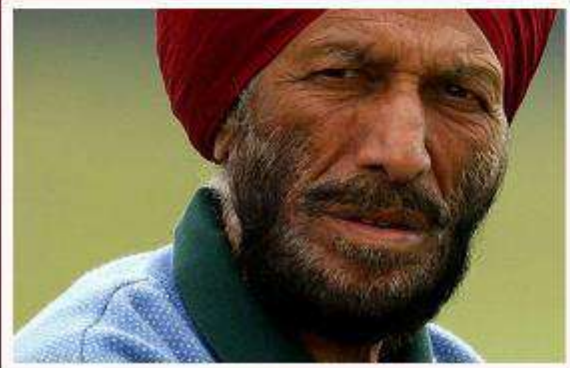


# TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM

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## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Every year, on 31<sup>st</sup> May, the World Health Organization (WHO) and global partners celebrate World No Tobacco Day (WNTD).
  - This year theme of the 2021 WNTD is “Commit to quit.”
- ❖ Drug firm Zydus Cadila has introduced a new feature in the packaging of its critical drugs.
  - This is to help patients ensure that the product is not fake or counterfeited.
- ❖ India extended support after US President asked US intelligence agencies to find how coronavirus emerged in China.
  - Demands were raised by countries including US and Australia to investigate whether coronavirus originated in Wuhan City of China in late 2019 from an animal source or from laboratory accident in December 2019.
- ❖ The UK cleared a Covid-19 vaccine for use from Johnson & Johnson.
  - It is to be the first single-dose shot to be authorised in Britain.
- ❖ BCCI announced its plans to host remaining matches of the suspended 14th edition of IPL.
  - It is planned between September 15 and October 15 in the United Arab Emirates.
- ❖ Research and Analysis Wing chief, Samant Kumar Goel and Intelligence Bureau head Arvind Kumar were given a one-year extension in their services.
- ❖ National Memorial Day is observed every year on the last Monday of May (31<sup>st</sup> May in 2021).
  - This day will pay tribute to the men and women who are doing and working for us to combat COVID-19 and also highlights to honor and reminds our troops, veterans, wounded warriors who sacrificed their lives.
- ❖ Christine Wormuth was confirmed unanimously by the US Senate to be the first female secretary of the Army.
- ❖ The Curiosity Rover, developed by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), has captured images of “shining clouds” on Mars.
  - Curiosity is a car-sized Mars rover, developed to explore Gale crater on Mars.
- ❖ Mary Kom won the silver medal at the 2021 ASBC Asian Boxing Championships in Dubai.
  - She lost to two-time world champion Nazym Kyzaibay of Kazakhstan.
- ❖ Global Day of Parents day is observed on 1<sup>st</sup> June annually to honour parents and their commitments to children across the world.



- It is a United Nations observance day.
- ❖ World Reef Awareness Day is observed on June 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - It helps to create awareness among various business communities and the general public about the fragile biological system of our oceans' coral reefs.
- ❖ An eight-member ministerial panel under the Meghalaya CM Conrad K Sangma is formed.
  - This is to consider Goods and Services Tax (GST) exemptions on a range of Covid-19 essentials such as vaccines, drugs, testing kits and ventilators.
- ❖ A book titled "Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020" is authored by Salman Rushdie.
- ❖ CBSE launched a nationwide Young Warrior movement to engage 5 million young people to fight against Covid-19.
  - Students and teachers between the ages of 10 and 30 years can join this movement to safeguard themselves, their families, their communities, and the country.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a fine of Rs 10 crore on HDFC Bank for deficiencies in regulatory compliance found in the auto loan portfolio of the bank.
  - As per the RBI, HDFC Bank has violated the provisions of section 6(2) and section 8 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- ❖ First Human case of H10N3 bird flu was reported in eastern province of Jiangsu in China.
  - H10N3 is a low pathogenic or less severe strain of virus in poultry.
- ❖ Scientists have identified a new drug that is reportedly very effective in preventing severe COVID-19 in mice already infected with SARS-CoV-2.
  - The drug identified is diABZI.
- ❖ The Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman after the 43rd GST Council Meeting, announced that the GST Council has decided to exempt the import duty on COVID-19 related items till August 31, 2021.
  - In the view of rising cases of Black Fungus in the country, the Council has also included Amphotericin B in the exemptions list which includes other covid relief items.
- ❖ In the meeting of National Digital Health Mission chaired by PM, it was highlighted that a Unified Health Interface (UHI) will be rolled soon.
  - The Unified Health Interface (UHI) is an open and interoperable IT network for digital health in India.



- ❖ Global cybersecurity firm, Sophos, published its “the State of Ransomware 2021 report’.
  - It finds that 68% of Indian organisations were hit by ransomware in last 12 months.
- ❖ Ravi Shastri has penned a book titled ‘Stargazing: The Players in My Life’.
  - The book is being published by HarperCollins India and it is been co-authored by Ayaz Memon.
- ❖ Pharmeasy has announced the acquisition of Medlife.
  - It is now the India’s largest online pharmacy.
- ❖ Director-General of Central Reserve Police Force, Kuldip Singh has been given additional charge of Director General of National Investigation Agency, NIA.
  - He will hold the additional post after Y C Modi.
- ❖ International Sex Workers’ Day is observed annually on June 2 of each year.
  - The day honours and recognises the exploited working conditions of sex workers.
- ❖ Tata Steel Ltd chief executive officer and managing director, T.V. Narendran has taken over as president of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2021-22.
  - Confederation of Indian Industry was founded in 1895.
- ❖ The Odisha government decided to include disaster and pandemic management in high school and college curriculums.
- ❖ The Indian Broadcasting Foundation announced the appointment of Justice Vikramjit Sen as the Chairman of its newly formed self-regulatory body Digital Media Content Regulatory Council (DMCRC).
  - He is a former Supreme Court judge.
- ❖ SBI has come out with its Ecowrap report in which it has slashed its 2021-22 GDP growth forecast to 7.9 per cent from 10.4 per cent earlier.
  - The study has also examined a district-wise comparison of the Covid deaths for each state between the first and second wave.
- ❖ Microsoft has launched first ever “Asia Pacific Public Sector Cyber Security Executive Council”.
  - Council was set up with the aim of accelerating public-private partnerships in cybersecurity, and share threat intelligence.
- ❖ West Bengal chief secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay was immediately appointed as the Chief Advisor of chief minister Mamata Banerjee after his retirement.
  - He will take on the new role from June 1 for a period of three years.





