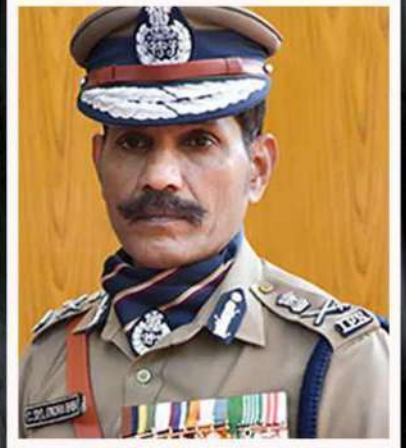


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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved extension in the term of re-employment of Umesh Sinha as Deputy Election Commissioner.
 - This is on a contract basis for a period of one year.
- ❖ India women's recurve team comprising of Deepika Kumari, Komalika Bari, and Ankita Bhakat bagged a gold medal at the Archery World Cup Stage 3 in Paris.
 - The team defeated Mexico in the finals.
- ❖ Ukraine and the United States launched joint naval exercises “Sea Breeze drills” in the Black Sea.
 - The Sea Breeze drills have taken place 21 times since 1997.
- ❖ A book titled “Policymaker’s Journal: From New Delhi to Washington, DC” authored by Kaushik Basu released soon.
 - Kaushik Basu is an Indian economist who was the Chief Economist of the World Bank from 2012 to 2016.
- ❖ Neeraj Chopra won the bronze medal in Javelin throw at the Kuortane Games in Finland.
 - He finished behind Johannes Vetter of Germany and Keshorn Walcott of Trinidad and Tobago.
- ❖ The Union Government launched the ‘Atma Nirbhar Krishi App’ recently.
 - The app provides farmers with actionable agricultural insights (Soil Type, Soil Health etc) and weather alerts.
- ❖ Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani inaugurated the country’s first Fenton wastewater treatment plant at the Vatva GIDC (Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation) in Ahmedabad.
 - The Fenton Catalytic Reactor was implemented by the Green Environment Services Co-operative Society Limited.
- ❖ Anshula Rao (Madhya Pradesh all-rounder) became the first women cricketer to be handed a four-year ban after failing the dope test.
 - She was handed the ban by the panel of the National Anti-Doping Agency.
- ❖ The Central government has extended tenure of NITI Aayog Chief Executive Officer, Amitabh Kant, by one year.
 - The Extension order was issued by Department of Personnel and Training after it was approved by Appointments Committee of Cabinet.
- ❖ The Canada Day also known as ‘Canada’s birthday’ is celebrated on 1 July every year.



- It is observed to remember and celebrate Canada's independence.
- ❖ Every year, International Joke Day is celebrated on 1 July.
 - It was started by American author Wayne Reinagel.
- ❖ The book titled "Nathuram Godse: The True Story of Gandhi's Assassin" was written by Mumbai-based journalist Dhaval Kulkarni.
 - It will be published by Pan Macmillan India in 2022.
- ❖ India's external debt surged by USD 11.5 billion year-on-year to USD 570 billion as of March-end 2021.
 - The external debt to GDP ratio rose to 21.1 per cent as of March-end 2021 from 20.6 per cent a year ago.
- ❖ The UN World Meteorological Organization confirmed a new record high temperature of 18.3 degrees Celsius in Antarctica.
 - This temperature was recorded at the Esperanza Research Station (Argentina).
- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved a MoU between India and Gambia on governance reforms recently.
 - The objective of the agreement between India and Gambia is to strengthen and promote bilateral cooperation between the two nations in the Personnel Administration and Governance Reforms.
- ❖ The Indian Army Chief Manoj Naravane will inaugurate the Indian Army Memorial at Cassino in Italy.
 - In the Battle of Monte Cassino during World War II, over 5,000 Indian soldiers laid down their lives while fighting to save Italy from fascist forces.
- ❖ Hyderabad-based pharma player Laurus Labs has received a licence for manufacturing and marketing Covid-19 drug 2-Deoxy-D-Glucose (2-DG) in India.
 - The licence to Laurus Labs has been granted by DRDO.
- ❖ Panacea Biotech received its licence from the Drugs Controller General of India to manufacture Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine at its facility in Baddi, Himachal Pradesh.
 - New Delhi-based Panacea Biotech is in collaboration with the Russian Direct Investment.
- ❖ GST collection dipped below Rs 1 lakh crore in June.
 - It stayed above that mark for eight consecutive months before.
- ❖ Korean Air has been announced the winner of Air Transport World's '2021 Airline of the Year'.
- ❖ Amazon founder Jeff Bezos handed over his chief executive title to Andy Jassy.



- He wanted to spend more time on his other ventures, including the Washington Post, space company Blue Origin and philanthropy.
- ❖ World Chocolate Day or International Chocolate Day is observed on 7th July every year.
 - The day celebrates the existence of chocolate in our lives.
- ❖ The Union Minister, Nitin Gadkari, virtually inaugurated India's first and only paint made from cow dung named 'Khadi Prakritk Paint'.
 - The minister also declared himself as the "Brand Ambassador" of paint, to promote it across the country.
- ❖ Two more international airports will be added in north eastern states at Imphal and Agartala.
 - This is done with an aim of increasing connectivity in the region.
- ❖ All COVID-19 lockdown restrictions including wearing face masks, social distancing, and work from home will end on July 19, 2021, in England.
 - This is according to the British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's recent announcement.
- ❖ The Army inducted the first production lot of 12 Short Span Bridging System (SSBS)-10m.
 - It is designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation in association with Larsen & Toubro Limited.
- ❖ China has banned construction of tallest skyscrapers following the safety concerns over quality of some projects.
 - This ban covers buildings taller than 500 metres.
- ❖ Kerala government has proposed to have its own over-the-top (OTT) platform.
 - Government has planned to launch it by November 1.
- ❖ A new COVID-19 strain called 'Lambda' is much more dangerous than the Delta variant.
 - This is according to the UK Health Ministry.
- ❖ dbGENVOC is the world's first of its kind database of genomic variations in oral cancer.
 - It is created by National Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NIBMG).
- ❖ India's Harika finishes as runner-up in the Women's Speed Chess Championship.
 - She lost to Chinese legend Hou Yifan in the final.
- ❖ The Karnataka state government has decided to develop 46 Kempegowda heritage sites in a bid to promote tourism.



- The sites will be located in Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagara, Chikballapura, and Tumakuru districts.
- ❖ The National Film Archive of India has announced a significant addition of the original camera negative of Rajkumar Hirani's 2014 film 'PK' in its collection.
 - The National Film Archive of India was established as a media unit of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in 1964.
- ❖ The Supreme Court of Nepal has passed an order to appoint Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba as the Prime Minister Nepal.
- ❖ The Consignments of Madurai malli and other traditional flowers such as button rose, lily, chamanthi and marigold were exported from Tamil Nadu to the US and Dubai
 - Madurai malli was given GI Tag recognition in 2013.
- ❖ A 3.7 degrees Celsius rise in temperatures from pre-industrial level by 2100 might lead to fatal outbreaks of malaria and dengue.
 - This is according to a study published in Lancet Planetary Health.
- ❖ The Indian-American Samir Banerjee has won the Wimbledon Junior Men's title at Number 1 Court.
 - He defeated Victor Lilov of America.
- ❖ The Former High Court Judge R Subbiah has assumed charge as president of the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Chennai.
 - Justice Subbiah retired in June after serving at the Madras High Court.
- ❖ Ladakh has become first Union Territory to vaccinate all residents and guest population with first dose of Covid-19 jab.
 - This comprises of migrant labourers, hotel workers and Nepalese citizens earning their livelihood in the territory.
- ❖ The Portugal football captain Cristiano Ronaldo won the Euro 2020 Golden Boot after finishing as the top-scorer in the tournament.
- ❖ The Adani Group led by Gautam Adani has completed the takeover of 'Mumbai International Airport' from GVK group.
 - With this takeover, Adani group has become the top company in terms of airport infrastructure companies in India.
- ❖ Deepak Kabra has become the first Indian to be selected for judging the gymnastics competition of the Olympic Games.
- ❖ Maneesha S Inamdar has been part of the WHO Expert Advisory Committee on Developing Global Standards for Governance and Oversight of Human Genome Editing.



- She is an Indian stem cell and developmental biologist.
- ❖ The United Arab Emirates has become the first Gulf nation to open an embassy in Israel.
 - The new mission is located in Tel Aviv Stock Exchange building.
- ❖ The Manduadih railway station has been finally renamed as Banaras by the North eastern railways.
- ❖ The World Snake Day is held every year on July 16.
 - It aims to increase awareness regarding the over 3,500 snake species that exist across the world.
- ❖ As per a study published in science journal, Nature, parts of Amazon rainforest are emitting more carbon dioxide than they absorb.
 - The role of Amazon rainforest as a carbon sink appears to be in decline.
- ❖ Karnataka Chief Minister, BS Yeddyurappa has unveiled the Karnataka Electric Bike Taxi scheme-2021.
 - The scheme aims to reduce travel time and inconvenience in reaching bus, railway and metro stations.
- ❖ The nomenclature of 'Common High Court of UT of Jammu & Kashmir and UT of Ladakh' has been changed to 'High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh'.
 - President Ram Nath Kovind signed "Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2021" to make this change.
- ❖ New Zealand chaired special virtual meeting of Asia-Pacific trade group called "Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)".
 - During the meeting world leaders highlighted that, extensive COVID-19 immunization is a global public good and accelerating access to vaccines is essential in order to overcome health emergency.
- ❖ The Women can now register for annual Hajj pilgrimage without male guardian.
 - This is according to Ministry of Hajj and Umrah, Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ Viswanathan Anand defeated Vladimir Kramnik of Russia to win the Sparkassen Trophy at Dortmund of Germany.
- ❖ India recently chaired BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues.
- ❖ The International Cricket Council (ICC) inducted Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Switzerland as members.
 - With the ICC now comprising 106 members in total, including 94 associates.
- ❖ Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi of the BJP, the Union Minister of Minority Affairs, was appointed as the Deputy Leader of House in Rajya Sabha.



- ❖ The Former Indian and Mohun Bagan club football Goal Keeper Shibaji Banerjee will be conferred with Mohun Bagan Ratna posthumously.
 - The Fijian striker Roy Krishna was named as the Best Footballer of 2020-21.
- ❖ The BJP leader Sudhanshu Mittal's book on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) "RSS: Building India Through SEWA" has now been translated into the Chinese language.
 - It talks of RSS's history, ideology and policies, and their subsequent impact on the nation.
- ❖ The government notified a hike in the foreign direct investment limit in pension fund management to 74% from 49% under the national pension system (NPS).
 - The National Pension Scheme is being regulated by the Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA).
- ❖ The Union Power Minister R.K. Singh released 9th Integrated Ratings for State Power Distribution Utilities in New Delhi.
 - It was released on July 17th, the 36th Foundation Day of Power Finance Corporation (PFC), found in 1986.
- ❖ The Pakistan's Parliament passed a bill that criminalizes torture and prevents custodial killings by the police or other government officials.
- ❖ The Haryana Government announced that 'Khelo India Youth Games, 2021' will be organized in February 2022.
 - It will be a competition to be held in the 'under-18' category.
- ❖ The Kerala government is all set to launch a campaign called 'Mathru Kavacham' to provide COVID-19 vaccines to all the pregnant women in the state.
- ❖ The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund has been extended to state agencies or Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs), national and state federations of cooperatives, federations self-help groups (SHGs) and federations of farmers producers organisations (FPOs).
 - This move is aimed at expanding "Rs 1-lakh-crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)".
- ❖ The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is set to deliver the first batch of World's Light Combat Helicopters (LCH) to the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- ❖ The Indian Navy received 10th anti-submarine warfare aircraft P-8I from US-based aerospace company, Boeing.
- ❖ The World's first 3D-printed steel footbridge was recently unveiled in Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- ❖ The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in India and the Rajasthan government have joined hands to improve the Targeted Public Distribution System (TDPS) in the state.



- ❖ Harela is the festival commemorating the new harvest and start of monsoon in the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand.
- ❖ International Olympic Committee, headquartered in Lausanne of Switzerland changed its motto to 'Faster, Higher, Stronger – Together'.
 - Since 1894, the Olympic motto was 'Faster, Higher, Stronger'.
- ❖ The Assam State Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma has assured jobs for all National Games medallists of Assam.
- ❖ The Banking and financial services major, Goldman Sachs has opened a new facility in Hyderabad.
 - Hyderabad is emerging as a key investment destination for banking & financial service.
- ❖ The Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) said Google India Vice President and Managing Director Sanjay Gupta has been elected as its chairman for the period 2021-23.
 - He succeeds Amazon Senior Vice President and India Country Manager Amit Agarwal.
- ❖ The Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy R.K. Singh has launched an initiative named NEERMAN Awards to encourage building designs that comply with BEE's Energy Conservation Building Code.
 - It stands for "National Energy Efficiency Roadmap for Movement towards Affordable & Natural Habitat".
- ❖ Perumkulam, in Kollam District, has been bestowed with the title Kerala's first 'Book Village'.
- ❖ The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has approved new projects for the rejuvenation of six rivers in Uttarakhand.
- ❖ 22nd July is organised as World Fragile X Awareness Day.
 - On this day various landmarks and monuments are illuminated by various communities globally.
- ❖ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) Secretary, Aramane Giridhar (IAS) has been given additional charge of the Chairman of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).
- ❖ Kerala removes the age limit for transgenders in university admissions.
 - Kerala was the first State in India to have announced transgender educational coverage in the year 2015.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has given its approval of the formation of a Central University in Ladakh.



- ❖ Rasmi Ranjan Das, a Joint Secretary of Ministry of Finance, has been appointed as a member of the UN tax committee for 2021-25 term among 25 global tax experts across the world.
- ❖ Ariel Henry has become the new Prime Minister of Haiti, amid the ongoing political turmoil because of the assassination of President Jovenel Moise.
- ❖ China's central Henan province witnesses the heaviest rainfall in 1,000 years.
 - Zhengzhou City recorded 617.1 mm rainfall in three days
- ❖ Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu has released a book titled 'Palleku Pattabhishekam' authored by former MP Yalamanchili Sivaji.
 - This book is based on rural India and agriculture.
- ❖ Filmmaker Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra has announced his autobiography, "The Stranger in The Mirror".
 - He has co-written the book with noted author Reeta Ramamurthy Gupta.
- ❖ The Indian Navy has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kotak Mahindra for salary accounts of all its personnel – both serving and retired.
- ❖ The energy and environment ministers from the Group of 20 countries held talks at Naples in Italy under the Italian Leadership.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of an Integrated Multi-purpose Infrastructure Development Corporation for the Union Territory of Ladakh.
 - The corporation will work for industry, tourism, transport and marketing of local products and handicrafts.
- ❖ The United Kingdom is now reporting an outbreak of norovirus.
 - People suffering from norovirus disease can shed billions of virus particles making it is very contagious.
- ❖ The Indian Women's National Football Team Forward, Ngangom Bala Devi has been named as the All-India Football Federation Women's Footballer of the Year 2020-21.
 - Bala currently plays for Rangers Women's FC in Scotland.
- ❖ Senior India defender, Sandesh Jhingan was named the AIFF men's Footballer of the Year 2020-21 season.
 - It is the first time that the towering central defender has received the AIFF Player of the Year award.
- ❖ Four new sports have been introduced in the Tokyo Olympics.
 - They are karate, skateboarding, surfing and sport climbing.
- ❖ The Former election commissioner Ashok Lavasa has come out with a book titled "An Ordinary Life: Portrait of an Indian Generation."

- Ashok Lavasa resigned as election commissioner in 2020 to become the vice-president of the Asian Development Bank.
- ❖ Naveen Patnaik led Odisha state government has declared Puri as the first city in the country to have city-wide safe drinking tap water.
- ❖ Rakshaya and Vedasree from Ariyalur district have been selected to participate in a space exercise in Russia.
 - They study the 11th grade in Thirumanaur Government High School.
- ❖ Sweden has ratified the framework agreement for the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and became a member of the global platform.
 - ISA is an initiative of India aimed at promoting renewable energy and sustainable development.

TAMIL NADU

New and 30th Director General of Police - Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Dr C Sylendra Babu has been appointed the 30th Director General of Police in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ He will take charge from July 1, 2021.
- ❖ He will hold office for a tenure of two years up to 2023.
- ❖ The incumbent DGP JK Tripathy retired on June 30, 2021.



- ❖ Sylendra Babu was previously serving as the Director General of Police of Railways in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ He also held the portfolio of the Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services as its director.
- ❖ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced the name of Sylendra Babu after a meeting of top officials including Chief Secretary Irai Anbu, incumbent DGP J.K. Tripathi and Home Secretary S.K. Prabhakar.

S.Peter Alphonse



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has reconstituted the State Minorities Commission.
- ❖ He named the former Congress legislator S. Peter Alphonse as its chairperson.
- ❖ Mr. Alphonse had been elected to the State Legislative Assembly from Tenkasi constituency in 1989 and 1991.
- ❖ The State Minorities Commission was constituted to safeguard the rights and interests of both religious and linguistic minorities.
- ❖ The constitution of the State Minorities Commission was ordered through a G.O. in 1989.
- ❖ It was done under the DMK government headed by Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi.
- ❖ An Act was passed to make it a statutory body in 2010.

Kudankulam - 5th power unit

- ❖ Russia started construction of fifth nuclear power unit at Kudankulam (Tirunelveli) in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Rosatom (a Russian company) is providing technology to construct the Kudankulam plant.

- ❖ This plant was scheduled to six units each having 1,000 MWe generation capacity.
- ❖ It is going to be India's first light water reactor.
- ❖ Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant is the largest nuclear power plant of India.
- ❖ Construction of the plant started on March 31, 2002.

Mariyappan Thangavelu - flag bearer

- ❖ Top para high-jumper Mariyappan Thangavelu was named the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent in the Tokyo Paralympics.
- ❖ The event begins on August 24.
- ❖ The 25-year-old Thangavelu was conferred with the Khel Ratna.
- ❖ Thangavelu hails from Salem district in Tamil Nadu.



DGP Selection Process (Tamilnadu)

- ❖ The Union Public Service Commission had approved a panel comprising three names - Sylendra Babu, Karan Singha and Sanjay Arora.
- ❖ After that the Tamil Nadu government has to choose its choice from these three names.
- ❖ The selected DGP will hold office for a tenure of two years.
- ❖ The ADGP rank officers who had completed 30 years of service will be eligible for the DGP post.
- ❖ The UPSC follows the Supreme Court's order issued in the Prakash Singh case of 2006 for the selection process.

TNAU identifies grasses & trees to improve Elephant Habitats

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and Forest College and Research Institute (FC&RI) has undertaken a project to identify native grasses & trees.
- ❖ The objective is to improve quality of elephant habitats by restoring them with native grasses and fodder trees.
- ❖ The Forest Department has set up eight-member group for this.
- ❖ The team submitted an interim report recently.
- ❖ In the report, they have identified 29 native grass species and 14 fodder tree species that are palatable for elephants and other herbivores.
- ❖ The team also started a nursery for growing these species in FC&RI campus.

Tamil Nadu Athletes to Tokyo Olympics



- ❖ For the first time, five athletes from the Tamil Nadu Athletic Association finds berths in the Indian Olympic team.
- ❖ The five athletes are Arokia Rajiv, Nagananthan Pandi (Men 4x400 relay), Dhanalakshmi Sekhar, Revathi Veeramani, and Subha Venkatesan (Mixed 4x400 relay).

Head of Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation

- ❖ Dindigul I Leoni has been appointed head of the Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation is responsible for publishing, printing, and selling books free of cost to the government and government-aided schools, and also to private schools at a rate fixed by the government.
- ❖ It has been producing books for English and Tamil medium syllabus for students of Classes I to XII.



Bionychiurus tamilensis

- ❖ Researchers from the molecular biodiversity laboratory in the department of Zoology and Wildlife Biology in the Government Arts College in Ooty have discovered a new wingless insect in the Nilgiris.
- ❖ The 1mm-long flightless insect has been named Bionychiurus tamilensis as it was recorded in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ There are only six species under this genus reported so far across the world.
- ❖ Those species are reported only from cold high-altitude regions of Switzerland, China and Korea.

New members to TNPSC

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government appointed four new members to the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC).
- ❖ IAS officer S. Munianathan, Professor K. Jothi Sivagnanam, K. Arulmathi and Fr. A. Raj Mariasusai are the new members appointed by the government.
- ❖ Their term would be for six years or till they attain the age of 62.

Terracotta container - Keezhadi

- ❖ A terracotta container was unearthed at the archaeological site at Keeladi in Sivaganga during the seventh phase of excavation.
- ❖ It had an intricately designed band running along its outer surface.
- ❖ It is not known if this is a part of a ring well or grain storing unit, as it has many layers.
- ❖ It has depressions such as thumb impressions and another has a band which has been equally divided into small squares, with deep lines in between.



Doorstep care to cut deaths due to diabetes & BP – TN

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has decided to launch a programme that will take clinics to people's homes across the state and offer home-based dialysis units to people with chronic renal failure.
- ❖ This is done with the aim to bring down by 50% nearly five lakh deaths caused every year due to non-communicable diseases in the state.
- ❖ The state will launch a mass screening programme for 10 days as a precursor to the doorstep medical care programme and check for blood sugar and blood pressure
- ❖ Under 'makalai thedi maruthuvam' scheme, those diagnosed with diabetes or hypertension will undergo preliminary screening and consultation at the government primary health centre.



'MAKKALAI THEDI MARUTHUVAM'

- Those with elevated blood sugar and or BP will be sent to the nearest govt facility for tests and consultations
- Their blood sugar and pressure will be tested periodically by health workers when they visit patients' homes to also deliver drugs
- Peritoneal dialysis machines and physiotherapy services will also be provided at home



AK Rajan committee report

- ❖ The Former judge A.K. Rajan submitted his report on the people's response to the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET).
- ❖ The Justice Rajan told press persons that a majority of people who had responded were against NEET.
- ❖ NEET was introduced in the State in 2016 but it wasn't until 2018 that it became mandatory for admission to medical colleges.
- ❖ Last year, the State government introduced a special reservation of 7.5% of the total seats available in the State pool for government school students.
- ❖ Around 300 students benefited under this scheme.
- ❖ This year the Union Education Ministry has proposed to hold NEET on September 12.

Bharathiar University gets two patents

- ❖ The Bharathiar University has obtained patents for two procedures.
- ❖ They are,
 - One is related to salvaging of metals from solid wastes and
 - Other is the use of a fruit tree to treat diabetes.
- ❖ The first patent was for 'Method for recovery of metals from metal-bearing solid wastes' by K. Ramachandran, Associate Professor, and research scholars R. Saravanakumar and P.V. Ananthapadmanabhan.
- ❖ The second patent was for the use of Syzygium mundagam (wild jamun fruit tree) in treating diabetes.
- ❖ A team of Professor T. Parimelazagan and research scholar Rahul Chandran studied the tree, isolated active compounds from the tree bark and used it in various tests.

Ola scooter factory at Krishnagiri

- ❖ The ola company signed a \$100-million, 10-year debt financing agreement with Bank of Baroda to fund the first phase of its electric two-wheeler vehicle factory in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The agreement is the largest long-term debt financing agreement in the Indian electric vehicle industry.
- ❖ The EV factory is being built on a 500-acre site in Krishnagiri.



2,300-year-old step-well

- ❖ A 2,300 year-old step-well has been found for the first time at the Kodumanal excavation site.
- ❖ The habitation-cum-industrial site is located in Chennimalai Union in Erode district.
- ❖ The site, located 15 km from Chennimalai, is along the banks of the Noyyal.
- ❖ Previous excavations since 1981 revealed the presence of an industrial complex where beads and semi-precious stones were manufactured.



Fairtrade certification – Indcoserve, Nilgiris

- ❖ Indcoserve has become India's first cooperative to obtain the Fairtrade certification from FLOCERT in Germany.
- ❖ Indcoserve is the apex body of industrial cooperative tea factories in the Nilgiris.
- ❖ Indcoserve CEO Supriya Sahu received the certificate from chief minister M K Stalin.
- ❖ Fairtrade certification is an internationally acclaimed product certification system.

- ❖ Headquartered in Bonn, Germany, Fairtrade International operates in 72 countries.
- ❖ Indcoserve is India's largest tea cooperative federation.



28 crore saplings

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has decided to plant 28 crore saplings in order to increase the forest cover.
- ❖ With a geographical area of 130,006 Sq Kms, the state has at present 23.8 per cent of forest cover.
- ❖ The Government is planning to increase it to 33 per cent.
- ❖ All the departments and other social welfare and NGOs will be involved in the drive to plant 28 crore saplings by removing trees like eucalyptus in another 10 years.


Dam across the Markandeya River

- ❖ The construction of the dam across the Markandeya River at Yargol in neighbouring Karnataka is likely to cast a shadow over the much awaited Thenpennai-Palar river interlinking project.
- ❖ If the Karnataka government holds back water at the Yargol dam, it will lessen the flow into Pennaiyar.
- ❖ This will subsequently dim the prospects of the Krishnagiri dam receiving copious amount of water during the monsoon.
- ❖ This will have an adverse impact on the areas of northern Tamil Nadu downstream.

Note

- ❖ Thenpennai-Palar interlinking project envisages bringing 3 tmc water from Thenpennai river to Palar at Vaniyambadi in Tirupathur district.

- ❖ The project would benefit Vellore, Tirupathur and Ranipet districts.

DISPUTE SO FAR	
<p>1892 State of Madras and Mysore entered into an agreement on use, control and distribution of waters of the inter-state river. It was modified and amended in 1933</p>	 <p>A tributary of Pennaiyar in Kolar district, Krishnagiri district</p>
<p>2012 Tamil Nadu objects to Karnataka's plan to divert Pennaiyar waters to about 160 tanks in Malur taluk</p>	
<p>2013 TN gets to know Karnataka proposed a check dam across river Markandeya, a tributary of Pennaiyar. Communications followed since then</p>	<p>2018 TN moves SC to declare the unilateral action of Karnataka illegal</p>
	<p>Dec 2018 Centre says no request for appointment of arbitrator under the agreement was received from either state</p>
	<p>Mar 2019 Karnataka argues that consent of TN government not required</p>
	<p>April TN blames Centre for failing to initiate action to stop the unauthorized diversions</p>
	<p>July TN files interlocutory petition against construction of dam across river Markandeya</p>
	<p>Nov 14 Court dismissed the petition and posted the original suit for hearing on January 10</p>

PSTM reservation

- ❖ The Madurai Bench of Madras High Court directed the State to implement PSTM reservation in the state government appointments.
- ❖ It reiterated that only the candidates, who have had their entire education — from Class 1 till college or the prescribed higher qualification — in Tamil medium are eligible for the 20 per cent reservation under the PSTM Act.
- ❖ The Secretary of the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC) was seeking to exempt the commission from implementing the order in the 2020 Group I recruitment.
- ❖ The TNPSC stated that the said recruitment was announced in January 2020.
- ❖ But the Bench directed TNPSC to implement it in the current Group I services recruitment (2020) process as well.

Tamilnadu state legal services authority

- ❖ The Madras High Court Judge Kirubakaran has been appointed into the Tamilnadu state legal services authority.
- ❖ Article 39-A of our Constitution enjoins the State to provide free legal aid to the citizen on account of poverty or other disabilities.
- ❖ The Legal Services Act 1987 is basically aimed to provide free and competent legal Services to the weaker sections of the society.

Hyundai 1 crore car production

- ❖ The South Korean Automobile Company Hyundai reached a new milestone rolling out the 10 million vehicles.
- ❖ It was the recently launched Hyundai Alcazar.
- ❖ The Tamilnadu Chief Minister MK Stalin signed on that car.
- ❖ Hyundai's plant at Irrungttukottai in Kancheepuram district near Chennai is celebrating its 25th year in operation in 2021.
- ❖ It was started in 1996 during the tenure of Karunanidhi.



Tamil Chair at University of Cologne in Germany

- ❖ Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin ordered to provide Rs 1.25 crore financial assistance for the Tamil Chair at University of Cologne in Germany.
- ❖ Dr Klaus Ludwig founded this Tamil Chair in 1963 at this university.
- ❖ It has one of the largest collections of Tamil books outside Tamil Nadu.



Stabilized Remote Control Gun

- ❖ Ordnance Factory Tiruchirappalli hands over Fifteen 12.7 mm M2 NATO Stabilized Remote Control Gun to Indian Navy & 10 to Indian Coast Guard.
- ❖ It is manufactured with the transfer of technology agreement from Elbit Systems, Israel.



Justice Murugesan commission

- ❖ It submitted its report to the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu.
- ❖ It was formed on June 15.
- ❖ It undertook the study of the representation of government school students in technical courses.
- ❖ The report discussed how only about 2% of government school students were being admitted to Anna University and less than 10% to State-run engineering colleges.
- ❖ It has recommended that they be given “preferential treatment” in admission to government quota seats in professional courses (other than medicine).

Annamalai University

- ❖ It will be developed into an affiliated university
- ❖ Colleges in the four districts of Villupuram, Cuddalore, Kallakurichi and Mayiladuthurai, including Dr J Jayalalithaa Law University at Villupuram, will be merged with Annamalai University.

Muthaleetalarkalin Muthal Mugavari – Investment Conclave

- ❖ The CM also said that within 2030 the GDP of Tamilnadu will be increased to one lakh crore US dollars or one trillion economy.
- ❖ He has set a target to bring in investment of ₹23 lakh crore by 2030.
- ❖ The State government signed Memoranda of Understanding for 35 new projects at an investment conclave in Chennai.
- ❖ It is entailing investments worth over ₹17,000 crore.
- ❖ The Chief Minister of Tamilnadu MK Stalin launched the Single Window Portal 2.0 with over 100 services spread across 24 departments for existing and new investors in a fully digitalised manner
- ❖ The Guidance Tamil Nadu, the state nodal agency for investment promotion, entered into an MoU with the American Tamil Entrepreneurs Association to promote start-ups in the fields of innovation, research and development in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ This digital accelerator program sanctions grants to start-up projects engaged in innovation, research and development.
- ❖ The state government has sanctioned Rs 5 crore for this programme.



Some of the major investment deals

- ❖ Danish auto component manufacturer Dinex's unit in Mahindra World City, Coral Manufacturing Works' unit in Erode are inaugurated.
- ❖ The foundation for liquid oxygen plant of INOX air products was laid at Hosur.
- ❖ JSW Renew Energy Two Limited at Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, Dindigul, and Tirupur.
- ❖ German firm ZF Wabco at Sipcot Oragadam.

- ❖ Singapore firm Capita Land in Ambattur.
- ❖ Srivaru Motors in Coimbatore
- ❖ TCS Phase 3 for at Sipcot IT park Siruseri.

Violinist Sikkil R Bhaskaran



- ❖ The Noted Carnatic Classical Violinist 'Kalaimaamani' Sikkil R Bhaskaran passed away.
- ❖ He started learning the Violin at the age of 11 from Thiruvarur Subba Iyer and later trained under Mayuram Govindarajan Pillai.
- ❖ He was an 'A' Grade Artist of AIR.
- ❖ He has served for nearly 2 decades in Chennai radio Station from 1976 to 1994.

Perforated terracotta pipes in Korkai



- ❖ Nine perforated terracotta pipes, stacked one above the other, have been found during the archaeological excavation at Korkai.
- ❖ Korkai is an ancient site in Thoothukudi district.
- ❖ The diameter and the height of the pipes were both 27 cms.

Private Member Bill moved in RS to get TN exempted from NEET

- ❖ To get Tamil Nadu exempted from the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), DMK's Rajya Sabha MP P Wilson has moved the Medical Education Laws (Amendment) Bill 2021.
- ❖ The Bill aims at amending certain enactments pertaining to medical education in India.

2,500-year-old sword and a clay pot

- ❖ An excavation at Mayilaadumpaaraai next to Bargur in Krishnagiri district has uncovered 2,500-year-old sword and a clay pot.
- ❖ The iron sword was 70 cm long.
- ❖ The clay was about 50 cm in size.



Government Jobs to Suba Venkatesh and Dhanalakshmi

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Sports Minister Meyyanathan has said that the state government jobs will be awarded to the Tamil Nadu athletes Suba Venkatesan and Thanalakshmi who participated in the Olympics.
- ❖ He also said that Olympic academies would be set up in 4 places in Tamil Nadu to train Tamil Nadu athletes in international standards.

Sundaradevan committee

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government constituted a 13-member expert committee.
- ❖ It will be headed by N Sundaradevan, former Industries secretary, Tamil Nadu government.
- ❖ The committee will look into the challenges faced by the MSME sector in Tamil Nadu and will suggest immediate, medium and long term measures required for the revival of the MSME sector.

1892 Agreement between Mysore and Madras



- ❖ An Agreement was entered into between the then State of Mysore & Madras (presently State of Karnataka and State of Tamil Nadu) in 1892 with reference to taking up new irrigation works across the rivers
- ❖ According to this, when the Mysore Government desires to construct any "New irrigation Reservoir" or any new anicut, the full information regarding the proposed work shall be forwarded to the Madras Government and the consent of that Government shall be obtained previous to the actual commencement of work.
- ❖ The Madras Government shall be bound not to refuse such consent except for the protection of prescriptive right.

NATIONAL

New Definition of Small and medium companies

- ❖ The Ministry of corporate affairs has expanded the definition of small and medium sized companies (SMCs).
- ❖ As per expanded definition, Small & Medium Companies is an unlisted company, a bank, an insurance or a financial institution with sales up to Rs 250 crore and borrowings up to Rs 50 crore.
- ❖ Earlier limit for sales was Rs 50 crore and for borrowings was Rs 10 crore.
- ❖ Now, SMCs are permitted to avail number of exemptions under Company (Accounting Standards) Rules 2021.
- ❖ It will reduce complexity of regulatory filings for smaller firms.

Attorney General K.K. Venugopal tenure extended



- ❖ The government has extended the tenure of Attorney General K.K. Venugopal by a year.
- ❖ Mr. Venugopal will continue as the government's top law officer till June 30, 2022.
- ❖ This is the second time the Centre has extended his tenure.
- ❖ Mr. Venugopal was appointed Attorney General in July 2017 for a three-year tenure.
- ❖ He received his first extension of term in 2020.
- ❖ The 89-year-old took over as the 15th Attorney General.



Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

- ❖ The central government launched a website for its Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.
- ❖ It is a campaign against substance abuse, to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.
- ❖ The website was launched by Social Justice and Empowerment minister Thawarchand Gehlot.

New Special Director of CBI

- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Praveen Sinha as the Special Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation.
- ❖ The Special Director is the second senior-most position in the agency after the Director.
- ❖ The post was vacant since the last three years.
- ❖ It was earlier held by Rakesh Asthana.
- ❖ The committee is composed of the Prime Minister of India, who is the Chairman, and the Minister of Home Affairs.

One Nation, One Ration Card Scheme

- ❖ The Supreme Court has directed all states and UTs to implement the One Nation, One Ration Card system.
- ❖ ONORC was launched in August, 2019.
- ❖ It comes under the National Food Security Act, 2013.
- ❖ Four states are yet to join the scheme.
- ❖ They are Assam, Chhattisgarh, Delhi and West Bengal.

Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine

- ❖ The Drugs Controller General of India has granted permission to Cipla to import Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine.
- ❖ Cipla is a Mumbai-based pharma company.
- ❖ This makes the fourth vaccine in the country to be given the emergency use authorisation (EUA).
- ❖ Currently, India has made available three COVID vaccines — Covaxin, Covishield and Sputnik.

One more joins the battle

Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine has become the fourth one to get emergency use authorisation in India

■ Three other COVID-19 vaccines — **Covaxin**, **Covishield** and **Sputnik B** — are currently available

■ India is also in talks with **Pfizer** and **Johnson & Johnson** to add to the vaccines available

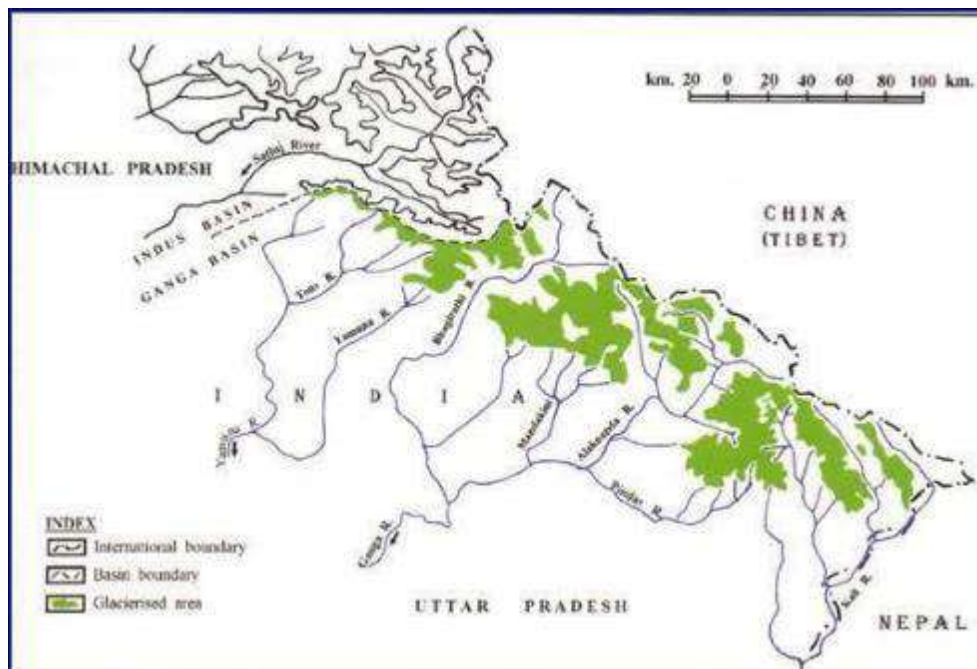
■ Moderna's vaccine can be stored for a period of **seven months** at prescribed temperature and normal storage after the vial is opened is **30 days**

■ It has shown to have an efficacy of approximately **94.1%** in protecting against COVID-19, starting **14 days** after the first dose



Based on evidence collected so far, the new variants of SARS-CoV-2 do not alter the effectiveness of the vaccine

Atlas of glacial lakes



- ❖ The Ministry of Jal Shakti has released an updated atlas of glacial lakes that are part of the Ganga River basin.
- ❖ About 4,707 glacial lakes have been mapped in the Ganga basin.

