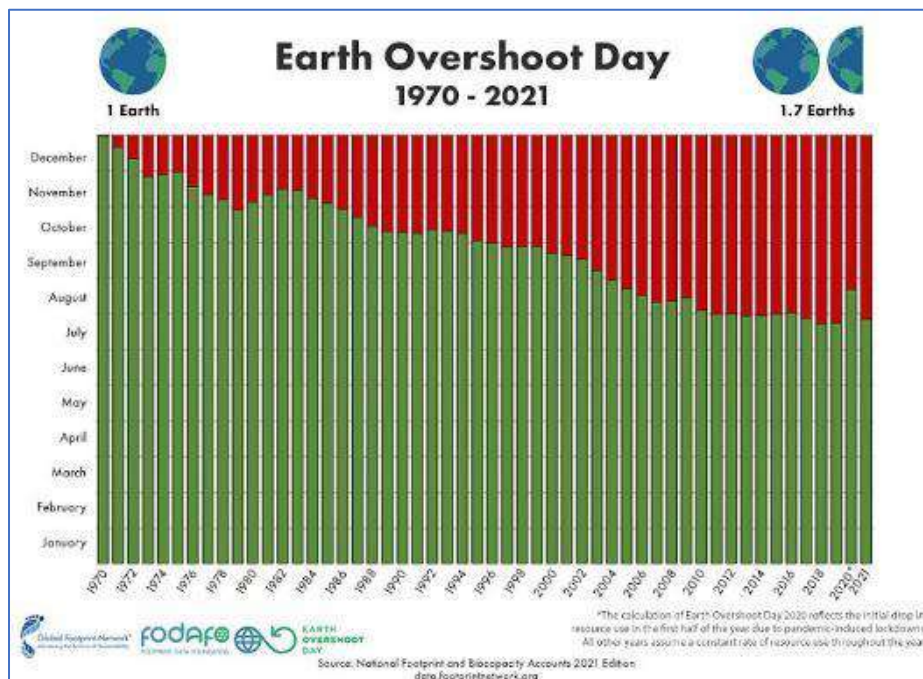
International Clean Air Catalyst Programme - Indore

- ❖ The Indore city of Madhya Pradesh, or the cleanest city of India, has become the only city from the country to be selected for International Clean Air Catalyst Programme.
- ❖ The project will be operated for a period of five years.
- ❖ This is to purify the air in the city with the cooperation of Indore Municipal Corporation and Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board.



Earth Overshoot Day, 2021

- ❖ Earth Overshoot Day 2021 happened on July 29, almost a month earlier than the year before.
- ❖ It was pushed forward because emissions are on the rise and biodiversity loss is speeding up.
- ❖ The date is announced annually by the Global Footprint Network.
- ❖ Each year, Earth Overshoot Day marks the date when we have used all the biological resources that the Earth can renew during the entire year.
- ❖ The concept of Earth Overshoot Day was first conceived by Andrew Simms.



E-waste Generation

- ❖ In the year 2020, India's e waste generated is 31.6% more when compared to the previous year.
- ❖ Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Environment, Forests and Climate Change relayed this information in the Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ The Environment Ministry of India has notified 21 types of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) which are to be considered as e-waste.

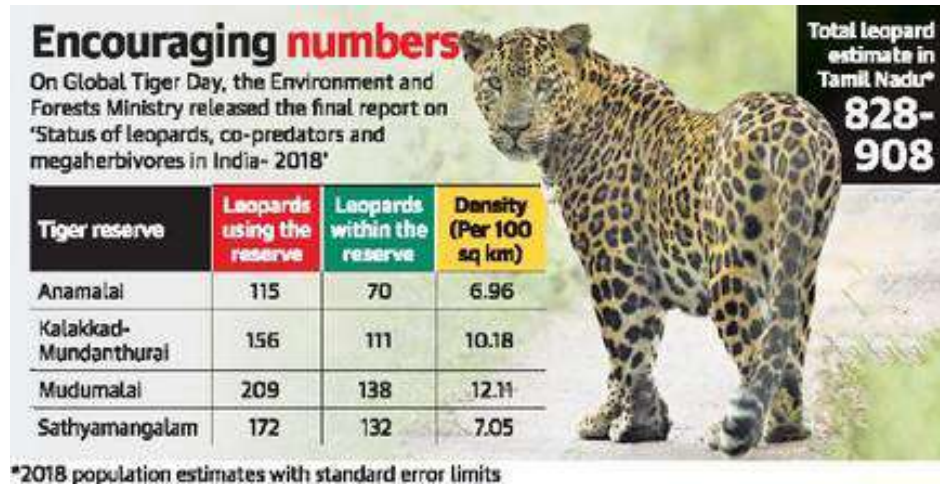
Status of Leopards, Co-predators and Megaherbivores - 2018

- ❖ Union Environment Ministry has released a new report titled-Status of Leopards, Co-predators and Megaherbivores-2018.
- ❖ The report was released on July 29, 2021 - World Tiger Day.
- ❖ As per the report
 - India's official leopard count has increased 63 per cent from 2014-2018.
 - The largest number of leopards have been estimated in Madhya Pradesh followed by Karnataka and Maharashtra.

About

- ❖ Scientific Name- Panthera pardus.
- ❖ Listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

- ❖ Included in Appendix I of CITES.
- ❖ Listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.
- ❖ Nine subspecies of the leopard have been recognized.
- ❖ They are distributed across Africa and Asia.



Thailand bans Coral-Damaging Sunscreens

- ❖ Thailand has banned sunscreens comprising of chemicals that damage coral from all of its marine national parks.
- ❖ According to Thai Department of Conservation, four ingredients found in sun creams were destroying coral larvae, obstruct coral reproduction and cause reef bleaching.
- ❖ Banned lotions comprises of oxybenzone, octinoxate, 4-methylbenzylidene camphor or butylparaben.
- ❖ Similar bans have been put by Pacific Island of Palau and the US state of Hawaii.

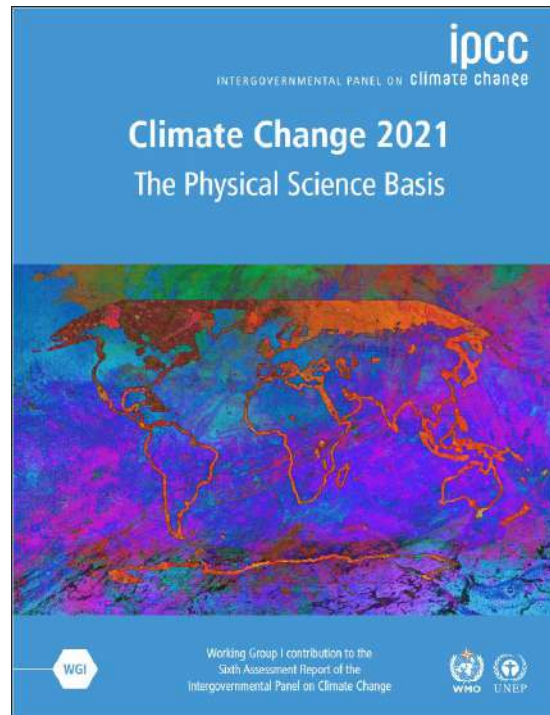
Oxfam's Report

- ❖ Oxfam has recently released a new report titled "Tightening the Net".
- ❖ It said that 'net-zero' carbon targets announced by many countries may be a dangerous distraction from the priority of cutting carbon emissions.
- ❖ It says that about 1.6 billion hectares of new forests would be required to remove the world's excess carbon emissions by 2050.
- ❖ To limit global warming below 1.5°C and prevent irreversible damage from climate change, the world should cut emissions by 45% by 2030 from 2010 levels.
- ❖ Currently, countries plans to cut emissions will only lead to a 1% reduction by 2030.

Cyclones over Arabian Sea More Frequent - IMD Study

- ❖ IMD Study based on 50-year dataset (1970-2019) of extreme weather events has shown that there has been an increased occurrence of extreme weather events, including severe cyclonic storms in recent decades.
- ❖ There has been a significant rise in mean temperature across the globe.
- ❖ Analysing the past data of cyclones over the North Indian Ocean (Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea) during the period 1891–2020 shows that the frequency of extremely severe cyclonic storms has
 - Increased in recent few years over the Arabian Sea since 1990, and
 - Remained the same over the Bay of Bengal.

Climate Change 2021 Report



- ❖ A new report was released by the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate (IPCC) recently.
- ❖ It has pressed the red alert on global climate change and the impact it will have on communities across the world.
- ❖ The report, called the Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis, is the sixth such assessment report published by the IPCC since its inception in 1988.
- ❖ The most stark finding of the report is the fact that global temperatures are expected to rise by 1.5-2 degree Celsius from the pre-industrial age in less than 20 years.