- ❖ China has decided to allow each couple to have up to three children, ending its strict two-child policy.
  - This comes after China's population data over the past decade showed the slowest population growth in decades.
- ❖ China's Tianzhou-2 cargo spacecraft docked with the Tianhe space station module in low Earth orbit.
  - It was launched from Wenchang spaceport.
- ❖ The European Commission approved the use of Pfizer and BioNTech SE's COVID-19 vaccine to vaccinate children of age 12 - 15.
  - The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is already being used in the European Union to vaccinate those aged 16 years and above.
- ❖ The Former Supreme Court judge Arun Kumar Mishra will be the new chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).
  - The selection panel consisted of Prime Minister, Home Minister, Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha Speaker and the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ The Largest warship (Kharg) of Iranian navy caught fire and sank in the Gulf of Oman (near Iranian port of Jask).
  - Kharg used to resupply other ships in fleet and conduct training exercises.
- ❖ UNICEF has signed an agreement with vaccine manufacturer Moderna on vaccines supply for its international vaccination efforts against SARS-COV-2 virus.
  - Under the supply agreement, UNICEF will get access to up to 34 million doses of covid-19 vaccine.
- ❖ The International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing is organized every year on 5th June.
  - This day was proclaimed in the UN General Assembly in December 2017.
- ❖ The Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan digitized versions of Flagship Health Schemes on the IT platform of the National Health Authority.
  - The Union Minister launched the revamped Central Government Health Schemes (CGHS) and the Umbrella Schemes of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) and the Health Minister's Discretionary Grant (HMDG) on the platform of the National Health Mission (NHM).
- ❖ Trial of Bharat Biotech's COVAXIN on children below 18 years was started at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Patna.



- ❖ The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced that the Men's Cricket World Cup in 2027 and 2031, will once again be a 14-team (54-match tournament).
  - Earlier in the 2019 World Cup, only 10 teams contested, compared to 14 teams in the 2015 World Cup.
- ❖ The International Dairy Federation (IDF) has unanimously elected R S Sodhi to its board.
  - He is managing director, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd or GCMMF that sells Amul branded products in India.
- ❖ The Mobile Farmers Market program at Thammampatti in Salem was recently launched.
  - The Department of Agriculture has decided to launch this mobile Farmer market program across the state.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit has appointed retired IAS officer V. Palanikumar as the State Election Commissioner.
  - Mr. Palanikumar will hold office for a period of two years from the date on which he assumes the charge.
- ❖ The Union Finance Ministry has asked the States to split wage payments under the MGNREG scheme from this financial year into Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and others.
  - The measure is aimed at highlighting what the Centre is doing for the SC and ST communities.
- ❖ The African Union announced Mali's suspension from the Union.
  - It also threatened the impoverished country with sanctions following a second military coup in nine months.
- ❖ Social Justice and Empowerment Minister, Thaawar chand Gehlot, launched the Senior care Ageing Growth Engine or SAGE project.
  - SAGE project will be launched to select, support and create "one-stop access" of elderly care products and services provided by credible start-ups.
- ❖ According to TATA Power, Blue-finned Mahseer has moved to "least concern" status from red list of endangered species of IUCN.
  - TATA group is involved in conservation of blue-finned and golden mahseer for 50 years in Lonavala, Pune.
- ❖ Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has found three caves in Buddhist Caves Complex in Nasik, Maharashtra.
  - These Caves have the images of Buddha & Bodhisattvas and sculptures with designs of Indo-Greek architecture.



- ❖ New Zealand was the latest country to sign a space agreement with NASA.
  - New Zealand became the eleventh signatory to the Artemis Accords.
- ❖ Dr Patrick Amoth has been appointed as the Chairman of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Executive Board, for a period of one year.
  - He is the acting Director-General for Health, Ministry of Health of Kenya.
- ❖ Cannes Film Festival announced that Jodie Foster will receive Lifetime Achievement Palme d'Or at this year's festival.
  - Jodie Foster is a two-time Oscar winner.
- ❖ Indian Coast Guard (ICG), in coordination with Sri Lankan authorities, engaged in fighting a major fire onboard in the Chemical laden container vessel MV X-Press Pearl.
  - This coordinated joint operation is named as Sagar Aaraksha-II.
- ❖ The UN's International Labour Organization published its flagship report 'World Employment and Social Outlook (WESO) 2021'.
  - The theme of the report was, 'The role of digital labour platforms in transforming the world of work.'
- ❖ In Hockey, the Indian men's team maintained their fourth position in the latest International Hockey Federation world rankings.
  - The women's team held the ninth position.
- ❖ The Asian Development Bank and the Government of India signed an agreement for financing road up-gradation project in Sikkim.
  - In 2011, the ADB-funded North Eastern State Roads Investment Program was launched to improve road connectivity in Sikkim.
- ❖ Indian wrestler Sumit Malik has failed his dope test for the Tokyo Olympics.
  - He has bleak chances of participating in the Tokyo Olympics.
- ❖ Parliament of Denmark has approved plans for an artificial island which will house 35,000 people.
  - This will help in protecting port of Copenhagen from rising sea levels.
- ❖ China announced that the country has authorized the emergency use of CoronaVac vaccine for children aged between 3 and 17 years.
  - Coronavac vaccine is a Covid-19 vaccine being manufactured by the Beijing-based pharmaceutical firm, Sinovac Biotech.
- ❖ The DCGI has granted permission to the Serum Institute to manufacture the Sputnik COVID-19 vaccine in India.



