



July - 22

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Viswanathan Anand defeated Vladimir Kramnik of Russia to win the Sparkassen Trophy of chess game 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).

TAMIL NADU

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 Irungttukottai 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.



NATIONAL

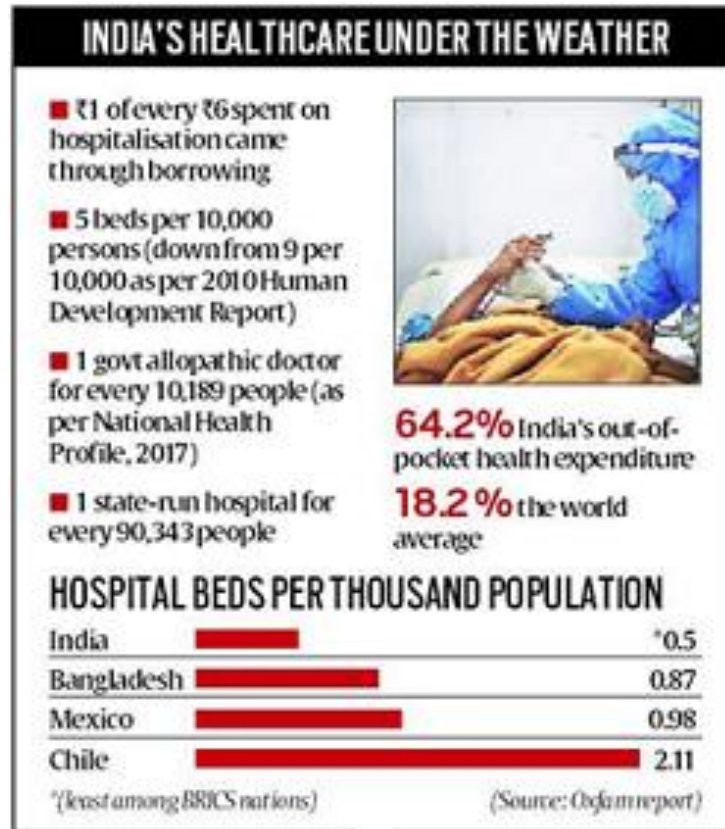
National Logistics Excellence Awards

- ❖ 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

- ❖ 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.

INTERNATIONAL

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.



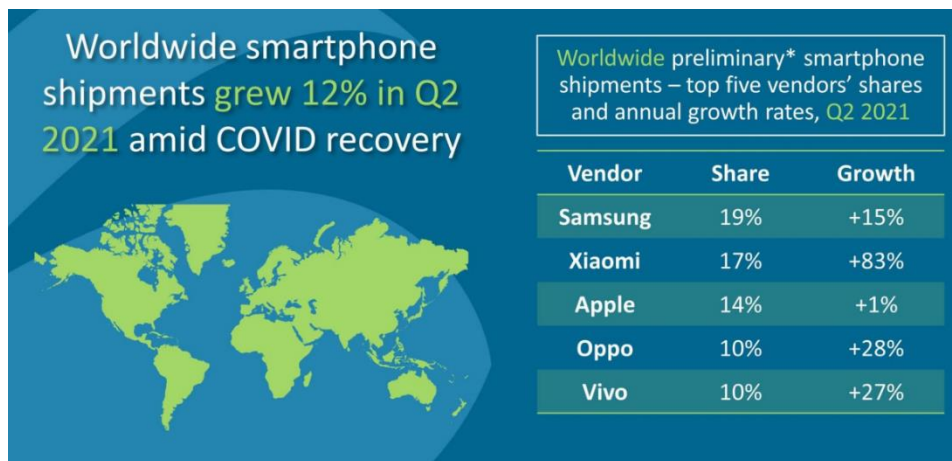
India - 5th largest Forex reserve

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Xiaomi 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).



ECONOMY

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 |

SCIENCE AND 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.

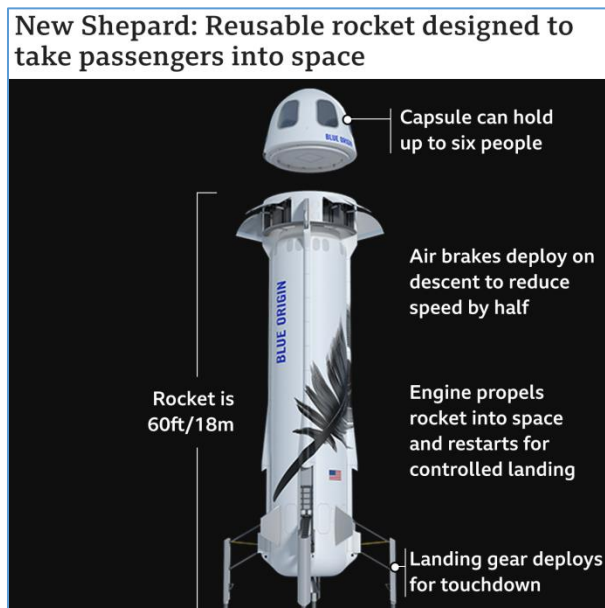
- ❖ It is also capable of countering attacks from the space.