- ❖ The report is the first IPCC report to predict regional effects of climate change.
- ❖ For India "extreme heatwaves" are the first challenge.
- ❖ Floods caused by extreme rainfall are also set to increase across South Asia and India.

HouseFresh report

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad was adjudged the second most polluted city out of the 50 'most polluted cities' in the world in 2020.
- ❖ This data was given by a report prepared by British company HouseFresh.
- ❖ The Chinese city of Hotan in Xinjiang province has been named the most polluted city.
- ❖ According to the report, Bangladesh was the most polluted country across the world in 2020.
- ❖ Judbury in Australia bagged the top position in the list of cities with the cleanest air.

Kigali Amendment

- ❖ Recently, India has ratified the Kigali Amendment to the 1989 Montreal Protocol for protection of the ozone layer.
- ❖ Despite being one of the main architects of the Kigali Amendment, India was the last major country to announce its decision to ratify it.
- ❖ Kigali Amendment, negotiated in Rwanda (2016), to the Montreal Protocol is for phasing out hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).
- ❖ Under this amendment, countries agreed to include HFCs in the list of controlled substances under Montreal Protocol.
- ❖ Under the Kigali Amendment, current HFC use has to be curtailed by 85% before 2050.
- ❖ India has to achieve this target by 2047.
- ❖ The developed countries have to do it by 2036.
- ❖ China has a target of 2045.

Rain at Greenland Summit

- ❖ For the 1st time on record, the summit of Greenland received rain and not snow, just as temperatures at the spot went above freezing for the 3rd time in less than 10 years.

- ❖ As per the US National Snow and Ice Data Center, this was the heaviest rainfall that the Greenland received since record keeping began in 1950.

Note

- ❖ Greenland is the world's largest island between the Arctic and Atlantic Oceans.
- ❖ Three-quarters of its surface is covered with a permanent ice sheet.

Animal Discoveries 2020

- ❖ It is a document published recently by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).
- ❖ It reveals that 557 new species have been added to India's fauna in 2020.
- ❖ It includes 407 new species and 150 new records.
- ❖ The number of faunal species in India has climbed to 1,02,718 species.



Some added species

- ❖ *Trimeresurus salazar*, a new species of green pit viper discovered from Arunachal Pradesh,
- ❖ *Lycodon deccanensis*, the Deccan wolf snake discovered from Karnataka,
- ❖ *Sphaerotheca Bengaluru*, a new species of burrowing frog named after the city of Bengaluru,
- ❖ *Xyrias anjaalai*, a new deep-water species of snake eel from Kerala,
- ❖ *Glyptothorax giudikyensis*, a new species of catfish from Manipur,
- ❖ *Clyster galateansis*, a new species of scarab beetles from the Great Nicobar Biosphere,
- ❖ *Myotis cf. frater*, a bat species has been reported for the first time from Uttarakhand in India,
- ❖ *Zoothera citrina gibsonhilli*, an orange-headed thrush was reported for the first time from the Narcondam Island in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

STATES

Export of Raja Mircha



- ❖ Over 250 kilograms of Raja Mircha, was exported to London from Nagaland.
- ❖ Raja Mircha is also known as Naga King Chilli.
- ❖ It is the first such export from Nagaland.
- ❖ Raja Mircha got Geographical Indication certification in 2008.
- ❖ It constantly figures in the top five on the list of the world's hottest chillies based on Scoville Heat Units.

Pink Protection project

- ❖ The Kerala Police launched a new initiative called the Pink Protection project.
- ❖ This project is for the protection of women in public, private and digital spaces.
- ❖ The Pink Protection project aims to prevent dowry-related issues, cyber-bullying & humiliation in public places.



Devaranya scheme

- ❖ In order to promote AYUSH in Madhya Pradesh and to link it with employment, the government has made the 'Devaranya' scheme.
- ❖ The scheme has been made to provide employment to the people living in the tribal areas of the state.
- ❖ A complete value chain for the production of AYUSH medicines will be developed in the state through Devaranya Yojana.
- ❖ Self-help groups will also play an important role in this work.

Krishikarna project

- ❖ The Mini polyhouse which is a kind of greenhouse will be built under the "Krishikarna" project.
- ❖ It is launched in Kerala.
- ❖ It is a joint initiative of the National Society for Agricultural Horticulture, the Sustainability Foundation and Qore3 Innovations.

Odisha plans DNA profiling for leopards

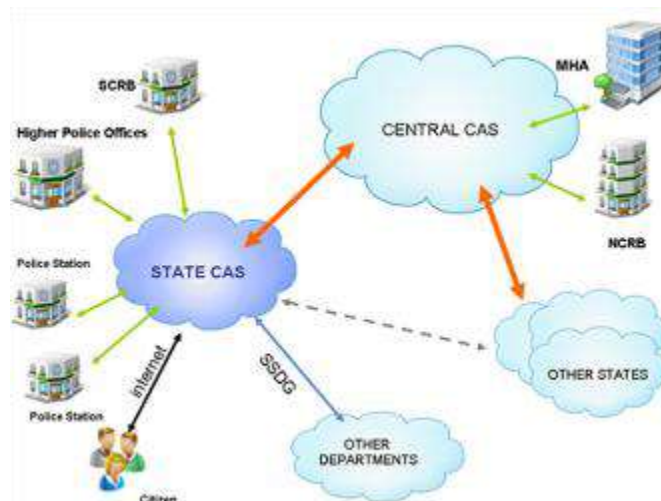
- ❖ Odisha's Forest and Environment Department has decided to do DNA profiling of the leopards in the state.
- ❖ The exercise will help ascertain and trace the origin in case of deaths of the leopards, after the skin and other organs from poachers and traders are seized.
- ❖ The system will strengthen the fight against wildlife crimes, especially poaching of leopards.

Twin road tunnel

- ❖ One side of Kerala's first twin road tunnel, the Kuthiran tunnel on the Thrissur-Palakkad highway, was opened recently.
- ❖ This is the first road tunnel in the state.
- ❖ It will drastically improve connectivity to Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
- ❖ The 1.6 km long tunnel is designed through Peechi-Vazahani wildlife sanctuary.



Crime and criminal tracking network system



- ❖ Haryana has secured first position in crime and criminal tracking network system (CCTNS) with 100 per cent marks in the country.
- ❖ Gujarat has secured the second position.
- ❖ Himachal Pradesh is in third position.

SKOCH awards - West Bengal

- ❖ The government of West Bengal has received four SKOCH awards for its schemes under the Ease of Doing Business initiative.
- ❖ The State scheme 'Silpasathi' - the online single window portal won the platinum award.
- ❖ The Auto-Renewal of Certificate of Enlistment through the online system for urban areas has received the gold award.
- ❖ Online issuance of trade licences in rural areas and the E-Nathikaran have won two silver awards.



Rajiv Gandhi award for IT sector

- ❖ Maharashtra government has announced a new award named after the former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- ❖ The award is given for outstanding performance in the Information and Technology (IT) sector.
- ❖ The Rajiv Gandhi Award in Maharashtra will be given to institutes doing remarkable work in the field of information technology.

**Maharashtra
government announces
Rajiv Gandhi award for
IT sector**

India's first water plus city

- ❖ India's cleanest city, Indore, has now been declared as India's first water plus city under the Swachh Survekshan 2021.
- ❖ Indore City received this certification from central government.
- ❖ This certification is provided for maintaining cleanliness in rivers and drains.
- ❖ Swachh Survekshan was launched under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.



Forest Resource Rights in Urban Region

- ❖ Chhattisgarh became the first state to recognise Community Forest Resource Rights in an urban area.
- ❖ The state government recognised the rights of residents of Dhamtari district over 4,127 hectares of forests.
- ❖ Under Forest Rights Act, 2006, Community Forest Resource Right gives gram Sabha the right to protect, regenerate or conserve or manage any forest resources used by the entire community, or village.

Color-coded system - Covid tackling

- ❖ The Government of Delhi imposed a Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in order to control any rise in fresh Coronavirus cases in the city.
- ❖ The Color-coded Graded Response Action Plan in Delhi will prevent the administrative delays in announcing the preventive measures.
- ❖ Restrictions by the government have been classified under Yellow, Amber, Orange, and Red alerts.
- ❖ Yellow is the lowest level of alert.
- ❖ Red will be the highest bringing the city under a complete lockdown.



Assam Cattle Preservation Bill, 2021

- ❖ The Assam Cattle Preservation Bill, 2021 was passed in the Assam State Assembly recently.
- ❖ It seeks to regulate the slaughter, consumption and transportation of cattle.
- ❖ The law will prohibit a person from slaughtering cattle without obtaining the necessary certificate from a registered veterinary officer of a particular area.
- ❖ The term 'cattle' will apply to bulls, bullocks, cows, heifer, calves, male and female buffaloes and buffalo calves.

First Drone Forensic Lab and Research Center

- ❖ India's first Drone Forensic Lab and Research Centre has come up in Kerala.
- ❖ Cyberdome is a technological research and development centre of the Kerala Police Department.