- The Pune-based SII has collaborated with Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology, Moscow of Russia developing Sputnik V at its licensed Hadapsar facility.
- ❖ The Union government has appointed Anup Chandra Pandey as Election Commissioner.
  - Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar are the other two members of the panel.
- ❖ El Salvador has become the first country to formally adopt bitcoin as legal tender.
  - Proposal to legalise cryptocurrency was put forward by President Nayib Bukele.
- ❖ The UN Security Council has recommended Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for a second five-year term.
  - He will be the Secretary-General of the United Nations for another 5-year beginning from January 1, 2022.
- ❖ 2021 P4G Seoul Summit aims to position P4G (Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals 2030) as a delivery mechanism to build back better and greener in this decade of action.
  - The 2021 P4G Seoul Summit's theme was Inclusive Green Recovery towards Carbon Neutrality.
- ❖ Weyan India's first village to vaccinate all its adult population against COVID-19.
  - It is a remote village in Bandipora district of Jammu & Kashmir with an adult population of 362.
- ❖ Russia is building its first naval ship which will be fully equipped with stealth technology.
  - Stealth technology will to make it hard to detect.
- ❖ NITI Aayog has recommended divesting government stake in the Central Bank of India and Indian Overseas Bank (IOB).
  - This is a part of the privatisation initiative announced in the Union Budget.
- ❖ India has been elected as a member of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.
  - It has the membership for three-year terms of 2022-24.
- ❖ Indian cricketer Virender Sehwag has launched an experiential learning portal for Cricket coaching named CRICURU.
  - CRICURU is India's first AI-enabled coaching website.
- ❖ India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy is being held at the Andaman Sea.





- This is the 31st edition.
- ❖ BharatPe has announced that it has inked a three-year-long deal to become an official partner with International Cricket Council (ICC).
  - BharatPe is a lending and digital payments start-up.
- ❖ Oman has been named as the host of the inaugural International Hockey Federation (FIH) Hockey5s World Cup.
  - The events will take place in Oman's capital city Muscat in January 2024.
- ❖ Arab-India Energy Forum that concluded recently discussed a range of issues on boosting two-way energy cooperation and intra-regional power trading dominated the forum.
  - The event was held virtually under the co-chair of the Kingdom of Morocco and India.
- ❖ The annular solar eclipse was witnessed in several parts of the world on June 10th.
  - The June 10 solar eclipse was rare as it witnessed the occurrence of a ring of fire around the Moon.
- ❖ Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, K Nagaraj Naidu was named chef de cabinet by the incoming UN general assembly president, Maldivian foreign minister Abdulla Shahid.
  - He was appointed for the duration of one-year tenure.
- ❖ According to a recent order, all jobs in the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh have been reserved for the residents of the region.
  - The order was issued by Lieutenant Governor R.K. Mathur.
- ❖ Indian Oil's Gujarat Refinery will be implementing India's first Hydrogen Dispensing Facility as a clean fuel initiative.
  - This facility aims to fuel Hydrogen buses plying between Vadodara and Kevadia / Sabarmati Ashram.
- ❖ India's export of agricultural and allied products in 2020-21 have increased by 17.34 percent.
  - India experienced huge growth in the export of cereals, wheat, millets, non-basmati rice, maize and other coarse grains.
- ❖ Countries including Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and United Arab Emirates (UAE) have been elected to UN Security Council (non-permanent members).
  - Five countries won elections unopposed because they were the only candidates from their respective regional groups.



- ❖ Flipkart, has partnered with Telangana government to lead “Medicines from the Sky” project.
  - Consortium has been tasked with development and execution of drone deliveries of medical supplies to remote areas under the project.
- ❖ The Office of Principal Scientific Adviser to Government has initiated a project called “Project O2 for India”.
  - It aims in ensuring supply of critical raw materials like zeolites, Manufacturing of compressors and setting up of small oxygen plants.
- ❖ India’s Nagraj Adiga has been elected as the Asia-Oceania Representative.
  - He was elected at the recently concluded 2021 International Association of Ultrarunners (IAU) Congress.
- ❖ Nobel laureate Amartya Sen has penned his memoir ‘Home in the World’.
  - The book will be published in July by Penguin Random House.
- ❖ Israel will become the world’s first mask-free country in the Corona period.
  - This was announced by Israel’s Health Minister Yuli Edelstein.
- ❖ Indian Grand Prix 4 will be held on June 21 at the National Institute of Sports in Patiala.
  - India’s star sprinters Dutee Chand & Hima Das are expected to participate in the fourth Indian GP of 2021.
- ❖ According to World Giving Index 2021 report, India is 14th most charitable country across the world.
  - This report is released by Charities Aid Foundation.
- ❖ IIT, Ropar has developed a device called ‘Jivan Vayu’ as a substitute for CPAP (Continuous positive airway pressure) machine.
  - This device functions even without electricity.
- ❖ The Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry has decided to allow LPG customers to decide which distributors they want their LPG refill from.
  - The decision was taken to further empower the LPG consumers and making energy accessible and affordable to all.
- ❖ The United States Government will donate 500 million doses of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to world’s 100 poorest countries.
  - This largest ever donation is the by a single country.
- ❖ Former Indian batsman, Suresh Raina has released his autobiography ‘Believe – What Life and Cricket Taught Me’.
  - The book is co-authored by Bharat Sundaresan.