- ❖ Glacial lakes with water spread area greater than 0.25 ha were mapped using Resourcesat-2 Linear Imaging Self Scanning Sensor-IV satellite data.
- ❖ The Atlas is available on Bhuvan portal of National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), ISRO.

Shibu Lal commitee

- ❖ The Former Infosys CEO S D Shibu Lal was appointed chairperson of a three-member task force.
- ❖ This task force is formed to help the government in bringing major bureaucratic reforms through its "Mission Karma yogi".
- ❖ Besides Lal, who is founder of Shiksha Lokam and founder and ex-CEO of Infosys Limited, Govind Iyer, and Pankaj Bansal will be part of the task force.
- ❖ The Centre has recently approved the 'National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building - Mission Karma yogi'.
- ❖ This is to make a transformational shift from rule based training to role-based capacity development of all civil services in the country.

Anomalies in Law and Justice – book

- ❖ The Chief Justice of India Justice NV Ramana has released former Supreme Court judge RV Raveendran's book "Anomalies in Law and Justice".
- ❖ The book is an attempt to explain to the layman that the law and the legal system is still evolving.
- ❖ Also that it requires more critical thinking to resolve issues that have persisted in the system for a long time.



Mumbai Samachar enters 200th year

- ❖ On July 1, India's oldest running newspaper, Mumbai Samachar, entered its 200th year.
- ❖ This Gujarati newspaper was first published in 1822.
- ❖ It was founded by a Parsi scholar Fardoonji Murazban.



NATRAX – Indore

- ❖ The Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Prakash Javadekar has inaugurated NATRAX (National Automotive Test Tracks) the High-Speed Track in Indore.
- ❖ It is the longest high Speed Track in Asia.
- ❖ It is fifth-longest in the world
- ❖ It is an 11.3 km High-Speed Track.
- ❖ It is a one-stop solution for all sorts of high-speed performance tests, that is, from 2 wheelers to heavy tractor-trailers.





Indrajaal

- ❖ Hyderabad-based technology R&D firm Grene Robotics has designed and developed India's first indigenous drone defence dome called "Indrajaal".
- ❖ The drone defence dome has the capability to autonomously protect an area of 1000-2000 sq km.
- ❖ It can give protection against the aerial threats by assessing and acting on aerial threats.
- ❖ The aerial threats include Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), loitering munitions and Low- Radar Cross Section (RCS) targets.

First voyage of Green Freight Corridor-2

- ❖ Ministry of Shipping launched the maiden voyage under Green Freight Corridor-2.
- ❖ This newly launched service will connect Cochin with Beypore-Azhikkal in the initial phases while Kollam ports in Kerala in later phases.
- ❖ This will improve connectivity and synergies between major & non-major ports by promoting coastal trading.

National Convention on Prevention of Obesity – NITI Aayog

- ❖ The National Convention on Prevention of Maternal, Adolescent and Childhood Obesity was convened by NITI Aayog.
- ❖ This Convention was held under the chairmanship of Dr. V.K. Paul and Co-chairmanship of Dr. R Hemalatha.
- ❖ NITI Aayog described obesity as "silent epidemic".

Crop Insurance Awareness Campaign

- ❖ The Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar, has launched the Crop Insurance Awareness Campaign for Fasal Bima Yojana.
- ❖ It was launched during Crop Insurance Week (1st July to 7th July).
- ❖ PMFBY was launched on February, 18, 2016.
- ❖ Fasal Bima Yojana was launched with the aim of providing security cover to each farmer.
- ❖ This scheme covers all Food & Oilseeds crops along with Annual Commercial or Horticultural Crops for which past yield data is available.



Fund for Industrial Research Engagement initiative

- ❖ The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) in partnership with Intel India have launched a first of its kind research initiative.
- ❖ It is called as 'Fund for Industrial Research Engagement (FIRE)'
- ❖ This initiative helps in advance deep tech-based research in India.
- ❖ This will help the Indian research community to pursue industry-relevant research opportunities in areas of deep technologies. (Like Artificial Intelligence, Machine Language, etc.)
- ❖ Science and Engineering Research Board is a statutory body under Department of Science & Technology.
- ❖ 'FIRE' is a joint government and industry initiative with a co-funding mechanism.

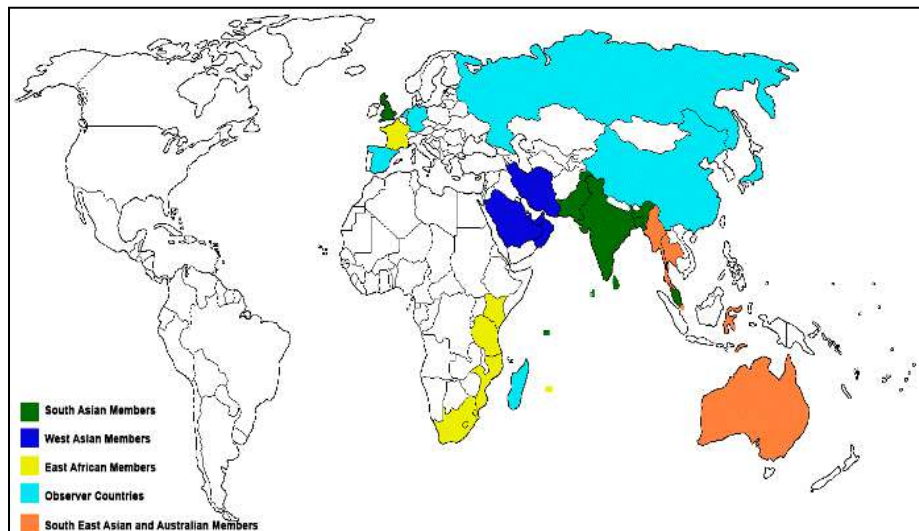
Innovative Promotion Agency 2021

- ❖ Invest India has been awarded world's most innovative Promotion Agency 2021 by OCO Global.
- ❖ Invest India is the national Investment Promotion & Facilitation Agency of India.
- ❖ It was established in 2009.
- ❖ It was established as a non-profit venture of Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal under Trade Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

- ❖ It focuses on sector-specific investor which helps in targeting & developing new partnerships in order to enable sustainable investments across India.

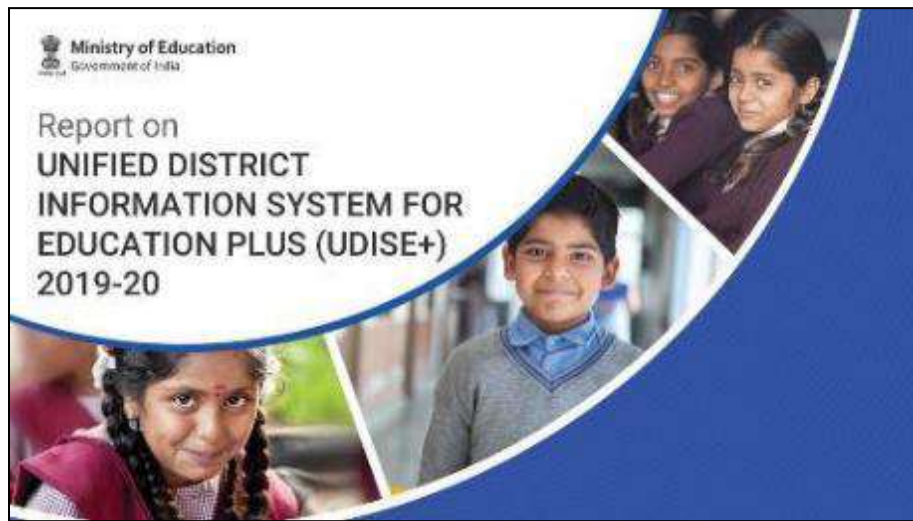
Indian Ocean Naval Symposium

- ❖ 7th edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) was hosted by the French Navy recently.
- ❖ It is a biennial event.
- ❖ IONS is a significant international maritime security initiative launched in February 2008.
- ❖ It provides a forum for discussion of regional maritime issues and promotes friendly relationships among member nations.
- ❖ IONS includes 24 nations that permanently hold territory within the Indian Ocean, and 8 observer nations.



UDISE+ report

- ❖ Union minister of education, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank released Unified District Information System for Education Plus report (UDISE+) for 2019-2020.
- ❖ UDISE+ report highlighted some interesting facts, both positive and negative about Indian school education system.
- ❖ As per the report, total enrolment in 2019-20 was about 25.09 crores in primary to higher secondary levels of school education.
- ❖ Enrolment of boys was 13.01 crore while that of girls was 12.08 crore.



First uncrewed mission – ISRO

- ❖ The first unmanned launch was scheduled for December 2020 and the second unmanned launch was scheduled for July 2021 and the final human spaceflight was scheduled in December 2021.
- ❖ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the dates were postponed.
- ❖ The first unmanned mission is planned in December 2021 and the second unmanned mission in 2022-23, followed by human spaceflight.
- ❖ GSLV Mk III, ISRO's heavy-lift launcher has also been identified for the mission.
- ❖ With the success of the Gaganyaan mission, India would become the fourth country to successfully launch a crewed mission into space after the US, China, and USSR/Russia.

India and Hydropower projects by 2030

- ❖ India is expected to add 26 GW (or 26,000 MW) of Hydropower projects by 2030.
- ❖ This is according to the 'Hydropower Special Market Report – Analysis and forecast to 2030' released by International Energy Agency (IEA).
- ❖ At present, the installed capacity of the 207 hydropower projects running in India is 46,209 MW.
- ❖ The Global hydropower capacity is set to increase by 17%, or 230 GW, between 2021 and 2030.
- ❖ China will remain the single largest hydropower market through 2030, accounting for 40% of the global capacity growth in the Hydropower sector.
- ❖ The world's largest hydroelectric facility is the Three Gorges Dam in China.

Ambedkar Memorial and Cultural Centre

- ❖ The President Ram Nath Kovind laid the foundation stone for Ambedkar Memorial and Cultural Centre in Lucknow.
- ❖ The cultural centre will come in front of Aishbagh Eidgah in Lucknow.
- ❖ It will have a 25-ft high statue of Dr Ambedkar.

Miyazaki mango

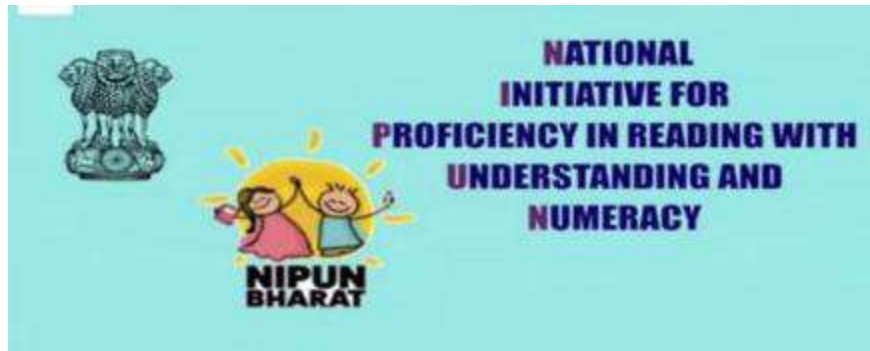
- ❖ The fruit is primarily cultivated in the Japanese city of Miyazaki, which is a capital city on the Kyushu Island.
- ❖ It is considered as the world's costliest mangoes.
- ❖ The Miyazaki mangoes can weigh up to 350 grams.
- ❖ It is enriched with nutrients like antioxidants, beta-carotene, and folic acid.
- ❖ Recently, this fruit was found to be grown by the Jabalpur couple, Rani and Parihar.



NIPUN Bharat Initiative

- ❖ The Union government launched a new scheme called “NIPUN Bharat Initiative” on July 5, 2021.
- ❖ NIPUN stands for “National Initiative for Proficiency in reading with Understanding and Numeracy”.
- ❖ This scheme would provide an enabling environment in a bid to ensure universal acquisition of foundational literacy and numeracy.
- ❖ It will ensure that every child achieves desired learning competencies in reading, writing, and numeracy by end of Grade 3, by the year 2026-27.
- ❖ This initiative will be a part of school education programme, Samagra Shiksha.
- ❖ It is a five-tier implementation mechanism.
- ❖ It will be set up at national, state, district, block, and school levels across all states and Union territories.

- ❖ This scheme is in line with new education policy.



End of Darbar move

- ❖ The LG Manoj Sinha formally put an end to a 149-year-old biannual tradition of shifting offices between summer capital Srinagar and winter capital Jammu.
- ❖ The Administration cancelled the residential accommodation of “darbar move” employees in Jammu and Srinagar.
- ❖ This implies that the employees will remain stationed in either Jammu or Kashmir.
- ❖ Dogra monarch Maharaja Gulab Singh is believed to have started the tradition of shifting the capital in 1872.
- ❖ The tradition was continued after 1947 by J&K’s political class.



Coal production – India

- ❖ India’s total coal production registered a marginal decline of 2.02% to 716.084 million tonnes during the last fiscal year.
- ❖ Chhattisgarh registered the highest coal production of 158.409 MT.
- ❖ It is followed by Odisha 154.150 MT, Madhya Pradesh 132.531 MT, and Jharkhand 119.296 MT.



CoWin Global Conclave

- ❖ The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi inaugurated and addressed the CoWin Global Conclave.
- ❖ The global meet was participated by representatives from 142 countries.
- ❖ The Conclave was jointly organized by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of External Affairs and National Health Authority.
- ❖ India has offered its indigenously developed cloud-based CoWIN platform to be made open-source so that it is available to any and all countries.

New Governors

- ❖ The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind has appointed new Governors for eight states.
- ❖ According to the article 155, The Governor of a State shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.
- ❖ The Union Government is responsible to nominate the governor for each state.

Sl.no	State	New Governor
1.	Karnataka	Thawarchand Gehlot
2.	Madhya Pradesh	Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
3.	Mizoram	Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati
4.	Himachal Pradesh	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
5.	Goa	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
6.	Tripura	Satyadev Narayan Arya
7.	Jharkhand	Ramesh Bais
8.	Haryana	Bandaru Dattatraya

Project BOLD

- ❖ The project was launched by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) recently from the tribal village Nichla Mandwa in Udaipur, Rajasthan.
- ❖ 5000 saplings of special bamboo species have been planted in vacant arid Gram Panchayat land.
- ❖ These special species Bambusa Tulda and Bambusa Polymorpha were brought from Assam.
- ❖ KVIC has thus created a world record of planting the highest number of bamboo saplings on a single day at one location.

- ❖ BOLD stands for Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought.
- ❖ It is launched by KVIC.
- ❖ The initiative has been launched as part of KVIC's "Khadi Bamboo Festival" to celebrate 75 years of independence "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav".
- ❖ Its objective is to create bamboo-based green patches in arid and semi-arid land zones to reduce desertification.

Open Network for Digital Commerce

- ❖ The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry has initiated a project on Open Network for Digital Commerce.
- ❖ The task has been assigned to Quality Council of India.
- ❖ ONDC aims at promoting open networks developed on open sourced methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols independent of any specific platform.

Matsya Setu app



- ❖ The union minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Giriraj Singh has launched the Online Course Mobile App “Matsya Setu”.
- ❖ The app was developed by the ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), Bhubaneswar.
- ❖ The funding support was from the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad.
- ❖ The online course app aims to disseminate the latest freshwater aquaculture technologies to the aqua farmers of the country.

The Cabinet reshuffle

- ❖ The reshuffle and expansion of the union council of ministers has seen the record induction of members from OBC and SC communities.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi oversaw the swearing-in of 43 Ministers.
- ❖ Earlier, 12 Ministers (seven Cabinet and five Ministers of State) were dropped.
- ❖ Ravi Shankar Prasad, Prakash Javadekar, Harsh Vardhan, Ramesh Pokhriyal and Santosh Gangwar were among the heavyweights dropped.
- ❖ The government now has a record 12 Ministers belonging to the Scheduled Castes and 27 belonging to Other Backward Classes.

EYE ON POLLS | A look at the new Cabinet of the Central government which was sworn in on Wednesday

			Kiren Rijju, 49 Cabinet Minister, Lok Sabha MP from Arunachal West, Arunachal Pradesh	S.P. Singh Baghel, 51 MoS, Lok Sabha MP from Agra, U.P.	Devanish Chohan, 56 MoS, Lok Sabha MP from Kheda, Gujarat
			Raj Kumar Singh, 68 Cabinet Minister, Lok Sabha MP from Arunachal West, Arunachal Pradesh	Rajeev Chandrasekhar, 57 MoS, Rajya Sabha MP from Karnataka	Bhagwant Khushi, 52 MoS, Lok Sabha MP from Bidar, Karnataka
			Hardoop Singh Puri, 68 Cabinet Minister, Rajya Sabha MP from U.P.	Shobha Karandlaje, 54 MoS, Lok Sabha MP from Udupi Chikmagalur, Karnataka	Kapil Mohanlal Patel, 60 MoS, Lok Sabha MP from Shimoga, Maharashtra
			Manoj Kumar Mishra, 49 Cabinet Minister, Rajya Sabha MP from Gujarat	Bhola Prasad Singh Verma, 63 MoS, Lok Sabha MP from Jalau, U.P.	Pradip Kumar, 52 MoS, Lok Sabha MP from Tripura West, Tripura
			Bhupendra Yadav, 52 Cabinet Minister, Lok Sabha MP from Rajasthan	Darshana Vikram Jaiswal, 60 MoS, Lok Sabha MP from Surat, Gujarat	Sudhakar Barua, 67 MoS, Lok Sabha MP from Barak, West Bengal
			G. Kishan Reddy, 61 Cabinet Minister, Lok Sabha MP from Secunderabad, Telangana	Moonakshi Lakshmi, 54 MoS, Lok Sabha MP from New Delhi	Bhagwat Karad, 64 MoS, Rajya Sabha MP from Maharashtra
			Amrith Singh Thakur, 46 Cabinet Minister, Lok Sabha MP from Haryana, H.P.	Anupama Devi, 51 MoS, Lok Sabha MP from Kodama, Jharkhand	Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, 68 MoS, Lok Sabha MP from Inner Manipal, Manipal
			Pankaj Chaudhary, 56 Minister of State, Lok Sabha MP from Maharashtra, U.P.	A. Narayanaswamy, 64 MoS, Lok Sabha MP from Chitradurga, Karnataka	Bhaskar Prasad, 42 MoS, Lok Sabha MP from Dindori, Maharashtra
			Anupriya Singh Patel, 40 MoS, Lok Sabha MP from Mizoram, U.P.	Koushal Kishore, 61 MoS, Lok Sabha MP from Mohanlalpur, U.P.	Bhaskar Prasad, 42 MoS, Lok Sabha MP from Dindori, Maharashtra
				Ajay Bhat, 60 MoS, Lok Sabha MP from Nandini-Lichchhansingh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh	Bhaskar Prasad, 42 MoS, Lok Sabha MP from Dindori, Maharashtra
				B. L. Verma, 69 MoS, Rajya Sabha MP from U.P.	Shantanao Thakur, 58 MoS, Lok Sabha MP from Bangaon, West Bengal
				Ajay Kumar, 60 MoS, Lok Sabha MP from Kheri, U.P.	Mahendra Bhargava, 52 MoS, Lok Sabha MP from Surendranagar, Gujarat
					John Barua, 45 MoS, Lok Sabha MP from Alipour, West Bengal
					Nikhil Prasad, 36 MoS, Lok Sabha MP from Coochbehar, West Bengal

CABINET COMPOSITION

12 SC Ministers	27 OBC Ministers	4 Women Ministers	4 Former CMs
8 ST Ministers	11 Women Ministers	25 Ministers from 25 States/UTs	Out of the 43 ministers sworn in, 36 are new faces

- ❖ Also Eight Ministers belonging to the Scheduled Tribes and five Ministers belonging to minority communities, including one Muslim, one Christian, one Sikh and two Buddhists.
- ❖ Women Ministers are numbered at 11 with two Cabinet Ministers and others being Ministers of State.

UPI based parking facility



- ❖ Delhi Metro Rail Corporation launched India's first FASTag or Unified Payments Interface based parking facility.
- ❖ This facility was launched to reduce time for entry and payment.
- ❖ This facility was launched at Kashmiri Gate metro station.

The Department of Public Enterprises under Finance Ministry

- ❖ The government split the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises and brought the Department of Public Enterprises under the administrative control of the Finance Ministry.

THE NEW STRUCTURE

Finmin had 3 departments	Subsequently more were added
➤ Expenditure	➤ Financial services
➤ Revenue	➤ Dipam
➤ Economic affairs	➤ Public enterprises

➤ Department of public enterprises has come under the direct control of finance minister **Nirmala Sitharaman**

➤ This is seen as a move to exercise greater financial control over state-run enterprises



- ❖ This move is aimed at ensuring that the Centre's privatisation, asset monetisation and capital expenditure plans for state-owned companies are aligned and coordinated.
- ❖ Department of Public Enterprises becomes the sixth department in the Finance Ministry.

Firing Range - Vidya Balan



- ❖ The Indian Army has named a firing range in Gulmarg, Kashmir after an Indian cinema actress, Vidya Balan.
- ❖ She has contributed to Indian cinema for over two decades after she started her career on small screen.
- ❖ To recognise her contributions to cinema, this range was named after her.

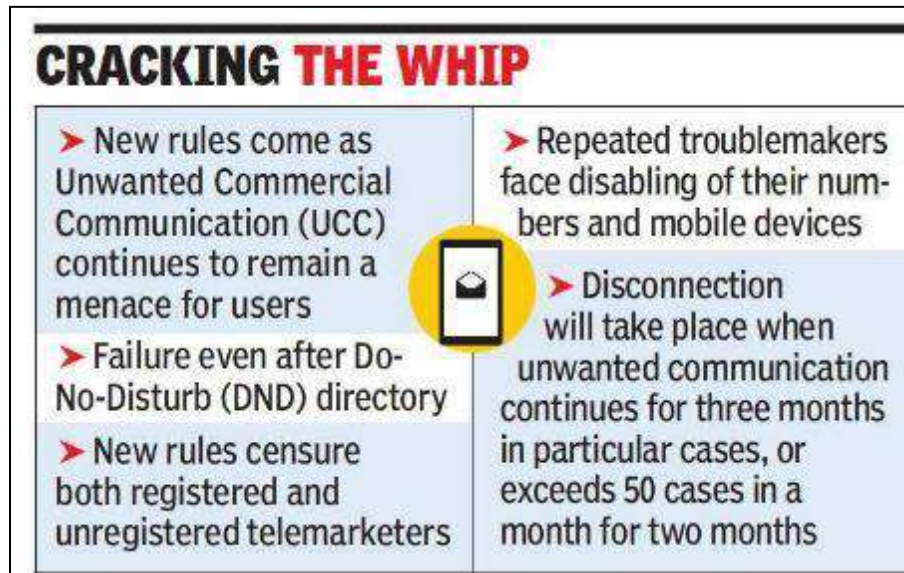
mRNA vaccine technology

- ❖ A team of Indian researchers who have been working on developing mRNA vaccine technology have been awarded a grant by Ignite Life Science Foundation.
- ❖ The mRNA vaccines have reportedly been highly effective against COVID-19 infection, especially against severe cases
- ❖ Both Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine use mRNA technology to offer protection against SARS-CoV-2.

New penalty slabs for fraud messages

- ❖ The Department of Telecom (DoT) has proposed to fine Rs 10,000 for fraud messages in order to tighten noose on pesky callers.

- ❖ New penalties are,
 - Rs 1,000 per violation for 0-10 breaches,
 - Rs 5,000 each for 10-50 violations and
 - Rs 10,000 each for more than 50 violations.



Mango diplomacy

- ❖ The Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, has gifted 2,600 kg of Haribhanga variety of mangoes to Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.
- ❖ Truck carrying mangoes crossed Bangladesh-India border through Benapole port in Jessore.
- ❖ Mangoes are a “memento of friendship” between both the countries.
- ❖ The Mangoes are of “Haribhanga variety” which are grown in Rangpur region of Bangladesh.

INS Tabar

- ❖ The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tabar recently participated in military exercises with frontline frigate of Italian Navy.
- ❖ INS Tabar joined Italian Navy and entered Port of Naples as part of ongoing deployment in Mediterranean.
- ❖ While returning, Tabar also undertook a Maritime Partnership Exercise with ITS Antonio Marceglia in Tyrrhenian Sea.

Bhalia wheat

- ❖ The first shipment of Geographical Indication (GI) certified Bhalia variety of wheat was exported to Kenya and Sri Lanka from Gujarat.
- ❖ This wheat variety has high protein content and is sweet in taste.
- ❖ The crop is grown mostly across the Bhal region of Gujarat.
- ❖ It is grown in rainfed conditions without irrigation and cultivated in around two lakh hectares of agricultural land in Gujarat.
- ❖ Bhalia variety of wheat received GI certification in July, 2011.
- ❖ Registered proprietor of GI certification is Anand Agricultural University in Gujarat.

GUAREX and SOYDEX



- ❖ The National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) launched India's 1st sectoral indices in agricultural-commodities space.
- ❖ NCDEX is India's agricultural commodity exchange.
- ❖ The indices are GUAREX and SOYDEX.
- ❖ These indices will represent the performance of Guar complex and Soy complex.
- ❖ GUAREX – It is the return based index.
- ❖ It tracks the change in the price of the futures contracts of Guar Seed and Guar Gum Refined Splits on a real-time basis.
- ❖ SOYDEX – It will also trace the price changes in futures contracts of Soybean and Refined Soy Oil.

- ❖ Both the indices will be useful for hedgers to identify low-cost products.
- ❖ It will also offer trading strategies and risk management exercises.
- ❖ Futures Contract is a standardized legal agreement to buy or sell something at a predetermined price at a specified time in the future.
- ❖ A hedger is any individual or firm that buys or sells the actual physical commodity.

Bryum Bharatiensis



- ❖ A team of botanists from the Central University of Punjab (CUPB), Bhatinda have discovered a new native plant species of moss from Eastern Antarctica.
- ❖ Dr Felix Bast from CUPB found the plant species of moss on rocks near Bharati station at Larsemann Hills during his expedition visit in Indian Antarctic Mission 2016-17.
- ❖ The botanists have named the species 'Bryum Bharatiensis'.
- ❖ Dr Bast confirmed that the new species 'Bryum Bharatiensis' is the first and only plant species discovered till now under the Indian Antarctic Mission.

Stoliczka vanhnuailianai

- ❖ The Researchers from Mizoram University found new species of the Stoliczka genus and only the third species of Stoliczka from India.
- ❖ The team named it Stoliczka vanhnuailianai.
- ❖ The name was given in honour of Vanhnuailiana, a famous Mizo warrior.
- ❖ He was one of the most powerful chiefs of the Lushai Hills.



Black Leopard

- ❖ Sightings of the rare Black Leopard were reported in the Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve (NNTR), Tadoba Andheri Tiger Reserve and the Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra.
- ❖ They are mainly found in Southwestern China, Burma, Nepal, Southern India, Indonesia, and the southern part of Malaysia.
- ❖ In India, they are reported from densely forested areas of South India, mostly from the state of Karnataka.
- ❖ They are listed in IUCN Red List as Vulnerable species.

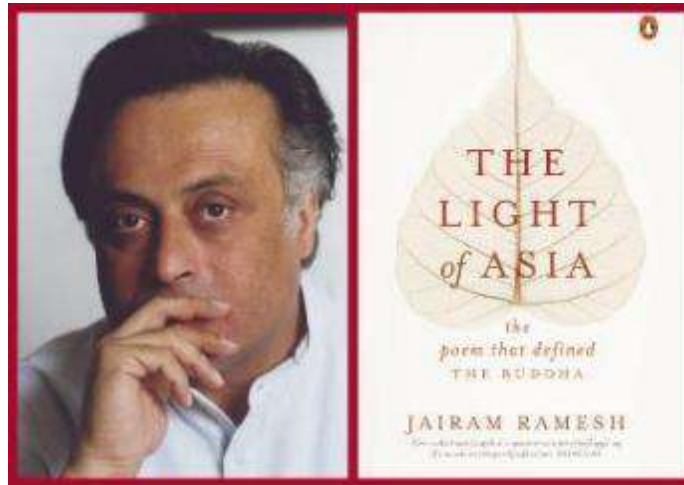


Sanofi and GSK - receives approval

- ❖ Sanofi and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) have received the approval for the Phase 3 clinical trials in India for their COVID-19 vaccine candidate.
- ❖ Sanofi is a French pharmaceutical company.
- ❖ GlaxoSmithKline is a British pharmaceutical company.

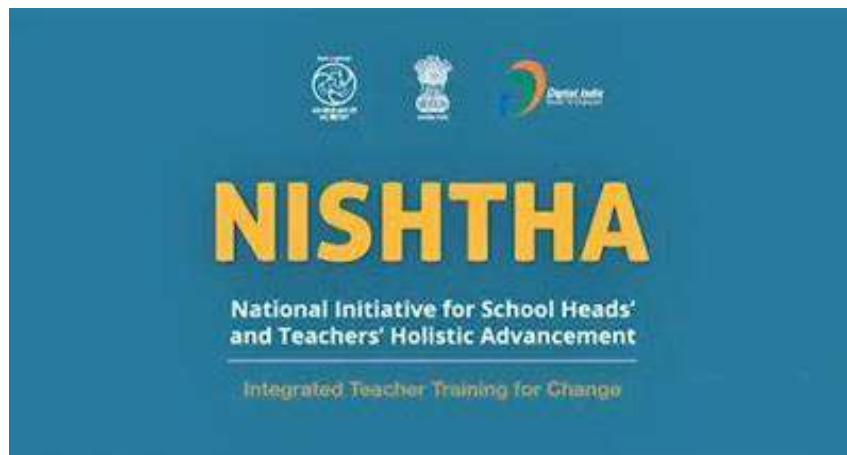
The Light of Asia book

- ❖ A new book titled “The Light of Asia” is authored by Jairam Ramesh.
- ❖ It is a biography of an epic bio-poem on the Buddha.
- ❖ He brings out the fascinating story behind the epic 1879 poem, “The Light of Asia” by Sir Edwin Arnold.



J&K tops NISHTHA programme

- ❖ J&K topped the country under National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA) programme.
- ❖ 80600 Elementary Teachers were trained through online mode using DIKSHA portal.
- ❖ NISHTHA is a capacity building programme for improving the quality of school education through integrated teacher training.
- ❖ It aims to build competencies among all the teachers and school principals at the elementary stage.





Zika Virus

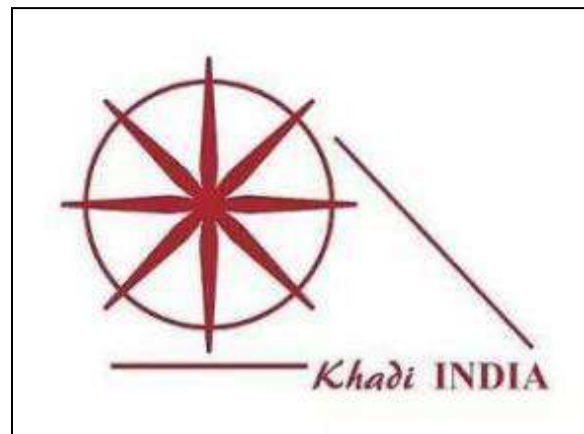
- ❖ The Cases of Zika virus were recently found in Kerala and Karnataka.
- ❖ The Zika virus is predominantly transmitted by infected mosquitoes from the Aedes genus, mainly Aedes aegypti.
- ❖ The Aedes mosquitoes also spread dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever.
- ❖ They usually bite during the daytime, mostly during the early morning or later afternoon.
- ❖ An infected person can also spread the virus.
- ❖ The virus was first identified in Uganda in 1947 in monkeys.
- ❖ It was identified in humans in 1952 in Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Integrated carbon black complex

- ❖ India's first integrated carbon black complex has successfully commissioned its operations in Bellary, Karnataka.
- ❖ It has been set up by Epsilon Carbon Private Limited.
- ❖ This complex is also a first-of-its-kind manufacturing facility in India, which uses waste coke oven gas from the steel plant as a fuel.

Khadi - trademark registrations

- ❖ The Khadi and Village Industry Commission (KVIC) has secured trademark registration for its brand name "Khadi" in Mexico, Bhutan and United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- ❖ KVIC obtained trademark registration in Bhutan on July 9.
- ❖ UAE granted the trademark registration on June 28, 2021.
- ❖ Thus, KVIC has successfully secured trademark registration in a gulf country for the first time.
- ❖ KVIC received trademark registration for "Khadi" in Mexico in December 2020.
- ❖ KVIC is a statutory body established in April 1957.
- ❖ It was established during 2nd Five Year plan, under the 'Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act of 1956'.
- ❖ It works under Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- ❖ It is headquartered in Mumbai.
- ❖ It has its six zonal offices.



The Ramayana of Shri Guru Gobind Singh book

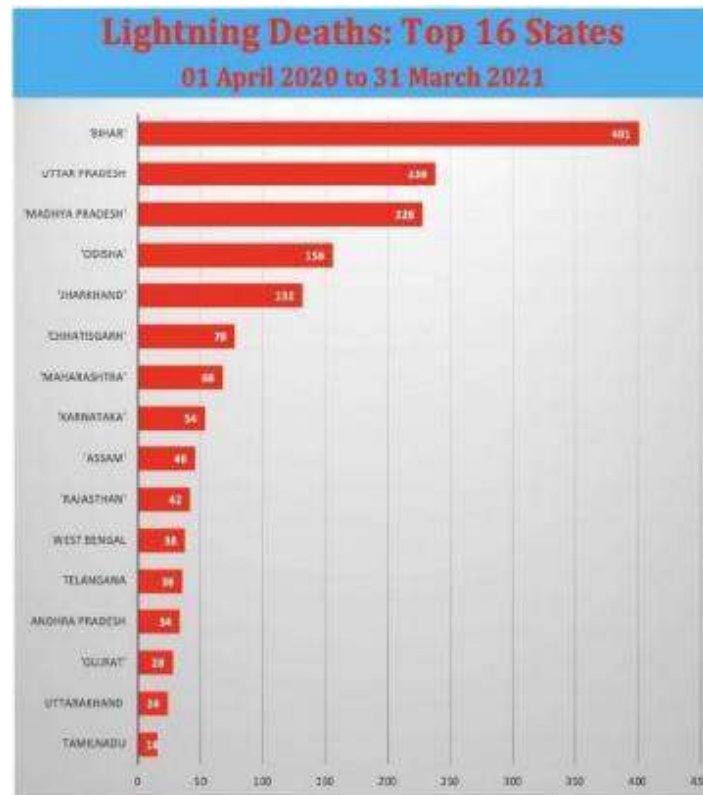
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has received the first copy of “The Ramayana of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji”.
- ❖ It was written by the late Baljit Kaur Tulsi - the mother of noted lawyer KTS Tulsi.
- ❖ The book is published by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts.

Export of apple to India

- ❖ The United Kingdom exported apple to India for the first time in 50 years.
- ❖ Apples were exported under the Enhanced Trade Partnership.
- ❖ It was agreed by Prime Ministers of both the countries in May 2021.
- ❖ The Enhanced Trade Partnership is considered as predecessor of Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

Second annual Lightning Report

- ❖ India's second annual Lightning Report was recently published.
- ❖ According to it, lightning in India has become the biggest cause of death by forces of nature.
- ❖ As per the report, Bihar has reported most deaths because of lightning.
- ❖ Bihar is followed by Uttar Pradesh
- ❖ UP is followed by Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Jharkhand.



National Dolphin Research Centre

- ❖ The National Dolphin Research Centre will soon come up in Patna.
- ❖ Opening up of the research centre will be a big step towards conservation of endangered Gangetic River dolphin.
- ❖ Bihar is home to half of estimated 3,000 Gangetic dolphins in India.

First green Hydrogen Mobility project

- ❖ The NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd (NTPC REL) will set up the country's first green Hydrogen Mobility project in Ladakh.
- ❖ NTPC REL is a 100 per cent subsidiary of NTPC.
- ❖ Hydrogen when produced by electrolysis using renewable energy is known as Green Hydrogen.
- ❖ It has no carbon footprint.
- ❖ Green hydrogen energy is vital for India to meet its Nationally Determined Contribution Targets.
- ❖ It also ensures regional and national energy security, access and availability.



Bangabandhu Chair

- ❖ The Delhi University will have a 'Bangabandhu Chair' to foster a better understanding of developments in Bangladesh.
- ❖ A MoU was signed between the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Delhi University in Dhaka to set up this Chair.
- ❖ The Chair will focus on the common heritage of the two countries.
- ❖ The chair will honour Bangladesh's founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- ❖ And also to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the country's Liberation War as well as India's diplomatic ties with Dhaka.

External Affairs Minister Jaishankar at Georgia

- ❖ The External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has unveiled a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Georgia at a prominent Tbilisi Park.
- ❖ During his two-day visit to Georgia, Jaishankar held talks with the country's top leadership.
- ❖ He also handed over the relics of 17th century St. Queen Keteva.
- ❖ Georgia is a strategically important country situated at the intersection of Eastern Europe and Western Asia.

Note

- ❖ St. Queen Ketevan was a 17th century Georgian Queen who attained martyrdom.
- ❖ Her relics were found in 2005 at the St. Augustine Convent in Old Goa.

India evacuates staff from Afghanistan's Kandahar as Taliban advances

- ❖ Due to the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan's Kandahar, some staff of the Indian embassy has been evacuated.
- ❖ Meanwhile, the emergency services of the consulate remain operational.
- ❖ India has its embassy in Kabul along with the consulates in Kandahar and Mazar.
- ❖ Two consulates in Herat and Jalalabad had ceased operations earlier there.