- ❖ The centre will help in keeping a watch over unauthorized drones and also for the production of drones for the use of the police force.
- ❖ This lab-cum-research centre will look into both utility and threat aspects of a drone.

Patriots' Day - Manipur

- ❖ Manipur observed Patriots' Day on August 13 in memory of heroes who laid down their lives for the protection of Manipur's independence.
- ❖ Tikendrajit and Thangal, who were lodged in jail, were brought out on August 13, 1891, for being hanged in public at a spot near the polo ground.
- ❖ Manipur has been observing the day of the public hanging as Patriots' Day.



Gene Bank - New Delhi

- ❖ The union minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar has inaugurated the world's second-largest refurbished National Gene Bank.
- ❖ It was inaugurated at the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, Pusa, New Delhi.
- ❖ The refurbished state-of-the-art National Gene Bank provides the facility for germplasm, to secure the heritage of seeds for years in minus 20 degrees Celsius temperature.

Smart Health Cards - Odisha

- ❖ Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced Smart Health Cards for people in the state.
- ❖ The smart health cards have been announced under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana.
- ❖ The initiative aims to transform the health service delivery system of not only the state but also create history in the health sector of the Country.

- ❖ The smart health cards will enable each family to avail treatment up to Rs 5 lakh per annum.
- ❖ The women members of the family will be able to avail the benefit up to Rs 10 lakh every year.
- ❖ Odisha is the first state in the country to provide this kind of Smart Health Cards to the people.



Aligarh as Harigarh

- ❖ The Zila Panchayat Parishad of Aligarh passed a resolution seeking to rename Aligarh as Harigarh.
- ❖ The proposal was passed unanimously by the newly elected district panchayat in its first meeting.
- ❖ The proposal has now been sent to the Uttar Pradesh government, which will take the final decision.

Note

- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh government has already changed the name of several places.
- ❖ They include,
 - Faizabad to Ayodhya,
 - Allahabad to Prayagraj and
 - Mughalsarai to Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Nagar.

Life of a prisoner

- ❖ Belagavi's Hindalga Central Prison authorities (Karnataka) have come up with a novel initiative where commoners will be allowed to live a prisoner's life for 24 hours.
- ❖ The tourism concept, 'A Day in the life of a prisoner'.
- ❖ The Prison authorities are now awaiting the government's nod to implement the initiative.

Three Water Plus cities in Andhra Pradesh

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs awarded three cities from Andhra Pradesh with 'Water Plus' certification under the Swachh Bharat Mission and Swachh Survekshan assessment.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh has now become the first state to have more than one 'Water Plus' certified city.
- ❖ The three cities awarded are,
 - Greater Vishakhapatnam Municipal Corporation,
 - Vijayawada Municipal Corporation and
 - Tirupathi Municipal Corporation.
- ❖ A total of nine cities across India were awarded 'Water Plus' certification.



Wanchuwa Festival in Assam



- ❖ Tiwa tribesmen perform their traditional dance as they take part in Wanchuwa Festival in Assam.
- ❖ This festival is celebrated by Tiwa tribesmen to mark their good harvest.
- ❖ Tiwa is also known as Lalung is an indigenous community inhabiting the states of Assam and Meghalaya.
- ❖ They are also found in some parts of Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur.
- ❖ They are recognized as a Scheduled tribe within the state of Assam.
- ❖ They practice Jhum or shifting cultivation.

Mission Vatsalya

- ❖ Maharashtra government launched a special mission called “Mission Vatsalya” in order to help women who lost their husbands to COVID-19.
- ❖ Mission Vatsalya will provide several services and some 18 benefits under one roof to those women.
- ❖ Under this mission, schemes like Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana and Gharkul Yojana will benefit those for women.
- ❖ This mission is being implemented by women and child development (WCD) Department.

Sub-category of creamy layer – Haryana

- 'Creamy layer' denotes relatively forward, better-educated and socially advanced members of OBCs
- The term was introduced by Sattanathan Commission in 1971, which recommended that 'creamy layer' should be excluded from quota benefits
- In Indira Sawhney judgment (1992), SC directed that 'creamy layer' among OBCs be excluded from quota benefits
- After a constitution bench judgment in 2018, the concept is applicable also to SC/ST communities
- The Centre has defined 'creamy layer' among OBCs as those earning more than ₹8 lakh per annum

- ❖ Two notifications were issued by the Haryana government sub-classifying backward classes solely on economic basis while fixing the criteria for creamy layer.
- ❖ Supreme Court has quashed the Haryana government's notification.
- ❖ The apex court held that the Haryana's notifications have violated the law declared in the Indra Sawhney judgment by identifying creamy layer only on the basis of income.
- ❖ Apart from the economic criterion, social, educational and other factors must also be taken into account before defining a "creamy layer" among the backward classes.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

UN Best Small Business Winners from India

- ❖ Three enterprises based in India are among the winners of 'Best Small Businesses' global competition as announced by the United Nations.
- ❖ This competition was organized in concomitance with the UN Food Systems Summit.
- ❖ The winners from India are Oorja Development Solutions India, Edible Routes Private Limited and Taru Naturals.



NatWest Group Earth Heroes award

- ❖ The Satpura Tiger Reserve of the state has been awarded the NatWest Group Earth Heroes award in the Earth Guardian category for best management.
- ❖ The Satpura Tiger Reserve in the Hoshangabad district.
- ❖ It is the oldest forest wealth in the country.
- ❖ The Satpura Tiger Reserve is said to be the soul of the eco-system of the central region of India.

Lokmanya Tilak Award 2021

- ❖ Cyrus Poonawalla has been named the winner of the prestigious National Lokmanya Tilak Award 2021.
- ❖ He is the founder of the Serum Institute of India (SII) in Pune.
- ❖ He will be commended for his work during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ This award was first presented in the year 1983.



Maharashtra Bhushan award 2021

- ❖ The Maharashtra Bhushan Selection Committee chaired by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has unanimously selected legendary playback singer Asha Bhosle for the prestigious award.
- ❖ Asha Bhosle is best known for her playback singing in Hindi cinema.
- ❖ Asha Bhosle was officially acknowledged by the Guinness Book of World Records as the most recorded artist in music history.
- ❖ The Government of India honoured her with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2000 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2008.
- ❖ Bhosle is the sister of playback singer Lata Mangeshkar.



Eisner award

- ❖ Graphic artist Anand Radhakrishnan has won the prestigious Will Eisner Comic Industry Award.
- ❖ It is considered as the Oscars equivalent of the comics world.
- ❖ The Eisner Awards are given out annually.
- ❖ The award won by Radhakrishnan “Best Painter/Multimedia Artist (interior art)” recognises the creator of a graphic novel’s art and images.
- ❖ Radhakrishnan shares the award with UK-based colourist John Pearson.
- ❖ They won for their work on UK-based author Ram V’s 145-page graphic novel ‘Blue In Green’.
- ❖ It was published by Image Comics.

Controller General of Accounts

- ❖ Deepak Das has taken over as the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).
- ❖ Deepak Das is the 25th officer to hold the position of CGA.

- ❖ CGA is the account keeper of the government and derives its mandate from Article 150 of the Constitution.

New Vice Chief of Naval Staff

- ❖ Vice Admiral SN Ghormade has assumed charge as the Vice Chief of Naval Staff.
- ❖ He succeeds Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar.
- ❖ SN Ghormade is an awardee of the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) and Nausena Medal.



Prof. C.R. Rao Centenary Gold Medal award



- ❖ The Indian Econometric Society (TIES) Trust has selected two renowned economic scholars for the Prof. C.R. Rao Centenary Gold Medal award.
- ❖ Renowned economists Jagdish Bhagwati and C Rangarajan have been conferred with the inaugural Prof CR Rao Centenary Gold Medal (CGM).
- ❖ Bhagwati is a professor of economics, law and international relations at Columbia University.
- ❖ C Rangarajan is the former chairman of the Economic Advisory Council of the Prime Minister and former governor of the Reserve Bank of India.

- ❖ The medal is presented once in two years to an Indian or Indian-origin scholar for lifetime contributions to the fields of theoretical and applied aspects of quantitative economics and official statistics.