- ❖ D. Gukesh won the \$15,000 Gelfand Challenge chess title.
  - He also got a 'wild card' for the elite Meltwaters Champions Chess Tour.
- ❖ Aruna Tanwar has become India's first-ever Taekwondo entry in the Paralympics.
  - Tanwar has been awarded a wild card entry for the Tokyo Paralympics.
- ❖ U.K. and Indian scientists have jointly developed a low-cost sensor that can detect fragments of the virus responsible for COVID-19 within wastewater.
  - It is developed by researchers from the University of Strathclyde and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government appointed former Nagapattinam MP A.K.S. Vijayan as its special representative in Delhi.
  - He is appointed for a period of one year.
- ❖ The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay has set up the 'Koita Centre for Digital Health' (KCDH) under the aegis of the Koita Foundation.
  - This is to be the India's first digital health center.
- ❖ Microsoft Corp, named its Chief Executive Officer, Satya Nadella as its new chairman.
  - He took over as the company's CEO in 2014, succeeding Steve Ballmer.
- ❖ Policy bazaar has got approval from regulator IRDAI to undertake insurance broking.
  - The broking licence will allow the company to venture into segments like claims assistance, offline services, and establish Points of Presence network.
- ❖ International Picnic Day is celebrated on 18 June globally.
  - It is celebrated with an objective of encouraging people to have picnics.
- ❖ The National Highways Authority of India, under Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has made mandatory use of drones for monthly video recording of National Highway projects.
  - The videos are to be uploaded on NHAI's portal 'Data Lake'.
- ❖ World Health Organisation (WHO) has designated 'Lambda' variant, as a 'Variant of Interest' (VOI).
  - It was initially detected in Peru in August 2020.
- ❖ A huge diamond weighing more than 1,000 carats has been discovered in the southern African country of Botswana.
  - The diamond could be the third-largest mined in history and was unearthed by a firm called Debswana.



- ❖ At least 5 million trees were planted by the citizens in Ghana in just one single day.
  - This was done under the "Green Ghana" program.
- ❖ UN General Assembly appointed Antonio Guterres as the UN Secretary-General for a second term beginning January 1, 2022.
  - President of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly Volkan Bozkir announced this.
- ❖ Ebrahim Raisi had secured victory in Iran's presidential election.
  - He is a hardline judge who is under U.S. sanctions for human rights abuses.
- ❖ On June 19 every year, the World Sauntering Day is celebrated.
  - The day reminds everyone to slowdown, connect with nature and enjoy things around us.
- ❖ Father's Day is observed on the third Sunday of June.
  - This year the date is 20 June, 2021.
- ❖ Recently, scientists conducted experiments on monoclonal antibody cocktail named REGEN-COV2.
  - Antibody has been found to be life-saving treatment for severely affected Covid-19 patients.
- ❖ Mawya Sudan has become the 12th woman officer to be inducted as a fighter pilot in the IAF.
  - She is the first woman fighter pilot from Jammu and Kashmir (Rajouri district).
- ❖ India received the highest-ever daily vaccination count of 80 lakh administered on June 21, 2021.
  - Free coronavirus vaccines were made available to states for vaccination of all above the age of 18 from this day.
- ❖ The UN committee recommended adding Great Barrier Reef to the list of "in danger" World Heritage Sites.
  - The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef system located in the Coral Sea, off the coast of Queensland, Australia.
- ❖ The Israeli military has successfully tested an airborne high-power laser which has the capability to shoot down drones.
  - It is a prototype developed with Elbit Systems.
- ❖ As per the data by the Solvent Extractors' Association of India, Malaysia surpassed Indonesia to become India's biggest Crude Palm Oil (CPO) exporter in 2020-21.





- Indonesia imposed heavy taxes on exports of the edible oil last year.
- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh woman, Dr Tadang Minu, becomes the first in the state and the second Indian woman in the country to be appointed as a member of the Coaches Committee of the International Boxing Association (AIBA).
  - She has been appointed by AIBA for her enormous knowledge and experience in the field of boxing.
- ❖ The Ships of the Indian Navy and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) participated in a joint naval exercise at the Indian Ocean to realize “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)”.
  - “JS KASHIMA (TV3508) and JS SETOYUKI (TV3518) conducted a bilateral exercise with INS KULISH (P63) at the Indian Ocean.
- ❖ Bharti Airtel and Tata Group have announced a strategic partnership for implementing 5G network solutions for India.
  - This will be available for commercial development from January 2022.
- ❖ Filmmaker-writer Tahira Kashyap Khurrana has announced her upcoming book about motherhood, titled "The 7 Sins of Being A Mother".
  - Last year, she had released a book named "12 Commandments of Being A Woman".
- ❖ WWF India has inducted Upasana Kamineni, Director, Apollo Hospitals, as “Ambassador of Forest Frontline Heroes”.
  - This is with the aim to appreciate the efforts of frontline workers in hospitals and in the wildlife protection space.
- ❖ British lawyer Karim Khan was sworn as the new chief prosecutor for the International Criminal Court.
  - He takes over from Fatou Bensouda of the Gambia, whose nine-year term ended.
- ❖ The International Widows Day is observed to draw attention to the voices and experiences of widows and to galvanize the unique support that they have.
  - Loomba Foundation initiated the International Widow’s Day in 2005.
- ❖ The Cochin International Airport (CIAL) won Airport Council International (ACI) Director General’s Roll of Excellence honour in Airport Service Quality.
  - This recognition is awarded to those airports which, in opinion of passengers, consistently delivered excellent services.
- ❖ The official Olympic theme song for the Indian contingent was launched.
  - Mohit Chauhan has composed and sung the song titled “Lakshya Tera Samne Hai”.