Fazil mango to Bahrain

- ❖ A consignment of Geographical Identification certified Fazil mango variety sourced from Malda district of West Bengal.
- ❖ It was exported to Bahrain.

- ❖ The consignment of Fazil mango was exported by APEDA registered DM enterprises, Kolkata.
- ❖ It was imported by Al Jazira group, Bahrain.
- ❖ Mango in India is also referred to as 'king of fruits'.
- ❖ It is also referred to as Kalpavriksha (wish-granting tree) in ancient scriptures.

10th P-8I aircraft from Boeing

- ❖ Indian Navy received 10th anti-submarine warfare aircraft P-8I from Boeing.
- ❖ Boeing is an US-based aerospace company.
- ❖ P-8I was delivered to replace ageing Tupolev Tu-142 aircraft of Indian navy.
- ❖ Contract for eight P81 aircraft was signed by defence ministry in 2009.
- ❖ In 2016, ministry signed a contract for four additional P-8I aircraft.

National AYUSH Mission extended

- ❖ The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved continuation of National AYUSH Mission
- ❖ National AYUSH mission has been extended from 01-04-2021 to 31-03-2026.
- ❖ National AYUSH mission is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- ❖ It is being implemented by Ministry of AYUSH.
- ❖ This scheme is addressing the gaps in health services by supporting efforts of State or UT Governments to provide AYUSH health services or education across India.



The infographic is titled 'National AYUSH Mission (NAM) to continue till 31-03-2026 with financial implication of ₹4,607.30 crore'. It features three circular icons with corresponding text: a stack of coins for the financial implication, a first aid kit for better access to healthcare services, and an open book for improvement in education. The background is a light blue gradient with wavy lines.

National AYUSH Mission (NAM) to continue till 31-03-2026 with financial implication of ₹4,607.30 crore

Better access to AYUSH healthcare services, more medicines and trained manpower

Improvement in AYUSH education; Focus on reducing diseases through targeted public health programmes



MoU on coking Coal - India and Russia

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Russia on cooperation in coking Coal.
- ❖ The Coking coal is used for Steel making.
- ❖ MoU was signed between Ministry of Steel (India) and Ministry of Energy (Russia).
- ❖ MoU will benefit entire steel sector by reducing their input cost.
- ❖ It will reduce cost of steel and promote equity & inclusiveness.
- ❖ An institutional mechanism for co-operation in coking coal sector will also be provided by MoU.

Coking coal

- ❖ Coking coal is also known as metallurgical coal.
- ❖ It is a grade of coal which can be used to produce good-quality coke.
- ❖ Coke is an essential fuel and reactant in the process of blast furnace for primary steelmaking.

Leader of House in Rajya Sabha – Piyush Goyal

- ❖ The union minister Piyush Goyal has been appointed as the Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ He will succeed Thawar Chand Gahlot, who has taken charge as the Governor of Karnataka.
- ❖ This replacement signals the induction of younger leader for a role which is usually handled by veterans.
- ❖ Piyush Goyal is serving as the Union minister for commerce, consumer affairs and food & textiles.
- ❖ The Leader of the House is responsible for organizing government meetings and business in the House.

India's first 5-star Hotel atop Railway Track

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurates the newly-built five-star hotel on the top of redeveloped Gandhinagar railway station.
- ❖ This project was started by Indian Railway Stations Redevelopment Corporation in January 2017.
- ❖ The hotel will be used to host national and international guests attending seminars and conferences at Mahatma Mandir.

- ❖ The Mahatma Mandir is a convention centre located opposite to the property.



India's largest solar park - NTPC

- ❖ NTPC Ltd is set to construct the country's single-largest solar photovoltaic project at Rann of Kutch region in Khavada, Gujarat.
- ❖ The solar power park will have a capacity of 4.75 Gigawatt (Gw)/4750 MW.
- ❖ The project will be constructed through NTPC's renewable energy arm, NTPC Renewable Energy (NTPC-REL).

Tokyo Olympics cheer song



- ❖ Singer Ananya Birla has teamed up with music maestro AR Rahman to launch a cheer song for Indian sports personalities as they gear up for Tokyo Olympics.
- ❖ Titled "Hindustani Way", the song has been sung by Ananya and composed by Rahman.
- ❖ The Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Thakur also present in the launch of the song.

Country's first Grain ATM

- ❖ The country's first 'Grain ATM' has been set up as a pilot project in Gurugram, Haryana.
- ❖ It works just like a bank ATM.
- ❖ This machine has been installed under the 'World Food Programme' of the United Nations (UN).
- ❖ It is called the 'Automated, Multi Commodity, Grain Dispensing Machine'.
- ❖ Wheat, rice and millet can be distributed through this machine.
- ❖ At present, the distribution of wheat has been started from the 'Grain ATM' machine installed at Farrukh Nagar.



National Forensic Science University

- ❖ The Home Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated a research-based centre of excellence at National Forensic Science University in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ❖ This centre will help in research and analysis of drugs and narcotics seized in the different parts of the country and its routes.
- ❖ Home Minister also inaugurated the virtual training model on Investigation of Crime against women for Indian Police.

FIRs under Sec 66A of IT Act

- ❖ The Central Government has directed all states and Union Territories to ask police stations under their jurisdiction to withdraw FIRs registered under Section 66A of Information Technology Act, 2000.
- ❖ The Government also directed not to register cases under repealed Section 66A.



- ❖ Section 66A of IT Act provided for punishment of a maximum of three years in jail and a fine to a person accused of sending “offensive” messages using computer or any other communication device like mobile phone or tablet.
- ❖ The SC had struck down section 66A on March 24, 2015 after noting it as “vague and arbitrary”.
- ❖ It was dubbed as “draconian” because it allowed arrest of several innocent persons
- ❖ It was declared unconstitutional in Shreya Singhal v. Union of India case on March 24, 2015.

Ladakh signs MoU with Sikkim

- ❖ The Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh administration signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ‘Sikkim State Organic Certification Agency’ (SSOCA) regarding the implementation of ‘Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana’ (PKVY) and Mission Organic Development Initiative (MODI) in the Ladakh region.
- ❖ The Objective is to convert Ladakh into a certified organic UT by 2025.
- ❖ The UT plans to achieve the organic status through 3 phases
- ❖ Sikkim was declared as the 1st ‘100 percent organic state’ in the world by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN FAO).

UV-C technology

- ❖ Ultraviolet-C or UV-C Disinfection Technology will soon be installed in the Parliament of India.
- ❖ This is for the “mitigation of airborne transmission of SARS-COV-2”.
- ❖ UV-C air duct disinfection system is developed by CSIR-CSIO (Central Scientific Instruments Organisation).

District Mineral Funds

- ❖ The Centre undertook complete control of district mineral foundation (DMF) funds from state.
- ❖ It is negating right of states to sanction or approve any expenditure out of the funds that have been accrued from mandatory contribution from mining lease holders.

Note

- ❖ According to MMDR (Amendment) Act, 2015, state governments are mandated to establish DMFs in all districts for interest and benefits of persons affected by mining-related operations.
- ❖ The Lease holders are mandated to contribute to these not-for-profit foundations a defined percentage of royalty apart from paying royalty to state governments.
- ❖ The DMFs are required to use these funds for welfare of persons and areas affected by mining-related operations.
- ❖ Thus, tribal population are the principal beneficiaries.
- ❖ The scheme is also called as “Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana”.

International Cooperation and Convention Centre



- ❖ This centre, named Rudraksh, is built in Varanasi.
- ❖ It has been constructed with assistance of Japan International Cooperation Agency.
- ❖ The objective of the project is to provide opportunities for social and cultural interactions between people.

Mynvax's Covid vaccine

- ❖ Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru has developed a heat-tolerant COVID-19 vaccine formulation.
- ❖ While studying on animals, it was found to be effective against all current SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern.
- ❖ This Research was published in ACS Infectious Diseases journal.
- ❖ This vaccine was formulated by IISc-incubated biotech start-up Mynvax.

- ❖ This Vaccine also remained stable for up to a month at 37 degrees Celsius.
- ❖ At 100 degrees Celsius it remained stable for up to 90 minutes.



India's first pod taxi



- ❖ The Indian Port Rail and Ropeway Corporation Ltd has prepared a Detailed Project Report for the pod taxi service between Noida Airport at Jewar and Film City.
- ❖ There are plans to run a driverless taxi between the two destinations.
- ❖ This is a 14 km stretch.
- ❖ This will be India's first pod taxi service.

In a first, Himalayan yaks to be insured



- ❖ National Research Centre on Yak in West Kameng district, Arunachal Pradesh has tied up with the National Insurance Company Ltd. for insuring Himalayan Yak.
- ❖ The insurance policy would shield the yak owners against the risks posed by weather calamities, diseases, in-transit mishaps, surgical operations and strikes or riots.
- ❖ The Highest Yak Population is in the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir.

MH-60R Multi Role Helicopters





- ❖ The United States Navy has handed over first two MH-60R Multi Role Helicopters to Indian Navy.
- ❖ The Indian Navy is procuring 24 of MH-60R helicopters manufactured by Lockheed Martin.
- ❖ These helicopters are considered as world's most advanced maritime helicopter.

COVIHOME

- ❖ The Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad have developed India's First Rapid Electronic and Artificial Intelligence-powered COVID-19 test called COVIHOME.
- ❖ This test can be performed at an affordable cost at home.
- ❖ Test kit can produce results within 30 minutes for symptomatic as well as asymptomatic patients.

Jurisdiction of Krishna & Godavari River boards notified

- ❖ The Central Government has notified jurisdiction of Krishna River Management Board & Godavari River Management Boards.
- ❖ This is notified Seven years after their constitution under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act.
- ❖ With the constitution of boards, Centre transferred operation of all projects, including generation of hydel power, in two river basins in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to them.
- ❖ It will be in effective from October 14, 2021.
- ❖ This Notification was issued by Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- ❖ This Notification brought 35 projects in Krishna basin and 71 in Godavari basin, under purview of boards.

COVID Teeka Sank Surakshit Van, Dhan aur Uddyam

- ❖ The Tribal Affairs Minister, Arjun Munda, launched this campaign.
- ❖ This campaign will help in beating "infodemic" against coronavirus vaccine and myths, rumours, disinformation & misinformation that are adding to infodemic.
- ❖ It focusses on reassurance, pride & self-efficacy and promotes 'Livelihoods with Health' in tribal areas.
- ❖ This Campaign is being launched in partnership with UNICEF & WHO.
- ❖ This Campaign provided for 3 key J's. They are



- Jeevan - Life
- Jeevika - Livelihood
- Jaagrookta - Awareness

India – Nepal friendship rail project

- ❖ On July 18, 2021, the successful trial of movement of train was undertaken between Jaynagar in India and Kurtha in Nepal.
- ❖ The length of the rail section is 34.50 km.
- ❖ This is the first section of the rail line links between the two countries.
- ❖ It connects Kurtha in the Mahottari district of Nepal to Jaynagar in the Madhubani district of Bihar.
- ❖ IRCON has set up the Jayanagar - Kurtha Railway under the India – Nepal friendship rail project.
- ❖ This is financed by the Indian government.
- ❖ The second section which is 17 km long will link Kurtha and Bhangaha.
- ❖ The 17 km long third phase will extend from Bhangaha to Bardibas.

NB Driver

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Technology Madras Researchers has developed an Artificial Intelligence-based Mathematical Model called 'NBDriver' (neighbourhood driver).
- ❖ This is used to identify cancer-causing alterations in cells.
- ❖ The algorithm uses a relatively unexplored technique of leveraging DNA composition to pinpoint genetic alterations responsible for cancer progression.

Kisan Sarathi

- ❖ The Digital platform called 'Kisan Sarathi' was launched recently.
- ❖ This will facilitate farmers to get 'right information at right time' in their desired language.
- ❖ This initiative of Kisan Sarathi empowers farmers with technological interventions to reach farmers in remote areas.

LAUNCH OF KISAN SARATHI



Joint Initiative by Indian Council of Agricultural Research & Digital India Corporation, MeitY

- ✔ Platform will leverage features of Interactive Information Dissemination System (IIDS)
- ✔ Personalized Advisory based on Farm and Farmer's profile
- ✔ LIVE interaction with domain experts from Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)
- ✔ Anywhere, anytime access on past advisories
- ✔ Dashboard & MIS for Monitoring & Evaluation
- ✔ Access to Rich Agricultural Knowledge
- ✔ Push Alert Message on Location & Domain
- ✔ Call Facilities- Call on Mobile, Click to Call, Call Conferencing, Call Recording
- ✔ Enhances the outreach for Farmers

New Google Cloud Region

- ❖ Google Cloud has announced the launch of its new Cloud Region in Delhi NCR.
- ❖ This new Google Cloud region is the second such in India after Mumbai.
- ❖ Also it is the 10th in Asia-Pacific.
- ❖ Totally, 26 Google Cloud regions are present across the world.



TTX-2021

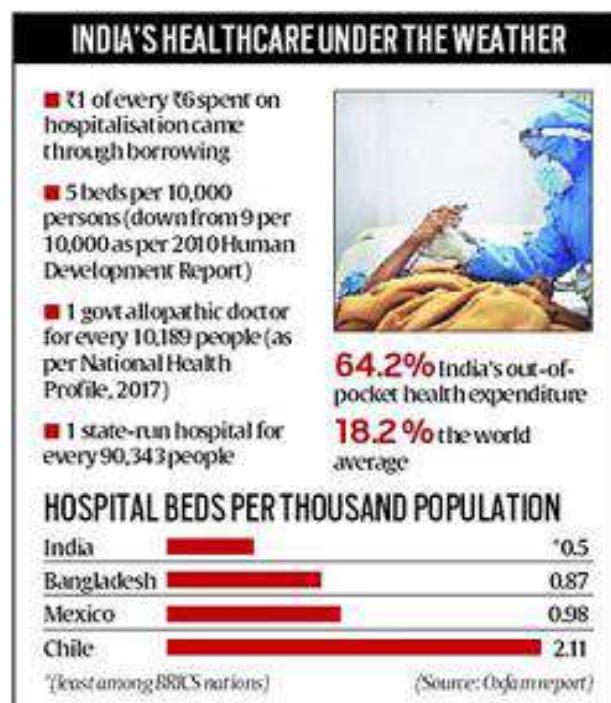
- ❖ Top defence officials from India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives participated in a virtual trilateral tabletop exercise “TTX-2021”.
- ❖ The exercise focused on maritime crimes like curbing narcotics and assistance in maritime search and rescue in the region.
- ❖ The two-day exercise was coordinated by the Maritime Warfare Centre, Mumbai.

National Logistics Excellence Awards

- ❖ The Government of India announced the launch of a new category of awards.
- ❖ The first category includes service providers and logistics infrastructure and second category will be awarded for the various user industries.

Inequality Report 2021: India's Unequal Healthcare Story

- ❖ It was an Oxfam report.
- ❖ It highlights how the low spending on public healthcare systems has led to inequalities in accessing healthcare, especially during the ongoing pandemic.
- ❖ It has marked the state of Kerala as a success story in the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ It states that the states such as Telangana, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan have less COVID-19 confirmed cases.
- ❖ Those states have been reducing inequalities in the healthcare system between the general category and SC and ST populations for the past few years.
- ❖ On the other hand, states such as Assam, Bihar and Goa, which has higher GDP expenditure on health, have higher Covid recovery rates.
- ❖ Less than one third of the country's household is covered by an insurance scheme of the Government.
- ❖ The out-of-pocket health expenditure of 64.2% in India is higher than the world average.



Blockchain Technology – Certificates



- ❖ Maharashtra will be the first state in the country to issue educational documents using the blockchain technology.
- ❖ Thus, India becomes the Fourth Country in the World in this regard.
- ❖ Bahrain, Malta, and Singapore are the only countries currently using blockchain for educational documents.
- ❖ A blockchain is a distributed digital transaction ledger.
- ❖ It allows maintenance of identical copies of data or records on multiple computer systems.
- ❖ Forgery of documents is a serious concern for various educational and other institutions.

Indian Institute of Heritage

FOCUS ON CONSERVATION & RESEARCH

Courses proposed: Masters and PhD courses in history of arts, conservation, museology, archival studies, archaeology, preventive conservation, epigraphy, numismatics, manuscriptology



INTEGRATION PROPOSED

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Institute of Archaeology (Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology) ➤ School of Archival Studies under National Archives of India, New Delhi ➤ National Research Laboratory for Conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> of Cultural Property, Lucknow ➤ National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology (NMICHM) ➤ Academic Wing of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi
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- ❖ It will be set up by the Union government under the Ministry of Culture at Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ This would be a standalone Institution of its type in the country.
- ❖ It will be a world-class University that would focus on the conservation and research in India's rich tangible heritage.

School Innovation Ambassador Training Program

- ❖ The Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda jointly launched the School Innovation Ambassador Training Program (SIATP).
- ❖ It would train 50,000 school teachers on Entrepreneurship, Innovation, IPR, Design Thinking, Product development, etc.

Safe digital transmission of bail order

- ❖ The Supreme Court of India announced to implement a system for safe digital transmission of its bail orders to jails across India.
- ❖ Now the authorities will not be required to wait for authentic orders to release prisoners.
- ❖ Senior Advocate Dushyant Dave has been appointed as amicus curiae to aid implementation of scheme.
- ❖ One who is not a party to case but assists court by offering information, expertise, or insight with bearing on issues in any case are known as "Amicus Curiae".
- ❖ Amicus Curiae is a Latin phrase that literally means 'friend of the court'.

New Cabinet Committees

- ❖ The Union Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi reshuffled the different cabinet committees.
- ❖ There are eight cabinet committees that act as the final decision-making body on important political, economic, security and investment matters.
- ❖ There has been no change in the pecking order of the top ministers.
- ❖ The Home minister Amit Shah continues to be the second most powerful man in the government after PM Modi.
- ❖ He is part of all eight cabinet committees.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi continues to head six of the eight committees.

- ❖ They are appointments, economic affairs, political affairs, security, investment and growth, and employment and skill development.

Key changes

- **Smriti Irani**, Bhupendra Yadav, Giriraj Singh, Mansukh Mandaviya and Sarbananda Sonowal included in Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs
- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs reduced in size from 11 members to eight

- Virendra Kumar and **Anurag Thakur** included in Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs
- Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth sees inclusion of Narayan Rane, Jyotiraditya Scindia and Ashwini Vaishnaw
- Bhupendra Yadav, G. Kishen Reddy and Ashwini Vaishnaw added to Cabinet Committee on Employment and Skill Development

NEIFM rename





UNION CABINET
approves change of
nomenclature & mandate
of
North Eastern Institute of
Folk Medicine (NEIFM),
Pasighat
as
**North Eastern Institute of
Ayurveda & Folk Medicine
Research (NEIAFMR)**

● The inclusion of Ayurveda within the mandate of the Institute will be highly beneficial for North East for imparting quality education and research in Ayurveda and Folk medicine ●

- ❖ The North Eastern Institute of Folk Medicine (NEIFM), Pasighat at Arunachal Pradesh was renamed to North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda & Folk Medicine Research (NEIARMR).
- ❖ It is an autonomous Institute under the Ministry of AYUSH.

Operation Sagar Aaraksha II

- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard (ICG), in coordination with Sri Lankan authorities, has been engaged in fighting a major fire in the container vessel MV X-Press Pearl anchored off Colombo.
- ❖ The ICG being an active member of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) remains committed to its responsibility of safeguarding of the ocean environment in the region.



Tele-Law programme

- ❖ Recently, the Justice Department commemorated the milestone of crossing 9 lakh beneficiaries under its Tele-Law programme through Common Service Centres.
- ❖ It was launched by the Ministry of Law and Justice in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in 2017 to address cases at the pre-litigation stage.
- ❖ It enables anyone to seek legal advice without wasting precious time and money.
- ❖ The service is free for those who are eligible for free legal Aid as mentioned under the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987.
- ❖ Common Services Centre (CSC) programme is an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY).
- ❖ It serves as the access points for delivery of various electronic services to villages in India.



Kala Vishwa

- ❖ The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has launched a new campaign called 'Kala Vishwa'.
- ❖ It aims to reach out to traditional folk artists, local artists/artisans coming from rural areas.
- ❖ The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) is an autonomous body under the administrative control of the Ministry of External Affairs.

Stand Up India Scheme



- ❖ The Government of India has extended the duration of the 'Stand Up India Scheme' up to the year 2025.
- ❖ The scheme was launched by the Prime Minister in April 2016 to facilitate loans to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and women borrowers, to promote entrepreneurship among them.
- ❖ The scheme offers bank loans to encourage them in setting up a greenfield enterprise.
- ❖ It must be outside of the farm sector, that is in the manufacturing, services or trading sector.

Khelo India university games

- ❖ The second edition of this game will be held at Bengaluru from in March 2022.
- ❖ The inaugural edition was held in Odisha in 2020.
- ❖ It is the largest university level sports competition in India.
- ❖ It is organised by Sports Authority of India (SAI) and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports along with Association of Indian Universities, Indian Olympic Association and National Sports Federation.
- ❖ It was launched after the success of the Khelo India Youth Games in 2018.
- ❖ Those games had completed its third edition in 2020.
- ❖ The fourth edition will be held at Haryana in 2021.



Supreme Court on 97th amendment

- ❖ The Supreme Court upheld the validity of the 97th constitutional amendment.
- ❖ But it struck down a part inserted by the 97th amendment.

- ❖ Upholding the Gujarat High Court's 2013 decision it was striking down certain provisions of the 97th constitutional amendment.
- ❖ The Supreme Court held that the Parliament cannot enact laws with regard to cooperative societies as it is a state subject.
- ❖ The amendment made a direct in-road into the exclusive domain of states to enact laws with regard to cooperatives.
- ❖ The Centre has stated that the amendment was enacted to bring uniformity in the management of cooperative societies and it did not take away the powers of states.
- ❖ If the Centre wanted to achieve uniformity, then the only way available was to take the recourse under Article 252 of the Constitution.
- ❖ 252 deals with the power of Parliament to legislate for two or more states by consent.

Speedy trial

- ❖ In the Bhima Koregaon caste violence case, the Supreme Court has said that "speedy trial is a fundamental right".
- ❖ In India, it is covered under Article 21 which declares that "no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to the procedure laid by law."

National Security Act (NSA), 1980



- ❖ The Supreme Court has directed the release of Manipur-based activist Erendra Leichongbom.
- ❖ He was detained under the NSA for his social media posts.
- ❖ The court said his continued detention would be a violation of his fundamental right to life and the due process of law.

- ❖ The court also expressed concern because the government was using preventive detention in cases where even ordinary penal sections did not apply.
- ❖ The NSA is a preventive detention law.

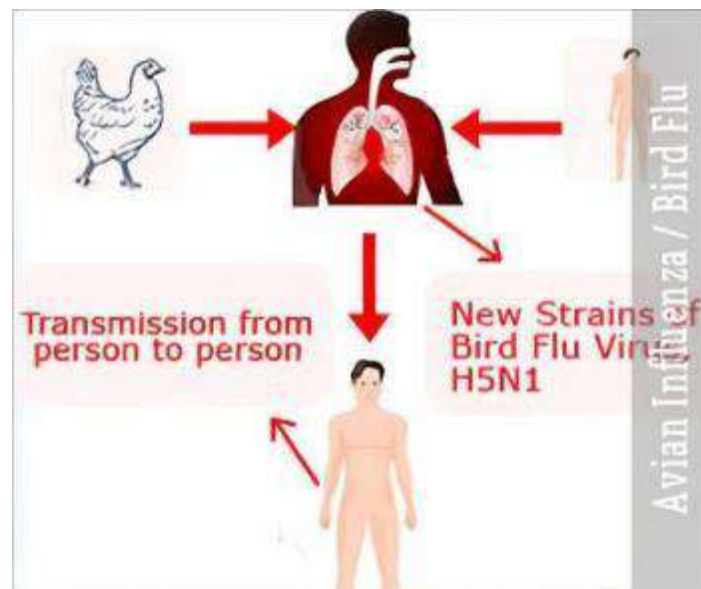
SMILE scheme

- ❖ The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has framed the SMILE scheme (Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise scheme).
- ❖ This Scheme includes a sub scheme - 'Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging'.
- ❖ This Scheme covers several comprehensive measures including welfare measures for persons who are engaged in the act of begging.

Historic Urban Landscape Project

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh has launched UNESCO's 'Historic Urban Landscape' project for Gwalior and Orchha cities of State.
- ❖ These places will now be jointly developed by UNESCO, Government of India and Madhya Pradesh by focusing on their historical and cultural improvement.
- ❖ Gwalior and Orchha in Madhya Pradesh were included in the list of UNESCOs world heritage cities under its urban landscape city programme in December 2020.

H5N1 avian influenza



- ❖ India has recorded first death due to H5N1 avian influenza this year.
- ❖ It is a disease caused by avian influenza Type A viruses found naturally in wild birds worldwide.
- ❖ Avian Influenza type A viruses are classified based on two proteins on their surfaces – Hemagglutinin (HA) and Neuraminidase (NA).
- ❖ India was declared free from Avian Influenza (H5N1) in 2019.
- ❖ The status will last only till another outbreak is reported.

WHO-GMP/COPP Certification

- ❖ The Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd. (IMPCL) has applied for WHO-GMP/COPP certification for 18 Ayurvedic products.
- ❖ GMP is a short form of Good Manufacturing Practice.
- ❖ The WHO GMP certificate is mandatory in most global markets for pharmaceutical companies to be able to sell medicines.
- ❖ The certificate of pharmaceutical product (CPP or CoPP) is a certificate issued in the format recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Kaman Aman Setu



- ❖ India and Pakistan Armies recently held a Flag meeting and exchanged sweets at Kaman Aman Setu.
- ❖ Kaman Aman Setu is located at Uri in North Kashmir.
- ❖ Kaman Aman Setu, the Friendship Bridge between India and Pakistan, is also the last point of the India-Pak border in the Uri district.

New Generation Akash Missile

- ❖ It was developed by the DRDO.
- ❖ It was successfully flight-tested from Integrated Test Range (ITR) off the coast of Odisha.
- ❖ It is a surface-to-air missile system.
- ❖ It has a strike range of 60 km and fly at a speed of up to Mach 2.5.



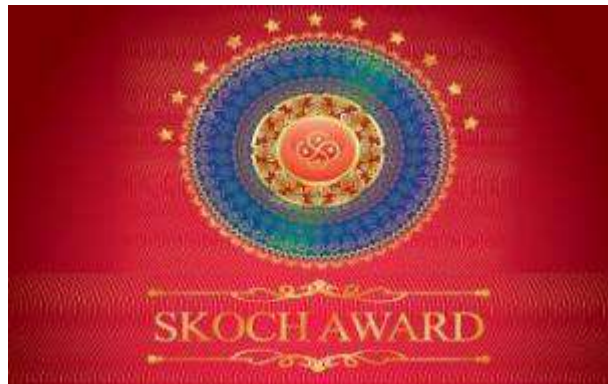
Nature Index

- ❖ The Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru, has been placed in the prestigious Nature Index.
- ❖ It has been placed in the top 50 institutions worldwide for advances in materials science.
- ❖ It places the JNCASR in the 23rd position globally among universities and institutions as part of its '50 Rising Institutions' list.
- ❖ The centre is also the only Indian institute on the list
- ❖ The list includes 18 institutes from China, 12 from the United States and two from the United Kingdom.

SKOCH Award

- ❖ The Cachar Deputy Commissioner, Keerthi Jalli received the National Silver SKOCH Award
- ❖ It is given for 'Pushti Nirbhor' (nutrition-dependent) a convergence project on transformation and development entailing setting up Nutri-gardens at houses in Dinnathpur Bagicha village.
- ❖ The village is near the India-Bangladesh border in the Katigorah circle of the Cachar district.

- ❖ Instituted in 2003, SKOCH Award salutes people, projects and institutions that go the extra mile to make India a better nation.



The World Universities Summit

- ❖ The Summit was organized by O.P. Jindal Global University, located at Sonipat, Haryana.
- ❖ The theme of the summit was “Universities of the Future: Building Institutional Resilience, Social Responsibility and Community Impact”.
- ❖ The Vice President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated and addressed this Summit as Chief Guest.

Dairy Investment Accelerator



- ❖ The Government of India's Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) has setup this cell.
- ❖ This has been set up with a view of providing dedicated focus towards the promotion and facilitation of investments in dairy sector of the country.



Project CAVACH

- ❖ The NSE Foundation, the subsidiary of National Stock Exchange of India Limited, has launched this innovative programme.
- ❖ It will unite the efforts of grass root level partners and the local district administration to facilitate increased vaccination in remote 'aspirational' districts of India.
- ❖ It includes Nandurbar and Osmanabad in Maharashtra, Karauli in Rajasthan, Ramanatha puram in Tamil Nadu and Kiphire in Nagaland.
- ❖ 'Cavach' stands for COVID-19 and Vaccination Assistance Campaign for Health.

Solutions for anti-drone technologies - IIT Kanpur

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K) launched technology innovation hub to find cyber security solutions for intrusion detection system, anti-drones technologies, cyber physical system and block-chain.
- ❖ IIT Kanpur's C3i hub will focus on safeguarding cyberspace including critical infrastructure.
- ❖ The government is promoting Make-in India cybersecurity solutions to counter rising threats from neighbouring countries, particularly China.

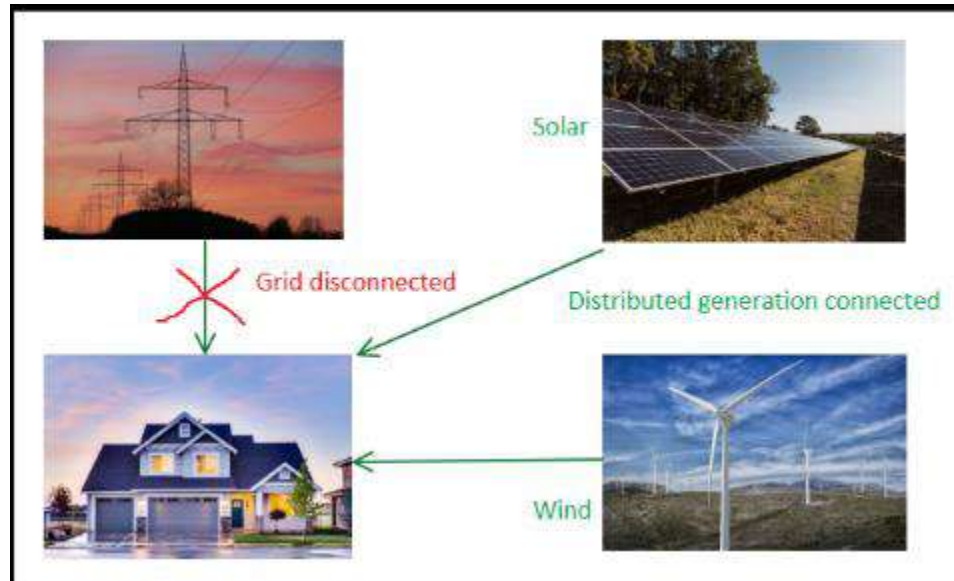
'Renewables Integration in India' report

- ❖ A report named Renewables Integration in India 2021 was jointly launched by NITI Aayog and International Energy Agency.
- ❖ This report is based on the outcome of workshops held in three states along with the Governments of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- ❖ This is to understand the energy transition challenges which is faced by these renewable-rich states.
- ❖ According to the report, India's power system can efficiently integrate renewables (175 GW by the year 2022 and 450 GW by the year 2030).

Power Islanding systems

- ❖ India plans to create power islanding systems in several cities of the country.
- ❖ This to protect the critical infrastructures from potential attacks on the electricity grid of the nation.
- ❖ Bengaluru and Jamnagar, which has two of India's largest oil refineries are included.

- ❖ Cities such as Mumbai and New Delhi having existing systems are being revamped.
- ❖ The Islanding systems feature generation capacity and can automatically isolate from the main grid during an outage.



ARMEX-21

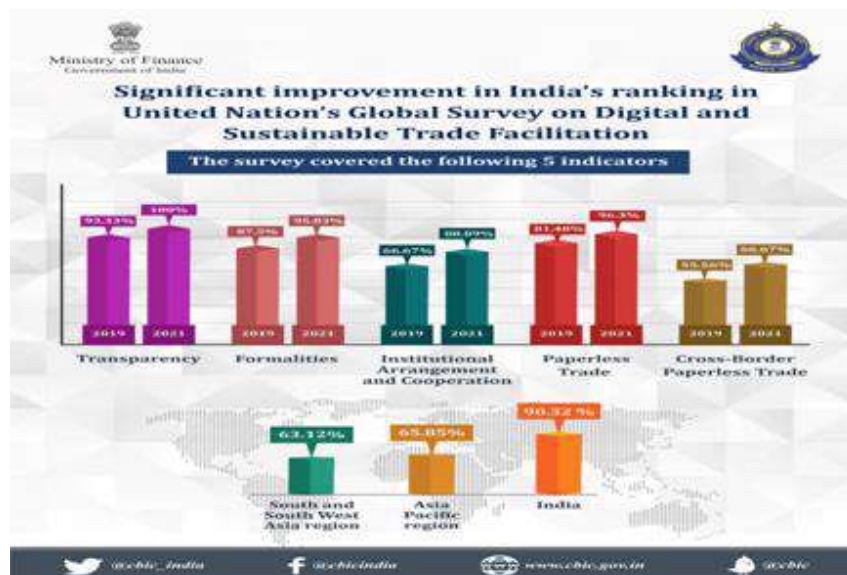
- ❖ The defence minister Rajnath Singh has flagged in the Indian Army's skiing expedition.
- ❖ It was conducted in the Himalayan mountain ranges.
- ❖ The expedition, called ARMEX-21, was flagged off at Karakoram Pass in Ladakh on March 10 and culminated at Malari in Uttarakhand on July 6 covering 1,660 km in 119 days.
- ❖ The ARMEX-21 was conducted in the mountain ranges of the Himalayan region to promote the adventure activity in the country and the Indian Army.

MP suspended from Rajya Sabha

- ❖ Santanu Sen, Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP, was suspended from the Rajya Sabha for the rest of the Monsoon Session.
- ❖ This was done because of him being unruly a day after he snatched papers from newly appointed information technology minister Ashwani Vaishnav while he was reading out a statement regarding the Pegasus snooping scandal.
- ❖ The government sought the suspension of the TMC MP under Rule 256 (2).

Trade facilitation survey – India

- ❖ India has substantially improved its score on a trade facilitation survey conducted by the United Nations.
- ❖ India scored 90.32 per cent in the UNESCAP's (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific's) latest Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation
- ❖ It had improved from 78.49 per cent in 2019.
- ❖ In its evaluation of 143 economies, the Survey for 2021 has pointed out India's improvement in the scores on all five key indicators.
- ❖ The indicators are transparency, formalities, institutional arrangement and cooperation, paperless trade and cross-border paperless trade.
- ❖ Under the transparency indicator, India scored 100 per cent in 2021.
- ❖ The survey is conducted every two years by UNESCAP.
- ❖ A higher score for a country helps businesses in their investment decisions.



India in top 10 list of Agri produce exporters

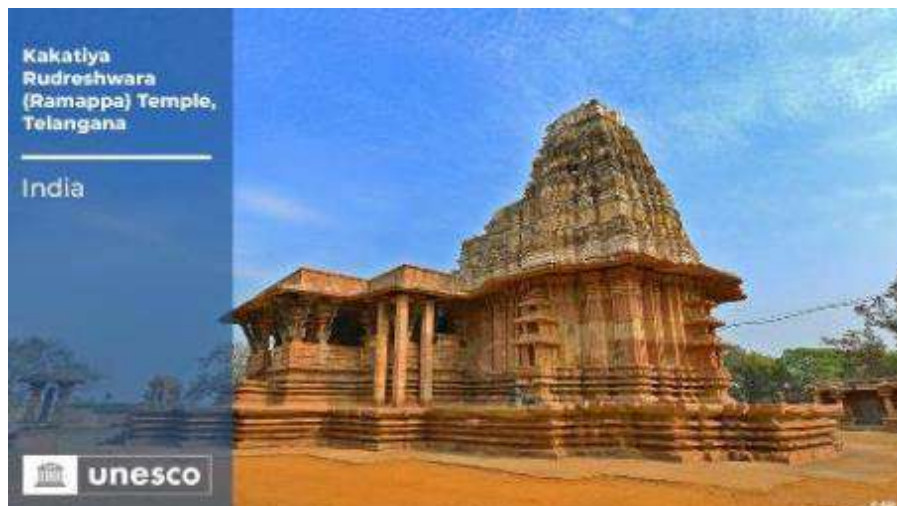
- ❖ The World Trade Organization report is based on the trends in world agricultural trade in the past 25 years.
- ❖ India entered the top 10 list of the countries exporting agricultural produce in the year 2019.
- ❖ India and Mexico with 3.1% and 3.4% share in global Agri exports, respectively, replaced New Zealand (9th) and Malaysia (7th) as the largest exporters across the globe.

- ❖ India is also the third-largest cotton exporter (7.6%), and the fourth-largest importer (10%) in 2019.
- ❖ However, India lagged behind as a value-added contributor to world agri exports.
- ❖ The US, which topped the list in 1995 (22.2%), was overtaken by the European Union in 2019 (16.1%).
- ❖ China climbed from the sixth spot in 1995 (4%) to fourth in 2019 (5.4%).
- ❖ The top 10 exporters accounted for more than 96% of exports in both 1995 and 2019.



Dholavira & Ramappa Temple


- ❖ A Harappan-era metropolis, Dholavira in Gujarat has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.
- ❖ Now Gujarat has three world heritage sites.
- ❖ They are Champaner near Pavagadh, Rani ki Vav in Patan and the historic city of Ahmedabad.
- ❖ Dholavira is now the 40th treasure in India to be given.



- ❖ The ongoing 44th session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO has already given India a new world heritage site in the form of the Rudreswara/Ramappa Temple in Telangana.
- ❖ The temple dates built by Kakatiya dynasty back to the 13th century.
- ❖ This session of the World Heritage Committee is being chaired from Fuzhou in China.