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

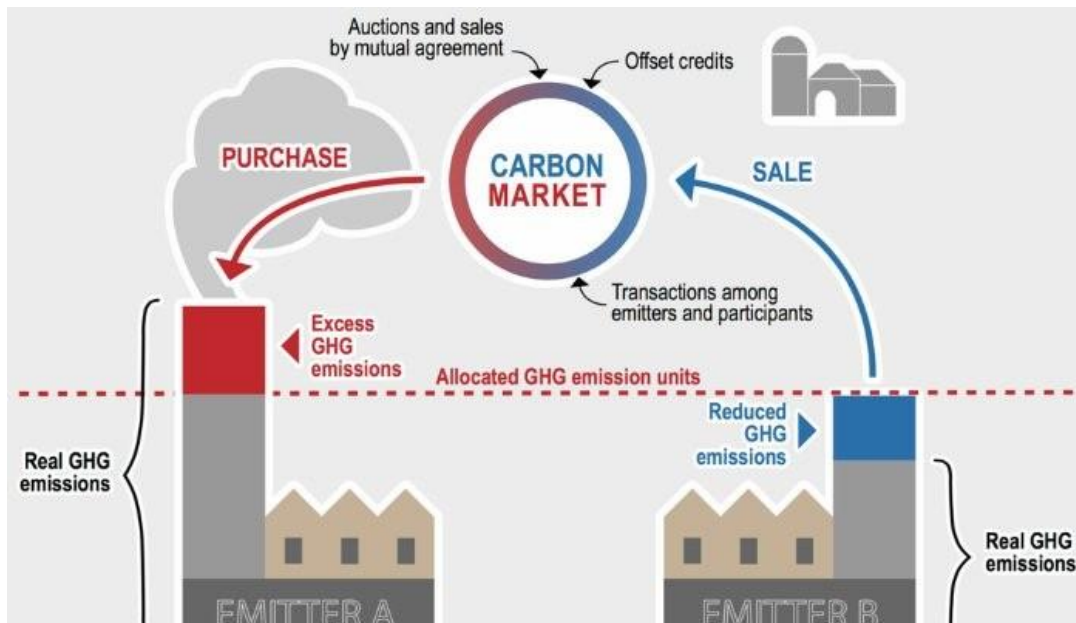


- ❖ The Billionaire Jeff Bezos blasted into space aboard the New Shepard rocket ship in the first crewed flight of his rocket.

- ❖ 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.

ENVIRONMENT

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



STATES

Cultivation of agar

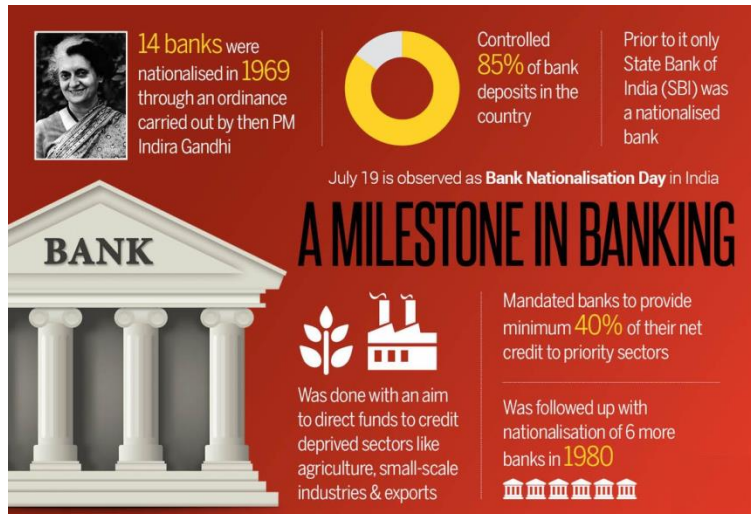
- ❖ The government of Tripura has taken initiatives to promote commercial cultivation of Agar trees.
- ❖ Agar is an evergreen tree that grows in abundance in the state of Tripura.

IMPORTANT DAYS

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.