- ❖ WHO is to set up a technology transfer hub to manufacture COVID-19 vaccines in South Africa.
  - This will help African companies to begin the manufacturing of mRNA vaccines.
- ❖ India has retained its position as the second largest source of FDI for the United Kingdom for the year 2020.
  - USA remains at the top.
- ❖ China has planned to send its first crewed mission to MARS in the year 2033.
- ❖ India & Saint Vincent and The Grenadines signed agreement for exchange of information & assistance to collect taxes.
- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has launched a 'Centre for Research on Start-Ups and Risk Financing' (CREST).
  - CREST will help in creating a data repository on Indian start-ups and ventures.
- ❖ The International Day in Support of Victims of Torture is observed on 26th June every year by the United Nations.
  - This day is observed to raise awareness among the people about human torture that it is not only unacceptable but it is also a crime.
- ❖ Zhang Zhizhen became the 1st Chinese man to make the main draw at the Wimbledon in the Open Era.
  - The 24-year-old Zhang is ranked 178th.
- ❖ Triton Electric Vehicle Pvt Ltd has announced that it will be setting up a manufacturing unit for electric vehicles at the National Investment & Manufacturing Zone at Zaheerabad, Telangana.
  - Triton Electric Vehicle Pvt Ltd is an electric vehicle company from US.
- ❖ Goa Becomes First State in India to Become Rabies Free.
  - CM Pramod Sawant announced that the state has not had a single case of rabies in Goa in the past three years.
- ❖ Sajjan Prakash became the first Indian swimmer to qualify for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics.
  - Sajjan achieved the feat at the Sette Colli Trophy in Rome.
- ❖ Manu Bhaker-Saurabh Chaudhary clinches silver in 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event in Osijek.
  - It is India's 3rd medal at the ISSF World Cup in Osijek, Croatia.



- ❖ China replaced the UAE as the second largest export destination for India in fiscal 2021.
  - The US remained the country's top export partner.
- ❖ Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited and Google Cloud are embarking on a comprehensive, long-term strategic relationship.
  - This is with a goal of powering 5G in enterprise and consumer segments nationwide.
- ❖ The Vigilance Commissioner Suresh N. Patel will act as the Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) in the Central Vigilance Commission.
  - The appointment was necessitated after Sanjay Kothari completed his term.
- ❖ The European Space Agency is set to hire world's first physically disabled astronaut.
- ❖ The French author Emmanuel Carrere has been granted this year's Spanish Princess of Asturias Literature Award.
  - He is popular for his non-fiction books in a high literary vein.
- ❖ Rahi Sarnobat won gold medal in women's 25 m pistol event at the ISSF Shooting World Cup held at Croatia.
  - Sarnobat's gold is India's first in the ongoing edition.
- ❖ BCCI president Sourav Ganguly has confirmed that BCCI (The Board of Control for Cricket in India) is set to host the T20 World Cup in UAE.
  - The remaining season of the IPL 2021 will also be held in the UAE.
- ❖ The United Nations observe 29 June as International Day of the Tropics.
  - The day celebrates the extraordinary diversity of the tropics while highlighting unique challenges and opportunities nations of the Tropics face.
- ❖ The Fortis Memorial Research Institute in Gurugram has started the Trial Run of Sputnik V Vaccine for the general public.
  - Currently, Covishield, Sputnik V, and COVAXIN are being used in the country for the nationwide inoculation drive.
- ❖ The National Insurance Awareness Day was observed on 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2021.
  - It is celebrated with the motive to make people more and more aware about the insurance benefits and different plans.

## TAMIL NADU

### Village rice

- ❖ A start-up firm has exported two consignments of 4.5 tonnes of patented “village rice” sourced from Kumbakonam in Tamil Nadu’s Thanjavur district to Ghana and Yemen via air and sea routes.
- ❖ The start-up's name is Udaya Agro Farm.
- ❖ Enriched with protein, fibre, and a variety of minerals, ‘village rice’ is sourced directly from farmers of Thanjavur.



### Government's announcement on June 3<sup>rd</sup>

- ❖ A multi super-speciality hospital in Chennai’s King Institute of Preventive Medicine and Research will be constructed at the cost of ₹250 crore.
- ❖ Kalaingar Memorial Library, spread across 2 lakh square feet, will be constructed in Madurai at a cost of ₹70 crore.
- ❖ A new award, Illakiya Mamani, will be instituted to honour three Tamil writers annually with a citation and cash award of ₹5 lakh.
- ❖ Housing will be provided for the writers who are recipients of renowned literary awards either in their district or whichever district in which they wish to reside.
- ❖ At the cost of ₹24.30 crore, a 16,000-tonne capacity warehouses will be built in Thiruvavur district.
- ❖ The scheme of free bus transport has been extended to people with disabilities and the transgender.

### **T.M. Kalliannan Gounder**

- ❖ T.M. Kalliannan Gounder recently died at the age of 101.
- ❖ He was the last surviving former member of the Indian Constituent Assembly.
- ❖ He served as a Member of the Legislative Council in Tamil Nadu and also as an MLA thrice, between 1952 and 1967.
- ❖ He was reportedly the youngest member in the Constituent Assembly then and also a member of India's first provisional parliament.



### **State Development Policy Council**

- ❖ Chief Minister M K Stalin revamped the State Development Policy Council (SDPC) with Prof J Jayaranjan as the new vice chairman.
- ❖ It is headed by the chief minister.
- ❖ Besides a permanent member the council will have eight part-time members.
- ❖ Prof Rama Srinivasan will be its permanent member.
- ❖ The other part time members include Prof M Vijayabaskar, Prof Sultan Ahmed Ismail, former IAS official M Deenabandhu, industrialist Mallika Srinivasan and DMK MLA from Manaargudi T R B Rajaa, Dr. Narthaki Nataraj and medical practitioners J Amalorpavanathan and K Sivaraman.
- ❖ New history is being written in Tamil Nadu by having Thirumiku Narthaki Nataraj as the member of the State Development Policy Committee.
- ❖ This is the first time in India a Transgender people is in a high-level committee of a state government.
- ❖ State planning commission was originally established by the former chief minister M Karunanidhi on May 25, 1971.