Dr. Dhriti Banerjee - new director of ZSI

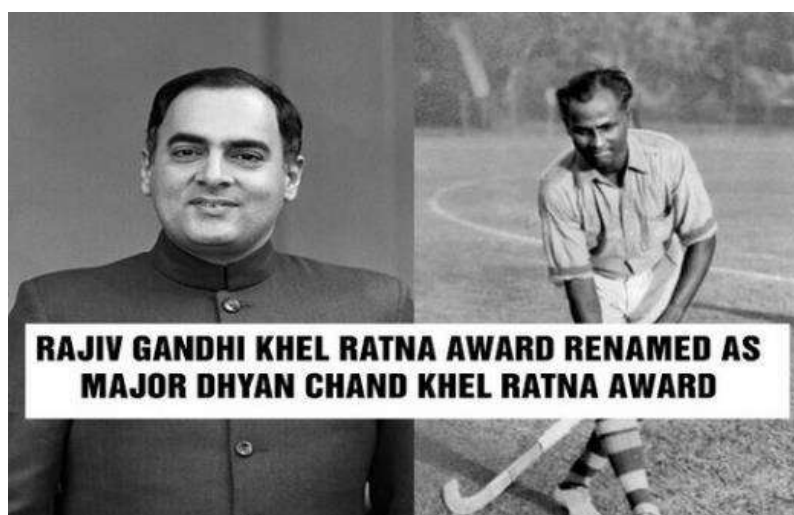
- ❖ Indian government approved the appointment of Dr. Dhriti Banerjee as new director of Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).
- ❖ Hence, ZSI gets 1st female director in 100 years.
- ❖ ZSI was founded in July 1916.
- ❖ It is headquartered in Kolkata.
- ❖ It comprises of 16 regional centres and works under the ministry of environment, forests and climate change.
- ❖ ZSI started hiring women scientists in 1949.
- ❖ Mira Mansukhani was the first women employee of ZSI.

Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced that Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award will be renamed as Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.
- ❖ Dhyan Chand's birthday is celebrated as National Sports Day.
- ❖ He has won three Olympic golds for the country in Hockey.

Note

- ❖ The award was inaugurated in 1991-92.
- ❖ The first recipient of the Khel Ratna was chess legend, Viswanathan Anand.



Rekha Sharma

- ❖ Rekha Sharma has got a three-year extension as the Chairperson of the National Commission for Women.
- ❖ Rekha Sharma was the pioneer in setting up a special 'Happy to Help' task force during the coronavirus pandemic to help the elderly stuck at homes alone.
- ❖ She has also been credited for starting a WhatsApp number for women to lodge complaints during the pandemic.

Order of British Columbia award

- ❖ The Leading Indian-origin entrepreneur Ajay Dilwari has been honoured with Canada's prestigious Order of British Columbia award.
- ❖ Mr Dilwari is the owner of Canada's largest automotive group (Dilawri Group).
- ❖ He is now among 16 "exceptional people" to be appointed to the Order of British Columbia.



Brunel Medal award

- ❖ Bhutan's India-assisted Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project was conferred with the Brunel Medal award.
- ❖ The award was given by the London-based Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE).
- ❖ The award was given as a mark of excellence in civil engineering within the industry.
- ❖ It was handed over to the Chairman of Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project Authority, Lyonpo Loknath Sharma.
- ❖ One of the reasons the Mangdechhu project was awarded was because of its social and environmental credentials.
- ❖ The project will reduce 2.4 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year.

- ❖ The Brunel Medal is historically given to major projects and organisations across the world.

AI Gamechanger Award

- ❖ The Telangana government has bagged the AI Gamechanger Award in the Xperience-AI Summit organised by NASSCOM.
- ❖ 'Crowd Monitoring using AI' of the government was selected for this award.
- ❖ A start-up Awiros was the technology partner for this project.



Gallantry awards

- ❖ The President Ram Nath Kovind, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, has approved 144 Gallantry awards for armed forces, police and paramilitary personnel.
- ❖ Ashok Chakra was awarded to Babu Ram (posthumously), ASI, Jammu and Kashmir Police.
- ❖ Kirti Chakra was awarded to Altaf Hussain Bhat (posthumously), Constable, J&K Police.
- ❖ The other awards include Shaurya Chakra, Bar to Sena Medal, Vayu Sena Medal and Sena Medal.



National Youth Award

- ❖ Mohammad Azam from Karimnagar district in Telangana has been awarded the National Youth Award recently.
- ❖ He is awarded for displaying exemplary leadership qualities.
- ❖ He has conducted several awareness programmes related to blood donation, organ donation and plantation programmes under the Haritha Haram project.



Congressional Gold Medal

- ❖ Mahatma Gandhi is to be posthumously awarded with the prestigious Congressional Gold Medal.
- ❖ This is in recognition of his promotion of peace and nonviolence.
- ❖ The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian award in the United States.
- ❖ Gandhi would be the first Indian to receive a Congressional Gold Medal.

Maki Kaji

- ❖ Maki Kaji, the creator of puzzle Sudoku passed away recently.
- ❖ He was known as the father of Sudoku.
- ❖ He was from Japan.



Diksha Shinde

- ❖ Diksha Shinde was selected as a panellist on Minority Serving Institution (MSI) Fellowships Virtual Panel of American Space Agency, NASA.
- ❖ She is a 14-year-old girl in Aurangabad.
- ❖ She wrote a theory on black holes.
- ❖ Her research paper on 'We Live in Black Hole?' was accepted by International Journal of Scientific and Engineering Research in May 2021.



Indian Film Festival of Melbourne Awards 2021



- ❖ The Family Man 2 actors Manoj Bajpayee and Samantha Akkineni were among the winners of the latest edition of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne Awards.
- ❖ The Best Feature Film award was given to Soorai Pottru.
- ❖ The Best Performance Male (Feature) actor goes to Suriya Sivakumar (Soorai Pottru).
- ❖ The Best Director Award was given to Anurag Basu (Ludo).

Sri Basava International Award



- ❖ Karnataka government has selected Sri Basavalinga Pattaddevaru for the prestigious Sri Basava International Award.
- ❖ He is the senior seer of Bhalki Hiremath.
- ❖ Minister for Kannada and Culture V. Sunil Kumar will present the award at Ravindra Kalakshetra in Bengaluru.
- ❖ The septuagenarian seer has spent over five decades in the Lingayat religious institution in the Bidar district.

EASE Reforms Index Award 2021

- ❖ Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman has announced the EASE 3.0 Awards.
- ❖ State Bank of India is the Overall winner of the EASE Reforms Index Award 2021 (EASE 3.0 Awards).
- ❖ Bank of Baroda is second and Union Bank of India is third.
- ❖ Indian Bank won the award for the best improvement from the baseline performance.

There were awards for various themes and the winners of these themes are given below

S.No	Theme	Winner
1.	Smart Lending for Aspiring India	Bank of Baroda
2.	Tech-enabled ease of Banking	SBI
3.	Institutionalised Prudent Banking	Bank of Baroda
4.	Governance and Outcome centric HR	Union Bank of India
5.	Deepening FI and Customer Protection	Union Bank of India

Dr. Gail Omvedt passed away



- ❖ Renowned US-born researcher, writer on Ambedkarism and Dalit movement Dr. Gail Omvedt passed away at Kasegaon, Maharashtra.
- ❖ Born in Minneapolis in the US state of Minnesota, Dr. Omvedt came to India after completing her higher studies.
- ❖ She plunged herself into the various social movements for the Dalits, poor and downtrodden, farmers, women and other public causes.

SPORTS

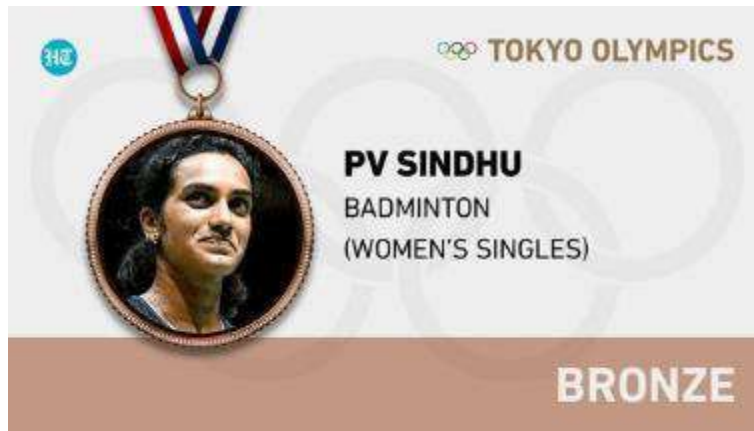
Online Chess Title

- ❖ Delhi youngster Vantika Agarwal has won the National women online chess title.
- ❖ Arpita Mukherjee of West Bengal took the second spot.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Sreeja Seshadritook the third spot.
- ❖ Maharastra's Soumya Swaminathan and Tamil Nadu's R Vaishali of finished fourth and fifth respectively.
- ❖ In Junior Open section, Tamil Nadu's VS Raahul won the first position.



PV Sindhu's achievement

- ❖ PV Sindhu has become first Indian woman to win two Olympic medals after defeating 'He Bingjiao' of China.
- ❖ She is the first Indian woman to win Olympic silver.
- ❖ At Rio Olympics of 2016, Sindhu had won women's singles badminton silver in her Olympics debut.
- ❖ She won bronze at the Tokyo Olympics.
- ❖ She has become second Indian athlete to win 2 Olympic medals in individual events following Sushil Kumar.
- ❖ Sushil Kumar had won wrestling bronze in 2008 in Beijing and won Silver at London Games in 2012.
- ❖ In London Olympics of 2012, India achieved its best-ever tally of 6 medals.