A HARAPPAN DELIGHT

- Dholavira is the fifth largest excavated site in south Asia after Harappa and Mohenjo Daro in Pakistan, Rakhigarhi in India, and Ganwerwala in Pakistan
- It's second Harappan site after Mohenjo Daro to get the Unesco World Heritage Site tag
- The city is known for its impeccable town planning, adherence to ratio, water management system, and possible access to sea in its formative years



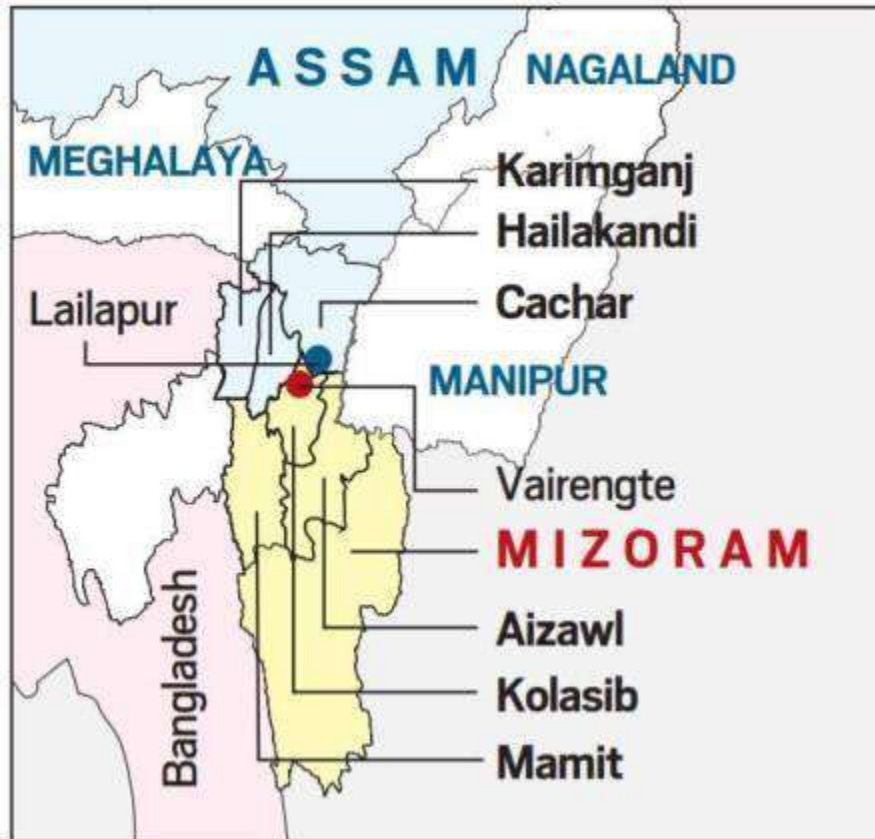
- According to the Unesco website, the town thrived for 1200 years (3000 BCE-1800 BCE) before its decline

- Experts believe that major water reservoirs in the later period may indicate it to be one of the first proofs of how climate and seismic change affect population in the past

Assam-Mizoram border dispute

- ❖ Mizoram was carved out of Assam as a Union Territory in 1972.
- ❖ By 1987, it became a full-fledged state.
- ❖ The two states have sparred over this 164.6 km long inter-state border over the past, sometimes leading to violent clashes.
- ❖ The dispute stems from two notifications passed under British era.
- ❖ First, notification of 1875 that differentiated Lushai Hills from the plains of Cachar.
- ❖ Second, notification of 1933 that demarcates a boundary between Lushai Hills and Manipur.
- ❖ Mizoram claims that the land is theirs is based on an 1875 notification, which came from the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act of 1873.
- ❖ Assam for its part, claims that the land is theirs.

- ❖ It goes by a 1933 notification by the state government that demarcated the Lushai Hills, which Mizoram was formerly known as, from the province of Manipur.
- ❖ During colonial times, Mizoram was known as Lushai Hills, a district of Assam.



Secrecy of Vote

- ❖ The Supreme Court held that in any election, be it to Parliament or State legislature, the maintenance of secrecy of voting is “a must”.
- ❖ It reiterated judgement in People's Union for Civil Liberties case (2013).
- ❖ It stated that Secrecy is a part of the fundamental right of freedom of expression.
- ❖ It also stated that Democracy and free elections were a part of the Basic Structure of the Constitution.
- ❖ [The ‘basic structure’ doctrine was framed in the judgment in Kesavananda Bharati vs State of Kerala case (1973).]
- ❖ The Court also said that any attempt at booth-capturing or bogus voting were crimes against democracy.

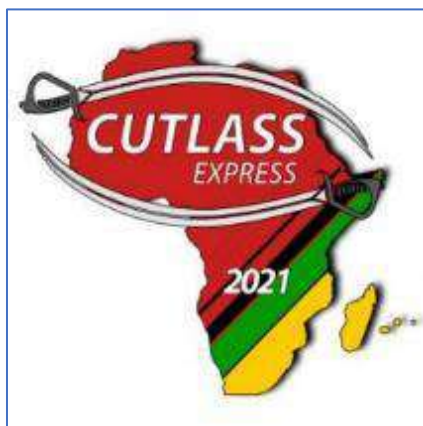
Kandla becomes first Green SEZ

- ❖ Kandla SEZ became the first green SEZ to achieve the IGBC Green Cities Platinum Rating for Existing Cities after it was awarded the IGBC Platinum Rating.
- ❖ IGBC Green Cities Platinum Rating is part of activities that have been envisaged under the government's commitment towards the Green SEZs Mission of celebrations marking India@75 – Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav.

National Institutes of Food Technology Bill

- ❖ The Parliament has passed the National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2021.
- ❖ The Bill was unanimously passed by the Lok Sabha.
- ❖ It was already been passed in the Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ This bill was moved by Pashupati Kumar Paras who is the Food Processing and Industries Minister.
- ❖ This bill lays down various provisions for institutes of food technology, management and entrepreneurship.
- ❖ This bill got introduced and passed in a time of just 8 minutes making it a record.
- ❖ This bill also seeks to declare the Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology which is located at Thanjavur and the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management which is located at Kundli (Haryana) as institutions of national importance.

Exercise Cutlass Express 2021



- ❖ In the maritime Exercise Cutlass Express 2021, INS Talwar is participating.
- ❖ This naval exercise is being conducted along the Eastern Coast of Africa.
- ❖ This maritime exercise is held annually.



- ❖ It is conducted to promote regional and national maritime security in the Western Indian Ocean and East Africa.

KVIC and BSF Launch Project Bold

- ❖ Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in collaboration with the Border Security Force has launched Project Bold (Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought).
- ❖ Its primary aim is to develop green cover in the Indian deserts of Rajasthan.
- ❖ KVIC along with the BSF planted 1000 bamboo saplings under Project Bold.
- ❖ The saplings were planted in Tanot village in Jaisalmer.

Centre for animation, visual effects, gaming and comics

- ❖ The Union Government has decided to set up a National Centre of Excellence for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics.
- ❖ This is for creating a world-class talent pool in India to cater to the Indian as well as a global industry.
- ❖ It will be set up in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.

Centre for Bio-Resources & Sustainable Development

- ❖ The Ministry of Science and Technology will set up a first-of-its-kind Centre of Excellence in the Northeast.
- ❖ The prestigious project for establishing Centre for Bio-Resources and Sustainable Development as a Centre of Excellence was sanctioned by the Department of Biotechnology.
- ❖ The location of the project is at Kimin in district Papum Pare in Arunachal Pradesh.

India's Top 11 Cycling Pioneers

- ❖ 11 cities across the country have been awarded with the prestigious title of being Top 11 Cycling Pioneers of India.
- ❖ This was announced by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- ❖ They are Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Kohima, Nagpur, New Town Kolkata, Pimpri Chinchwad, Rajkot, Surat, Vadodara and Warangal.
- ❖ Four cities (Aurangabad, Gurugram, Jabalpur and Silvassa), received a special mention by the jury for the efforts put in by them in testing the pilot initiatives of the challenge.

INTERNATIONAL

Report on Racial Justice and Equality

- ❖ The United Nations published its report on Racial Justice & Equality.
- ❖ It called to immediately dismantle systemic racism against black people worldwide to avoid repeating outrages such as killing of George Floyd.
- ❖ The UN report was triggered by death of Floyd.
- ❖ He was murdered by US police officer, Derek Chauvin.

Mobile World Congress

- ❖ The Mobile World Congress is world's biggest mobile event of the 2021.
- ❖ It started on June 28 in Barcelona of Spain.
- ❖ The Mobile World Congress is an annual event focused on innovations in telecom industry.
- ❖ It is being hosted by Global System for Mobile Association.
- ❖ This event is attended by major telecom operators, component manufacturers, smartphone companies, trade insiders, media, and representatives from telecom ministries across the world.



UK bans World's Largest Crypto Exchange

- ❖ The Financial Conduct Authority of Britain has banned world's largest cryptocurrency exchanges, Binance.
- ❖ Binance is a cryptocurrency exchange from Cayman Islands.
- ❖ It provides a platform to trade several cryptocurrencies.

- ❖ It was founded in 2017.
- ❖ This cryptocurrency exchange was founded by Changpeng Zhao.
- ❖ It was initially based in China.
- ❖ But due to increased regulation of cryptocurrency in China, it moved headquarters out of China.

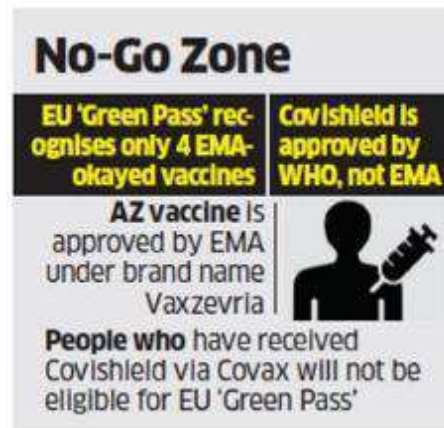


Computer models to protect delta system

- ❖ Erosion, sinking land and sea rise from climate change have killed the Louisiana woods.
- ❖ Louisiana woods are near the Mississippi River delta system of the USA.
- ❖ NASA Scientists and scientists from other universities from Boston to California are aiming to create some computer models due to this.
- ❖ These models can be used with satellite data to learn which parts of their dwindling deltas can be shored up and which deltas are past hope.

European Union's Green Pass list

- ❖ Travellers vaccinated with Covishield may not be eligible for the European Union's 'Green Pass' that will be available for use from July 1.
- ❖ At present, four vaccines have been approved by the European Medicines Agency.
- ❖ They are,
 - Comirnaty (Pfizer/BioNTech),
 - Moderna,
 - Vaxzervria (AstraZeneca),
 - Janssen (Johnson & Johnson).



New Chair of ILO

- ❖ India's term as chair of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) was ended recently.
- ❖ Apurva Chandra, Secretary (Labour & Employment) completed his tenure as Chair of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation (October 2020 - June 2021)
- ❖ India had assumed the chairmanship of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation after a gap of 35 years.



From left to right, Ms Renate Hornung-Draus, Ambassador Anna Jardfelt (Sweden), Ms Catelene Passchier

Note

- ❖ Ambassador Anna Jardfelt Melvin of Sweden was elected as the new Chairperson.
- ❖ Renate Hornung-Draus of Germany was elected as Employer Vice-Chairperson.

- ❖ Catelene Passchier (Netherlands) was re-elected as the Worker Vice-Chairperson.
- ❖ For the first time in the ILO's history the Governing Body will have female tripartite leadership.

UN Report on International tourism

- ❖ The International tourism arrivals are set to stagnate in 2021, except in some Western markets.
- ❖ This is according to the report by UNCTAD and UN's World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).
- ❖ As per this report, stagnation would result into losses of \$2.4 trillion.
- ❖ UNWTO is a United Nations specialized agency to promote responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.
- ❖ It is headquartered in Madrid, Spain.

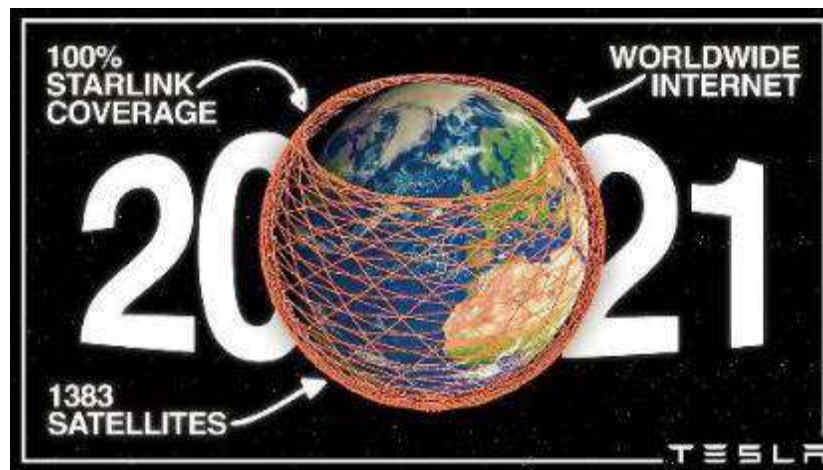
Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021



- ❖ India stands at the 20th spot among the top 100 countries that have been ranked in the Global Start-up Ecosystem Index 2021.
- ❖ This index is released by Start-up Blink.
- ❖ India currently has 43 of its cities listed in the top 1000 globally.
- ❖ Bengaluru (10th), New Delhi (14th) and Mumbai (16th) are in the top 20.
- ❖ The US, the UK, Israel, Canada and Germany are in the top five spots this year too.

Starlink - Global internet coverage

- ❖ Elon Musk's Starlink is on track to provide global internet coverage.
- ❖ Starlink has users across 12 countries, presently.
- ❖ The Starlink is a satellite internet constellation.
- ❖ It is constructed by SpaceX to provide satellite Internet access across the world.



Malaria-free China

- ❖ China was certified as malaria-free by World Health Organisation on June 30, 2021.
- ❖ No indigenous case was reported in the last four consecutive years.
- ❖ Nations that have achieved at least three consecutive years of zero indigenous cases of Malaria can apply for WHO certification of malaria-free status.
- ❖ China has become 40th territory to get malaria-free status by WHO.
- ❖ El Salvador also gained this status in 2021.

Malaria around the world

A preventable and treatable mosquito-borne illness that mostly affects African children

► **229 million**
cases in 2019

► **409,000 deaths**
About **67%** children under five

► **95%** of all malaria deaths
occur in **sub-Saharan Africa**

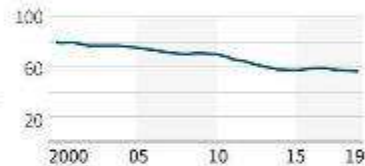
Transmission zone

- Cases detected in 2020
- No cases since 2018
- No cases for more than 4 years
- No cases since 2000

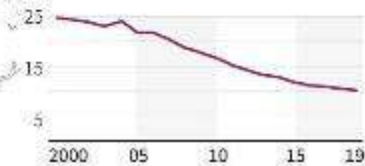


Trend over time

Malaria **cases**
per 1,000 population at risk



Malaria **deaths**
per 100,000 population at risk



Global cybersecurity index



- ❖ India has been ranked at 10th position in the Global cybersecurity index.
- ❖ This is according to the United Nation's ITU (International Telecommunication Union) Global Cybersecurity Index.
- ❖ India has improved its ranking from 47 to 10.
- ❖ United States has been ranked first.
- ❖ The United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia is tied on the second position.

Cyber Capabilities and National Power Report

- ❖ The report was recently released by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).
- ❖ The report analyses the cyber ecosystem of each state and how it intersects with international security, economic competition and military affairs.
- ❖ The report has divided the countries into three tiers of cyber power.
- ❖ First Tier - States with world-leading strengths across all the categories in the methodology.
- ❖ The United States of America is the only country in this tier.
- ❖ Second Tier - States that have world-leading strengths in some of the categories.
- ❖ Australia, Canada, China, France, Israel, Russia and the United Kingdom are in this tier.
- ❖ Third Tier - States that have strengths or potential strengths in some of the categories but significant weaknesses in others.
- ❖ India is in this tier.



Report on International Migrant Workers

- ❖ International Labour Organisation published its report on International Migrant Workers.
- ❖ As per ILO report, number of international migrant workers has increased to 169 million globally.
- ❖ It has increased by 3% since 2017.
- ❖ Share of youth migrant workers (aged 15-24) has also increased by almost 2% since 2017.
- ❖ Europe, Central Asia and America host 63.3 per cent of all migrant workers.



Report on Indigenous Peoples' food systems

- ❖ Traditional food gathering techniques of indigenous communities are under threat because of accelerated climate change and economic pressures right from Arctic to the Amazon.
- ❖ This is according to the U.N. Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO)'s report.

Note

- ❖ As per FAO, food systems used by different indigenous peoples were among world's most sustainable in terms of efficiency.
- ❖ It was avoiding waste and adapting to the seasons.

US and Bagram air base

- ❖ United States military has left Afghanistan's Bagram airfield after nearly two decades.
- ❖ Bagram airfield has now been handed over to Afghan National Security and Defense Force.
- ❖ This airbase has been the site of US military's war against Taliban and al-Qaida terrorist outfits.

Chinese astronauts First Spacewalk

- ❖ The Chinese astronauts have successfully performed China's first tandem spacewalk at the Tiangong station.
- ❖ They worked for seven hours outside new Tiangong station in orbit around the Earth.
- ❖ Three astronauts were blasted off in June 2021 to become station's first crew.

Storm Elsa

- ❖ Tropical Storm Elsa got strengthened recently and its centre approached south-central Cuba.
- ❖ Elsa is an active tropical cyclone which is affecting and threatening portions of Caribbean and South-eastern United States.
- ❖ It is the fifth named storm and first hurricane of Atlantic hurricane season 2021.
- ❖ It is the strongest July hurricane in eastern Caribbean Sea after Hurricane Emily in 2005.

Turkey quits Istanbul Convention

- ❖ Turkey quits Istanbul Convention on Violence Against Women.
- ❖ Turkey says that the convention demeans traditional family structure, promotes divorces and encourages acceptance of LGBTQ in the society.
- ❖ Besides, it also says that it has enough local laws to protect women's rights.
- ❖ Istanbul Convention is the world's first binding instrument to prevent and tackle violence against women.
- ❖ The convention was adopted by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers in 2011.

Note

- ❖ In 2011, Turkey became the first country to ratify the Istanbul convention.
- ❖ On March 8, 2012, it incorporated the Istanbul Convention into domestic law.

Child Soldiers Prevention Act

- ❖ US adds Pakistan, along with 14 other countries, to the list of the Child Soldiers Prevention Act.
- ❖ The list identifies foreign governments with government-supported armed groups that recruit or use child soldiers and subjects them to certain restrictions.
- ❖ The term child soldier means any person less than 18 years of age who takes a direct part in hostilities or who has been compulsorily recruited into governmental armed forces, police, or other security forces.

Taal volcano



- ❖ The Philippine scientists warned that Taal volcano to the south of Manila could erupt again "anytime soon".

- ❖ This has forced thousands of people from vulnerable communities to flee from their homes.
- ❖ The volcano has been emitting sulphur dioxide for the past week.
- ❖ The Taal volcano had erupted last in January 2020.

Trafficking in Persons report 2021

- ❖ Trafficking in Persons report 2021 was recently released by US State Department.
- ❖ As per the report, Covid-19 pandemic has increased vulnerability to human trafficking and interrupted existing anti-traffic efforts.
- ❖ The Countries were categorised on the basis of efforts they made to meet minimum standards of eliminating of human trafficking.
- ❖ There are totally three tiers.
- ❖ Countries whose governments do not comply with Trafficking Victims Protection Act's (TVPA) minimum standards completely are placed in Tier II.
- ❖ India is in this category.
- ❖ TVPA is US's law on human trafficking.

World's tallest sandcastle



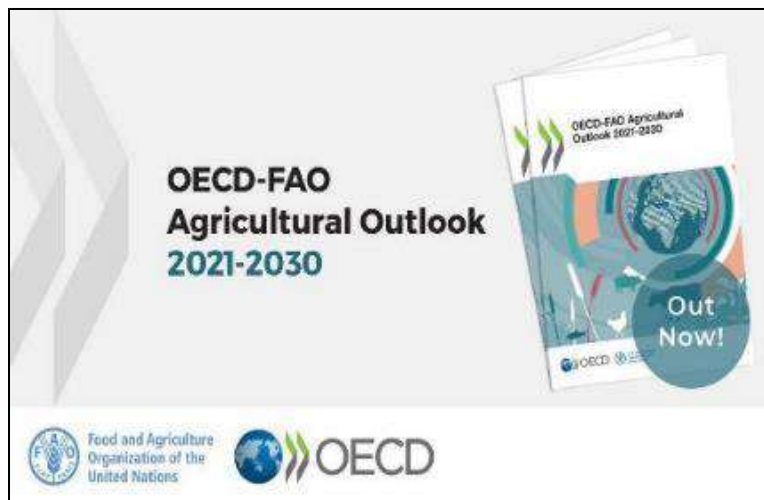
- ❖ A sandcastle in Denmark has entered into new Guinness World Record for being the tallest sandcastle in the world.
- ❖ Dutch creator, Wilfred Stijger, was assisted by 30 of the world's best sand sculptors to build this.
- ❖ The triangular-shaped sandcastle has been built in the town of Blokhus in Denmark.

- ❖ It stands at a height of 21.16 metres (69.4 feet).
- ❖ The previous record was held by sandcastle measuring 17.66 m in Germany in 2019.

Jovenel Moise

- ❖ Haiti President, Jovenel Moise was assassinated in his house.
- ❖ The incident has further inflicted more chaos on the unstable Caribbean country.
- ❖ The interim Prime Minister of Haiti, Claude Joseph confirmed the killing of the President.
- ❖ Haiti is the poorest country in the North American continent.

Agricultural Outlook report



- ❖ OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook presents production, consumption, trade and price trends for the coming decade.
- ❖ According to the report, governments need to step up their efforts to meet global food security and environmental targets for achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- ❖ Global demand for agricultural commodities is projected to grow at 1.2 percent per year over the coming decade.
- ❖ Productivity improvements will be key to feeding a growing global population - projected to reach 8.5 billion by 2030 - sustainably.
- ❖ Globally, aggregate food availability is projected to grow by 4 percent over the next decade
- ❖ In low-income countries, food availability is projected to increase by 3.7 percent.

Oxfam's Hunger Virus Multiplies Report

- ❖ As per report, 11 people are likely dying every minute from acute hunger because of three C's: conflict, Covid-19, and climate crisis.
- ❖ This rate of hunger related rate outpaces the covid-19 pandemic mortality rate, which is 7 people per minute.
- ❖ It highlights, 155 million people across the world are now living in crisis levels of food insecurity or worse.
- ❖ It has increased by 20 million as compared to 2020.
- ❖ Two third of the 155 million people face hunger because their country is in military conflict.

Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021

- ❖ It was recently published by UN department of Economic and Social Affairs.
- ❖ It was launched at 2021 session of High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

Findings

- ❖ The Number of indicators included in global SDG database has increased from 115 in 2016 to 211 in 2021.
- ❖ However, covid-19 pandemic has disrupted data operations like population censuses, worldwide.
- ❖ SDG 1: Global poverty rate is estimated to be 7% in 2030.
- ❖ SDG 2: 22% of children under 5 are stunted, 6.7% suffer from wasting, while 5.7% are overweight.
- ❖ SDG 3: covid-19 has halted or reversed progress in health. It has reduced life expectancy.
- ❖ SDG 4: 9% of children in grades 1-8 have come below minimum reading proficiency levels in 2020.
- ❖ SDG 5: 25.6% of national parliamentarians are women, 36.3% are local government representatives while 28.2% are occupied at managerial positions.
- ❖ SDG 6: 2 billion people do not have access to safe drinking water and 3.6 billion people are deprived of safely managed sanitation.
- ❖ SDG 7: 2.6 billion people are vulnerable to dangerous and inefficient cooking systems.
- ❖ SDG 8: covid-19 led to loss of 255 million full-time jobs.
- ❖ SDG 9: Manufacture of medium and high-tech products contributed for economic recovery in 2020.

- ❖ SDG 10: For every 100,000 persons, 311 are refugees in 2020.
- ❖ SDG 11: Half of world's urban population has access to public transport.
- ❖ SDG 12: Global material footprint has increased by 70% between 2000 and 2017.
- ❖ SDG 13: Global average temperature was at 1.2 Degree Celsius in 2020.
- ❖ SDG 14: Dead zones have increased from 400 in 2008 to 700 in 2019.
- ❖ SDG 15: During 2000-2020, 100 million hectares of forest were lost.
- ❖ SDG 16: Child labour has increased to 160 million in 2020. It accounted for first increase for two decades.
- ❖ SDG 17: About 3.7 billion people (half of world's population) are still not online.



Antarctic Meltwater Lakes

- ❖ The American Space Agency, NASA's ICESat-2 discovered Antarctic Meltwater Lakes recently.
- ❖ The Glaciologist Helen Amanda Fricker had made an astonishing discovery in 2007 and found that, a whole hidden network of interconnected lake is found beneath thick Antarctic ice-shelves.
- ❖ She had used data from NASA's ICESat.
- ❖ ICESat-2 is the successor of ICESat.
- ❖ It was launched by NASA in 2018.
- ❖ Using the data from ICESat 2, Fricker has now discovered two new subglacial meltwater lakes under glacial ice of Antarctica.



Virgin Galactic rocket plane - Richard Branson

- ❖ British billionaire, Richard Branson, soared for 50 miles above New Mexico desert on his Virgin Galactic rocket plane.
- ❖ He also made safe return in vehicle's first fully crewed test flight to space.
- ❖ With this, Richard Branson becomes first billionaire to fly to space on own craft.



World's first conjugate Covid-19 vaccine

- ❖ Cuba has developed world's first conjugate Covid-19 vaccine Soberana 2 (Sovereign 2).
- ❖ Soberana 2 vaccine is administered in three dose regimens.
- ❖ It comprises of two shots of Soberana 2 and one shot of Soberana Plus.
- ❖ When the Soberana 2 vaccine is delivered with booster shot of Soberana Plus, it is 91 percent effective against symptomatic Covid-19 cases.
- ❖ If this vaccine is approved, Cuba will become first Latin American country to manufacture and produce vaccine against Covid-19.



- ❖ Soberana 2 was developed by Finlay Institute in collaboration with Centre for Molecular Immunology and National Biopreparations Centre.
- ❖ A conjugate vaccine is a type of vaccine that combines weak antigen with strong antigen as a carrier.
- ❖ By doing that an immune system strongly response to a weak antigen.

US approves Blue Origin for Human Space Travel

- ❖ Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has approved “Blue Origin license” in order to carry humans on New Shepard launch system into space.
- ❖ Former Amazon Chief Executive, Jeff Bezos, is to fly to space on July 20 through Blue Origin’s maiden crewed voyage.
- ❖ Blue Origin is authorized to carry humans while FAA license is valid through August.
- ❖ Blue Origin is approved to conduct these missions from its Launch Site One facility in Texas.
- ❖ This flight is coming after space-tourism rival Virgin Galactic successfully sent its crew to the edge of space.
- ❖ Virgin Galactic, Blue Origin, SpaceX firm are working to usher in new era of routine commercial civilian space travel.
- ❖ Space travel has been popularized as “billionaire space race.”

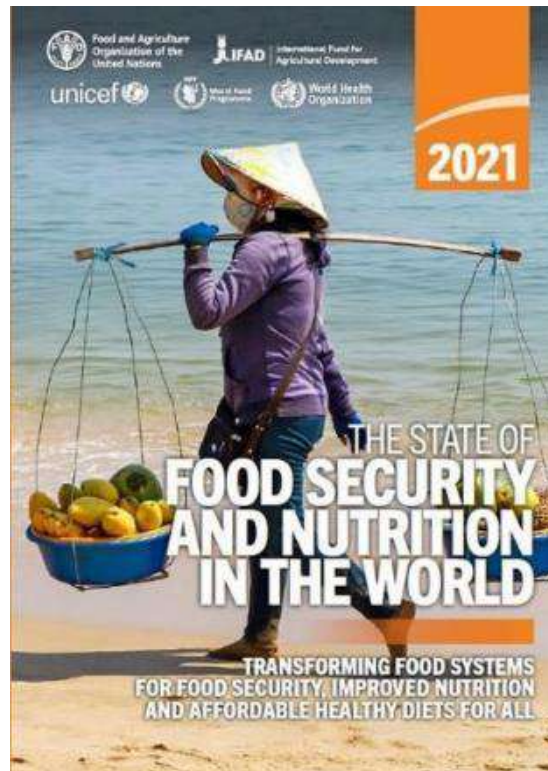
SCO meet – Highlights

- ❖ The SCO meeting was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan
- ❖ The Meeting was dominated by deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan.
- ❖ Meeting was attended by representatives from countries having observer status with SCO and SCO members.
- ❖ External affairs minister of India, S Jaishankar, raised these issues when he joined his counterparts from SCO states.
- ❖ Three prominent issues discussed by members were Afghanistan, public health and economic recovery.

India’s call

- ❖ India sought to stop terror financing and deter digital facilitation.
- ❖ It also urged the need of early universal vaccination against Covid-19.
- ❖ Indian minister also spoke on reformed multilateralism.

State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021



- ❖ This report was published recently by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- ❖ The report provides a grim reminder of impact of COVID-19 pandemic on Food security.
- ❖ The FAO's study was conducted in 63 low- and middle-income countries.
- ❖ As per the study, there is a significant decrease in affordability of healthy food because of loss in income.
- ❖ Covid-19 pandemic led to an additional 141 million people being unable to afford healthy diet because of loss of income and rising food price
- ❖ The Cost of healthy diet was 60 percent more than diet that meets “requirements for essential nutrients”.
- ❖ In 2020, 2.37 billion people couldn't access adequate food.
- ❖ One in three people worldwide couldn't access adequate food in 2020.
- ❖ 12 per cent of global population faced severe food insecurity.

Deep Dive Dubai

- ❖ Dubai has now opened the deepest swimming pool in the world.
- ❖ Deep Dive Dubai takes underwater explorers to depths of 60 m (196 ft).

- ❖ The pool resembles a “sunken city” that divers can explore.



G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meet

- ❖ The G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBGs) gathered in Venice in Italy for their third official meeting.
- ❖ The meeting was held under the Italian G20 Presidency.
- ❖ This was the first in-person Finance Track meeting since February 2020.
- ❖ G20 members continued their discussions on issues related to,
 - global economy and health, and
 - on the efforts to promote economic recovery and
 - the transition towards greener and more sustainable economies and societies.

World's smallest cow

- ❖ A tiny farm in Bangladesh claims to have bred the world's smallest cow.
- ❖ It's just 20 inches tall.
- ❖ Its name is Rani.
- ❖ Rani is 23-month-old dwarf cow.
- ❖ The mini cow is 26 inches long and weighs only 57 pounds.



Lower Arun Hydropower project

- ❖ Nepal has inked a USD 1.3 billion deal with Sutlej Jal Vidyut Nigam of India.
- ❖ This is to develop a 679-megawatt hydropower project in eastern Nepal.
- ❖ This will be the second mega venture in Nepal, undertaken by India.
- ❖ It is the single largest foreign investment project.
- ❖ This hydropower project will be developed under build, own, operate and transfer (BOOT) model.
- ❖ The first project undertaken by India in Nepal was USD 1.04 billion 900-MW Arun-3 hydroelectric project.
- ❖ Arun River is the largest trans-Himalayan River that passes through Nepal.
- ❖ River drains into Sapta Kosi river system.

BP's latest report

- ❖ The United States became the fourth-largest supplier of crude oil to India in 2020, according to BP's latest report.
- ❖ The US is behind Iraq, Saudi Arabia and UAE.
- ❖ US started exporting oil to India in 2017.
- ❖ It also turned out to be the fourth-largest natural gas supplier to India.

'Fit for 55' legislation



- ❖ The European Union's executive branch released a new legislation.
- ❖ It is to meet its pledge of cutting emissions of gases causing global warming by 55% this decade.



- ❖ EU's 'fit for 55' legislation includes a controversial plan to tax foreign companies for pollution caused by them.
- ❖ This Legislation also provides for de-facto phasing out of gasoline and diesel cars by 2035.

Data on Child Vaccination

- ❖ WHO & UNICEF recently released its data on Child Vaccination.
- ❖ As per the report, India registered the largest decrease in routine childhood immunization coverage in 2020
- ❖ India is followed by Pakistan and Indonesia.
- ❖ India's DTP-3 coverage (Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis vaccine coverage) has fell down from 91% to 85%.

Floating solar panel farms

- ❖ Singapore has unveiled one of the world's largest floating solar panel farms.
- ❖ The project is part of efforts by the country to meet a goal of quadrupling its solar energy production by 2025.
- ❖ It is located on a reservoir in western Singapore.
- ❖ The 60 megawatt-peak solar photovoltaic farm has been built by a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sembcorp Industries.

Monkeypox

- ❖ The First case of rare human monkeypox was detected in Texas.
- ❖ The Monkeypox was detected in a U.S. resident, who recently travelled from Nigeria to US.
- ❖ This is according to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention of the USA.
- ❖ Monkey pox virus is a double-stranded DNA & a zoonotic virus.
- ❖ It belongs to genus Orthopoxvirus in family Poxviridae.

OECD-FAO outlook report on Pulses 2021-2030

- ❖ It is published by Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development & Food and Agriculture Organisation.
- ❖ India is central to any projection in global pulses.
- ❖ This is because India is by far world's largest producer, processor, importer and consumer of the protein-rich legume.

- ❖ As per the report, global pulses supply will increase by 22 million tonnes (mt) of which half of supply expected to come from Asia, particularly India by 2030.

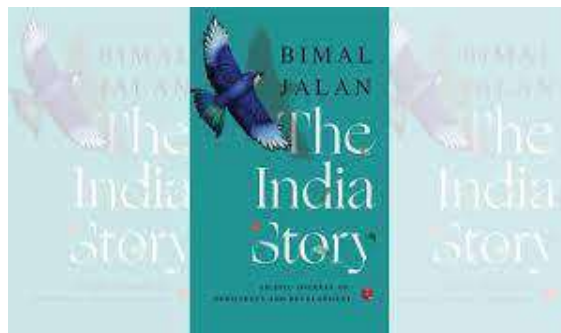
Quadrilateral diplomatic platform

- ❖ The United States of America, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan, have made a principal agreement to establish a new quadrilateral diplomatic platform.
- ❖ Its primary aim is to enhance regional connectivity.
- ❖ This QUAD group was announced by the administration of Biden.



The India Story book

- ❖ Former RBI governor Bimal Jalan writes a new book titled 'The India Story'.
- ❖ The book focuses on India's economic history and aims to provide lessons for the future of India's political economy.
- ❖ He also authored the books 'India Then and Now', 'India Ahead'.



Zircon

- ❖ Russia successfully tested its Zircon hypersonic cruise missile.
- ❖ Zircon is a part of a new arsenal of weapons of Russia.
- ❖ It could hit targets at sea and on land with a range of 1,000 kilometres and a speed of Mach 9.



India – 5th largest Forex reserve

- ❖ India has surpassed Japan, China, Russia and Switzerland to become the world's fifth-largest foreign exchange reserve holder with \$608.99 billion.
- ❖ India's balance of payments has surpassed in both the capital and current accounts in the year 2020-21.
- ❖ That largely contributed to the gains in the foreign exchange reserves of the country.
- ❖ India's present foreign exchange reserves are sufficient enough to provide the payment for imports for more than 18 months.
- ❖ The Forex reserves mainly comprise of bonds, foreign currencies, gold, bank deposits, financial assets and special drawing rights.

Smartphone maker

- ❖ Xiaomi of China overtakes Apple (third spot) to become the world's second-biggest smartphone maker for the first time.
- ❖ Xiomi is only behind Samsung of South Korea.
- ❖ Other Chinese smartphone companies - Oppo and Vivo follows the next slots.



COVAX - India

- ❖ India has been offered 7.5 million doses of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine through COVAX global vaccine distribution programme.
- ❖ Mumbai-based pharmaceutical company Cipla was granted permission by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) to import Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine.
- ❖ COVAX is a global vaccine distribution programme that is co-led by Gavi, the coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

International Finance Corporation (IFC)

- ❖ The IFC will be investing \$16.5 million in genetics diagnostics and research company 'MedGenome'.
- ❖ It aims to increase the access to COVID-19 testing in India.
- ❖ IFC is a leading global development institution that focuses on the private sector in developing countries.
- ❖ It is a member of the World Bank Group founded in 1956.
- ❖ The institution advances economic development and improves the lives of the people.



World's first carbon border Tax

- ❖ The European Union unveiled a proposal to levy the world's first carbon border tax by 2026.
- ❖ It will see a cost placed on carbon emissions through a carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM).
- ❖ The mechanism will impose a tax linked to carbon prices on an array of products such as imported steel, aluminium, fertiliser and cement.
- ❖ The policy is aimed at companies not countries
- ❖ But it has triggered a sharp response from its trading partners, mainly Russia.
- ❖ Russia is Europe's biggest supplier of carbon-intensive products including coal, oil, rolled steel and aluminium.

IATA Issues

- ❖ The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has launched a Global Mobility Aids Action Group in a bid to examine and improve transport journey of mobility aids, such as wheelchairs.
- ❖ This action group will be the first of its kind in the World.
- ❖ Qatar Airways joins IATA's Turbulence Aware Platform.
- ❖ It will be the first airline in Middle East to join this platform.



Assad at Syria

- ❖ The Syrian President Bashar Assad was sworn for a fourth seven-year term.
- ❖ He is in power since 2000 at Syria.
- ❖ He was accused by the European and the US governments for most of the civil war atrocities.
- ❖ But he is supported by Iran and Russia.



Sea Breaker – Israel

- ❖ The Israeli defence firm Rafael Advanced Défense Systems unveiled Sea Breaker.
- ❖ It is meant to hit high-value maritime and land targets.
- ❖ It is the precision-guided missile system and the long-range missile system.
- ❖ It has full operational capability in Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) denied arenas, in all weather conditions.