- ❖ It was established as an advisory body to recommend developmental schemes for the state.
- ❖ It was renamed as State Development Policy Council by the earlier AIADMK government on April 23, 2020.



### **International Memory Studies Workshop - IIT Madras**

- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology Madras' Centre for Memory Studies recently hosted virtually Asia's first International Memory Studies Workshop.
- ❖ This international workshop is the first of its kind in Asia.
- ❖ The launch of the Indian Network for Memory Studies will take place in mid-June 2021 through a virtual event at IIT Madras.

### **Operation Wind**

- ❖ During the lockdown and following the closure of liquor outlets, illicit liquor is being sold across the State of Tamilnadu.
- ❖ The Prohibition and Enforcement Wing (PEW) has launched a special drive called "Operation Wind" from June 8 to 22.
- ❖ This aims to prevent production and sale of illicit liquor / arrack in the entire State.

### **Justice AK Rajan Committee**

- ❖ Justice AK Rajan Committee was appointed to examine the impact of NEET on medical aspirants, who are socially and economically deprived.
- ❖ It was appointed by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin.
- ❖ The committee will also suggest an alternative methodology for admission in medical colleges.

## Mettur Dam opening – June 12

Mettur Dam Opening day, level, storage, inflows & outflows					
Year	Opening Date	Level in Feet on Opening day	Storage in Tmc on Opening day	Inflow in Cusecs on release day	Outflow in Cusecs on next day
2009	28-07-2009	84.68	58.16	21398	12000
2010	28-07-2010	82.38	44.37	3939	12000
2011	06-08-2011	116.00	87.23	4143	12000
2012	17-09-2012	84.16	46.22	12418	15000
2013	02-08-2013	109.00	77.00	19340	15500
2014	10-08-2014	108.20	76.58	89723	9000
2015	09-08-2015	96.51	60.41	2603	13000
2016	20-09-2016	87.68	50.04	10092	12000
2017	02-10-2017	93.93	58.36	17875	15000
2018	19-07-2018	108.00	77.00	101277	20000
2019	14-08-2019	107.75	75.25	111069	10000
2020	12-06-2020	101.73	67.10	1439	10000
2021	12-06-2021	94.81	60.78	1170	10000

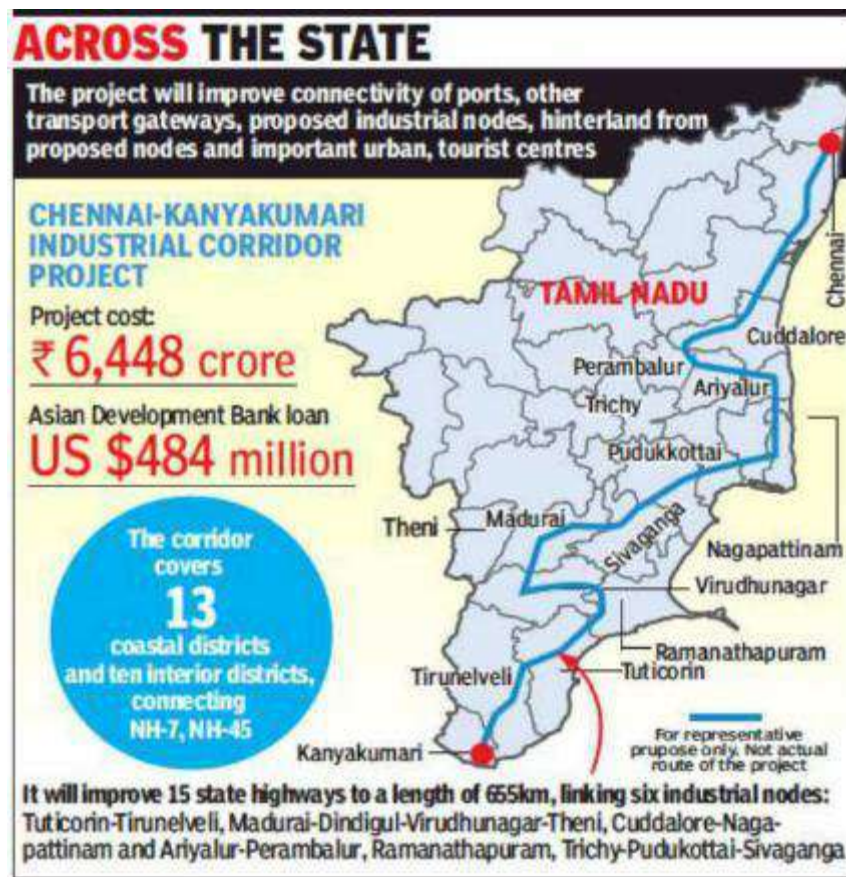
- ❖ The Tamilnadu CM raised the shutters of Mettur dam to release water for Kuruvai cultivation.
- ❖ This was the 18th time water was being released for Kuruvai cultivation on June 12.
- ❖ It targets to benefit 16.05 lakh acres.
- ❖ Irrigation will be across Tiruchirappalli, Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Ariyalur, Preambular, Pudukkottai, and Cuddalore districts.

## Keezhadi excavation – 7<sup>th</sup> phase

- ❖ A baby bone was found during excavation in Manalur area.
- ❖ Konthagai was only considered as the burial site.
- ❖ Keezhadi, Agaram and Manalur were residential areas.
- ❖ This is the first time a baby bone has been found in the Manalur area.

## Chennai - Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor

- ❖ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India have signed a \$484 million loan.
- ❖ This is to improve transport connectivity and facilitate industrial development in the Chennai–Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) in the state of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ CKIC is part of India's East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC), which stretches from West Bengal to Tamil Nadu.