Paralympic Theme Song launched

- ❖ Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur launched the theme song for the Indian Paralympic contingent in New Delhi.
- ❖ The song is titled “Kar De Kamaal Tu”.
- ❖ The composer and singer of the song is Sanjeev Singh.
- ❖ He is a Divyang cricket player from Lucknow.
- ❖ 54 para-sportspersons across 9 sports disciplines are participating in Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

Lovlina Borgohain



- ❖ Lovlina won the third Olympic medal for India.
- ❖ She won bronze medal after against Busenaz Surmeneli from Turkey in 69kg welterweight semifinals.
- ❖ Lovlina Borgohain has also become the second Indian female boxer, after MC Mary Kom, to win an Olympic bronze.
- ❖ Lovlina has become first-ever Assamese woman to win the Olympic medal.

- ❖ Lovlina Borgohain is the third Indian boxer to win Olympic bronze following legendary boxers Mary Kom and Vijender Singh.
- ❖ Mary Kom and Vijender Singh had won bronze medal respectively in 2012 London Olympics and 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Ravi Kumar Dahiya wins silver

- ❖ Indian wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya bagged the silver medal after losing in the final of men's 57kg freestyle category to Russian Olympic Committee's (ROC) Zavur Uguev.
- ❖ This is India's fifth medal at the Tokyo Olympics.
- ❖ This is also the second silver of the campaign.
- ❖ Ravi Kumar is the fifth Indian wrestler after KD Jadhav, Sushil Kumar, Yogeshwar Dutt, and Sakshi Malik to finish on the Olympic podium.



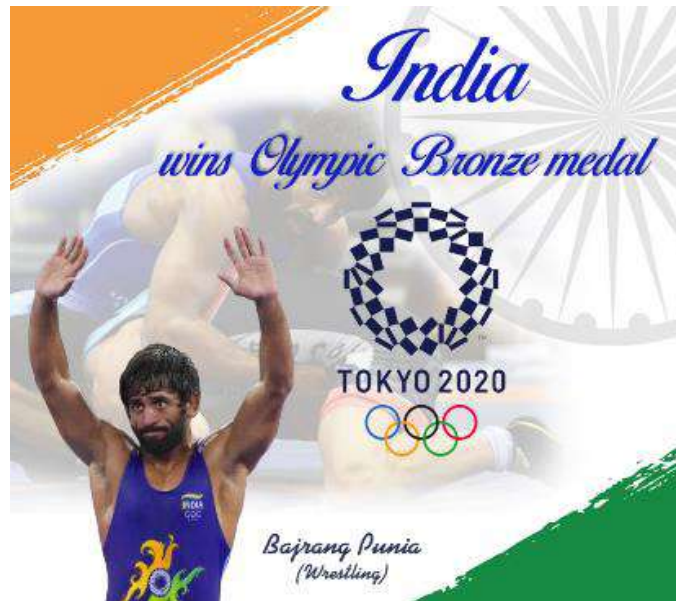
Indian Men's Hockey - Bronze medal

- ❖ In a historic men's hockey bronze-medal match, India beat the German team 5-4.
- ❖ This is the Indian hockey team's first podium finish in 41 years since 1980 Moscow Games, when India won its 8th gold medal in the Olympic Games.
- ❖ It is India's third hockey bronze medal in the history of the Olympics.

Bajrang Punia - Bronze medal

- ❖ Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia has won the Olympic wrestling bronze medal in the men's freestyle 65kg category
- ❖ He won the medal after the 8-0 win over Daulet Niyazbekov of Kazakhstan.

- ❖ Punia became the sixth Indian wrestler to finish on the Olympic podium.
- ❖ Others were KD Jadhav, Sushil Kumar, Yogeshwar Dutt, Sakshi Malik and Ravi Kumar Dahiya.
- ❖ This became the second instance after the 2012 London Olympics when two Indian wrestlers won medals in the same Games.



Neeraj Chopra - Gold medal



- ❖ Neeraj Chopra has won a gold medal for India in the javelin throw event at Tokyo Olympics.
- ❖ The 87.58m throw got the Gold medal for him.
- ❖ This was also India's first gold medal since shooter Abhinav Bindra's won the 10m air rifle gold in 2008.

- ❖ Neeraj Chopra won the independent India's first-ever athletics medal.
- ❖ He is from Panipat, Haryana.
- ❖ With Neeraj's gold, India ended its campaign at the XXXII Olympiad with seven medals.
- ❖ This is the country's best performance at the Summer Olympic Games.

Tokyo Olympics 2020 and India

- ❖ The international multi-sport event was held from July 23 to August 08, 2021, in Tokyo, Japan.
- ❖ This was for the fourth time that Japan hosted the Olympic Games, after previously hosting the Tokyo 1964 (Summer), Sapporo 1972 (Winter), and Nagano 1998 (Winter) games.
- ❖ Apart from this, Tokyo is the first Asian city to hold the Summer Games twice.
- ❖ The United States has topped the overall medal table with 113 medals.
- ❖ Indian Contingent managed to win 7 medals comprising 1 Gold, 2 Silver and 4 Bronze Medals.
- ❖ The country stood at the 48th position in the medal table out of 86 countries.
- ❖ It is the highest ranking in over four decades.
- ❖ Bronze-medallist Bajrang Punia was the flag-bearer at the closing ceremony of the event.

Countries		Athletes			
Country		1	2	3	
1	United States	39	41	33	113
2	China	38	32	18	88
3	Japan	27	14	17	58
4	Great Britain	22	21	22	65
48	India	1	2	4	7

Note

- ❖ The Indian Women's Hockey team made history by reaching their first-ever semi-final at the Olympic Games.
- ❖ Aditi Ashok's finished fourth in Golf.

- ❖ Rowers Arjun Lal Jat and Arvind Singh became the first Indian double sculls pair to reach the semi-finals at the Olympics.
- ❖ Bhavani Devi became the first Indian fencer to qualify for the Olympic Games.

Flame of hope

- ❖ Japanese capital passed the Flame of hope or the flag to Paris with the message of moving forward.
- ❖ It also remembered those who lost their lives to Covid-19 pandemic.
- ❖ Flame of Hope was memorialized by Chicago Park District in 2018.
- ❖ Flame of Hope is the symbol of Special Olympics Games.
- ❖ Special Olympics is world's largest sports organization for children and adults with disabilities.

Third highest wicket-taker in Test cricket



- ❖ James Anderson overtook Anil Kumble's tally of 619 Test wickets to become the third-highest wicket-taker in Test cricket.
- ❖ His current wickets tally stands at 621 from 163 Tests.
- ❖ Anderson is currently the highest wicket-taker among the fast bowlers and is the only pacer in the 600 club.
- ❖ He achieved the milestone on the 3rd day of the Nottingham Test against India.

International Army Games

- ❖ The Indian Army is to take part in the International Army Games 2021 to be held in Russia.
- ❖ 101 members of the Indian Army will participate in this.

- ❖ The International Army Games is an annual Russian military sports event organized by the Ministry of Défense of Russia (MoD).
- ❖ The event was first staged in August 2015.
- ❖ The games have been referred to as the War Olympics.

Cricket's inclusion in Olympics

- ❖ The International Cricket Council has confirmed it will campaign for the inclusion of the sport at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.
- ❖ Cricket, till now, has made just one appearance in the Olympics.
- ❖ It happened in 1900 in Paris.
- ❖ Great Britain and France were the only two teams that participated in this.

Tokyo Paralympics - Indian contingent

- ❖ The upcoming Tokyo Paralympics will witness the largest ever Indian contingent being send.
- ❖ 54 para-sportspersons are participating across 9 sports disciplines.
- ❖ The 2020 Summer Paralympics Games are scheduled to be held in Tokyo, Japan from August 24 to September 05, 2021.

Harshit Raja

- ❖ Harshit Raja turned GM after he drew his game against Dennis Wagner at the Biel Masters Open 2021.
- ❖ Raja is India's 69th Grandmaster (GM).
- ❖ He is from Pune.



Odisha's sponsor - Indian Hockey teams

- ❖ The Odisha government will sponsor the Indian Hockey teams for 10 more years.
- ❖ The current sponsorship ends in 2023.
- ❖ The state government started sponsoring the national hockey teams in 2018.