EAGLE Act – USA

- ❖ It is called as “Equal Access to Green cards for Legal Employment Act”.
- ❖ It is to eliminate per country cap on employment-based green card.
- ❖ It was introduced to benefit Indian IT professionals who are waiting over decades for green card.
- ❖ 75 percent of the backlog for employment-based visas was made up of Indians
- ❖ It will benefit the US economy by allowing American employers to focus on hiring immigrants based on their merit, not their birthplace.

Central-South Asia conference

- ❖ Uzbekistan hosted this high-level meeting in the capital city of Tashkent.
- ❖ It was titled "The International Conference on Central and South Asia Regional Connectivity, Challenges and Opportunities".

- ❖ The idea aimed at deepening economic and socio-cultural cooperation in Central and South Asia.
- ❖ For better connectivity, Uzbekistan has already established a railway route to Afghanistan.



MAKS 2021 Air Show

- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) Sarang Helicopter team performed for the first time at the MAKS 2021 Air Show in Moscow of Russia.
- ❖ This is the first occasion when the Sarang Team is performing its four helicopter aerobatics display in Russia.
- ❖ Sarag participated with its 'Made in India' 'Dhruv' Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH).
- ❖ Sarang Team was formed in 2003 at Bangalore.
- ❖ Dhruv helicopter was developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).



Loss of UNESCO World Heritage sites



- ❖ Liverpool of the United Kingdom was removed from the list of UNESCO World Heritage sites.
- ❖ It was granted the title in 2004 in recognition of its maritime history.
- ❖ Previously, only two sites have lost their heritage status.
- ❖ They are - Arabian Oryx Sanctuary in Oman in the year 2007, and the Dresden Elbe Valley in Germany in the year 2009.

Using the name of Taiwan

- ❖ Using the name “Taiwan,” the Taiwan’s government will set up its first office in Europe, in the Baltic nation of Lithuania.
- ❖ This decision has drawn a rebuke from China while it was praised by the USA.
- ❖ The other diplomatic outposts of Taiwan on the continent are named “Taipei.”
- ❖ Taiwan is a country in East Asia.
- ❖ Its capital is Taipei.
- ❖ China has also urged Lithuania to adhere to China’s one-China principle.
- ❖ China claims Taiwan to be its province under its one-China policy.
- ❖ It is officially known as the Republic of China.

Mekong-Ganga Cooperation

- ❖ The 11th meeting was recently held.
- ❖ It was 20th anniversary meet of MGC.
- ❖ The Foreign Minister of Cambodia co-chaired the meeting along with foreign minister of India.
- ❖ It was launched in the year 2000 with the aim of boosting cooperation in tourism, connectivity and culture and other range of areas.

- ❖ This initiative comprises of six countries.
- ❖ They are: India, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam.



Ancient viruses at Tibetan glaciers

- ❖ The Scientists have found ancient viruses that have been frozen for almost 15,000 years in the Tibetan glaciers.
- ❖ The viruses were found in two ice samples that were taken from the Guliya ice cap Tibetan Plateau in China.
- ❖ Most of these viruses are unlike any viruses that have been catalogued to date, as they have been remained frozen for thousands of years.

Cadet World Wrestling Championship 2021





- ❖ It was held in Budapest, Hungary.
- ❖ The India's Young wrestlers Aman Gulia and Sagar Jaglan emerged as the new world champions.

Naval exercise with United Kingdom

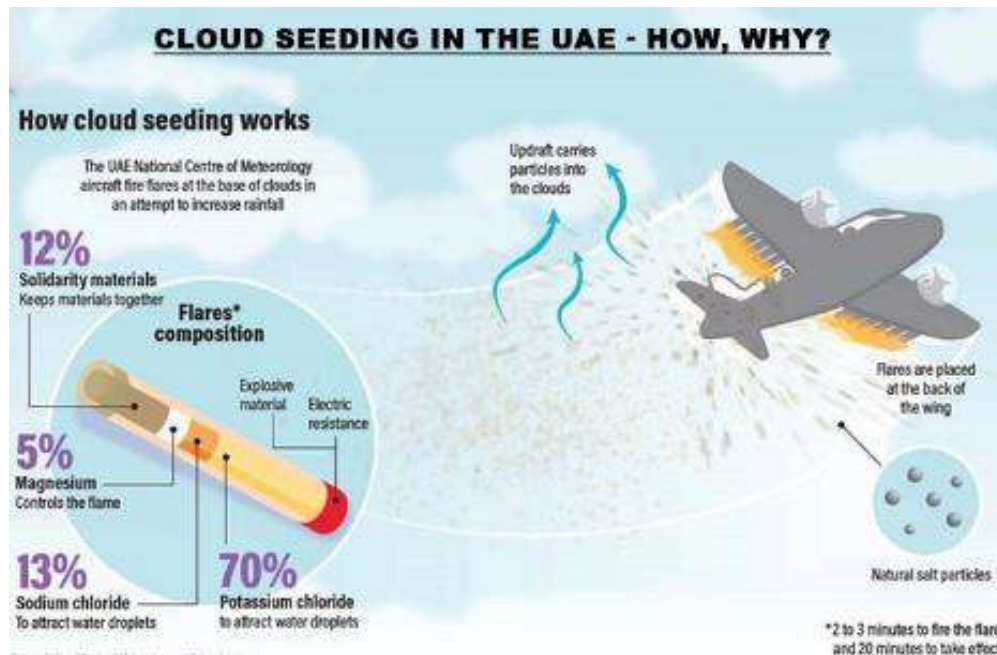
- ❖ For the first time, the United Kingdom's Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 2021 recently had participated in the maritime exercises in the Bay of Bengal with the Indian Navy.
- ❖ The CAG group was led by the HMS Queen Elizabeth.
- ❖ The HMS Queen Elizabeth carrier is the largest surface vessel to have been ever constructed in the United Kingdom.
- ❖ It is said to be taller than the famous Niagara Falls.

Vaccine production

- ❖ Five member states of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) alone will account for three-quarters of the entire global output of COVID-19 vaccines this year.
- ❖ They are China, India, Germany, the United States, and France.
- ❖ The WTO held that the discriminatory access to vaccines is a root cause of the unequal recovery of the global economy.

Cloud seeding – UAE

- ❖ The United Arab Emirates is one of the first countries in the Persian Gulf region to use cloud seeding technology.
- ❖ It is now testing a new method that has drones fly into clouds to give them an electric shock to trigger rain production
- ❖ Cloud seeding is a kind of a weather modification technology to create artificial rainfall.
- ❖ It was pioneered by atmospheric scientist Bernard Vonnegut.
- ❖ It works only when there are enough pre-existing clouds in the atmosphere.
- ❖ These 'seeds' of rain can be the iodides of silver or potassium, dry ice (solid carbon dioxide), or liquid propane.
- ❖ The seeds can be delivered by plane or simply by spraying from the ground.



Report on Drowning Prevention

- ❖ The World Health Organization launched its first Regional Status Report on Drowning Prevention in the South-East Asia and Western Pacific regions.
- ❖ This report said that nearly two-thirds of all global deaths due to drowning occur in the Asia Pacific region.
- ❖ Drowning is the third leading cause of unintentional injury and death worldwide.
- ❖ It accounts for 7% of all injury-related deaths.
- ❖ On an average, men were more likely to drown than women.



World's first clean Nuclear Reactor

- ❖ The Scientists of the Chinese government has unveiled plans for an experimental nuclear reactor that does not require water for cooling.
- ❖ This reactor will run on liquid thorium instead of uranium.
- ❖ It is expected to be safer than the traditional reactors.
- ❖ As water is not required by this type of reactor, it will be able to operate in desert regions.
- ❖ A team at the Shanghai Institute of Applied Physics have developed this prototype.

Golden Rice



- ❖ “Golden Rice” which is genetically modified has been given approval for commercial production by Philippines.
- ❖ Health experts believe that this decision will save lives and combat childhood blindness in the developing regions of the world.
- ❖ The government issued a bio safety permit which paves way for this rice which is enriched with beta-carotene.
- ❖ International Rice Research Institute along with the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Rice Research Institute has spent two decades to develop the golden rice which is named so due to its bright yellow hue.
- ❖ This is the first kind of genetically modified rice which has been approved for commercial usage in the South and Southeast Asia region.

2008 GO20 Asteroid

- ❖ A giant stadium-sized asteroid was headed towards the Earth.
- ❖ It was expected to fly past the Earth on July 24, 2021.
- ❖ The giant asteroid called 2008 GO20 flew past the Earth previously on June 20, 2008.

‘Vision for Everyone’ - UN

- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly adopted a new first-ever resolution on vision named ‘Vision for Everyone’.
- ❖ The objective is to provide eye care service for at least 1.1 billion people with vision impairment by 2030, especially those who lack eye service.
- ❖ The resolution ‘Vision for Everyone: accelerating action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)’ was introduced by Bangladesh’s U.N. Ambassador Rabab Fatima and proposed by Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh and Ireland to the UN General Assembly.

Bangladesh to launch new apps

- ❖ Bangladesh is going to launch its own social media platform named ‘Jogajog’.
- ❖ It is an alternative to the globally popular Facebook.
- ❖ ‘Alapon’, an alternative of WhatsApp, is also to be launched.
- ❖ Boithok app, an alternative to Zoom online and Surokkha App, used for the purpose of vaccine registration, are the other apps launched.

Madrid’s Paseo del Prado and Retiro Park - World Heritage Status

- ❖ The historic Paseo del Prado boulevard and Retiro Park of Madrid, in Spain, has been granted the status of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- ❖ The wide tree-lined Paseo del Prado, in the centre of the Spanish capital is home to prominent buildings such as the Prado Museum.
- ❖ The iconic Retiro Park, just adjoining with Paseo del Prado, is a 125-hectare green space.
- ❖ It is one of the most visited attractions in Madrid’s history.



Intrinsic

- ❖ Alphabet, the parent company of Google, has announced of the launch of a new company called Intrinsic.
- ❖ It will be solely focused on software developing for robots.
- ❖ Wendy Tan White has been appointed as the CEO of Intrinsic.

Affordable New Drug for Hepatitis c - Malaysia

- ❖ The World's first affordable as well as effective new drug for hepatitis C has been registered by Malaysia.
- ❖ The drug which has been named ravidasvir has been approved for use along with an existing drug named sofosbuvir.
- ❖ Hepatitis C which is a blood-borne virus that is one of the leading causes of liver cancer and can lead to cirrhosis.
- ❖ Hepatitis C has no vaccine.
- ❖ The WHO plans to eliminate this disease by reducing new infections by 90% and deaths by 65 % by the year 2030.

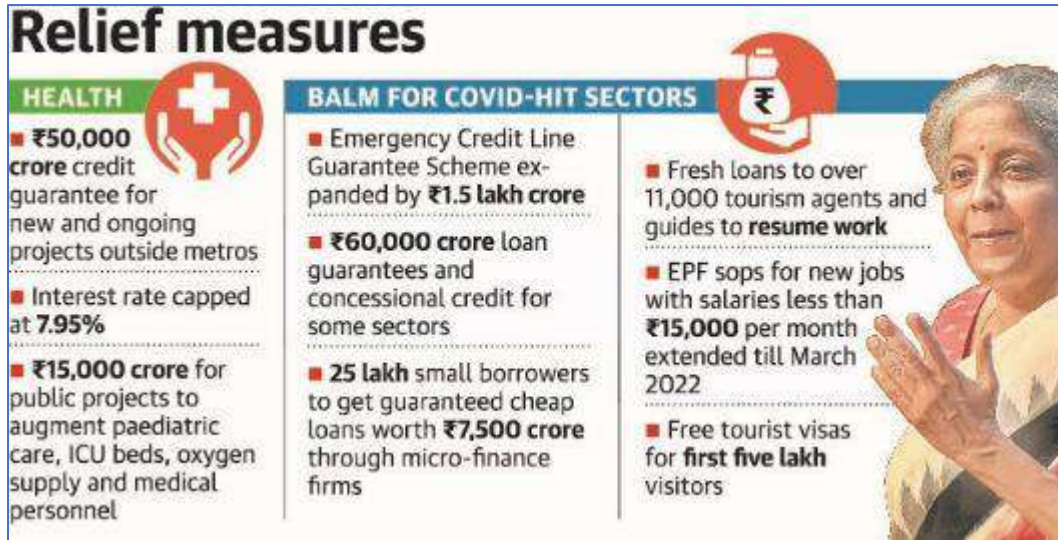
INDRA 2021



- ❖ India and Russia will hold the 12th edition of joint military exercise in Russia's Volgograd.
- ❖ The exercise is named INDRA 2021.
- ❖ It will further strengthen and develop the bilateral security cooperation of the two countries.
- ❖ 250 personnel from both the nations will take part in this exercise.

ECONOMY

Relief measures – Finance ministry



Relief measures

HEALTH

- **₹50,000 crore** credit guarantee for new and ongoing projects outside metros
- Interest rate capped at **7.95%**
- **₹15,000 crore** for public projects to augment paediatric care, ICU beds, oxygen supply and medical personnel

BALM FOR COVID-HIT SECTORS

- Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme expanded by **₹1.5 lakh crore**
- **₹60,000 crore** loan guarantees and concessional credit for some sectors
- **25 lakh** small borrowers to get guaranteed cheap loans worth **₹7,500 crore** through micro-finance firms
- Fresh loans to over 11,000 tourism agents and guides to **resume work**
- EPF sops for new jobs with salaries less than **₹15,000** per month extended till March 2022
- Free tourist visas for **first five lakh** visitors

- ❖ The government has announced some fresh relief measures for the economy.
- ❖ This is the first such package after the second COVID-19 wave.
- ❖ The following eight measures were proposed by Ministry of Finance.
- ❖ Rs 1.10 lakh crore Loan Guarantee Scheme for COVID Affected sectors
 - This includes Rs 50,000 crore for the health sector and Rs 60,000 crore for other sectors, including tourism.
- ❖ Additional Rs 1.5 lakh crore for Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme.
- ❖ Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro Finance Institutions (New scheme).
 - Amount per loan capped at Rs 1.25 lakh at an interest rate of MCLR (the minimum lending rate for a bank) plus 2 per cent.
- ❖ Scheme for Tourists guides/ stakeholders
 - Tourism Stakeholders will be eligible to get a loan up to Rs. 10 lakh each while tourist guides can avail of loan up to Rs 1 lakh each.
- ❖ Free one-month tourist visa to 5 lakh tourists
 - The total amount sanctioned for the scheme is Rs 100 crore.
 - The facility will be applicable till 31st March 2022 or till 5 lakh visas are issued, whichever is earlier.
- ❖ Extension of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana
 - The date of registration under the scheme has been extended from 30 June 2021 to 31 March 2022.



- ❖ The Additional Subsidy for DAP & P&K fertilizers.
- ❖ Free food grains under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) to be provided from May to November 2021.

RBI Report

- ❖ India has reported a current account surplus of 0.9 per cent of GDP in the Financial Year 2021 (FY21).
- ❖ This is as per the data released by Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ❖ In 2020, it has reported current account deficit of 0.9 per cent in FY20.
- ❖ Net FDI was USD 2.7 billion during March quarter of 2021 as compared to USD 12 billion in 2020.
- ❖ The Net foreign portfolio investment (FPI) increased by USD 7.3 billion.
- ❖ The Net external commercial borrowings to India decreased to USD 6.1 billion.

New norms for Interest on Unclaimed Matured Deposit

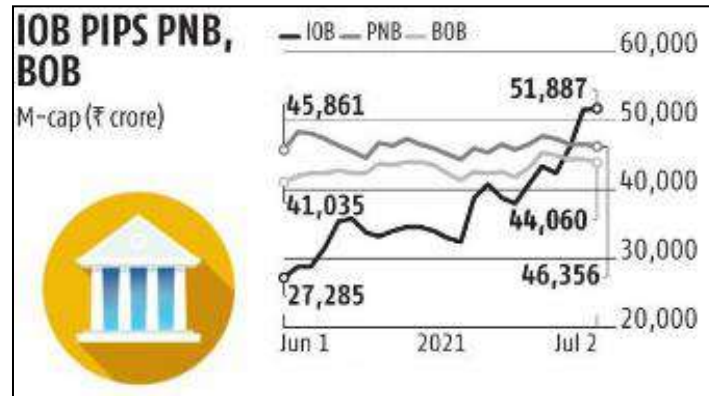
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has notified new norms for interest on the amount left unclaimed with bank after a term deposit matures.
- ❖ Presently, if a term deposit matures and proceeds are unpaid, amount left unclaimed with bank attracts rate of interest as it is applicable to savings deposits.
- ❖ New norms are applicable on deposits across all commercial banks, small finance banks, local area banks, and cooperative banks.

India's share in world market capitalization

- ❖ As per Bloomberg data, India accounted for 2.60% of world market capitalisation in June 2021.
- ❖ India raised its share in world market capitalisation as compared with long-term average of 2.45%.
- ❖ India's market-capitalisation increased to 66% in one year to \$3.02 trillion in June 2021.
- ❖ It outpaced the 44% growth in global market-capitalisation.
- ❖ India has been outperforming global growth in market-capitalisation for five years annually at the rate of 14.7%, against 13.25%.
- ❖ Indian equities have delivered a return of 49% in past one year.

Indian Overseas Bank - second most-valued public lender

- ❖ Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has become the second most-valued listed public sector bank (PSB).
- ❖ It had acquired a market capitalisation of over Rs 50,000 crore.
- ❖ IOB pushed PNB and BOB to third and fourth position respectively.
- ❖ SBI tops the list.



Changes in G-Sec Auction Methodology

- ❖ RBI has decided that benchmark securities of 2-year tenor, 3-year tenor, 5-year tenor, 10-year tenor & 14-year tenor and Floating Rate Bonds will be issued using uniform price auction method.
- ❖ However, for benchmark securities of 30-year and 40-year, auction will continue to be multiple price-based auction.
- ❖ The Government Security is a tradable instrument.
- ❖ These are issued by Central Government or State Governments.
- ❖ It acknowledges Government's debt obligation.
- ❖ G-Secs are of two types.
- ❖ Short Term - They are usually called treasury bills.
- ❖ They have original maturities of less than one year.
- ❖ It is issued in three tenors viz., 91-day, 182-day and 364-day.
- ❖ Long Term - They are usually called Government bonds or dated securities.
- ❖ They have original maturity of one year and more.

Financial Stability Report

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India released the 23rd issue of its Financial Stability Report.
- ❖ It is published biannually.
- ❖ The Gross Non-Performing Asset ratio of India's Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) may climb by the end of 2021-22 to as much as 11.2%.
- ❖ It was 7.48% in March 2021.
- ❖ The GNPA ratio of SCBs may increase to 9.8% by March 2022 under the baseline scenario.
- ❖ The RBI Financial Stability Report is released by the Financial Stability and Development Council.
- ❖ The Union Finance Minister is the chairperson of this Council.
- ❖ The idea of the council was mooted by Raghuram Rajan Committee in 2008.



NPCI extends BHIM UPI to Bhutan

- ❖ Bhutan has become first country to adopt Unified Payment Interface (UPI) standards of India for its quick response (QR) code.
- ❖ Bhutan after Singapore has become the second country to have BHIM-UPI acceptance at merchant locations.
- ❖ International wing of the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) called NPCI International Payments Ltd. (NIPL) announced partnership with Royal Monetary Authority (RMA) of Bhutan to implement BHIM UPI QR-based payments in Bhutan.
- ❖ Bhutan will also become the only country to issue & accept RuPay cards and accept BHIM-UPI.

Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM)

- ❖ It is an Indian mobile payment App developed by National Payments Corporation of India.
- ❖ It is named after B. R. Ambedkar.
- ❖ It was launched on December 30, 2016.

Restrictions on Mastercard Asia – RBI

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has imposed restrictions on Mastercard Asia/Pacific Private Limited for adding new domestic customers from 22nd July 2021.
- ❖ MasterCard will not be allowed to add customers, be it for debit, credit or pre-paid cards onto its network.
- ❖ This is because the entity has failed to comply with the directions on Storage of Payment System Data.

New companies to sell automobile fuels in India

- ❖ The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has granted authorizations to seven companies for selling of auto fuels in the country.
- ❖ The Reliance Industries (RIL), RBML Solutions India, Chennai-based IMC, Assam Gas Company (Government of Assam undertaking), Onsite Energy, Manas Agro Industries and M K Agrotech have got fuel retailing authorizations.
- ❖ The 2019 rules state that for receiving retail authorization, an entity has to set up minimum of 100 retail outlets.

MORE FUEL
Oil ministry has granted marketing authorisation to the following entities under the relaxed rules

▪ RIL (its existing retail marketing authorisation transferred to its subsidiary RBML)	▪ Onsite Energy
▪ IMC	▪ MK Agrotech
▪ Assam Gas Company	▪ RBML Solutions India
	▪ Manas Agro Industries & Infrastructure

RBI Retail Direct' scheme

- ❖ RBI's Retail Direct Scheme is a one-stop solution to facilitate investment in Government Securities (G-Sec) by individual investors.

- ❖ The retail investors will be provided a facility to open and maintain Retail Direct Gilt Account with RBI.
- ❖ This facility was launched as part of continuing efforts towards increasing retail participation in government securities.
- ❖ It was launched to improve ease of access by retail investors by online access to primary as well as secondary government securities market.




The National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARC)

- ❖ It has finally become a legal entity registered with the Registrar of Companies (RoC) Mumbai.
- ❖ It is also called as bad bank, having a public sector character.
- ❖ It is considered as a one-stop solution for banking systems stressed assets menace.

EV Policy

- ❖ Maharashtra government has unveiled the “Maharashtra Electric Vehicle (EV) policy, 2021”.
- ❖ All EVs sold in State will be exempted from road tax and registration charges.
- ❖ It also seeks to ensure that by 2025 EVs comprise at least 10% of new vehicles registered and 25% electrification of public transport in six urban centres namely, Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune, Amravati, Aurangabad and Nashik.
- ❖ It will also set up 2,500 charging stations in urban areas and highways.

MAHARASHTRA'S NEW E-VEHICLES POLICY




To encourage environment-friendly cars so that Maharashtra is able to bring its vehicular carbon footprint to zero by 2030, the state government is offering several benefits to potential buyers and manufacturers

In November 2017, India's first electric charging station was opened in Nagpur by Indian Oil

GOVT'S AIM

- To generate investment worth ₹25,000 crore
- To generate employment for 1 lakh people


TAX REBATES FOR ELECTRIC CAR BUYERS



15%
Maximum vehicle tax rebate as a percentage of a vehicle's cost that the first 1 lakh e-vehicles to be registered in the state will be eligible for


₹5,000

Rebate cap for two-wheelers




₹1 lakh

Rebate cap for four-wheelers



Other benefits | Waiver on road tax and registration charge for e-vehicles


BENEFITS FOR MANUFACTURERS



25% Funding by government as a percentage of the total cost of setting up a charging station, with a maximum grant of ₹10 lakh per station. Only first 250 stations to come up in state eligible

➤ Cheap electricity for charging stations set up under the policy. Tariff to be on a par with residential—not commercial—rates

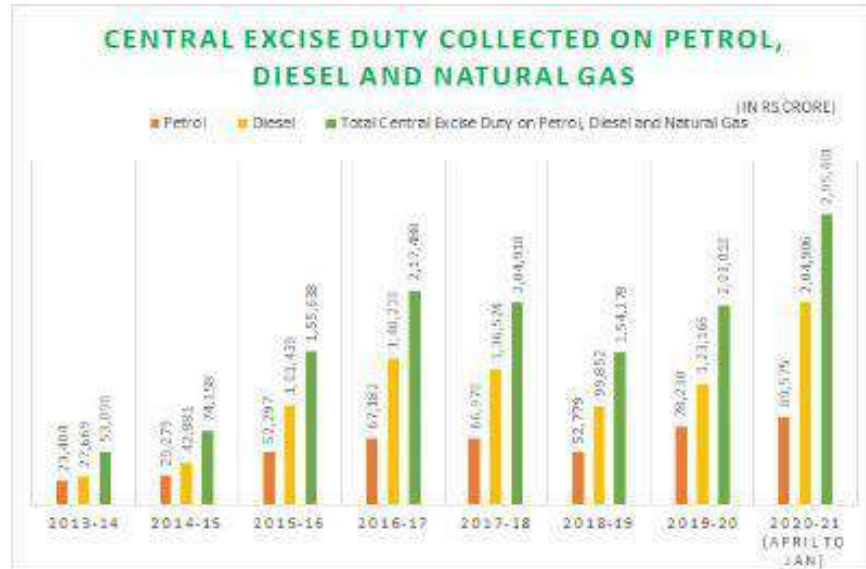
Electric car manufacturers will be allowed to set up **charging stations**, even at petrol pumps, provided they get safety clearances



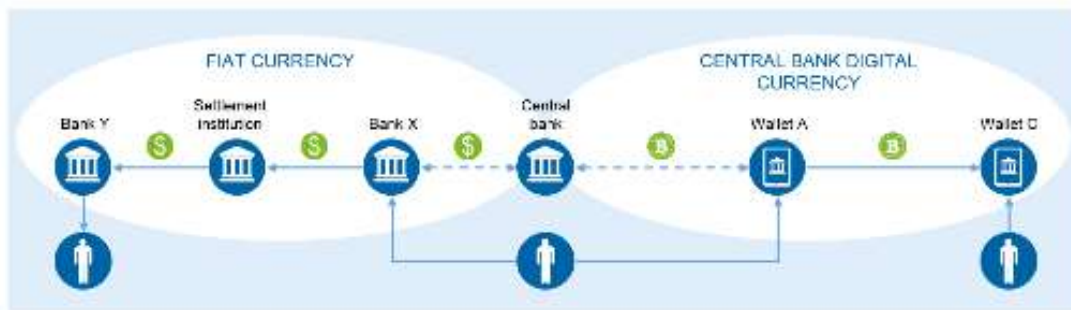
Excise duty on Auto fuel

- ❖ The central government's tax collections on petrol and diesel jumped to Rs 3.35 lakh crore in FY21.
- ❖ It was from Rs 1.78 lakh crore in FY20.
- ❖ It includes excises on not just petrol and diesel but also Aviation Turbine Fuel, natural gas and crude oil.
- ❖ The Collections would have been higher but fuel sales were falling due to lockdown in last year.

- ❖ The Centre had raised excise duty by Rs 13 per litre on petrol and Rs 16 on diesel between March-end and May 2020.
- ❖ If petrol is selling for more than Rs 100 a litre and diesel over Rs 90 in most states, it is more due to high taxes rather than costlier crude.



Central Bank Digital Currency



- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India is considering launching Central Bank Digital Currency in the near future.
- ❖ This was informed by Deputy RBI Governor T Rabi Shankar.
- ❖ This was shared during a webinar organised by the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, New Delhi.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Surabhi e-Tag

- ❖ Dvara E-Dairy Solutions Pvt Ltd in partnership with IFFCO-Tokio General Insurance Co. Ltd. launched an artificial intelligence (AI) powered digital identity (ID) tag.
- ❖ It is named as 'Surabhi e-Tag'
- ❖ It is to identify cattle based on muzzle identity.
- ❖ Muzzle is the projecting part of an animal's face (including the nose and mouth).

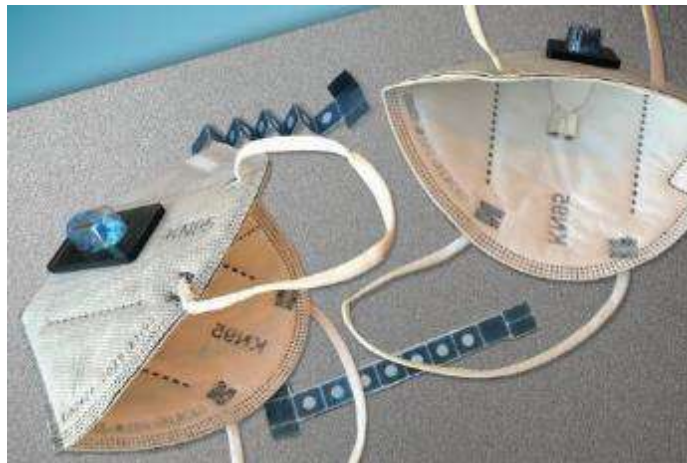
Sea Breaker AI missile

- ❖ Israeli defence electronics company Rafael Advanced Défense Systems has unveiled the Sea Breaker AI missile.
- ❖ It is a 5th generation long-range, autonomous, precision-guided missile system.
- ❖ It can precisely target sea and land targets up to a range of 300 kilometres.
- ❖ Sea Breaker features an advanced imaging infra-red seeker.
- ❖ This can engage stationary or moving targets in a diverse range of land and marine environments.



Covid detecting face mask

- ❖ Researchers at the Harvard University and MIT have developed a novel face mask.
- ❖ This mask can detect if the wearer has COVID-19 within about 90 minutes.
- ❖ The face mask has been designed by engineers at the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering at the Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).



Asteroid Ryugu

- ❖ NASA has received its first sample of asteroid Ryugu that returned to Earth in December 2020 by Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's (JAXA) Hayabusa2 spacecraft.
- ❖ Samples from asteroid Ryugu is one of the first samples to leave Japan for preliminary investigation.
- ❖ Mike Zolensky was one of the first scientists to examine this sample so as to determine its basic nature.

Note

- ❖ Asteroid Ryugu is also called as 162173 Ryugu.
- ❖ It is provisionally designated as 1999 JU3.
- ❖ It is a near-Earth object and a potentially hazardous asteroid belonging to Apollo group.

Harit Dhara

- ❖ It is an anti-methanogenic feed supplement.
- ❖ It is developed by an Indian Council of Agricultural Research institute - National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology, Bengaluru.
- ❖ When given to bovines and sheep, it cuts down their methane emissions by 17-20%.
- ❖ It also results in higher milk production and body weight gain.
- ❖ Methane is produced by animals having rumen, the first of their four stomachs.
- ❖ Harit Dhara has been prepared using condensed and hydrolysable tannin-rich plant-based sources.



Gravitational waves

- ❖ The Scientists have detected gravitational waves produced by collision of neutron star and black hole for the first time.
- ❖ Gravitational waves ripples were detected in fabric of space-time.
- ❖ This finding shows that there are neutron star-black hole systems.
- ❖ This system will help in answering several questions regarding cosmos ranging from star formation to expansion rate of universe.

Actual Shape of the Universe

- ❖ The Japanese astronomers have developed an artificial intelligence technique which will help in removing noise in astronomical data because of random variations in galaxy shapes.
- ❖ Scientists then applied this new technique to actual data from Japan's Subaru Telescope.
- ❖ They found that, mass distribution derived from this method is in consistent with currently accepted models of Universe.

High-speed solar storm

- ❖ The Earth could be impacted by a powerful high-speed solar storm, approaching at a speed of 1.6 million kilometres per hour.
- ❖ This is according to the details shared by NASA.
- ❖ The storm originated from the Sun's atmosphere and can have a significant impact on a region of space dominated by Earth's magnetic field.
- ❖ It is likely to disrupt satellite signals and communication networks, as well as interfere with GPS navigation, mobile phone signal and satellite TV.
- ❖ It could also interfere with power transmission.
- ❖ Solar storms are huge bursts of charged particles, ejected from the Sun's atmosphere into space.
- ❖ The most powerful geomagnetic storm ever recorded resulted in the 1859 Carrington Event.

Planetary conjunction

- ❖ The Mars, Venus and Moon aligned each other on July 12-13
- ❖ Mars and Venus were close to each other on July 13, 2021.

- ❖ Such a celestial event is known as planetary conjunction.
- ❖ The Planetary conjunction was visible with naked eyes.
- ❖ Moon also came close to both planets on July 12, 2021.



Supernova spotted by Indian researchers

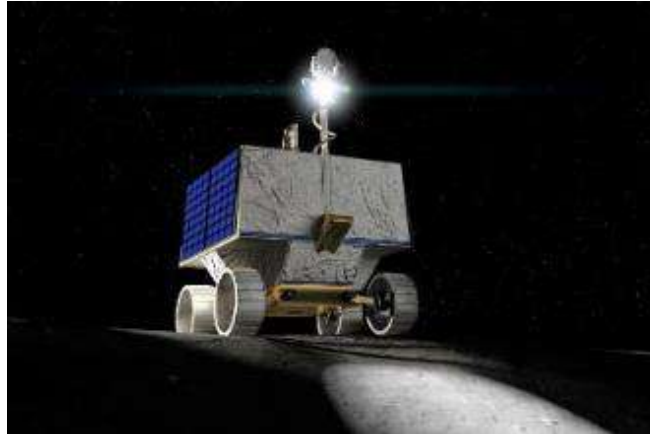
- ❖ The Indian researchers have spotted an extremely bright, hydrogen deficient, fast-evolving supernova.
- ❖ The rare spotted supernova (SN) shines with energy borrowed from exotic type of neutron star having ultra-powerful magnetic field.
- ❖ The Study on such ancient spatial objects can help in solving the mysteries of early universe.
- ❖ This SN was spotted using special arrangements at India's Devasthal Optical Telescope (DOT-3.6m), Sampurnanand Telescope-1.04m and Himalayan Chandra Telescope-2.0m.

NASA's VIPER Mission

- ❖ NASA has announced that it will launch its Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover, or VIPER, in 2023.
- ❖ NASA is undertaking the mission to understand if it is possible for human life to sustain there, by using locally available resources.
- ❖ VIPER is a mobile robot.
- ❖ It is the first resource mapping mission on any other celestial body.
- ❖ NASA's Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) will be providing the launch vehicle and lander for what's going to be a 100-day mission.

Objectives of the mission

- ❖ Explore the Moon's South Pole region.
- ❖ Help create lunar resource maps.
- ❖ Evaluate the concentration of water as well as other potential resources on its surface.



Linglong One

- ❖ China has officially begun the construction of the world's first commercial modular small reactor 'Linglong One'.
- ❖ It is to be constructed at the Changjiang Nuclear Power Plant in the country's Hainan Province.
- ❖ The project is based on China National Nuclear Corporation's (CNNC's Linglong One ACP100) technology.

India's first 'green hydrogen' plant

- ❖ India's largest oil firm, the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), will build the country's first 'green hydrogen' plant at its refinery in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Hydrogen is the latest buzz as it is a clean fuel and energy-intensive.
- ❖ But manufacturing it causes carbon by-products.
- ❖ With Hydrogen fuel cell powered buses are plying on the road it will be essential to set up hydrogen power plants.

Project 75-India

- ❖ The Government has issued a tender of Rs 50,000 crores to build six conventional diesel-electric submarines under this project.

- ❖ The tender has been issued to Larsen and Toubro and Mazagon Dockyards Limited.
- ❖ These submarines will be bigger than the Scorpène-class submarines.
- ❖ Scorpène are being built at the Mazagon Dockyards Limited, Mumbai.
- ❖ Project 75-India is one of the largest Make in India project.
- ❖ It is being undertaken to protect the Indo-Pacific region.

High-strength beta Titanium alloy - Ti-10V-2Fe-3Al

- ❖ A high strength titanium alloy has been developed by India's Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).
- ❖ This alloy has been developed for applications in aerospace structural forgings.
- ❖ The titanium alloys are unique due to their ductility, higher strength, fracture toughness and fatigue.
- ❖ Also, this alloy has relatively lower lifetime cost due to its superior corrosion resistance in comparison to steels.
- ❖ It contains Iron, Vanadium, and Aluminum.

S-500 air defence missile systems



- ❖ Russia has successfully test-fired S-500 new air defence missile systems.
- ❖ It is named as Triumfator-M and Prometheus.
- ❖ It is the most advanced anti-missile system in the world.
- ❖ It is expected to have a range of 600 km.
- ❖ It is also capable of countering attacks from the space.

Maglev train – China

- ❖ China unveils 600 kmph maglev train.
- ❖ It is the fastest ground vehicle globally.
- ❖ The maglev train will use the electro-magnetic force.
- ❖ It levitates above the track with no contact between the body and the rail.
- ❖ Countries from Germany to Japan have also been looking to build Maglev networks.



Space Journey



- ❖ The Billionaire Jeff Bezos blasted into space aboard the New Shepard rocket ship in the first crewed flight of his rocket.
- ❖ The journey lasted for just over 10 minutes.
- ❖ It took the crew up to the Karman line, which is at a height of 100 kms from the ground.

- ❖ It represented the world's first unpiloted flight to space with an all-civilian crew, as there will be no trained astronauts navigating the spacecraft.
- ❖ New Shepard Rocketship, built by Jeff Bezos's company Blue Origin, is designed to serve the burgeoning market of space tourism.

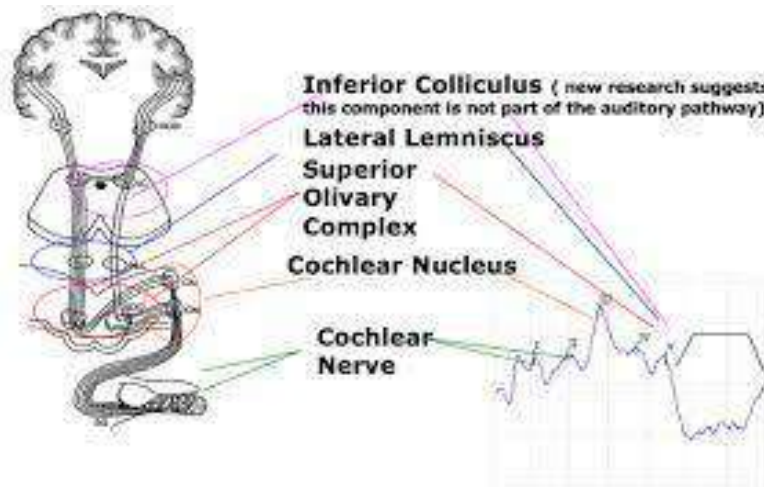
Vikas Engine

- ❖ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully conducted the third long duration hot test of liquid fuel powered, Vikas Engine.
- ❖ It was done at engine test facility of ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ With this testing, ISRO has moved further for its first human space mission Gaganyaan.
- ❖ It was conducted for core L110 liquid stage (engine) of human rated Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk III (GSLV Mk III).