### **Economic Advisory Council - Tamil Nadu**

- ❖ Newly-elected Tamil Nadu government has decided to constitute an “Economic advisory council to the chief minister”.
- ❖ Its members include,
  - Nobel laureate Esther Duflo of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in USA,
  - Former Reserve Bank of India governor, Raghuram Rajan,
  - Former chief economic advisor to central government, Dr Arvind Subramanian,
  - Development economist, Jean Dreze and
  - Former Union finance secretary Dr S Narayan.



**ஆளுநர் உரையின் முக்கிய அம்சங்கள்**

**பொருளாதார ஆலோசனை குழு நியுணர்வுகள்**

**16** ரகுராம் ராஜன்  
இந்திய பிரதமர் அலுவலகத்தில் முன்னாள் அமைச்சர்

**17** எஸ்தர் டி.பி.லா  
சென்னை மாநகர அமைதிக்கான பொருளாதார நிபுணர்

**18** அரவிந்த் கந்திராமனியன்  
இந்திய அரசின் முன்னாள் தலைமை பொருளாதார ஆலோசகர்

**19** ஜி.பி. செல்வம்  
மாநிலப் பஞ்சாயத்துக்களுக்கான சென்னை மாநகர ஆட்சி அமைப்பின்

**20** டாக்டர் எஸ். நாராயணன்  
இந்திய அரசின் முன்னாள் நிதித்துறை செயலாளர்

21-06-2021 சென்னை: ஐ.எம்.சி.சி., சென்னை மாநகர அரசின் பொருளாதார

### First session of the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly

- ❖ The first session of the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly began at the Kalaivanar Arangam.
- ❖ The assembly commenced its proceedings with the address of Governor Banwarilal Purohit.
- ❖ According to his address,
  - Working Women's hostel will be formed in all districts.
  - Smart cities with latest facilities will be developed near all metro cities in the State.
  - State will urge central government to constitute a national commission for the welfare of fishermen.
  - State to introduce a separate annual budget for agriculture.
  - State to introduce a new legislation to regulate ground water use.



### **CEO World Magazine**

- ❖ Two colleges in Tamil Nadu have got a place in the 2021 list of top 100 medical colleges in the world.
- ❖ Every year on behalf of CEO World Magazine, a list of the world's top medical colleges and various other colleges, including fashion and management, is published.
- ❖ In this list Vellore Christian Medical College is ranked 49th and Chennai Medical College is ranked 64th.
- ❖ Similarly, Puducherry Jipmer Medical College is ranked 59th.
- ❖ Varanasi Medical College is ranked 72nd.

### **Reward for sportspersons - MK Stalin**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin announced that his government will reward sportspersons who bag medals in the upcoming Tokyo Olympic Games.
- ❖ MK Stalin said that sportsperson who win a gold medal will be given Rs 3 crore as prize money.
- ❖ Those winning silver medals will be given Rs 2 crore and Rs 1 crore will be given to bronze medal winners.
- ❖ Gagan Narang, a Chennai native is still the only individual medallist from the state.
- ❖ He represented India in shooting and won a bronze in the 2012 London Olympics in the Men's 10m Air Rifle event.

## **NATIONAL**

### **IBF to be renamed as IBDF**

- ❖ The Apex body of broadcasters, Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) has extended its purview to cover digital streaming platforms.
- ❖ Also, it will be renamed as Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation (IBDF).
- ❖ Extended coverage will bring broadcasters and OTT (over-the-top) platforms, under one roof.
- ❖ A self-regulatory body called 'Digital Media Content Regulatory Council (DMCRC)' will be established for digital OTT platforms.





## **YUVA Scheme**

- ❖ The Ministry of Education has launched “YUVA- Prime Minister’s Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors”.
- ❖ YUVA is an Author Mentorship programme which will train young and budding authors aged below 30 years to in order to promote reading, writing and book culture in India.
- ❖ It will also project India and Indian writings worldwide.
- ❖ YUVA stands for “Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors”.
- ❖ The scheme is in line with PM’s vision of encouraging young writers to write about India’s freedom struggle.
- ❖ The scheme will be implemented by “National Book Trust of India” under the Ministry of Education.

## **PM CARES for Children**

- ❖ All children who have lost parents or surviving parent or legal guardian/adoptive parents due to Covid 19 will be supported under the scheme.

### **Highlights**

- ❖ Fixed Deposit in the name of the child: A corpus of Rs 10 lakh for each child when he or she reaches 18 years of age.
- ❖ They will be given a monthly stipend for five years starting from 18 years till 23 years to fulfil their personal requirements.
- ❖ After they will attain 23 years of age, they will be given full amount of Rs 10 lakh to use it professionally or personally.
- ❖ For children under 10 years - Admission will be given in the nearest Kendriya Vidyalaya or in a private school as a day scholar.
- ❖ For children between 11-18 years - The child will be given admission in any Central Government residential school such as Sainik School, Navodaya Vidyalaya etc.
- ❖ The child will be assisted in obtaining an education loan for Professional courses / Higher Education in India as per the existing Education Loan norms.
- ❖ All children will be enrolled as a beneficiary under Ayushman Bharat Scheme (PM-JAY) with a health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakhs.



**PM-CARES FOR CHILDREN**  
Launched for support & empowerment of COVID-19 affected children

**PM CARES**  
PRIME MINISTER'S CARES FOR ASSISTING AND PROTECTING CHILDREN

- Government stands with children **who lost their parents due to COVID-19**
- Such children to **get a monthly stipend** once they **turn 18** and a **fund of 10 lakh** when they **turn 23** from **PM CARES**
- Free education to be ensured** for children who lost their parents to COVID-19
- Children will be assisted to **get an education loan for higher education & PM CARES will pay interest on the loan**
- Children will **get free health insurance of 5 lakh under Ayushman Bharat till 18 years** & premium will be paid by **PM CARES**
- Children represent the future of the country and we will do everything to support and protect the children: **PM Narendra Modi**
- It is our duty, as a society, to care for our children and instil hope for a bright future: **PM Narendra Modi**

### Helpline numbers

- ❖ Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has launched four new helpline numbers to help people amid the second wave of covid-19.
- ❖ 1075 is the National Helpline no. of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- ❖ 1098 is the Child Helpline no. of Ministry of Women & Child Development.
- ❖ 14566 is the Senior Citizens Helpline of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- ❖ It will work in states like – Karnataka, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- ❖ 08046110007 is Helpline number of National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) that will provide psychological support.