Tokyo 2020 Summer Paralympic Games

- ❖ It is held from 24th August - 5th September, 2021.
- ❖ The official Mascot is 'Someity'.
- ❖ For the 1st time, Badminton & Taekwondo will be introduced by replacing Sailing and 7-a-side football.
- ❖ India will field their largest contingent ever in the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics
- ❖ A total of 54 Athletes will compete in 9 Sporting events.
- ❖ Only 19 Indian Athletes competed in the 2016 Rio Paralympics.
- ❖ Javelin thrower Devendra Jhajharia (won Gold at Rio Paralympics) and high jump ace Mariyappan Thangavelu are the two Paralympic champions in the current Indian contingent.
- ❖ Prachi Yadav is set to become India's 1st paracanoe at the Tokyo Para Games.
- ❖ Avani Lekhera will be the 1st Indian woman para shooter to compete at the Paralympics.
- ❖ Harvinder Singh and Vivek Chikara are the 1st Men Archers from the country to qualify for the Games.
- ❖ Anurag Thakur and Nisith Pramanik launched Theme Song 'Kar De Kamaal Tu' for Paralympics.

- ❖ The song is composed & sung by Sanjeev Singh, Divyang Cricket Player.



Silver medal in women's long jump - Shaili Singh

- ❖ Jhansi-born Shaili Singh won the silver medal in women's long jump at the World Athletics U20 Championships in Nairobi with a best attempt of 6.59m.
- ❖ She came very close to the gold medal, falling short by just 0.01mm.
- ❖ Sweden's Maja Askag won the gold medal (6.60m).



Princepal Singh in NBA

- ❖ Princepal Singh became the first Indian to be part of an NBA title-winning team when his side Sacramento Kings clinched the 2021 NBA Summer League crown.
- ❖ The 6-foot-9 forward made history by being the first Indian to be part of a championship roster at any level of the NBA.
- ❖ The Kings dominated the championship game against the Boston Celtics, clinching the title win.



Bhavina Patel - Silver medal

- ❖ Bhavina Patel of Gujarat created history by becoming the first Indian Table tennis player to win silver medal at Paralympics.
- ❖ She won silver in the women's singles class 4 at Tokyo Paralympics 2020.
- ❖ She lost to China's Zhou Ying.





IMPORTANT DAYS

Friendship Day 2021 - August 01

- ❖ Friendship Day is celebrated in India on the first Sunday of August.
- ❖ On this day, we honour the bonds of friendship we form through the course of our lives that enrich us and make us happier.
- ❖ This day was first proposed in Paraguay in 1958 as International Friendship Day.
- ❖ However, it is believed that it first originated from Hallmark cards in the 1930s, whose founder was Joyce Hall.

National Mountain Climbing Day - August 01

- ❖ The day was established in order to honour Bobby Matthews and his friend Josh Madigan, for successfully climbing the 46th peak of New York State's Adirondack Mountains.
- ❖ In 1965, Avatar Singh Cheema became the first Indian to climb Mount Everest.
- ❖ The first Indian woman to climb Everest was Bachendri Pal who did so in 1984, at the age of 30.

Muslim Women Rights Day - August 01

- ❖ The Muslim Women Rights Day celebrated across the nation to celebrate the enactment of the law against Triple Talaq.
- ❖ The first Muslim Women's Rights Day was observed in 2020.
- ❖ The Government of India enacted the law against Triple Talaq on August 01, 2019.
- ❖ The law is formally called the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019.
- ❖ This law prohibits the practice of instant divorce by Muslim men.

World Breastfeeding Week - August 1 to 7

- ❖ This week is marked every year to raise awareness on the importance of breastfeeding for mothers and infants.
- ❖ The theme of the World Breastfeeding Week 2021 is "Protect Breastfeeding: A Shared Responsibility".
- ❖ The annual week is organized by WABA, WHO and UNICEF since 1991.



Hiroshima day - August 06

- ❖ The day marks the anniversary of the atomic bombing in Hiroshima during World War II.
- ❖ The horrific incident took place on August 6, 1945, when the United States dropped an atomic bomb named “Little Boy”, on the town of Hiroshima in Japan.
- ❖ This bomb attack was done with the motive to end the Second World War in 1945.
- ❖ This day is remembered to promote peace and spread awareness about the danger of nuclear energy and nuclear weapons.

National Handloom Day - August 07

- ❖ India has marked the 7th National Handloom Day to showcase the legacy of the Indian handloom industry.
- ❖ 'Handloom, an Indian legacy' is the theme of this year.
- ❖ The day is to commemorate the Swadeshi Movement and to celebrate our country's rich fabrics and colourful weaves.
- ❖ The whole nation will mark the day to showcase the legacy of the Indian handloom industry and to honour the weavers across the country.
- ❖ It was first observed in 2015 by the Govt of India.



International Cat Day - August 08

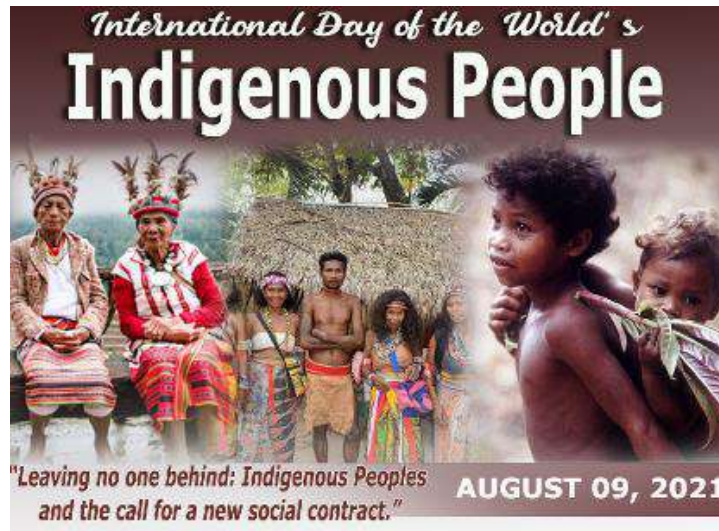
- ❖ The day was started by the International Fund for Animal Welfare in 2002.
- ❖ The animal rights organisation uses the day to promote the needs and wants of cats and encourages cat owners to find new ways to improve their bond with their pets.
- ❖ The theme of the day, this year is "Be Cat Curious- Training for Cats and their Humans".

Nagasaki day - August 09

- ❖ Japan commemorates the 9th of August every year as Nagasaki day.
- ❖ On August 9, 1945, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Nagasaki, Japan.
- ❖ It was code-named "Fat Man".



International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples - August 09



- ❖ The day is being observed to protect the rights of the world's indigenous population.
- ❖ It is also observed to recognize the achievements and contributions that indigenous people make to improve world issues such as environmental protection.
- ❖ The theme for 2021 is "Leaving no one behind: Indigenous peoples and the call for a new social contract."
- ❖ The day was recognised by the General Assembly of the United Nations in December 1994.

Quit India Day - August 09





- ❖ The 79th anniversary of the August Kranti Din or Quit India Movement is being observed this year.
- ❖ On 8 Aug 1942, Mahatma Gandhi gave a clarion call to end British rule and launched the Quit India Movement at the session of the All-India Congress Committee in Mumbai.
- ❖ After the failure of Cripps Mission, Gandhiji gave the call to “Do or Die” in his Quit India speech delivered at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Mumbai.

World Lion Day - August 10

- ❖ The Day is marked to raise awareness about the king of beasts and the efforts undertaken for their conservation.
- ❖ "Slow elimination of the African lion" is the theme for the year 2021.
- ❖ It was launched in 2013.
- ❖ The big cat is listed as an endangered species in the IUCN Red List.
- ❖ The majestic animal is the second-largest member of the Felidae (cat family), after the tiger.

World Biofuel Day - August 10

- ❖ The day is celebrated to raise awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels.
- ❖ It also highlights the various efforts made by Government in the biofuel sector.
- ❖ The theme of 2021 is the "promotion of biofuels for a better environment".
- ❖ Since 2015, World Biofuel Day is celebrated by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- ❖ The day honours the research experiments by Sir Rudolf Diesel.
- ❖ In 1893, he ran an engine with peanut oil.

International Youth Day - August 12

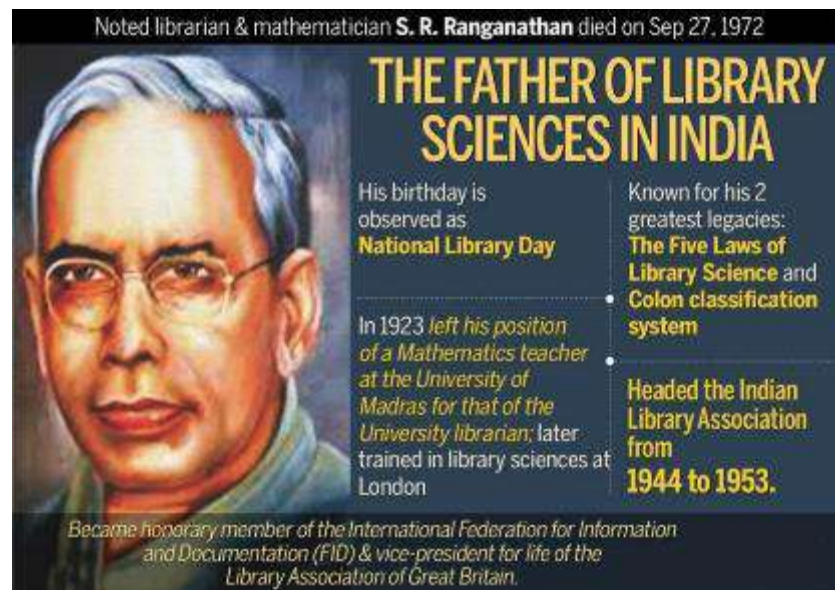
- ❖ The day is observed annually to draw the attention of governments and others towards youth issues worldwide.
- ❖ This day is celebrated to recognize the efforts put in by the youth for the betterment of society.
- ❖ The theme of International Youth Day 2021, “Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health”

- ❖ This day is the first time observed on August 12, 2000.