Automated Auditory Brainstem Response (AABR) system

- ❖ To manage the hearing loss in new born and young children Punjab Government launched this system.
- ❖ It is the first state in the country to introduce such system.

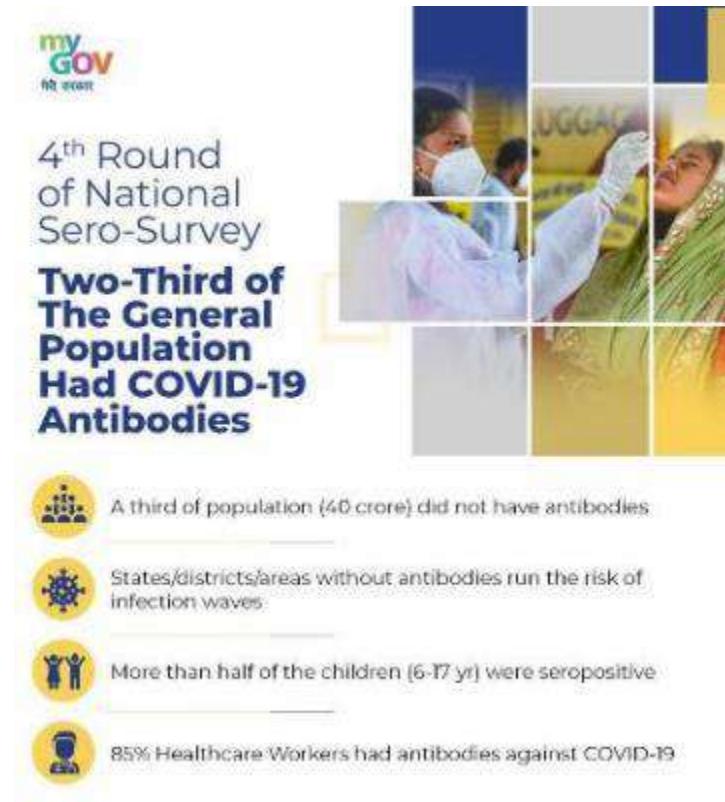


AMLEX device



- ❖ IIT-Ropar develops this oxygen rationing device, the first of its kind in India.
- ❖ It can reduce oxygen wastage by regulating the oxygen flow from the cylinder by a patient.
- ❖ This device will increase the lifespan of an oxygen cylinder thus saving a lot of money for patients as well as hospitals.

4th National Serosurvey



- ❖ The fourth round of national serosurvey was conducted in 70 districts across the country between June and July.
- ❖ A total of 28,975 people were tested for the presence of SARS-CoV2 virus antibodies under this survey.
- ❖ This serosurvey covered children between the age of 6-17 years as well for the first time.
- ❖ It has found that up to two-thirds of the country's population who are above the age of six have already been infected with the Coronavirus.
- ❖ It was informed by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Director General Dr Balram Bhargava.
- ❖ The overall seroprevalence was found to be 67.6 percent in the entire population.
- ❖ It has greatly reduced the possibility of a third wave being as severe as the second wave was.
- ❖ The seroprevalence was 89.8 percent in those who have received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- ❖ It was 81 percent in those who have received one dose of the vaccine.
- ❖ It was 62.3 percent in those who are yet to get a dose.

MIG-29 fighter jets to India

- ❖ The Indian Air Force received approval from the defence ministry to procure 21 MiG-29 fighter jets besides 12 Sukhoi MK1 from Russia
- ❖ Russia will supply 21 MiG-29 fighters to India.
- ❖ Designed by the Soviet Union, Mikoyan MiG-29 is a twin-engine jet fighter aircraft.
- ❖ This aircraft is equipped with air-to-surface missiles.



Anti-tank guided missile

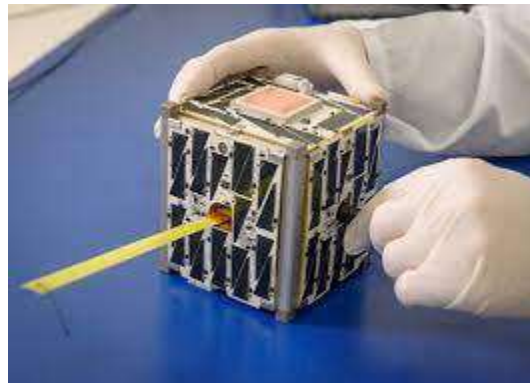
- ❖ A guided missile named “Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)” has been indigenously developed by India’s Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)
- ❖ This man-portable missile is launched using a tripod that has been designed 2.5 km maximum range with a launch weight below 15 Kg.
- ❖ The missile has been fitted with state-of-the-art Infrared Imaging Seeker plus advanced avionics.



**DRDO successfully launched
MPATGM missile**
**Self-reliant India | Man-Portable
Anti-Tank Guided Missile**

Near-Earth Asteroid Scout (NEA Scout)

- ❖ NASA has announced its next new spacecraft.
- ❖ It is a small spacecraft which is not bigger than a big shoebox.
- ❖ It is also known as Cubesat.
- ❖ Its primary mission is to collect data from a near-Earth asteroid.
- ❖ It is among one of several payloads that will hitch a ride on Artemis I.
- ❖ This will be America's first interplanetary mission that will be using special solar sail propulsion.
- ❖ This spacecraft will take around two years to reach the targeted asteroid and
- ❖ It will fly nearly 93 million miles away from the Earth to reach that asteroid.
- ❖ Artemis I is a crew-less test flight of the SLS rocket and Orion spacecraft.
- ❖ Under this programme, the NASA space agency has aimed to land the first woman on the Moon in the year 2024.



World's biggest floating solar farm

- ❖ Singapore's Sunseap Group, is planning to build the world's largest floating solar farm and energy storage system in neighbouring Indonesian city named Batam.
- ❖ The floating photovoltaic system is expected to have a capacity of 2.2 gigawatts (peak).
- ❖ It will cover 1600 hectares (4000 acres) of the Duriangkang Reservoir on Batam Island.

Chicken slaughter waste for biodiesel production

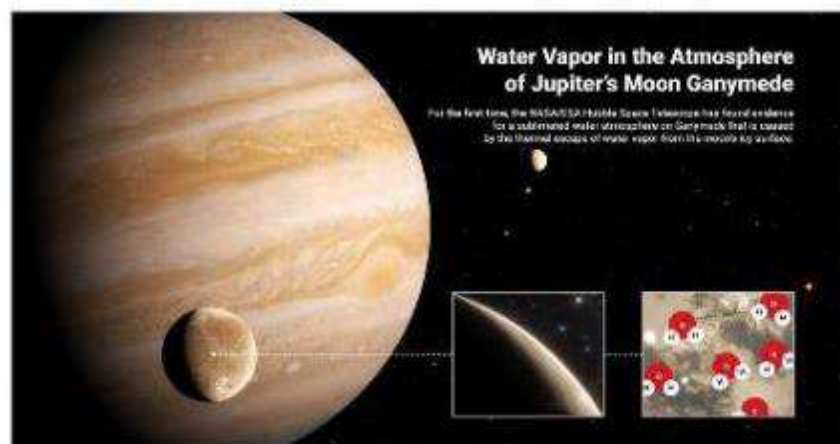
- ❖ John Abraham of Kerala has received the patent rights for inventing biodiesel from the waste of slaughtered chicken.
- ❖ This biodiesel offers mileage of around 38 km a litre.

- ❖ This biodiesel costs around 40% of the current diesel price and cuts down on pollution by half.
- ❖ The invention is an outcome of inventor John Abraham's research at Namakkal Veterinary College under the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University.



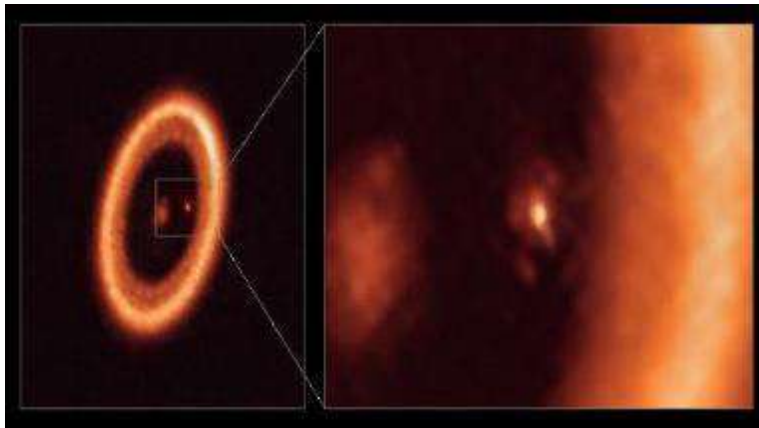
First evidence of water vapor – Ganymede

- ❖ Scientists have discovered the first evidence of water vapour in the atmosphere of Jupiter's icy moon Ganymede with the help of the Hubble Space Telescope.
- ❖ The results were published in the Nature Astronomy journal.
- ❖ Jupiter's moon Ganymede is the largest moon and the ninth-largest celestial body in our Solar System.



Moon-forming Region

- ❖ For the first time, scientists have spotted a moon-forming region around one of the two exoplanets (PDS 70c) orbiting an orange-coloured young star called PDS 70, which is located 370 light years from Earth.
- ❖ Exoplanets are planets found outside our solar system.
- ❖ ALMA observatory, Chile detected the disc of swirling material accumulating around one of two exoplanets seen orbiting a star.
- ❖ It is called a circumplanetary disc from which moons are born.



ENVIRONMENT

LowCarbon.Earth

- ❖ The United Nations Environment Programme in collaboration with Massive Earth Foundation has announced the launch of LowCarbon.Earth.
- ❖ It was launched in a bid to boost the start-up ecosystem and promoting the transition to a Low Carbon Lifestyle in the Asia Pacific.
- ❖ The program will provide a platform for start-ups to interact with established corporates, leading technology companies and industry mentors.
- ❖ This will help to build collective capabilities for the industry in the cutting-edge areas of advanced sustainable technologies.

Black-bellied Coral snakes - Uttarakhand

- ❖ The Researchers have discovered Black-bellied Coral snakes in the forests of Uttarakhand for the first time in history.
- ❖ The snake is related to the Elapidae family and Sinomicrurus genus.

- ❖ Its scientific name is *S. nigriventer*.
- ❖ It was found in the Bhadraj Block of Benog Wildlife Sanctuary in the Mussoorie Forest Division.



Last Ice Area

- ❖ A new study has found that the "Last Ice Area," may be more vulnerable to climate change than suspected.
- ❖ The Last Ice Area, an Arctic region known for its thick ice cover which spans more than 2,000 kms.
- ❖ During the summer of 2020, the Wandel Sea in the eastern part of the Last Ice Area lost 50% of its overlying ice.
- ❖ The decline in ice may result in adverse situation to the ice-dependent species in future.

Medals from e-waste

- ❖ Organizers of the event says that all medals at next summer's Olympics and Paralympics in Tokyo will be made from recycled electronic waste.
- ❖ Gold, silver and bronze to be extracted from obsolete gadgets.
- ❖ Waste collected includes smartphones, cameras and laptops.

World's highest temperature in Jacobabad

- ❖ Jacobabad city in Pakistan's Sindh province records the world's highest temperature.
- ❖ The highest recorded temperature in Jacobabad is 52.8 °C (127.0 °F).
- ❖ The city is located on the Tropic of Cancer.

Bihar's Valmiki Tiger Reserve


- ❖ Authorities in Bihar's Valmiki Tiger Reserve have started planning for conservation of vultures.
- ❖ This was planned after 150 of the birds were sighted recently in the protected area.
- ❖ VTR forms the easternmost limits of the Himalayan Terai forests in India.
- ❖ It is situated in the Gangetic Plains bio-geographic zone of the country.
- ❖ The forest has a combination of bhabar and terai tracts.
- ❖ Indian flying foxes can be sighted here.
- ❖ There are nine recorded species of vultures in India.

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

9 RECORDED SPECIES:
Oriental white-backed, long-billed, slender-billed, Himalayan, red-headed, Egyptian, bearded, cinereous and the Eurasian Griffon.

(4 CRITICALLY ENDANGERED, 1 ENDANGERED, 3 NEAR THREATENED)

THE CRISIS:
A massive dip in vulture populations came into limelight in the mid-90s, and in 2004 the cause of the crash was established as diclofenac, a veterinary nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug.



WHAT NEXT AFTER 2006 PROJECT:

- Testing of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs on vultures, development of new NSAIDs
- Covering two more species in the breeding programme that earlier focussed on 3 critically endangered species

- Additional conservation breeding centres and four rescue centres planned across India
- Nationwide vulture survey once in four years

Tiger corridor – Rajasthan

- ❖ The Rajasthan government has planned to develop a tiger corridor connecting three tiger reserves of the state.
- ❖ They are Ranthambore tiger reserve, Ramgarh Vishdhari tiger reserve and Mukundra tiger reserve.
- ❖ A tiger corridor will be developed by relocating eight villages.
- ❖ It will be a functional corridor to deal with issue of overpopulation of tigers which Ranthambore tiger reserve is facing currently.

Human-wildlife coexistence report

- ❖ A report titled, 'A future for all - the need for human-wildlife coexistence', was recently released.
- ❖ It is released by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).
- ❖ Globally, conflict-related killing affects more than 75 per cent of the world's wild cat species.
- ❖ Global wildlife populations have fallen to an average of 68 per cent since 1970.
- ❖ Over 500 elephants were killed in India, between 2014-2015 and 2018-2019, mostly due to human-elephant conflict.
- ❖ During the same period, 2,361 people were killed as a result of conflict with elephants.

Chinese giant Panda

- ❖ The Chinese conservation officials have announced that, Chinese giant Panda is no longer an endangered species.
- ❖ Status of giant panda has been updated to "vulnerable".
- ❖ There are now 1,800 giant pandas living in wild.

Giant panda no longer 'endangered'

Its status has been upgraded to 'vulnerable' in the IUCN's latest Red List

Population in the wild: **approx. 2,060**
mainly in China

- Size: up to 1.20 m (on all fours)
- Weight: 100-140 kg
- Food: bamboo
- Genetic background is similar to the bear



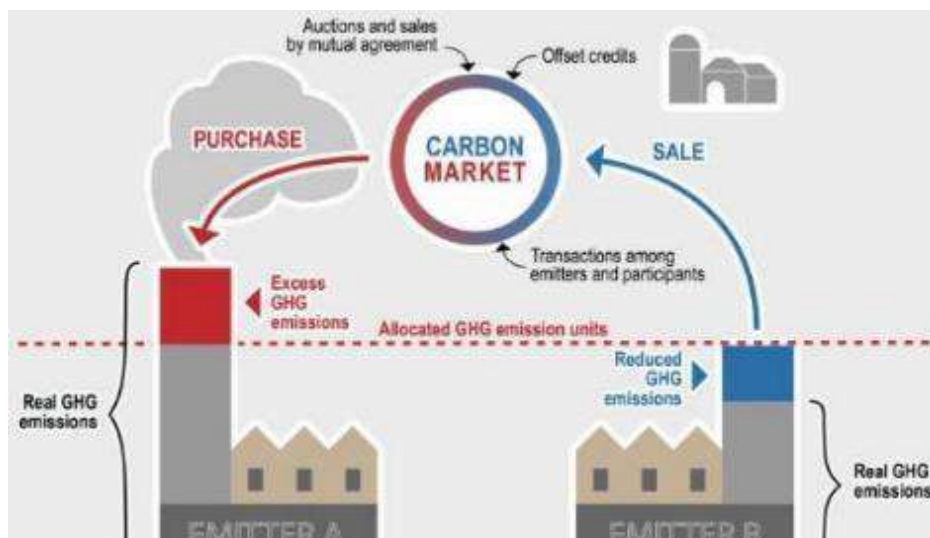
Climate change threatens 35% of its habitat with destruction within 80 years

Vaquita porpoise



- ❖ Vaquita porpoise, the world's rarest and the smallest marine mammal, is on the edge of extinction.
- ❖ It is also known as "the panda of the sea" for the distinctive black circles around its eyes.
- ❖ This porpoise was discovered in 1958.
- ❖ It is unique among the porpoises as it is the only species of that family found in warm waters.
- ❖ It is found only in the northern Gulf of California (Sea of Cortez) in Mexico.
- ❖ IUCN Status is noted as Critically Endangered.

Carbon Market



- ❖ China has officially launched its national carbon emissions trading market.
- ❖ China's Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) has replaced the European Union's as the world's largest emissions trading system.

- ❖ A carbon market is where greenhouse gas emitters can buy and sell greenhouse gas emissions permits or allowances.
- ❖ In the first phase, the system only covers the power sector.
- ❖ Seven more high energy-intensive industries, including iron and steel and construction materials, will be covered by the carbon market in the future.
- ❖ Now, for the first time, the responsibility for controlling greenhouse gas emissions at the national level is left to the enterprises.

Digital Land Use

- ❖ Africa has become the first continent in the world to complete the collection of accurate, comprehensive and harmonised digital land use and land use change data under the Africa Open DEAL initiative.
- ❖ DEAL stands for Data for the Environment, Agriculture and Land Initiative.
- ❖ The data collection and analysis initiative are led by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the African Union Commission (AUC).



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Salt-secreting Mangrove Species - Avicennia marina

- ❖ For the first time a reference-grade whole genome sequence of a highly salt-tolerant and salt-secreting true-mangrove species was reported.
- ❖ The Scientists at the DBT-Institute of Life Sciences, Bhubaneswar and SRM-DBT Partnership Platform for Advanced Life Sciences Technologies, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Tamil Nadu have jointly reported this.
- ❖ Avicennia marina is one of the most prominent mangroves species found in all mangrove formations in India.
- ❖ It can excrete 40% of the salt through the salt glands in the leaves, besides its extraordinary capacity to exclude salt entry to the roots.

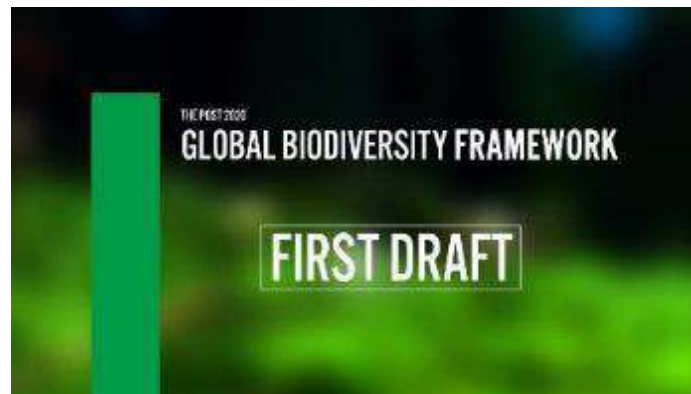


Third ASEAN Conference on Biodiversity

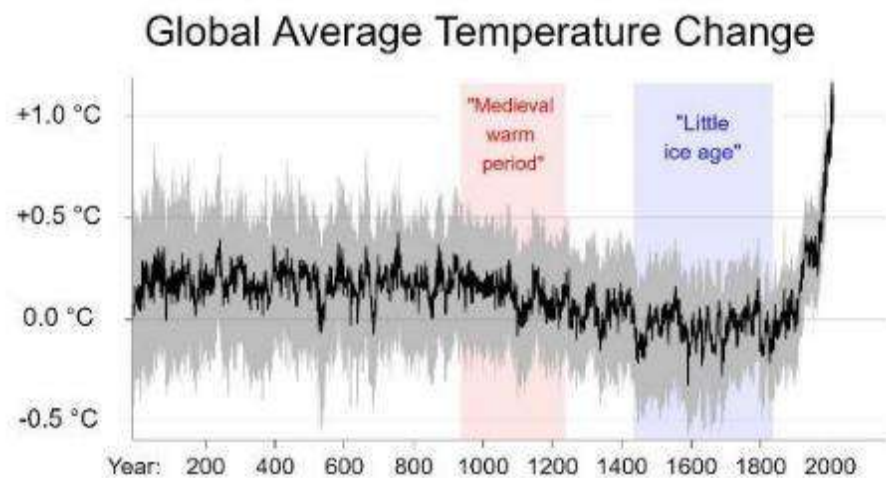
- ❖ It was the fifth and the final session of this conference.
- ❖ It was held on the theme 'Towards 2050: Living in Harmony with Nature'.
- ❖ It is co-organized by the Government of Malaysia.
- ❖ It highlighted the progress made by the ASEAN Member States (AMS) in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
- ❖ ASEAN contains three of the world's 17 mega-diverse countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines).

Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

- ❖ UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat released first official draft of this new Framework.
- ❖ This framework will be used to guide actions worldwide through 2030 in order to preserve and protect nature & its essential services to people.
- ❖ The post 2020 global biodiversity framework is important because the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020 has ended.
- ❖ This is a stepping stone towards the 2050 Vision of "Living in harmony with nature".



1,000 lakes in Swiss Alps



- ❖ The Melting of glaciers in Swiss Alps have created more than 1,000 new lakes across the mountains.
- ❖ This is because of rapid climate change.
- ❖ Since the end of the Little Ice Age around 1850, these lakes were created.
- ❖ Little Ice Age (LIA) is the climate interval that occurred from the early 14th century through the mid-19th century.

Great Indian Bustards

- ❖ The Central government informed that there were no Great Indian Bustards (GIB) in Kutch Bustard Sanctuary (KBS) in Gujarat.
- ❖ KBS near Naliya in Kutch district's Abdasa block is a tiny sanctuary notified in 1992 and spread over just 2 sq km.
- ❖ But its eco-sensitive zone spread over 220 sq km covers most of present-day core GIB habitat.

- ❖ The Great Indian Bustards are the largest among the four bustard species in India.
- ❖ The other three being MacQueen's bustard, lesser florican and the Bengal florican.
- ❖ Overhead power transmission lines are the biggest threat to the GIBs.



Note

- ❖ In April 2021, the Supreme Court ordered that all overhead power transmission lines in core and potential GIB habitats in Rajasthan and Gujarat should be undergrounded.
- ❖ The SC also formed a three-member committee to help power companies comply with the order.

Siberian wildfires

- ❖ Russia's coldest city Yakutsk, most of Europe, and several parts of the US are engulfed by uncontrollable wildfires causing heatwaves in the countries.
- ❖ More than 6.5 million acres of land in Yakutia has been charred.
- ❖ Climate change and poor land management are the possible causes stated by experts.

Green Sohra Afforestation Campaign

- ❖ The Campaign at Sohra (Cherrapunji) was launched by Home Minister Amit Shah.
- ❖ "Evergreen Northeast" was the slogan given for this campaign highlighting the importance of tree plantation and afforestation.
- ❖ This campaign will be run by the Assam Rifles and the Meghalaya.
- ❖ He also inaugurated Greater Sohra Water Supply Scheme.



STATES

SALT programme

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh has started a Supporting Andhra's Learning Transformation (SALT) programme.
- ❖ This programme is to transform foundational learning in government schools for which the World Bank has approved a loan of 250 million dollars.
- ❖ The main objectives of the programme are strengthening foundation schools and providing training and skill development to teachers.

Cloud-based Health Project – Delhi

- ❖ The Delhi government has informed that a cloud-based Health Care Information Management System (HIMS) is likely to be rolled out by March 2022.
- ❖ Delhi will become the only place in India to have this system.
- ❖ Along with HIMS, a health helpline will be issued.
- ❖ Special surveys will also be conducted to issue e-health cards for residents of Delhi.

Andhra's IT policy

- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh government has launched its new 'AP Information Technology Policy 2021-24'.
- ❖ This New policy was approved by State Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy.
- ❖ This Policy will be in force till March 31, 2024.

New CM of Uttarakhand

- ❖ Pushkar Singh Dhami will be the next chief minister of Uttarakhand.
- ❖ He will be the youngest CM of Uttarakhand.
- ❖ 45-year-old Pushkar Singh Dhami is an MLA from the Khatima constituency in Udham Singh Nagar district.
- ❖ He will replace Tirath Singh Rawat.

Financial assistance scheme – Delhi Government

- ❖ The Chief Minister of Delhi Arvind Kejriwal launched a social security scheme 'Mukhyamantri COVID-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojana'.
- ❖ He also launched a portal to provide financial assistance to the families who lost their loved ones to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ Under the scheme, Rs. 50,000 ex-gratia will be given to every family that lost a member to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ An additional amount of Rs. 2,500 per month will also be given if the deceased was the sole breadwinner of the family.

Legislative Council - West Bengal

- ❖ The West Bengal Assembly has passed a resolution to set up a Legislative Council.
- ❖ Under Article 169 of the constitution, Parliament may by law create or abolish the second chamber in a state.
- ❖ For this the Legislative Assembly of that state passes a resolution to that effect by a special majority.
- ❖ As per article 171 of the Indian Constitution, the total number of members in the legislative council of a state shall not exceed one third of the total number of the members in the legislative Assembly of that state.
- ❖ Also the total number of members in the legislative council of a state shall in no case be less than 40.

STATES WITH TWO HOUSES		
State	MLA seats*	MLC seats
Andhra	176	58
Bihar	243	58
Karnataka	225	75
Maharashtra	289	78
Telangana	119	40
UP	404	100

* Including nominated members

Green India Challenge sets world record

- ❖ Green India Challenge organized a plantation in Adilabad in Telangana.
- ❖ One million saplings were planted in one hour on the occasion of local MLA Jogu Ramanna's birthday.

- ❖ With this Green India Challenge is all to break the record of planting 3 lakh, 3 thousand saplings in Turkey in 2019.
- ❖ Joginipally Santosh Kumar (Rajya Sabha MP) is the founder of Green India Challenge.

Mishri cherries export

- ❖ The first commercial shipment of Mishri variety of cherries from the Kashmir valley has been exported to Dubai from Srinagar.
- ❖ The Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir produces more than 95% of the total country's production of commercial varieties of cherries.
- ❖ It produces four varieties of cherry - Double, Makhmali, Mishri and Italy.

Delhi's Excise Policy 2021-22

'Rules to ease access, target liquor mafia'



FOR THE CONSUMERS	FOR CLUBS & RESTAURANTS	FOR TRADERS	FOR STATE REVENUE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Age bar to be lowered from 25 to 21 ● Vends to have walk-in facility, be air-conditioned and well-lit ● New super vends with imported, expensive liquor to come up, will be open 1 hour longer ● People to be allowed to take away draught beer from restaurants, clubs ● Dry days to be brought at par with those in neighbouring states 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ID checks to restrict entry of those under 21 unless accompanied by someone older ● Licences and rules to be simplified to help ease of business ● No automatic 10% annual increase in licence fee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All liquor shops will need to be at least 500 sq ft in size and allow walk-in purchases ● Duties and taxes will mostly be paid as licence fees, with nominal rates applicable on sales ● No retail margin limit will be fixed by the government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Revenue expected to grow by 20% in a year ● Equitable distribution across 30 zones to reduce hold of liquor mafia, help increase tax net ● Manufacturers will not be allowed to enter distribution cutting off-book sales

- ❖ Delhi's Excise Policy 2021-22 was launched for public recently.
- ❖ Delhi government has made new norms for bars in hotels, clubs and restaurants under the policy.
- ❖ As per policy document, Delhi is the 28th most visited city worldwide by foreign visitors.
- ❖ In India, Delhi holds first rank in the most visited city list.

- ❖ Excise is an important source of revenue in State.
- ❖ Thus, reforms were made in excise policy and new policy was put forward with the aim of boosting revenue in Delhi.
- ❖ It will also crack down on liquor mafia.
- ❖ As per new policy, bars in hotels, clubs & restaurants can remain open till 3 am.
- ❖ The Government will not be actively involved in retail liquor trade.
- ❖ This will lead to closure of state-run shops, hence promote private players in Delhi.

Spiders from Assam

- ❖ Two species of spiders have been found in Jharbari range of western Assam's Chirang Reserve Forest.
- ❖ Both the species have been sharing same space.
- ❖ Gravelyia boro is a newly discovered burrow spider.
- ❖ Dexippus kleini is an oriental jumping spider.
- ❖ Both the spiders were discovered from Bodoland Territorial Region.
- ❖ Gravelyia boro belongs to Nemesiidae family.
- ❖ Dexippus kleini belongs to Salticidae family.
- ❖ Salticidae family is the largest family of all spiders on earth.

Movable freshwater tunnel aquarium



- ❖ The Bengaluru City Railway Station has become the first railway station in India with a movable freshwater tunnel aquarium.
- ❖ The state-of-the-art aquarium has been jointly opened by the Indian Railway Stations Development Cooperation Limited (IRSDC) in collaboration with the HNI Aquatic Kingdom.

- ❖ Bengaluru City Railway Station is also known as Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station.
- ❖ The Aquatic Kingdom aquarium is based on the concept of the Amazon River and is 12-feet long.

Gujarat International Maritime Arbitration Centre

- ❖ The Gujarat Maritime University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Financial Services Centres Authority in GIFT City.
- ❖ This is to set up the Gujarat International Maritime Arbitration Centre (GIMAC).
- ❖ GIMAC will be the first of its kind centre in India to manage arbitration and mediation proceedings for disputes related to the maritime and shipping sector.
- ❖ It will be part of a maritime cluster that is being set up by the Gujarat Maritime Board at GIFT City in Gandhinagar.

Digital Kendra

- ❖ Amazon has launched its first Digital Kendra in India in Surat, Gujarat.
- ❖ Amazon Digital Kendra was inaugurated by Vijay Rupani, Chief Minister of Gujarat.
- ❖ Digital Kendra of Amazon are centres that will provide micro small and medium enterprises the opportunity to learn about the benefits of e-commerce.

Bhumi Panduga

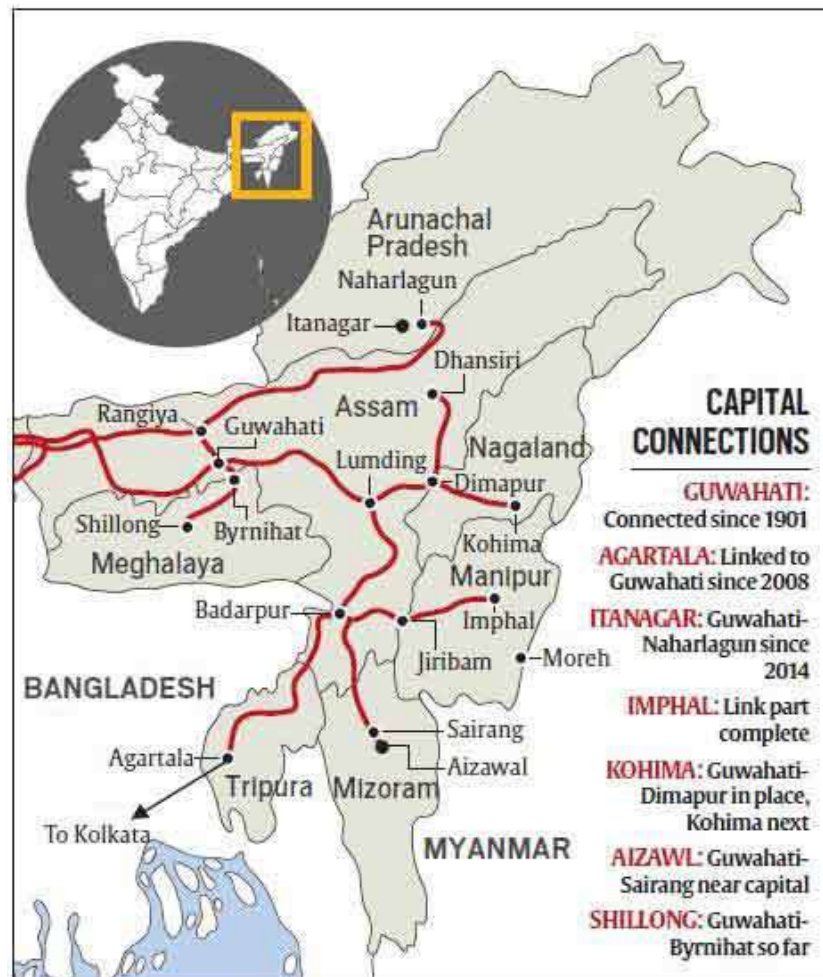


- ❖ These are celebrations marking the beginning of farm operations every year.
- ❖ Celebrated by Koya tribes in Andhra Pradesh.

- ❖ For men, hunting is mandatory as part of the festival.
- ❖ The catch is distributed among all the families in the hamlet equally during a feast every evening.
- ❖ Usually celebrated in the month of June.

Manipur enters India's railway map


- ❖ A passenger train Rajdhani Express from Assam's Silchar railway station has reached the Vaingaichunpao railway station in Manipur for a trial run.
- ❖ This puts the state on the Indian Railways map.
- ❖ The Vaingaichunpao-Imphal (capital of Manipur) railway line is also under construction.
- ❖ Once completed, it will be the longest railway tunnel near Imphal.



Population policy for 2021-2030 - Uttar Pradesh

- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh government has proposed a population control bill titled The Uttar Pradesh Population (Control, Stabilization and Welfare) Bill, 2021.
- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh government announced a new population policy for 2021-2030.
- ❖ The Bill called to debar those having more than two children from contesting in local polls.
- ❖ They will also be prevented from applying for or getting promotion in government jobs.
- ❖ They would also be debarred from receiving government subsidy.
- ❖ The new policy has provisions to give incentives to those who help in population control.
- ❖ The Public servants who adopt the two-child norm will get two additional increments during the entire service.
- ❖ They will get maternity or paternity leave of 12 months with full salary and allowances.
- ❖ Three percent increase in the employer's contribution fund under the National Pension Scheme.

Future planning | The Uttar Pradesh Population Policy 2021-2030 was launched to reduce maternal and infant deaths in a time-bound manner. The policy aims to:



- Decrease the **total fertility rate** (number of children per woman) from 2.7 to **2.1 by 2026** and **1.7 by 2030**
- Increase **modern contraceptive prevalence rate** from 31.7% to **45% by 2026** and **52% by 2030**
- Increase **male methods of contraception use** from 10.8% to **15.1% by 2026**
- Decrease **maternal mortality rate** (per 1,00,000 live births) from 197 to **150 by 2026** and **98 by 2030**
- Decrease **infant mortality rate** (per 1,000 live births) from 43 to **32 by 2026** and **22 by 2030**
- Decrease **under 5 mortality rate** (per 1,000 live births) from 47 to **35 by 2016** and **25 by 2030**

Baby steps: Yogi Adityanath encouraging a newly married couple to opt for family planning in Lucknow on Sunday. ▪ PTI

Awareness and extensive programmes would be held among those communities, cadres and geographical areas that have a higher fertility rate

U.P. POPULATION POLICY

We should not forget that the increase in population contributes to poverty in society. Hence, until all sections are made comprehensively aware, there will be a delay in fulfilling various goals

YOGI ADITYANATH, UTTAR PRADESH CM

India's first Cryptogamic Garden

- ❖ India's first cryptogamic garden has been inaugurated in Deoban area of Dehradun in Uttarakhand.
- ❖ Located in the district's Chakrata town, the garden was inaugurated by social activist Anoop Nautiyal.
- ❖ Cryptogamae means "hidden reproduction".
- ❖ This refers to the fact that no seed, no flowers are produced.
- ❖ Thus, cryptogams represent the non-seed bearing plants.



India's First Private LNG Facility plant - Nagpur

- ❖ The Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, inaugurated India's first Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facility plant at Nagpur.
- ❖ The plant has been set up by Baidyanath Ayurvedic Group, the makers of Ayurvedic medicines.
- ❖ LNG is natural gas, mainly methane (CH_4) with some mixture of ethane (C_2H_6).
- ❖ It is odourless, colourless, non-toxic and non-corrosive gas.

Kutchi New Year

- ❖ Kutchi New Year is observed every year on second day of shukla paksha or waxing phase of moon in Ashada month.
- ❖ In 2021, it was observed on July 12.
- ❖ Vikram Samvat 2078 started from June 12, 2021 in Kutch region.

- ❖ The Vikram Samvat is a calendar system that is used by the Hindu and Sikh community in several parts of the Indian subcontinent.
- ❖ This festival marks the beginning of rains in Kutch region of Gujarat.

Kunwar Yatra

- ❖ The Supreme Court issued a notice to the Uttar Pradesh government for allowing the 'Kunwar Yatra' in the state.
- ❖ Kunwar Yatra is a pilgrimage, which is undertaken annually by the devotees of Lord Shiva.
- ❖ The devotees, mostly from northern states travel on foot to collect water from River Ganga at Haridwar in Uttarakhand to offer at Shiva temples in their areas.
- ❖ The Kunwar Yatra 2021 is scheduled to begin on July 25.
- ❖ The yatra was cancelled last year due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and ensuing lockdown.



Live stream of court proceedings

- ❖ The Gujarat High Court announced that it is launching live streaming of court proceedings of all "willing benches" of the court from July 17.
- ❖ This makes it the first high court in the country to allow public viewing of the proceedings virtually.
- ❖ Earlier, in October 2020, the high court had started live streaming of proceedings of the first court, headed by the chief justice, on YouTube channel for public viewing.

Monk fruit

- ❖ Cultivation of 'monk fruit' from China has started in Kullu, Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The fruit was introduced for field trials in Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ It was introduced by CSIR-IHBT (Council of Scientific Research and Industrial Technology-Institute of Himalayan Bio-resource Technology).
- ❖ The Monk fruit is known for its properties as non-caloric natural sweetener.



Bonalu festival



- ❖ 'Bonalu' is a traditional folk festival celebrated every year in the Telugu month of Ashadham (falling in June/July).
- ❖ It is celebrated in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad, and some other parts of Telangana state.
- ❖ The Bonalu festival was declared a 'state festival' of Telangana.
- ❖ It was declared so by the K Chandrasekhar Rao-led government after the state's formation back in 2014.



One Block, One Product scheme

- ❖ The Haryana government will soon introduce the 'One Block, One Product' scheme.
- ❖ This is to encourage and promote small industries in the rural areas.
- ❖ Under the scheme, the state government plans to connect every block of the state with some industrial vision.

Cultivation of agar

- ❖ The government of Tripura has taken initiatives to promote commercial cultivation of Agar trees.
- ❖ Agar is an evergreen tree that grows in abundance in the state of Tripura.

Assam Issues

- ❖ The Assam Cabinet announced the creation of an independent department to protect and preserve the "faith, culture and traditions of tribes and indigenous communities" of the state.
- ❖ It also approves online sale, home delivery of liquor in Guwahati on trial basis.

Scene of crime officers

- ❖ The Karnataka State Police will induct 206 'scene of crime' officers.
- ❖ They will inspect and gather crucial evidence from crime spots in the state.
- ❖ These officers will be given training at National Forensic Sciences University in Gandhinagar, and Central Forensic Science Laboratory in Hyderabad.
- ❖ The police department is also planning to deploy a dedicated 'Forensic mobile lab' for these officers.
- ❖ It is the first time in Karnataka's history as well as India's history.
- ❖ In 1961 in London, the first such post was created.

Satellite by Government School

- ❖ The Malleshwaram Government Boys High School in Bengaluru is to become a part of the satellite launch program in 2022.
- ❖ It will become the country's first government school to develop a satellite.
- ❖ The dream project of launching 75 satellites was conceived by the Indian Technology Congress Association (ITCA) to celebrate the country's 75th Independence Day.

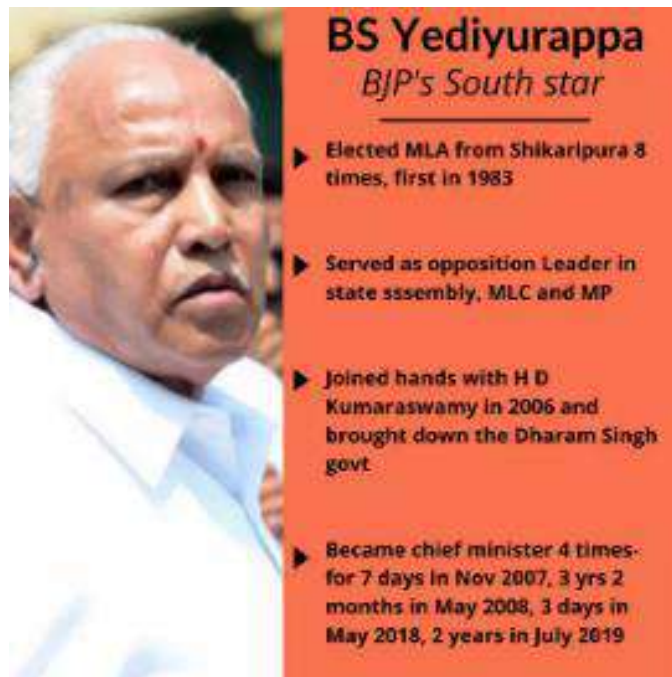
Adarsh Smarak scheme

- ❖ Three monuments in the State of Andhra Pradesh have been identified under this Scheme.
- ❖ The Buddhist remains at Salihundam in Srikakulam, monuments at Nagarjunakonda in Guntur and Veerabhadra temple (Lepakshi) in Anantapur have been selected for this scheme.
- ❖ These monuments will be provided with additional amenities and will be made into more tourist-friendly sites.
- ❖ This scheme has been launched by the Ministry of Culture in the year 2014.



BS Yeddyurappa resigns

- ❖ At a two-year celebration of his government, Karnataka Chief Minister, BS Yeddyurappa announced his resignation.
- ❖ He will remain as caretaker Chief Minister of the state while his party decides on his replacement.
- ❖ BS Yeddyurappa became the first Chief Minister in the south of the BJP.
- ❖ He had served as the chief minister of Karnataka for four terms.
- ❖ He was the only chief minister to do so in Karnataka history.



Kavitha Maloth

- ❖ Kavitha Maloth, a Member of Parliament from the Telangana Rashtra Samithi, was convicted by a special court in Hyderabad.
- ❖ She reportedly bribed voters with cash during the 2019 Lok Sabha election.
- ❖ The MP from Mahabubabad constituency in Telangana was convicted by a special sessions court for MP and MLA cases.

Gross Environment Product - Uttarkhand

- ❖ The Uttarkhand government announced that it will initiate valuation of its natural resources in the form of 'Gross Environment Product' (GEP), said to be along the lines of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- ❖ Gross Environment Product (GEP) is an assessment system to measure the ecosystem services of any area.
- ❖ It reflects the aggregated annual value of goods and services provided by ecosystems (forests, water bodies, oceans, etc.) to people in a given region.
- ❖ It summarizes the value of ecosystem services in a single monetary metric.
- ❖ The term "ecosystem services" (ES) was coined in 1981 to attract academics to address environmental issues.
- ❖ ES are the benefits human populations derive, directly or indirectly, from ecosystem functions.

Basavaraj S Bommai

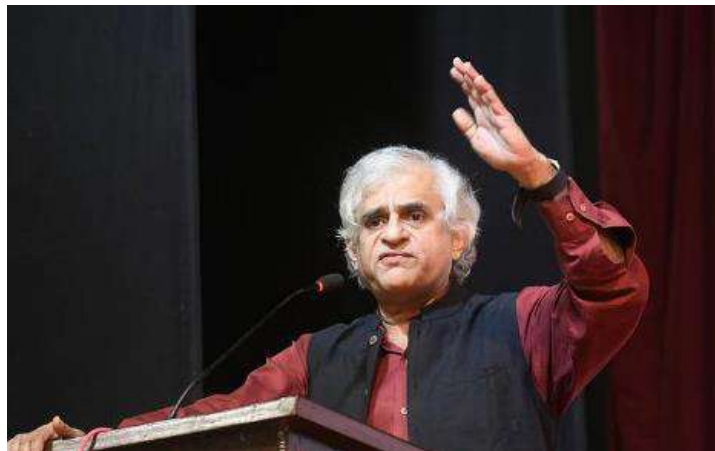
- ❖ The BJP legislature party has unanimously elected Lingayat MLA Basavaraj S Bommai as the new Chief Minister of Karnataka.
- ❖ He will succeed BS Yediyurappa.
- ❖ He will be sworn in as the 23rd Chief Minister of Karnataka.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award

- ❖ Japan Society of Civil Engineers (JSCE) has awarded the Delhi Metro's Phase I, II, and III projects with the prestigious 'Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award' for the year 2020.
- ❖ The Delhi Metro project was dubbed a "High-Quality Infrastructure Development Project" by the JSCE.
- ❖ This award is given to highly selective projects showcasing the advancement of civil engineering technology across the world.

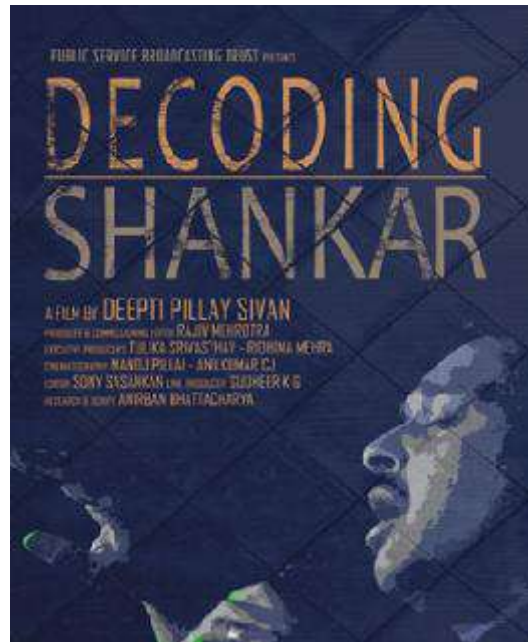
Fukuoka Grand Prize for 2021



- ❖ The Journalist Palagummi Sainath has been awarded the Fukuoka Grand Prize for 2021.
- ❖ He is a committed journalist who has continued to investigate impoverished farming villages in India.
- ❖ The award was established by Japan's Fukuoka city and the Fukuoka City International Foundation.

- ❖ It is given to individuals and organisations for their work in preserving Asian culture.
- ❖ He received the United Nation's Food & Agriculture Organization's Boerma Prize in 2001.
- ❖ He also received the Ramon Magsaysay Award for outstanding contribution to Asian journalism in 2007.

Decoding Shankar documentary



- ❖ “Decoding Shankar” recently won the Best Film Award in the Documentary section (Best Biographical) at the Toronto International Women Film Festival, 2021.
- ❖ This is a film by Deepti Pillay Sivan.
- ❖ It is about the life and career of the celebrated musician Shankar Mahadevan.

Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar

- ❖ The Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar has been awarded to renowned Odia poet Dr. Rajendra Kishore Panda for the year 2020.
- ❖ It is a national award instituted in memory of late poet laureate Kuvempu.
- ❖ Dr. Rajendra Kishore Panda was awarded the Gangadhar National Award in 2010 and the Sahitya Academy Award in 1985.



K.V. Sampath Kumar passes away

- ❖ He was the editor of 'Sudharma' Sanskrit Daily.
- ❖ He, along with his wife, was selected for the Padma Shri honour from the Government of India in 2020 for his contribution to the field of Literature & Education.
- ❖ He has also received several awards like the Siddharudha award, the Shivaratri Deshikendra Media award, the Abdul Kalam award and others.
- ❖ Sampath Kumar's father Pandit Varadaraja Iyengar had launched 'Sudharma' in 1970.
- ❖ Sudharma is the only Sanskrit Daily in the world, printed and published from Mysuru.

Icius Tukarami named after Tukaram Omble

- ❖ Two new species of jumping spiders have been discovered from the Thane-Kalyan region of Maharashtra.
- ❖ One of the spider species was named after the brave police constable Tukaram Omble.
- ❖ He lost his life in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack.
- ❖ The species is called as 'Icius Tukarami'.

A teacher-student duo discovers three asteroids

- ❖ A teacher-student duo from Trichy has discovered three new asteroids.
- ❖ The three asteroids identified by them have been temporarily named BBM2101, BBM2102, and BBM2103.

- ❖ This search program is a part of an International Astronomical Search Collaboration (IASC) Citizen Science Programme organised by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).
- ❖ Bala Bharathi alias K. Balakrishnan and G. Aazhi mukilan (Physics student) took part in the International Asteroid Search Campaign, wherein they discovered three asteroids.
- ❖ Both were part of the Tiruchi Astro Club, which participated in the programme.



Second India-born woman to fly into space

- ❖ Sirisha Bandla will be flying to space with Richard Branson on July 11.
- ❖ Richard Branson is the founder of the Virgin Galactic company
- ❖ Bandla will be taking care of the researcher's experience on the Unity22 mission.
- ❖ She will be one of the six space travellers aboard 'VSS Unity' of Virgin Galactic.
- ❖ Sirisha Bandla hailing from Andhra's Guntur district was brought up in Houston.
- ❖ She will become the second India-born woman to fly into space after Kalpana Chawla.
- ❖ Rakesh Sharma and Sunita Williams were the other Indians who went into space prior to Bandla.

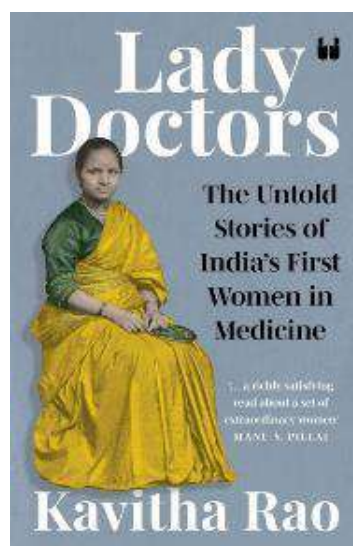


Diana Award 2021 - D. Kavın Vendhan



- ❖ A 17-year-old student from Chennai, D. Kavın Vendhan is one among several recipients recognized with the Diana Award 2021.
- ❖ He has been recognised for his social efforts.
- ❖ Kavın received a citation from the Charity for his non-profit youth initiative, 'S.M.I.L.E.Y INDIA' (Society for Motivation Innovative Leadership and Empowerment of Youth).
- ❖ The award recognised 300 inspirational children and young people between the ages of 9 years to 25 years from across the world for their social action or humanitarian efforts.

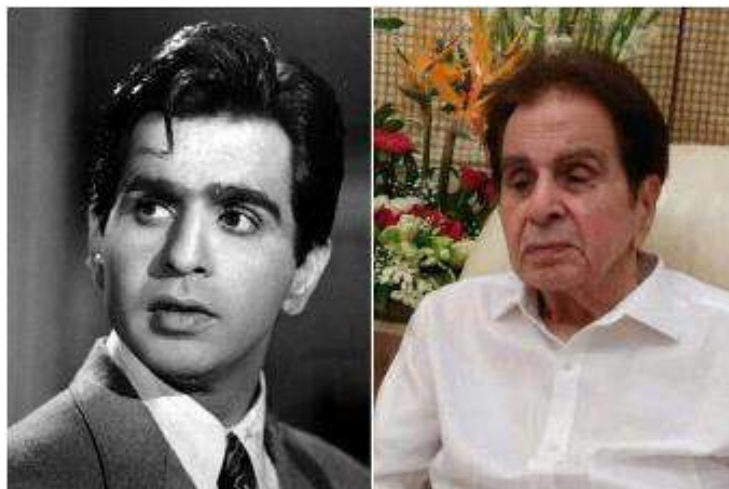
Book by Kavitha Rao



- ❖ A book titled “Lady Doctors: The Untold Stories of India’s First Women in Medicine” has authored by Kavitha Rao.
- ❖ This book recovers the stories of India’s first women doctors, often ignored by history.
- ❖ In this excerpt from Kavitha Rao’s ‘Lady Doctors: The Untold Stories of India’s First Women in Medicine, the story of Rukhmabai Raut’.
- ❖ Rukhmabai was an Indian physician and feminist.
- ❖ She is best known for being one of the first practising women doctors in colonial India.
- ❖ She also involved in a landmark legal case involving her marriage as a child bride between 1884 and 1888.

Actor Dilip Kumar passes away

- ❖ Legendary Bollywood actor Mohammed Yusuf Khan passed away at 98.
- ❖ He was known professionally as Dilip Kumar.
- ❖ He was popularly known as the tragedy king of Bollywood.
- ❖ He was last seen in the 1998 film Qila.
- ❖ He was the first actor to win the Filmfare Award for Best Actor in 1954.
- ❖ He has won it a total of 8 times.
- ❖ Dilip Kumar is listed in the Guinness World Records for winning the maximum number of awards by an Indian actor.
- ❖ He is also credited as the first method actor in India.
- ❖ He was honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 1994 and Padma Vibhushan in 2015.



World's oldest person living

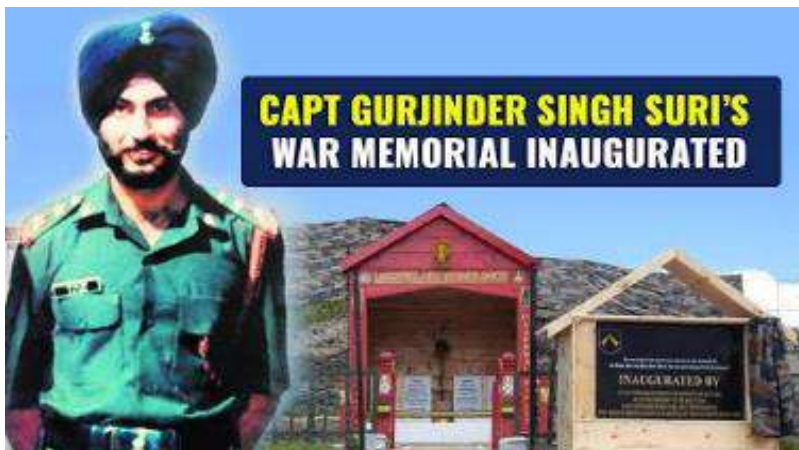
- ❖ The Guinness World Records officially named Puerto Rico's Emilio Flores Marquez as the world's oldest person (male) living.
- ❖ He is 112 years and 326 days old.
- ❖ Jeanne Calment, a French woman who died at 122 has been the oldest person who's ever lived.

Humboldt Research Award for Economics

- ❖ The Indian economist Kaushik Basu has been awarded the Humboldt Research Award for Economics.
- ❖ The Humboldt Research Award honours scientists and economists from across the world for their work.
- ❖ A former chief economist of the World Bank, Basu is currently a professor of Economics at Cornell University.
- ❖ He also served as the Government of India's chief economic advisor from 2009 to 2012.
- ❖ Basu is also a recipient of the Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian award in India.

War Memorial of Captain Gurjinder Singh Suri

- ❖ The Indian Army inaugurated a war memorial in memory of Captain Gurjinder Singh Suri in Gulmarg near the Line of Control (LOC).
- ❖ This was inaugurated on the occasion of the birthday of Captain Gurjinder Singh Suri.
- ❖ Captain Gurjinder Singh Suri died during the operation "Birsa Munda" in 1999.



Kanchan Ugursandi



- ❖ Mountain biker Kanchan Ugursandi finished in New Delhi the world's first solo motorcycle expedition covering 18 treacherous passes of northern Himalayan mountain ranges.
- ❖ Ugursandi has become the first solo woman biker to scale the Umlingla Pass.
- ❖ She became the first woman to cover the 18 passes.
- ❖ She is also the first woman to traverse a distance of 3,187 kilometre from New Delhi-Manali-Leh-Umlingla-Delhi in one go.

Manu Sawhney

- ❖ ICC CEO Manu Sawhney will leave the organisation with immediate effect.
- ❖ Geoff Allardice will remain the Acting CEO of the organisation.
- ❖ India's Manu Sawhney had taken charge as the new Chief Executive of the International Cricket Council on April 1, 2019.

Scripps National Spelling Bee competition



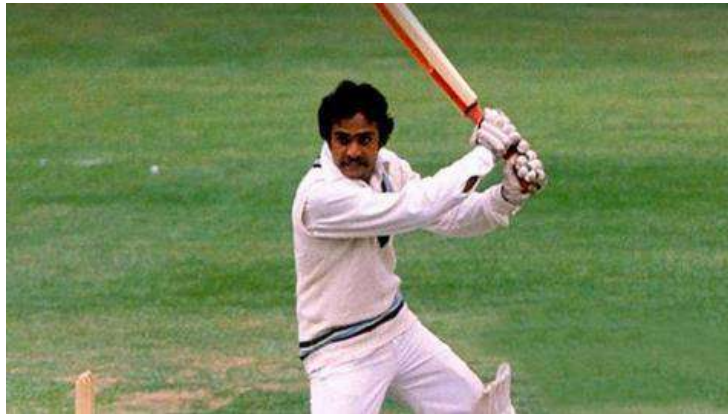
- ❖ Zaila Avant-garde became the first African American to win the 2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee competition.
- ❖ She is a 14-year-old girl from New Orleans of USA.
- ❖ She won the championship after correctly spelling 'Murraya,' a genus of plants.

Commonwealth Points of Light award

- ❖ Syed Osman Azhar Maqsusi won Commonwealth Points of Light award.
- ❖ He has been feeding thousands of people every day as part of his food drive 'Hunger Has No Religion'
- ❖ The award is given for those 'outstanding individuals who are making a change in their community.'

Yashpal Sharma

- ❖ The Former Indian cricketer, Yashpal Sharma has passed away.
- ❖ He was a member of the Indian team that won the 1983 Cricket World Cup.
- ❖ The Punjab-born cricketer had represented three teams in Ranji including Punjab, Haryana and Railways.



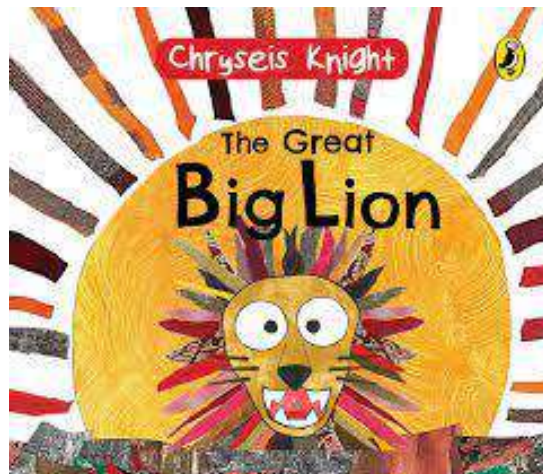
Leonardo Da Vinci's bear drawing at auction

- ❖ A drawing of a bear's head by Leonardo da Vinci sold for a record £8.8m (\$12.1m) at a London auction.
- ❖ Measuring just 7x7cm, Head of a Bear is more than 500 years old.
- ❖ The sale has surpassed the previous record for a Leonardo drawing, set by the Horse and Rider, which sold for £8.1m in 2001.



The Great Big Lion

- ❖ A book titled “The Great Big Lion” was drawn and written by child prodigy Chryseis Knight.
- ❖ This book is a story about a lion and two children.
- ❖ The book was published by Penguin Random House India’s “Puffin” imprint.



2020 Millennium Technology Prize

- ❖ The 2020 Millennium Technology Prize, announced in May, has been awarded to Shankar Balasubramanian and David Klenerman.
- ❖ It is awarded for their development of revolutionary DNA sequencing techniques.
- ❖ The award is given by the Republic of Finland, along with top Finnish academic institutions and industries.
- ❖ Shankar Balasubramanian was born in Chennai.

Danish Siddiqui



- ❖ The Indian photojournalist Danish Siddiqui has passed away.
- ❖ He was killed in a clash while reporting a fight between Afghan troops and the Taliban in Spin Boldak district of Kandahar province in Afghanistan.
- ❖ He was employed with the international news agency Reuters.
- ❖ He was a recipient of the prestigious Pulitzer Prize.

Dr. Kadambini Ganguly

- ❖ Google on July 18, 2021 honoured Dr. Kadambini Ganguly with a doodle celebrating her 160th birth anniversary.
- ❖ She is the first woman to be trained as a physician in India.
- ❖ The Google doodle features a sketch of Kadambini Ganguly, by a Bengaluru-based guest artist Oddrija.



- ❖ Dr. Kadambini Ganguly was the first woman to get admission to the Calcutta Medical College in 1884.
- ❖ Kadambini Ganguly pioneered a successful medical practice in India along with other women doctors as Anandibai Joshi, who hailed from Mumbai.
- ❖ Kadambini Ganguly was born in Bhagalpur British India, which is now in Bangladesh.

Cannes Film Festival

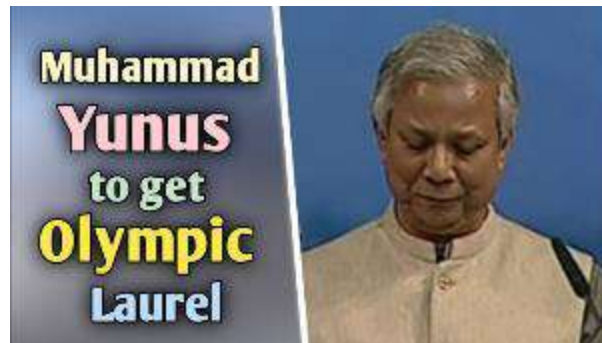
- ❖ Director Payal Kapadia's, "A Night of Knowing Nothing" won the Oeil d'or (Golden Eye) award for best documentary at the 74th Cannes Film Festival.
- ❖ She is a Mumbai-based filmmaker.
- ❖ Julia Ducournau won the Cannes' top prize, the Palme d'Or, for her film Titane.
- ❖ This made her the second woman to win the award.
- ❖ The first was Jane Campion in 1993 for the film "The Piano".
- ❖ The Best Director Award was won by Leos Carax for the pop-opera musical 'Annette'.
- ❖ Cannes Film Festival is an annual film festival held in Cannes, France.

Equator Prize 2021 - Indian organisations



- ❖ Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar Producer Company Limited and Snehakunja Trust are among the 10 awardees of the prestigious Equator Prize 2021.
- ❖ They received the award for their work in the field of conservation and biodiversity.
- ❖ The UNDP gives a biennial award to recognize community efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
- ❖ Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar Producer Company Limited is run entirely by indigenous people from the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Snehakunja Trust has protected sensitive wetland and coastal ecosystems in the Western Ghats and the Karnataka coast for 45 years.

Olympic Laurel - Muhammad Yunus



- ❖ The Nobel Peace Prize awardee Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh will become the second recipient of the Olympic Laurel at Tokyo Olympics.
- ❖ The Kenyan Olympian and social changemaker Kip Keino received this honour at the Rio Olympics in 2016.
- ❖ He is often referred to as the “world’s banker to the poor”.
- ❖ Yunus founded the Grameen Bank in the 1983 at Bangladesh
- ❖ He was a proponent of microfinance and won the Nobel in 2006.

Shiv Nadar



- ❖ Shiv Nadar steps down as Managing Director of the HCL Tech
- ❖ He was appointed as Chairman Emeritus.
- ❖ The HCL company has appointed C Vijayakumar – the President and CEO of the company - as the Managing Director with the title of CEO and MD for five years
- ❖ Roshni Nadar Malhotra was appointed as Non-Executive Director and the Chairperson of the Board of Directors and the HCL company.
- ❖ Roshni was the first woman to chair a listed Indian IT firm.

Gira Sarabhai



- ❖ Gira Sarabhai co-founder of the National Institute of Design has passed away.
- ❖ Sarabhai was the daughter of industrialist Ambalal Sarabhai & sister of Dr Vikram Sarabhai.
- ❖ Vikram Sarabhai is internationally regarded as the Father of the Indian Space Program.

Bhageerathi Amma passed away

- ❖ Bhageerathi Amma, the oldest woman in India to take the equivalency exams, has passed away recently.
- ❖ She was 107-years-old.
- ❖ Amma, who hailed from the Kollam district of Kerala, decided to continue her education at the age of 105.
- ❖ Amma had quit formal education in class three, when she was 9 years old.
- ❖ The centenarian was felicitated with the prestigious Nari Shakti Puraskar for her exceptional contribution towards women's empowerment.



Alexander Dalrymple award

- ❖ The Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar, the Chief Hydrographer to the Govt. of India has received the Alexander Dalrymple award from the British High Commissioner.
- ❖ He was rewarded in recognition of his leadership in the disciplines of hydrography and nautical cartography.
- ❖ The Alexander Dalrymple award has been named after the first hydrographer of the Admiralty and was instituted in 2006.
- ❖ Recipients are selected for their efforts in raising the standards of hydrography, cartography and navigation around the world.



ICAR Norman Borlaug Award 2020

- ❖ Kajal Chakraborty, has been honoured with the ICAR Norman Borlaug Award 2020.
- ❖ It is the National Award For Excellence In Agricultural Research
- ❖ Kajal Chakraborty is the Principal Scientist Marine Biotechnology Division of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)- Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi.



SPORTS

Youngest-ever Chess Grandmaster

- ❖ Indian-origin American Abhimanyu Mishra has become the youngest-ever chess Grandmaster in the world.
- ❖ At 12 years, four months and 25 days, he obliterated the record held by Sergey Karjakin.
- ❖ Sergey Karjakin was 12 years and seven months old when he attained the title.



WAKO India Kickboxing Federation

- ❖ The Sports Ministry announced that it has decided to recognise the WAKO India Kickboxing Federation as a National Sports Federation (NSF), in a bid to promote and develop the sport in the country.
- ❖ WAKO India Kickboxing Federation is affiliated to the World Association of Kickboxing Organizations (WAKO).
- ❖ WAKO is the world body for kickboxing.

Note

- ❖ WAKO has been a provisionally recognised member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) since November 30, 2020.
- ❖ Full recognition of WAKO will be finally decided by IOC Session of July 2021 in Tokyo.

First Indian Female Swimmer to qualify Tokyo Olympics

- ❖ Maana Patel is the First Indian Female Swimmer to qualify Tokyo Olympics.
- ❖ Maana Patel is also the First Female player to qualify Tokyo Olympics

- ❖ Maana Patel joins Srihari Nataraj and Sajan Prakash to have qualified for the Olympics.
- ❖ She is a 21-year-old backstroke swimmer from Ahmedabad.



India's Second Largest Cricket Stadium

- ❖ The Board of Control for Cricket in India released a financial grant of Rs 100 crore to the Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA).
- ❖ This will be used to build India's second-largest cricket stadium.
- ❖ It is set to be built in Jaipur.

Note

- ❖ In February this year, President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the newly-built Motera Stadium ahead of the pink-ball Test between India and England.
- ❖ It was renamed as Narendra Modi Stadium.
- ❖ This stadium is the biggest cricket stadium in the world as it has a total capacity of 1,32,000.

Mithali Raj's recent achievement

- ❖ India captain Mithali Raj became the highest run-getter in women's cricket across formats.
- ❖ She overtook the former England skipper Charlotte Edwards.
- ❖ Mithali achieved this feat against England.

New World record – 400m hurdles

- ❖ Karsten Warholm broke the long-standing world record in the 400m hurdles during the Bislett Games.
- ❖ He is a 25-year-old athlete from Norway.
- ❖ Earlier the record was held by American hurdler Kevin Young for 29 years.
- ❖ His mark of 46.78 seconds was set at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain.
- ❖ This was finally broken with an official time of 46.70 seconds by Warholm.



India's flagbearers



- ❖ MC Mary Kom, the six-time world boxing champion, and Manpreet Singh, the men's hockey team skipper, will be India's flag-bearers at the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Olympics.
- ❖ Bajrang Punia, a silver medallist at the 2018 World Wrestling Championships, will be the flag-bearer at the closing ceremony on August 8.
- ❖ In a first, India is having two flag-bearers, one male and one female, at the upcoming Tokyo Games to ensure "gender parity".

James Anderson claims 1000th wicket



- ❖ Veteran England fast bowler James Anderson has completed 1000 wickets in first-class cricket.
- ❖ Anderson achieved this feat during Lancashire's County Championship clash against Kent in Manchester.
- ❖ Anderson is the leading wicket-taker among pacers in Test cricket.
- ❖ Anderson is only the 14th player to claim 1,000 first-class wickets this century and only the fifth among pacers.

Hockey legend Keshav Datt

- ❖ Two-time Olympic gold medallist in hockey, Keshav Datt passed away.
- ❖ He was part of India's historic feat at the 1948 Olympics where they beat home team Britain 4-0.
- ❖ It was held at the Wembley Stadium in London.
- ❖ This made to win the first gold post-Independence.



Asian Football Confederation Women's Asian Cup

- ❖ The AFC Women's Asian Cup in India will be held in Mumbai and Pune.
- ❖ This decision was taken after the Asian Football Confederation dropped Bhubaneswar and Ahmedabad as venues.
- ❖ This decision was taken to minimise the travelling time for participants and ensure an "optimum environment" for a bio-secure bubble.
- ❖ The Mumbai Football Arena at the Andheri Sports Complex and the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex in Balewadi, Pune have been chosen as the new venues.

400m hurdles - MP Jabir

- ❖ MP Jabir qualified for the Tokyo Olympics in 400m hurdles.
- ❖ Jabir qualified through the World ranking quota where there are 14 spots available.
- ❖ Jabir is currently ranked 34th in World Athletics' Road to Olympics rankings.
- ❖ Jabir would be the first Indian male athlete to participate in the 400m hurdles in Olympics.
- ❖ PT Usha, the legendary athlete from Kerala, competed in the 400-metre hurdles at the Los Angeles Olympics.



Indian golfers

- ❖ The Indian golfers Udayan Mane, has qualified for the Tokyo Olympics 2020.
- ❖ Udayan Mane has become 2nd Indian golfer to qualify for Tokyo Olympics.
- ❖ He joined Anirban Lahiri in 60-player field in men's golf event.
- ❖ Lahiri will be appearing at his second consecutive Olympic Games.
- ❖ He had also represented India at Rio 2016 Olympics along with SSP Chourasia.

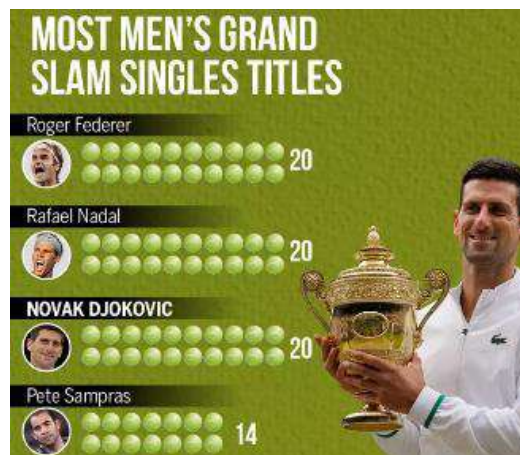
Serbia Open Chess Championship



- ❖ Young Indian Grandmaster Nihal Sarin emerged champion in the Masters' section of the Serbia Open Chess Championship.
- ❖ This took place in Belgrade.
- ❖ This is the second consecutive tournament victory for sixteen-year old Sarin after he claimed the title in Silver Lake Open.
- ❖ He is from Thrissur, Kerala.

Novak Djokovic wins 20th Grand Slam

- ❖ World No 1 tennis player Novak Djokovic of Serbia defeated Italian Matteo Berrettini to win the Wimbledon 2021 Men's Final Title.
- ❖ Djokovic also clinched his record 20th Grand Slam title, equalling the record of the most Men's Grand Slams Singles Titles.
- ❖ He joins Rafael Nadal of Spain and Roger Federer of Swiss as players to have won most singles titles in men's tennis (20 each).
- ❖ This is the third Grand Slam victory for Djokovic, who earlier in the year had already won Australian Open, French Open.



Copa America 2021

- ❖ Lionel Messi-led Argentina beat Neymar's Brazil 1-0 to win the Copa America Cup.
- ❖ The final match was held at the Maracanã Stadium in Rio de Janeiro of Brazil.
- ❖ With this win, Lionel Messi has secured his first major international trophy.
- ❖ The 2021 Copa America was the 47th edition of the annual international men's football championship.
- ❖ It was organised by South America's football ruling body CONMEBOL.



European Championship trophy

- ❖ Italy has won second European Championship trophy.
- ❖ They defeated England by 3-2 in penalty shoot-out in final of Euros 2020 trophy at Wembley Stadium in London.
- ❖ This is the first major international trophy won by Italy since their 2006 FIFA World Cup win.

First ever Indian juror for shooting at Tokyo Olympics

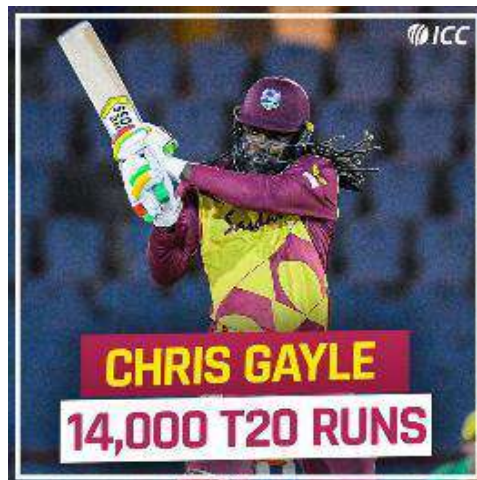
- ❖ Pawan Singh has become the first-ever Indian juror for shooting at Tokyo Olympics 2020.
- ❖ He is the Joint-Secretary General of the National Rifle Association of India.
- ❖ He was the competition manager of the recent ISSF- International Shooting Sports Federation World Cup in New Delhi.
- ❖ A total of 26 jury members will officiate at the upcoming Tokyo Olympics 2020.
- ❖ Out of this 6 will be from Japan and the rest will be from the other nations.

Wimbledon Singles title - Ashleigh Barty

- ❖ Barty clinched her maiden Wimbledon title after beating Karolina Pliskova
- ❖ Barty has become the first Australian woman to win Wimbledon women's singles title since 1980.
- ❖ Her victory comes 50 years after her idol, Australian Evonne Goolagong Cawley, won her first Wimbledon title.
- ❖ Ashleigh Barty is currently ranked no. 1 in the world in women's singles by the Women's Tennis Association.



14,000 T20 Runs - Chris Gayle



- ❖ Chris Gayle of West Indies is the highest run-scorer in T20 cricket.
- ❖ Gayle is 1st batsman to have scored 14,000 T20 runs.
- ❖ He breached the 14,000-run mark during the third T20I against Australia in St Lucia.

Croatia Grand Chess Tour

- ❖ Former world champion Viswanathan Anand finished second in the Croatia Grand Chess Tour.
- ❖ Anand put on a brilliant performance and defeated his rival Garry Kasparov.
- ❖ Frenchman Maxime Vachier-Lagrave was the winner of the 2021 Grand Chess Tour.

FINAL STANDINGS				
POS.		RAPID SCORE	BLITZ SCORE	CURRENT SCORE
1	 GM MAXIME VACHIER-LAGRAVE	10.0	13.0	23.0
2	 GM VISWANATHAN ANAND	9.0	12.0	21.0
3	 GM ANISH GIRI	10.0	10.5	20.5
T-4	 GM IAN NEPOMNIACHTCHI	11.0	9.0	20.0
T-4	 GM JAN-KRZYSZTOF DUDA	10.0	10.0	20.0
6	 GM SHAKHRIYAR MAMEDYAROV	9.0	10.0	19.0
7	 GM ALEXANDER GRISCHUK	8.0	10.0	18.0
8	 GM ANTON KOROBV	7.0	8.5	15.5
9	 GM KASPAROV/SARIC	10.0	2.5	12.5
10	 GM JORDEN VAN FOREEST	6.0	4.5	10.5

India to host 2026 World Badminton Championships

- ❖ The Badminton World Federation has allotted the BWF World Championships to India for 2026.
- ❖ This will be the second time that India will host the premier tournament, which is held every year except for the Olympic year.
- ❖ India had hosted the BWF World Championships in Hyderabad in 2009.

2032 Summer Olympics

- ❖ Australia's Brisbane will be the host of the 2032 Olympics and Paralympics.
- ❖ Brisbane becomes the third Australian city to host the Games after Sydney in 2000 and Melbourne in 1956.
- ❖ Australia becomes the second country after the United States, to stage summer Olympic Games in three different cities.
- ❖ Brisbane was also the host of the 2018 Commonwealth Games.
- ❖ Paris of France will host the 2024 summer Olympics.
- ❖ The 2028 Summer Olympics will be hosted by Los Angeles of USA.