National Librarian's Day - August 12

- ❖ Every year Padma Shri Dr SR Ranganathan's birthday is celebrated as the National Librarian's Day.
- ❖ He spearheaded library development in India.
- ❖ This is his 129th birth anniversary.
- ❖ He is called as the Father of Library Science, Information Science and Documentation.



International Left-Handers Day - August 13

- ❖ The day is observed every year to celebrate the uniqueness and differences of the left-handers and raise awareness of the advantages and disadvantages of being left-handed in a predominantly right-handed world.

- ❖ Left-handers are likely to have better verbal skills than their right-handed counterparts, according to a 2019 study by Oxford University.
- ❖ The day was first observed in 1976 by Dean R Campbell, the founder of Lefthanders International Inc.

National Day of mourning (Bangladesh) - August 15

- ❖ Bangladesh is observing the 46th martyrdom day of the founding President of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- ❖ Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated along by some military men on the night of 15 August 1975.

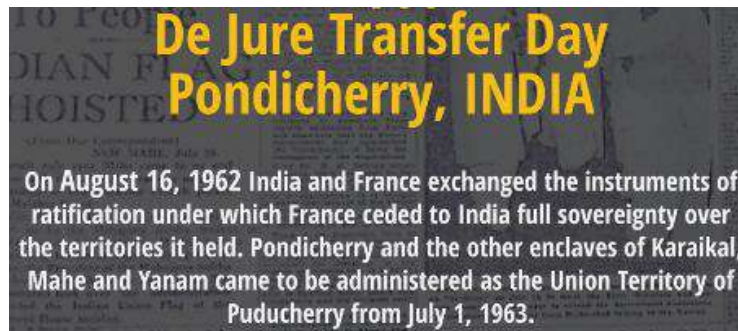


World Prediabetes Day - August 14

- ❖ The World Prediabetes Day will be annually observed across the globe on 14th August starting from 2021.
- ❖ The day aims to create awareness about Prediabetes and to reduce the increasing rate of diabetes.
- ❖ 14th August 2021 marks the first World Prediabetes Day.
- ❖ World Prediabetes Day has been strategically chosen 90 days before World Diabetes day (14 November).
- ❖ This is because it scientifically takes 90 days to change the lifestyle to reverse Prediabetes and prevent progression to diabetes.
- ❖ Prediabetes is a health condition where blood sugar levels are higher than normal, but not high enough to be diagnosed as type 2 (lifestyle induced) diabetes.

De Jure Transfer Day - August 16

- ❖ The Union Territory of Puducherry has celebrated its 60th anniversary of the “De-Jure” day this year.
- ❖ Puducherry became independent by virtue of a referendum on October 18, 1954.
- ❖ But the treaty of cession signed between the French and Indian governments was ratified by the French Parliament only on August 16, 1962.
- ❖ As far as Puducherry is concerned, De Jure Transfer Day, is the day it really got independence.



Navroz Mubarak Day - August 16

- ❖ The Parsi New year is popularly known as Navroz.
- ❖ Navroz means a new day.
- ❖ This is a festival created by the Iranian prophet Zoroaster.



World Humanitarian Day - August 19

- ❖ It is observed every year to pay tribute to humanitarian personnel and those workers who lost or risked their lives while doing humanitarian service.
- ❖ In 2021 we are celebrating the 12th World Humanitarian Day (WHD).
- ❖ The theme for 2021 WHD is TheHumanRace: a global challenge for climate action in solidarity with people who need it the most.

- ❖ 19 August marks the day on which the then Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Iraq, Sérgio Vieira de Mello and 21 of his colleagues were killed in the bombing of the UN Headquarters in Baghdad.
- ❖ World Humanitarian Day was commemorated for the first time on 19 August 2009.

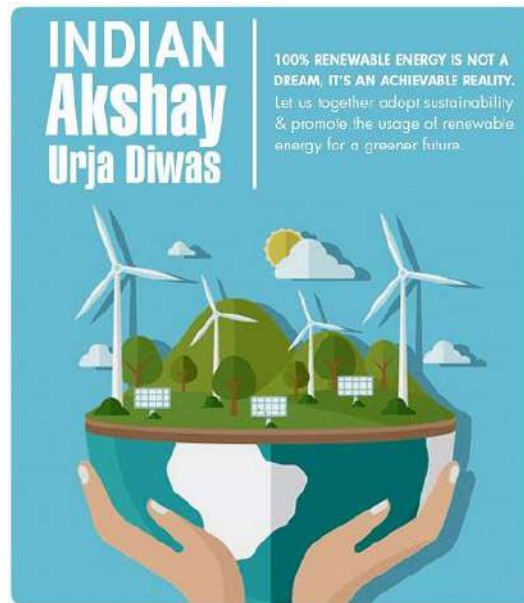


World Photography Day - August 19

- ❖ World Photography Day is celebrated every year to promote photography as a hobby and also inspire photographers around the globe to share a single photo with the rest of the world.
- ❖ The first official World Photo Day was observed on August 19, 2010.
- ❖ The origin of World Photo Day comes from the invention of the Daguerreotype.
- ❖ It is a photographic process developed by Frenchmen Louis Daguerre and Joseph Nicéphore Niepce in 1837.

Akshay Urja Diwas - August 20

- ❖ Akshay Urja Diwas (Renewable Energy Day) is observed every year to raise awareness about the developments and adoption of renewable energy in India.
- ❖ The Akshay Urja Day was initiated by the Indian Ministry for New & Renewable Energy Sources in 2004.
- ❖ This day marks the birthday anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India.



World Mosquito Day - August 20

- ❖ The day is observed annually to raise awareness about the causes of malaria and how it can be prevented.
- ❖ It is observed to highlight the efforts of healthcare officials, NGOs, and others in fighting diseases caused by malaria.
- ❖ The theme of World Mosquito Day 2021 is “Reaching the zero-malaria target”.
- ❖ The day also commemorates the discovery made by British doctor Sir Ronald Ross in 1897 that female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans.
- ❖ In 1902, Ross won Nobel Prize for Medicine becoming the first British person to receive the award.

Sadbhavana Diwas - August 20



- ❖ Every year India observes this day to commemorate the birth anniversary of late erstwhile Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi.

- ❖ This year we celebrate the 77th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- ❖ The Indian National Congress instituted Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award in 1992, a year after his death.
- ❖ Late Rajiv Gandhi was the youngest Prime Minister of India at the age of 40 years.

Sanskrit Week - August 19 to 25

- ❖ Sanskrit Week is being celebrated from August 19 to August 25, 2021.
- ❖ Sanskrit Week is celebrated to promote and popularise this ancient language.
- ❖ This day is also known as Vishva-sanskrita-dinam.

World Senior Citizen Day - August 21

- ❖ The day is celebrated to raise awareness about issues affecting older people and support, honour and show appreciation to seniors and to recognize their achievements.
- ❖ The Day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on December 14, 1990.
- ❖ The day was officially founded by the former President of the United States of America, Ronald Reagan in 1988 to dedicate a day to older adults and their issues.

International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism - August 21

- ❖ United Nations observes 21st August every year as the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism.
- ❖ The day is observed to pay tribute to the individuals across the globe who have been attacked, injured, traumatized or lost their lives because of terrorist attacks.



- ❖ The day was designated by United Nations General Assembly in 2017.

- ❖ For the first time the day was observed in 2018.
- ❖ The theme of this year's International Day is "Connections".

Sanskrit Day - August 22

- ❖ In 2021, Sanskrit Day will be celebrated on August 22, 2021.
- ❖ The day is celebrated on the full moon day of the month of Shravan.
- ❖ It also marks the occasion of Raksha Bandhan each year.
- ❖ The World Sanskrit Day was first declared in 1969, by the Indian Government on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief - August 22

- ❖ The day emphasizes the significance of aiding victims of religious persecution as part of the UN's efforts to promote Human Rights related to religious or belief freedom.
- ❖ It was first made official in 2019.
- ❖ The resolution was introduced by Poland's Foreign Minister, Jacek Czaputowicz.

National Honey Bee Day 2021 - August 21

- ❖ National Honey Bee Day is celebrated on the third Saturday of August every year in the United States.
- ❖ Therefore, this year it fell on August 21, Saturday.
- ❖ The original day of observation was August 22, 2009.

Madras Day - August 22



- ❖ Chennai celebrated its 382nd birthday on August 22.
- ❖ It was on August 22, 1639, that the village of Madrasapatnam was purchased by the East India Company from the Vijayanagar Empire.
- ❖ The concept of celebrating Madras Day was conceptualized in 2004.

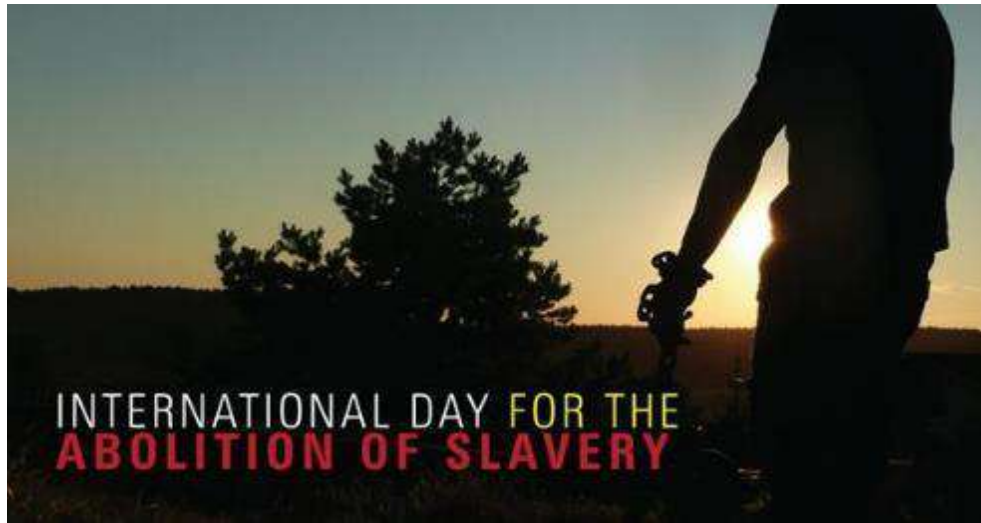
European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Stalinism and Nazism - August 23



- ❖ The day is also known as Black Ribbon Day in some countries.
- ❖ It is an international day of remembrance for victims of totalitarian regimes, specifically Stalinism, Communism, Nazism and Fascism.
- ❖ It symbolizes the rejection of “extremism, intolerance and oppression”.
- ❖ It has been observed annually by the bodies of the European Union since 2009.
- ❖ 23 August was chosen to coincide with the date of the signing of the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact.
- ❖ Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact is a 1939 non-aggression pact between the USSR and Nazi Germany.

International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition - August 23

- ❖ The United Nations observes this Day to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade in the memory of all peoples.
- ❖ It is a day to honour the memory of the men and women who, in Saint-Domingue in 1791, revolted and paved the way for the end of slavery and dehumanization.



World Entrepreneurs Day - August 21

- ❖ The day is annually observed across the globe to create awareness about entrepreneurship, innovation and leadership among the stakeholders.
- ❖ The day also recognises and celebrates the efforts of individuals who start a business venture.
- ❖ The Alliance of International Business Associations leads the observance and invites people across the globe to promote World Entrepreneurs Day.
- ❖ Some of the initiatives of Government of India to support Entrepreneurship are Start-Up India Scheme and Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana.

World Water Week - August 23 to 27

- ❖ The World Water Week is an annual event organized by Stockholm International Water Institute since 1991.
- ❖ This is to address the global water issues and related concerns of international development.
- ❖ The theme for World Water Week 2021 is 'Building Resilience Faster'.

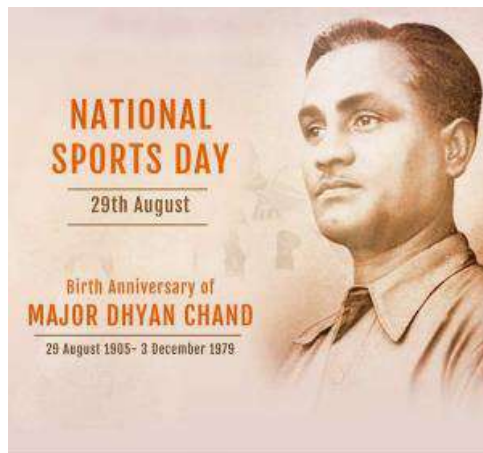
International Dog Day - August 26

- ❖ The day is observed every year to raise awareness about dog adoption and the importance of providing rescue dogs with a safe and loving environment.
- ❖ The day was started as National Dog Day in the US in 2004 by Colleen Paige.

International Day against Nuclear Tests - August 29

- ❖ United Nations General Assembly declared 29 August the International Day against Nuclear Tests.
- ❖ The resolution calls for increasing awareness and education “about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and the need for their cessation as one of the means of achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.”
- ❖ The resolution was initiated by the Republic of Kazakhstan.
- ❖ 2010 marked the inaugural commemoration of the International Day against Nuclear Tests.

National Sports Day - August 29



- ❖ It is observed every year to commemorate the birthday of Indian hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand.
- ❖ He was born on 29 August 1905 in present-day Prayagraj, UP.
- ❖ Major Dhyan Chand was the captain of the Gold medal-winning Indian hockey team at the Berlin Olympics in 1936.

Note

- ❖ Like how, PT Usha is known as Udanpari, Sachin Tendulkar as Master Blaster, and Major Dhyan Chand is known as 'Hockey Wizard'.

Telugu Language Day - August 29

- ❖ Day of the Telugu Language is observed on 29 August every year.
- ❖ This date was chosen to coincide with the birthday of the Telugu poet Gidugu Venkata Ramamurthy.
- ❖ Telugu is referred to as 'The Italian of the East'.

Telugu Language :Unique feature(s)

- The only Indian language where every word ends in a vowel ('AJANTA BHAASHA')
- Called 'Italian of the East ' by Niccolo da Conti, a Venetian traveller of the 16th century
- Heavily Sanskritized (close to 60%)

International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances - August 30

- ❖ The International Day of the Disappearances is a day created to draw attention to the fate of individuals imprisoned at places and under poor conditions unknown to their relatives and/or legal representatives.
- ❖ It is observed on August 30 of each year.
- ❖ The day was established by the UN General Assembly on December 21, 2010.
- ❖ The day also allows states to consider the fulfilment of their obligations under the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.



Small Industry Day - August 30

- ❖ The National Small Industry Day is observed on 30th August every year in India.
- ❖ This day aims to promote small Industries for their overall growth potential and opportunities obtained for their development in the year.

- ❖ Small Industry Day also is a medium that purposes to offer balanced growth to existing small, medium and large-scale enterprises.
- ❖ It also gives assistance for installing new industries to promote the state's financial health.



International Whale Shark Day - August 30

- ❖ The day has been designed to celebrate and increase awareness about these amazing sea-dwelling creature.
- ❖ We need to protect and conserve the whale shark, as their numbers are declining.
- ❖ In 2016, the whale shark was reclassified from a vulnerable species to an endangered one.

International Overdose Awareness Day - August 31

- ❖ The day was initiated in 2001 by Sally J Finn at The Salvation Army in St Kilda, Melbourne.
- ❖ Since 2012, International Overdose Awareness Day has been coordinated by the not-for-profit Australian public health organisation Penington Institute.
- ❖ The campaign raises awareness of overdose, which is one of the world's worst public health crises, and stimulates action and discussion about evidence-based overdose prevention and drug policy.



MISCELLANEOUS

National Moth Week July 17 - 25, 2021

- ❖ This year National Moth Week marks its 10th year.
- ❖ The National Moth Week celebrates the beauty, life cycles, and habitats of moths.
- ❖ It is being held, worldwide, during the last full week of July.
- ❖ The National Moth Week was founded in the United States in 2012.
- ❖ It was found by the Friends of the East Brunswick Environmental Commission, a non-profit organization in New Jersey.



Skytrax World Airport Award ranking 2021

- ❖ According to the ranking, Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi has emerged among world's top-50 best airports in the 2021.
- ❖ Delhi has been ranked at 45th position
- ❖ Delhi airport is first Indian airport to achieve this mark.
- ❖ Delhi Airport emerged as best airport in India for the third consecutive year.
- ❖ Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru have also found a rank among world's 100 best airports.
- ❖ World's top 3 airports include,
 - Doha Hamad International Airport
 - Tokyo Haneda airport and
 - Changi airport Singapore.



**COVID-19 AIRPORT
EXCELLENCE AWARD**