Brisbane 2032
Olympic and Paralympic
Games Host
Queensland



Rubina Francis

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh shooter, Rubina Francis has set a world record at the ongoing Para Sport Cup in Peru.
- ❖ She has won gold in the 10-metre air pistol para-event for women.
- ❖ This win also secured her the quota for India at the Tokyo Summer Paralympics 2020.



Mirabai Chanu bags silver

- ❖ Mirabai Chanu won the silver medal and became the first Indian to win an Olympic medal at the 2020 Tokyo Games in the Women's 49kg category.
- ❖ China's Zhihui Hou won the gold medal in the women's 49-kg weightlifting.
- ❖ She lifted a total of 210 kg.
- ❖ Indonesia's Windy Cantika Aisah won the bronze medal.
- ❖ Chanu managed to lift a total of 202 kg in the women's 49 kg category.

- ❖ She became the second Indian weightlifter after Karnam Malleswari to win an Olympic medal.
- ❖ A new Olympic record was registered by Mirabai Chanu with a successful lift of 115kg in clean and jerk.



Sumit Nagal - Third Indian to win Tennis singles at Olympic

- ❖ Sumit Nagal became only the third Indian tennis player to win a singles men's match at the Olympic Games.
- ❖ He became the first to win for India in 25 years.



- ❖ He edged past Denis Istomin in this match.
- ❖ At the 1996 Atlanta Games, Zeeshan Ali became the first Indian to win a singles match by beating Fernando Meligeni of Brazil.
- ❖ Leander Paes was the second Indian to have gone past the first round.

World Cadet Wrestling Championship

- ❖ Indian wrestler Priya Malik won a gold medal at the ongoing World Cadet Wrestling Championship in Budapest, Hungary.
- ❖ Malik beat her Belarus opponent Kseniya Patapovich 5-0 to clinch the gold in the 73kg category.
- ❖ Priya Malik has become the first Indian wrestler to win a gold medal in the World Cadet Wrestling Championship.



Tokyo Summer Olympic Games

- ❖ On July 23 Japanese Emperor Naruhito declared the Tokyo Summer Olympic Games open.
- ❖ The opening ceremony of the 32nd Olympic Games is taking place at the National Stadium in Tokyo without spectators due to the pandemic.
- ❖ Japan is hosting the Olympics for the fourth time.
- ❖ Previously, the country hosted the Winter Olympics twice (Sapporo-1972 and Nagano-1998), as well as the 1964 Summer Olympics in Tokyo.



Japan's youngest gold medallist



- ❖ 13 years old Japanese skateboarder Momiji Nishiya won the gold medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.
- ❖ She became one of the youngest gold medallists ever at the Olympic Games.
- ❖ Nishiya won the gold in the women's street competition which debuted for the first time in Tokyo 2020 Olympics.
- ❖ Yuto Horigome of Japan won the men's competition.
- ❖ This makes Japan the gold medal holder in both the categories.

Note

- ❖ Marjorie Gestring is the youngest gold medal winner of the Olympics.
- ❖ At the 1936 Berlin Games she dominated the women's diving competition.
- ❖ During that time she was only 13 years and 268 days old.

Differently Abled Sportsman of the Year 2019 - Pramod Bhagat



- ❖ World No. 1 para shuttler Pramod Bhagat was named Differently Abled Sportsman of the Year at Indian Sports Honour for 2019.

- ❖ The Indian Sports Honours are awards given annually by the RPSG Group in association with the Virat Kohli Foundation to outstanding sports personalities of India.
- ❖ The awards were founded in 2017.

First ever Olympic gold medal in skateboarding

- ❖ Japan's Yuto Horigome has won the first-ever skateboarding competition at the Olympic Games.
- ❖ He won the gold medal in men's street event at the Ariake Urban Sport in Tokyo.
- ❖ Kelvin Hoefler of Brazil won silver in the men's street skating competition.
- ❖ Jagger Eaton of the United States clinched the bronze.



ROC

- ❖ ROC stands for the Russian Olympic Committee.
- ❖ It's a workaround for Russian athletes to compete at the Olympics even though Russia was banned.

Note

- ❖ In 2019, the World Anti-Doping Agency banned Russia from all international sporting competitions, including the Olympics, for four years over a doping scandal.
- ❖ The punishment was cut in half to two years by the Court of Arbitration for Sport following a 2020 appeal and now ends in December 2022.
- ❖ But at this year's Olympics, Russia still can't be represented as a country.
- ❖ This led to the creation of the ROC.
- ❖ They also can't show the Russian flag and use their anthem.

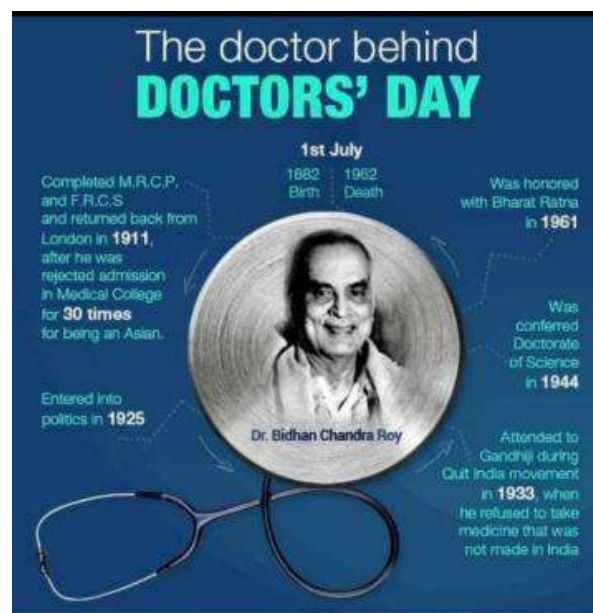
IMPORTANT DAYS

National Chartered Accountants Day - July 01

- ❖ This day is celebrated to commemorate the founding of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) by the parliament of India in 1949.
- ❖ Every year CA Day is celebrated to honour the Chartered Accountants.
- ❖ ICAI is India's national professional accounting body and also the second biggest accounting organization in the world.
- ❖ Headquarters of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India is in New Delhi.



National Doctors' Day - July 01



- ❖ The day is organised in India by the Indian Medical Association (IMA).
- ❖ The day is celebrated to honour the great physicians and help us understand the importance of doctors in our lives.
- ❖ The day commemorates the birth anniversary of the second Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy.

National Postal Worker Day - July 01

- ❖ The day is celebrated every year across the globe.
- ❖ It was first commemorated by a Seattle-area postal carrier.
- ❖ It is dedicated to express gratitude towards postal workers for ensuring uninterrupted services.

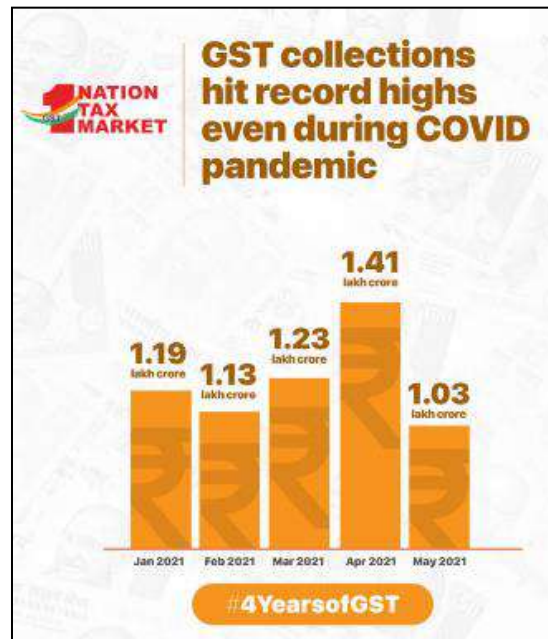
State Bank Day - July 01

- ❖ The 66th Foundation Day of State Bank of India was celebrated recently.
- ❖ On 1 July 1955, the Imperial Bank of India, which came into existence in 1921, became the State Bank of India.
- ❖ SBI is a Fortune 500 company.
- ❖ It is an Indian Multinational, Public Sector Banking and Financial services statutory body.
- ❖ It is headquartered in Mumbai.



GST Day - July 01

- ❖ The Goods and Services Tax (GST) is an indirect, multi-stage, comprehensive tax in India, imposed on the supply of goods and services.
- ❖ The date has been designated by the central government as 'GST Day'.
- ❖ India marks the fourth anniversary of the Goods and Services Tax this year (2017).



World UFO Day - July 02

- ❖ It is observed by the World UFO Organization.
- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about the existence of Unidentified flying objects.
- ❖ It also encourages people to think about the possibility of us not being alone in the Universe.

World Sports Journalists Day - July 02

- ❖ The day aims to acknowledge the work of sports journalists & to encourage them to do better at their work.
- ❖ The associations of the journalists all over the world were found and united by the International Sports Press Association.
- ❖ The World Sports Journalist Day was established by the International Sports Press Association in 1994.

International Day of Cooperatives - July 03



- ❖ The United Nations celebrates the International Day of Cooperatives every year on the first Saturday of July (July 3rd in 2021).
- ❖ It is created to increase awareness of cooperatives.
- ❖ In the year 2021, the International Day of Cooperatives is celebrated with a focus on the contribution of cooperatives to combating climate change.
- ❖ This July 3rd, the International Day of Cooperatives (#CoopsDay) will be celebrated as “Rebuild better together”.

International Plastic Bag Free Day - July 03

- ❖ The day was started by Zero Waste Europe.
- ❖ The purpose of observing this day is to raise awareness against the use of this often non-biodegradable material which causes harm to our environment.
- ❖ The organisation aims to eliminate single-use plastics from our daily use.

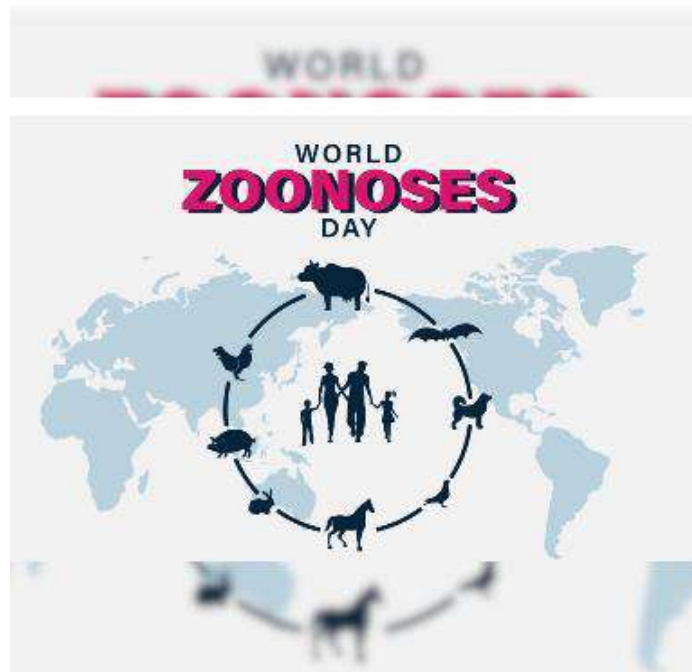
American Independence Day - July 04



- ❖ The American Independence Day is observed on July 4.
- ❖ It is also called the Fourth of July.
- ❖ The date marks the annual celebration of nationhood in the United States.
- ❖ This year marks the 245th anniversary of the freedom of the thirteen American colonies from British colonial rule.

World Zoonoses Day - July 06

- ❖ It is held every year on to raise awareness of the risk of zoonotic diseases.
- ❖ Zoonoses are infectious diseases (virus, bacteria and parasites) that can spread from animals to humans, and vice versa.
- ❖ It was on July 6, 1885, when Louis Pasteur successfully administered the first vaccine against Rabies virus.
- ❖ Rabies is a zoonotic disease.



Global Forgiveness Day - July 07

- ❖ The day is observed every year to encourage the art of forgiving.
- ❖ It aims to spread awareness about the healing power of forgiveness and its importance for a peaceful life.
- ❖ Studies have proved that people who choose to forgive are healthier and happier.



Van Mahotsav 2021 - July 01 to 07

- ❖ Van Mahotsav 2021 is a week-long celebration across India.
- ❖ The Van Mahotsav is celebrated every year in the first week of July.
- ❖ It is to raise awareness of tree plantation and forest conservation.
- ❖ Van Mahotsav is celebrated in India by planting tens and thousands of saplings.



International Mango festival - July 9 to 10

- ❖ The International Mango Festival is annually held at the Dilli Haat in Delhi.
- ❖ It tends to demonstrate the mango specialties from various states of India.
- ❖ The event is organized by the Delhi Government in association with Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation.

National Fish Farmers' Day - July 10

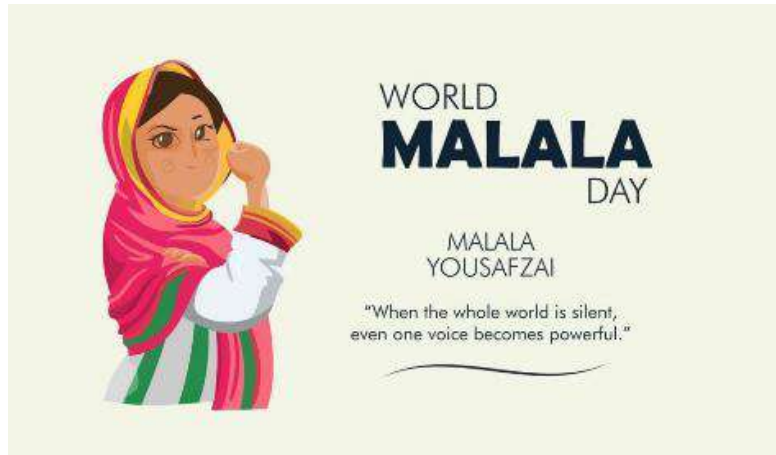
- ❖ The day is celebrated every year by the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying in association with the National Fisheries Development Board.
- ❖ The event aims to draw attention to changing the way the country manages fisheries resources to ensure sustainable stocks and healthy ecosystems.
- ❖ The day is commemorated annually in remembrance of scientists Dr K H Alikunhi and Dr H.L. Chaudhury.
- ❖ They invented induced breeding technology of Indian major carps on 10 July 1957.
- ❖ 2021 will mark 21st National Fish Farmers' Day.



World Population Day - July 11

- ❖ The year 2021 marked the 32nd world population day.
- ❖ It highlights problems of overpopulation.
- ❖ The day also raises awareness about effects of overpopulation on environment and development.
- ❖ This year theme of World Population Day 2021: "the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on fertility".
- ❖ First World Population Day was observed on July 11, 1989.
- ❖ This day was established by Governing Council of United Nations Development Programme.
- ❖ This day was suggested by Dr. K. C. Zachariah when the World population reaches Five Billion.

World Malala Day - July 12



- ❖ The United Nations has declared this day to honour the young activist, Malala Yousafzai.
- ❖ Malala Day is commemorated, the birthday of Malala Yousafzai to honour women and children's rights around the world.

Note

- ❖ In 2012, she was awarded the first-ever National Youth Peace Prize by the Pakistan government.
- ❖ In 2014, at age 17, she became the youngest-ever recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.
- ❖ The UN has declared her as "the most famous teenager in the world" in its Decade in Review report in late 2019.

NABARD day - July 12

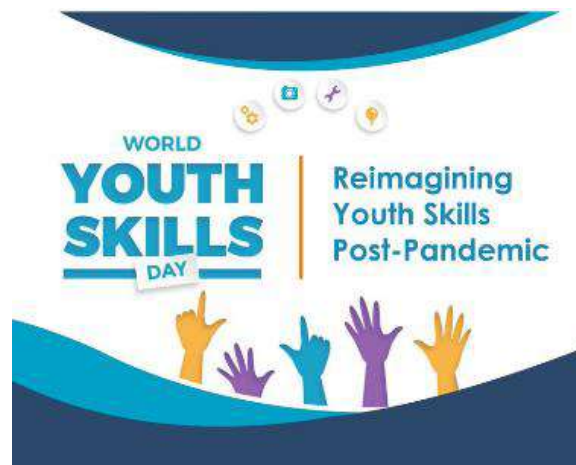
- ❖ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) came into existence on 12 July 1982.
- ❖ NABARD was established on the recommendations of B.Siva raman Committee.
- ❖ NABARD this year marks its 40th Foundation Day.

Bastille Day - July 14

- ❖ Bastille Day is commonly known as the national day of France.
- ❖ The national day of France is celebrated in remembrance of the fall of Bastille on July 14, 1789.
- ❖ It was on this day when an angry crowd stormed and captured the military fortress and prison (Bastille) where political prisoners were held captive.

World Youth Skills Day - July 15

- ❖ The United Nations celebrates the day to make the world know the importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship.
- ❖ The theme of World Youth Skills Day 2021 is “Reimagining Youth Skills Post-Pandemic”.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly in 2014 declared 15th July as World Youth Skills Day.



Education Development Day - July 15

- ❖ The 119th birth anniversary of Kamaraj, former Chief Minister of Tamilnadu was celebrated on July 15, 2021.
- ❖ Tamilnadu celebrates Birth anniversary of Kamaraj (July 15th) as 'Education Day' or 'Education Development Day'.
- ❖ Since 2006, this day is observed as educational development day.



World Plastic Surgery day - July 15

- ❖ India's National Plastic Surgery Day will now be celebrated as the World Plastic Surgery Day.
- ❖ The announcement was made in a statement released by the Association of Plastic Surgeons in India (APSI).
- ❖ The concept of National Plastic Surgery Day was first introduced by Dr S Raja Sabapathy in the year 2011.

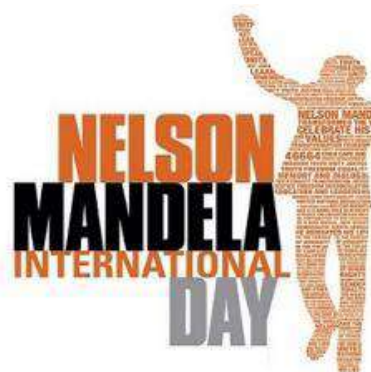
International Justice Day - July 17



- ❖ The World Day for International Justice is celebrated globally to support and recognize the work of the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- ❖ The day marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute on July 17, 1998.
- ❖ The Rome Statute is the founding treaty of the ICC.

Nelson Mandela Day - July 18

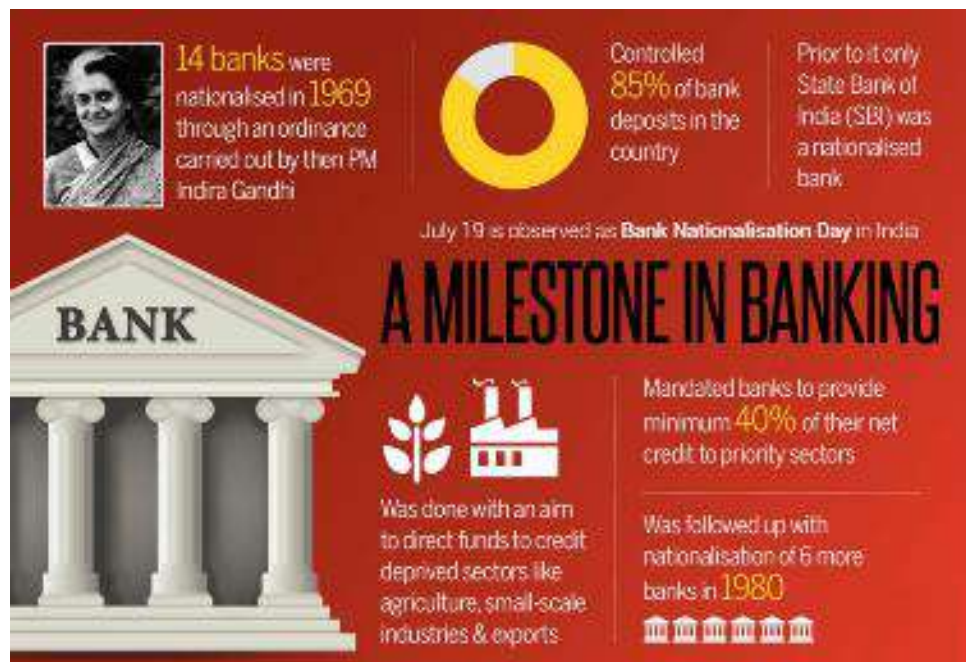
18th July



- ❖ The United Nations observes 18 July every year as Nelson Mandela International Day.
- ❖ The theme of this year for this Day is “One Hand Can Feed Another”.
- ❖ On 18 July 2009, the first Mandela Day was observed in New York.
- ❖ This year marks the 103rd birth anniversary of Nelson Mandela.
- ❖ He was the first democratically elected president of a free South Africa (1994-1999).

Bank Nationalization Day – July 19

- ❖ On this day in 1969, 14 top banks were nationalised in India by the then Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi.
- ❖ These banks contained 85 percent of bank deposits in the country.
- ❖ The stated reason for the nationalization was to give the government more control of credit delivery.
- ❖ In 1980, another six more banks were nationalised.



International Chess Day – July 20

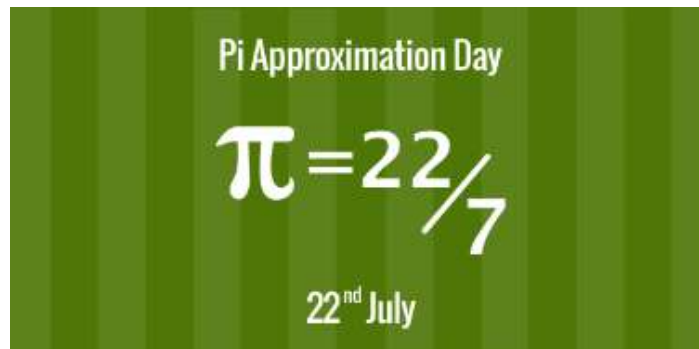
- ❖ It was on this day that the International Chess Federation (FIDE) was founded, in 1924.
- ❖ Invented in India in the fifth century AD, it was originally named “Chaturanga”.

Science Exploration Day – July 20

- ❖ It was on this day in 1969 that Neil Armstrong and Edwin ‘Buzz’ Aldrin, both were from USA, became the first humans to land on the Moon’s surface.
- ❖ Neil Armstrong was the first man to set foot on the moon’s surface.
- ❖ The Armstrong-Aldrin duo spent 21.5 hours on the surface of the moon.
- ❖ Out of which they spent 2.5 hours outside of their capsules.
- ❖ The day was declared a holiday in 1984 by the then President of the United States, Ronald Reagan.

Pi Day – July 22

- ❖ It is an annual celebration of the mathematical constant π (pi).
- ❖ Pi (π) is the ratio of the circumference of a circle and its diameter.
- ❖ 22/7, day/month format, is an approximation of π .



National Mango Day - July 22

- ❖ Mango is the national fruit of India, Pakistan, and the Philippines.
- ❖ In India, mangoes are commonly harvested during the months March-May.
- ❖ It is called as “king of fruit”.
- ❖ Each year since 1987, “The International mango festival” is held in Delhi.

National Broadcasting Day – July 23

- ❖ On this day in 1927, the first-ever radio broadcast in the country went on the air from the Bombay Station under the Indian Broadcasting Company.
- ❖ In India, radio broadcasting began during the British rule in 1923 under the imitative of the Radio Club of Bombay.
- ❖ Later it was changed to All India Radio (AIR) in 1936 and Akashwani in 1957.

- ❖ It is owned by Prasar Bharati, India's largest public broadcasting agency.



National Thermal Engineer Day - July 24

- ❖ It is celebrated on to appreciate the contribution of thermal engineers in everyday life.
- ❖ Since it is one of the hottest days of the year, celebrate the contributions of thermal engineers.
- ❖ In July of 2014, Advanced Thermal Solutions (ATS) of the USA founded this day.

Income Tax Day - July 24

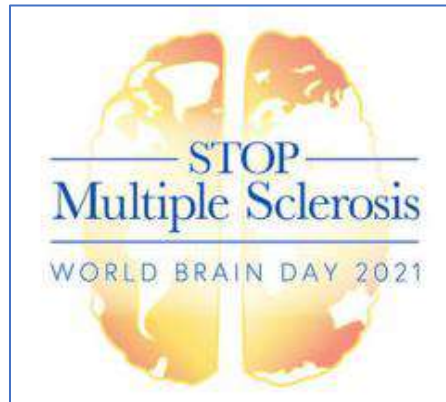


- ❖ On July 24, 1860, the income tax was introduced in India by Sir James Wilson
- ❖ It was to compensate the British government for the losses incurred during the First War of Independence in 1857.

- ❖ It has been celebrated as the Income Tax Day in India since 2010.
- ❖ It is observed by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

World Brain Day - July 22

- ❖ The World Federation of Neurology (WFN) celebrates this day every year since 2014.
- ❖ The theme for this year is “Stop Multiple Sclerosis”.



World Drowning Prevention Day – July 25

- ❖ It was declared through the April 2021 UN General Assembly Resolution “Global drowning prevention”.
- ❖ The resolution was an initiative of both Ireland and Bangladesh.
- ❖ The drowning death rates are the highest in the WHO Western Pacific Region.
- ❖ Over half of the world's drowning occurs in the WHO Western Pacific Region and WHO South-East Asia Region.



National Parents' Day 2021 – July 25

- ❖ It is observed on the fourth Sunday of July.
- ❖ This year it will be celebrated on 25 July.
- ❖ The day honours parents and their important role in our lives.
- ❖ President Bill Clinton in 1994 signed a law and a resolution was adopted by the US Congress to establish the fourth Sunday of every July as Parents' Day.

International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem - July 26

- ❖ The day was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 2015.
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness of the importance of mangrove ecosystems as “a unique, special and vulnerable ecosystem” and to promote solutions for their sustainable management, conservation and uses.

Kargil Vijay Diwas - July 26



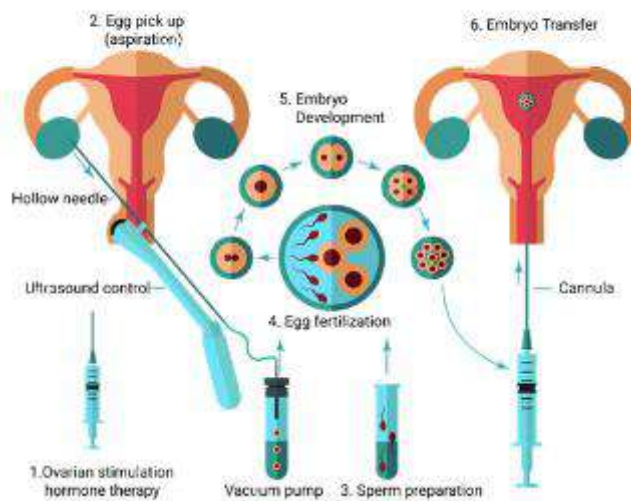
- ❖ It is the 22nd anniversary of the Kargil Vijay Diwas.
- ❖ The day marks the victory of Indian soldiers in recapturing the mountain heights that were occupied by the Pakistani Army.
- ❖ Kargil war was declared over on July 26, 1999.
- ❖ The day is observed as 'Kargil Vijay Diwas' to commemorate India's victory.

In Vitro Fertilisation Day - July 25

- ❖ On July 25 the world celebrates World In Vitro Fertilisation Day.
- ❖ The day is celebrated to mark the greatest innovation in the field of reproductive medicine.

- ❖ The biggest breakthrough was the birth of Louise Brown on July 25, 1978, in England.
- ❖ In India, Dr Subhash Mukherjee was also working on IVF.
- ❖ And in less than three months of the birth of Louise Brown, Kanupriya Agarwal was born on October 3, 1978.
- ❖ Dr Subhash Mukhopadhyay named India's first IVF child as 'Durga' later on her parents renamed her Kanupriya.
- ❖ She became India's first and the world's second IVF baby.

In Vitro Fertilization (IVF)



CRPF Raising Day - July 27

**CRPF Observes
83rd Raising Day
on 27 July**

- ❖ The Central Reserve Police Force, observed its 83rd Raising Day on 27 July 2021.
- ❖ CRPF is India's largest Central Armed Police Force, under the authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ❖ Its headquarters is located in New Delhi.
- ❖ It came into existence as the Crown Representative's Police on 27 July 1939.

- ❖ After Indian Independence, it became the Central Reserve Police Force on the enactment of the CRPF Act on 28 December 1949.

World Hepatitis Day - July 28

- ❖ The day is celebrated to enhance awareness of viral hepatitis.
- ❖ Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver that causes a range of health problems, including liver cancer.
- ❖ This year theme of World Hepatitis Day 2021 is 'Hepatitis Can't Wait'.



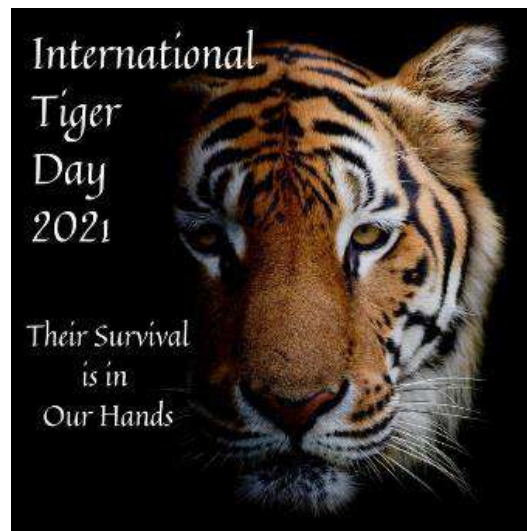
World Nature Conservation Day - July 28

- ❖ The main objective of celebrating this day is to raise awareness about protecting nature and adopting best practices for conserving our natural resources.
- ❖ The Earth is supplied a limited amount of properties that we all rely upon each day like water, air, soil and trees.
- ❖ Theme of this year is "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet".

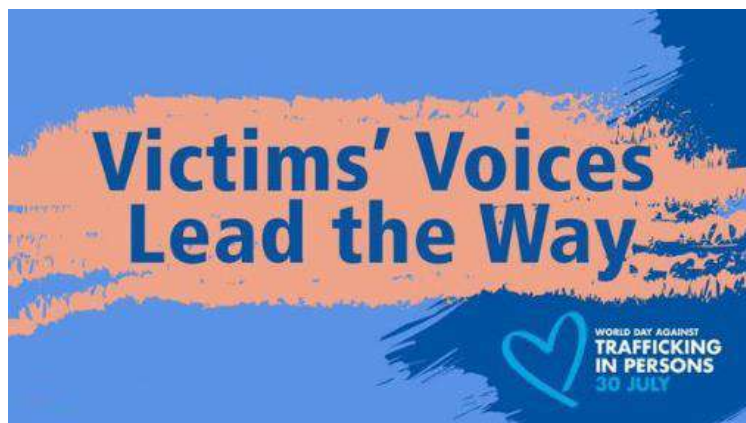


International Tiger Day - July 29

- ❖ Global Tiger Day or International Tiger Day is observed every year to raise awareness about the declining population of wild cats and making efforts to conserve them.
- ❖ This year marks the 11th International Tiger Day.
- ❖ The theme/Slogan for the 2021 International Tiger Day celebration is “Their Survival is in our hands”.
- ❖ The Global Tiger Day came into being during the signing of the Saint Petersburg declaration.
- ❖ It was signed by 13 tiger range countries in 2010 in Russia.
- ❖ The governments of these tiger range countries had resolved to encourage the conservation, protecting natural habitats and double the number of tigers by 2022.



World Day against Trafficking in Persons - July 30



- ❖ In 2013, the General Assembly designated July 30 as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons.
- ❖ This day was created to raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights.
- ❖ The 2021 theme for World Day against Trafficking in Persons is “Victims’ Voices Lead the Way”.

World Ranger Day - July 31

- ❖ World Ranger Day is being celebrated every year to acknowledge the critical work of rangers on the front-line of conservation across the globe.
- ❖ Its Objectives is to honour Rangers killed or injured during duty and to safeguard the earth’s natural treasures and cultural heritage.
- ❖ It was initiated by International Ranger Federation (Estd -1992) and it is being Celebrated Since – 2007.

MISCELLANEOUS

Salute Doctors – ICICI



- ❖ ICICI Bank has launched India’s most comprehensive banking solutions for medical doctors.
- ❖ It is titled as ‘Salute Doctors’.
- ❖ It offers customized banking as well as value-added services for every doctor, beginning from a medical student to a senior medical consultant.
- ❖ The initiative is powered by ICICI STACK.

SalaamDilSey – HDFC



- ❖ HDFC Bank launched an initiative called SalaamDilSey.
- ❖ This initiative encourages one and all to take a moment to acknowledge and celebrate the contribution of doctors.
- ❖ As part of this initiative, the bank has created a web platform www.salaamdilsey.com.
- ❖ The general public can share the thank you message for doctors here.

Jacob Zuma - jail sentence

- ❖ South Africa's highest court sentenced former President Jacob Zuma to 15 months in jail for failing to appear at a corruption inquiry recently.
- ❖ After this, Jacob Zuma asked the court to annul his 15-month jail sentence, saying it was excessive, unjust and might kill him if he catches COVID-19 in prison.
- ❖ He have now won a reprieve from imminent imprisonment after the country's most senior judges agreed to hear his challenge to a 15-month jail sentence awarded.

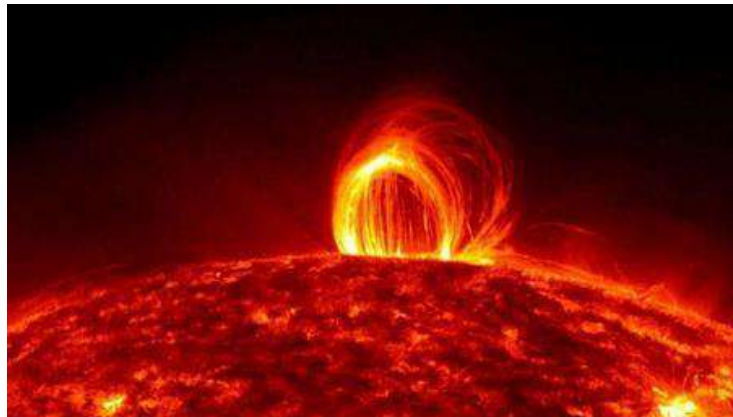


Panchmuli Lake and Crocodiles

- ❖ 194 crocodiles have been relocated from Panchmuli Lake near Statue of Unity in Narmada district, Gujarat.
- ❖ Crocodiles were relocated for the safety of tourists do boat rides in the Panchmuli Lake.
- ❖ This lake is situated near 182-metre-tall statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Kevadia.
- ❖ This lake is also known as 'Dyke-3' of Sardar Sarovar Dam.
- ❖ It was developed for tourists visiting the Statue of Unity.

Solar flare

- ❖ A team of scientists at NASA reported that the Sun erupted a huge solar flare from a sunspot known as AR2838.
- ❖ This was the largest solar flare since 2017.
- ❖ A solar flare is described as an intense burst of radiation coming from the release of magnetic energy associated with sunspots.
- ❖ Solar flares are the largest explosive events of our solar systems.



NewsOnAir Radio Live-stream Global Rankings released

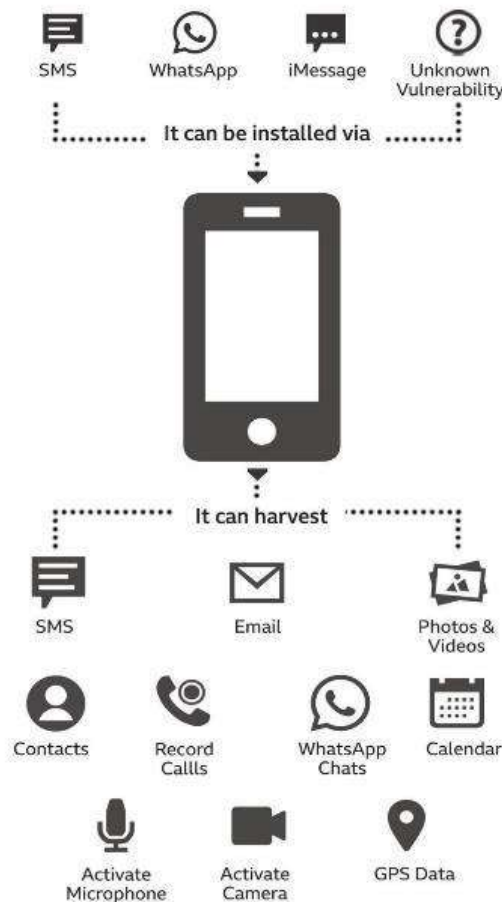
- ❖ It ranked countries where All India Radio (AIR) live-streams on NewsOnAir app are most popular.
- ❖ United States still maintains its ranking at 1.
- ❖ All India Radio's Telugu and Tamil live-stream services are popular in United States.
- ❖ AIR Punjabi service is popular in United Kingdom.

- ❖ In global rankings of top AIR streams (excluding India), AIR News 24*7 has moved one position up from 7 to 6.
- ❖ On the other hand, AIR Tamil has slipped from spot 6 to 10.
- ❖ AIR officially known as Akash Vani since 1957.

Pegasus spyware

- ❖ The continued use of spyware Pegasus, which an Israeli company sells to governments worldwide, has been confirmed with fresh reports.
- ❖ It is a spyware tool developed by an Israeli firm, the NSO Group.
- ❖ Spyware spy on people through their phones.
- ❖ Pegasus spyware has been used to conduct surveillance on ministers, opposition leaders, journalists, government officials and scientists of India.
- ❖ India was among the 10 countries in the list with the most numbers.
- ❖ Mexico topped the list.

What Pegasus spyware can do



Crocodile's grandfather found at Chile

- ❖ The Argentine Museum of Natural Sciences announced that a 150-million years old fossilized skeleton, discovered in the mountains of Southern Chile, was determined to be the ancestor of the modern crocodile.
- ❖ The species was named as *Burkesuchus mallingrandensis*.
- ❖ It was found in 2014.
- ❖ *Burkesuchus* are found to be the first that began to get into the water, the freshwater.