### Nano Urea

- ❖ Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) will launch Nitrogen fertilizer-based Nano Urea in market in June 2021.
- ❖ A 500-ml Nano Urea is equivalent to 45kg of normal urea.
- ❖ 500 ml urea costs around 240 rupees.
- ❖ Apart from that, it will reduce input cost of farmers by 15% and cultivation will increase the yield by about 20%.

### OPV Sajag

- ❖ National Security Advisor (NSA), Ajit Doval has commissioned the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) Sajag.
- ❖ It has been constructed by Goa Shipyard Limited.
- ❖ Sajag is the third in a series of five offshore patrol vessels indigenously designed in line with Prime Minister's 'Make in India' vision.

### ECLGS 4.0

- ❖ The Government has increased the scope of Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for three more months.
- ❖ Extension will help businesses across several sectors of economy.

#### About

- ❖ 100% guarantee cover to be provided on loans, in hospitals/nursing clinics/medical colleges/homes, up to Rs.2 crore.

- ❖ Loan can be utilized up to set up on-site oxygen generation plants.
- ❖ Interest rate on load was capped at 7.5%.
- ❖ Additional ECLGS assistance of up to 10% of outstanding by February 2020 to borrowers who are covered under ECLGS 1.0.
- ❖ Ceiling of Rs.500 Cr. of loan outstanding for eligibility under ECLGS 3.0 will be removed.
- ❖ Civil Aviation sector will be eligible under ECLGS 3.0.
- ❖ Validity of ECLGS extended to 30.09.2021.

### **Horticulture Cluster Development Programme**

- ❖ The Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched the Horticulture Cluster Development Programme (CDP) for the integrated and market-led development of 53 horticulture clusters.
- ❖ The Agriculture Ministry has identified 53 horticulture clusters, of which 12 have been selected on a pilot basis.
- ❖ The Horticulture Cluster Development Program will address all the major issues that are related to the Indian Horticulture Sector including production, pre-production, logistics, post-harvest management, branding, and marketing.
- ❖ With this program, the Central Government aims at improving the exports of the targeted crops by about 20%.
- ❖ The program is also expected to attract an investment of Rs. 10,000 crores when implemented in all the 53 clusters.

### **2DG adjunct therapy in Covid treatment**

#### **Directions for use of 2DG in COVID-19 Patients as per DCGI Approval**

- The 2DG is approved for Emergency use as adjunct therapy to the standard of care in the treatment of COVID patients in the hospital settings.
- Ideally, 2DG should be prescribed as early as possible by Doctors for moderate to severe COVID patients for maximum duration up to 10 days.
- Uncontrolled diabetes, severe cardiac problem, ARDS, severe hepatic and renal impairment patients have not been studied yet with 2DG, hence caution should be exercised.
- 2DG should not be given to pregnant and lactating women and patients below 18 years.
- Patients/Attendants are advised to request their hospital to contact Dr Reddy's Lab, Hyderabad for medicine supply at email: 2DG@drreddys.com





- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) announced that the anti-COVID drug 2DG has been approved for emergency use as an adjunct therapy in the treatment of COVID-19 patients.
- ❖ DCGI approved the emergency use authorization of 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG).
- ❖ It was approved as an adjunct therapy for moderate to severe COVID-19 patients.

### **Bal Swaraj portal**

- ❖ The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has launched “Bal Swaraj” portal.
- ❖ It is an online tracking portal for real-time tracking & monitoring of Children who lost both or either of their parents in COVID-19.
- ❖ NCPCR is an organisation under the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- ❖ NCPCR is the monitoring authority of all children in India, under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.

### **Model Tenancy Act**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved “Model Tenancy Act” for circulation to all States and Union Territories.
- ❖ Model Tenancy Act, 2019, a tenancy law in India, was designed to rebuild tenancy market.
- ❖ The Creation of this Act was first announced in budget speech of 2019 by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- ❖ It seeks to replace archaic rental laws of India and to solve housing availability deficit.
- ❖ This Act will help in achieving the target of “Housing for All by 2022”.

### **MoC on Sustainable Urban Development**

- ❖ Union Cabinet approved Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on Sustainable Urban Development between India and Japan.
- ❖ To implement and strategize programmes on cooperation under MoC, a Joint Working Group (JWG) will be constituted.
- ❖ JWG will meet once in a year in Japan as well as in India, alternately.
- ❖ The Cooperation under MoC will continue for a period of 5 years, which can be auto-renewed for 5 years at a time.





- ❖ It is expected to create employment opportunities in listed areas of sustainable urban development like Urban Planning, affordable housing, rental housing, Smart Cities Development etc.

### **Cabinet approves SCO Agreement on Mass Media cooperation**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister approved the agreement on 'Cooperation in the field of Mass Media' between all the Member States of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).
- ❖ The Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization consists of eight countries: India, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Russia, and Uzbekistan
- ❖ The Agreement will
  - Provide an opportunity for the Member States to share new innovations and best practices in the field of Mass Media.
  - Boost equal and mutually beneficial cooperation between associations in the field of Mass Media.

### **RDSO joins 'One Nation, One Standard' scheme**

- ❖ The Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) has become the first standards body in the country to join the 'One Nation, One Standard' scheme of the central government.
- ❖ RDSO, the sole R&D wing of the Railways Ministry, sets standards for the Indian Railway Sector
- ❖ The RDSO has now been recognised as a 'Standard Developing Organisation' by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), for a three years period.

#### **Note**

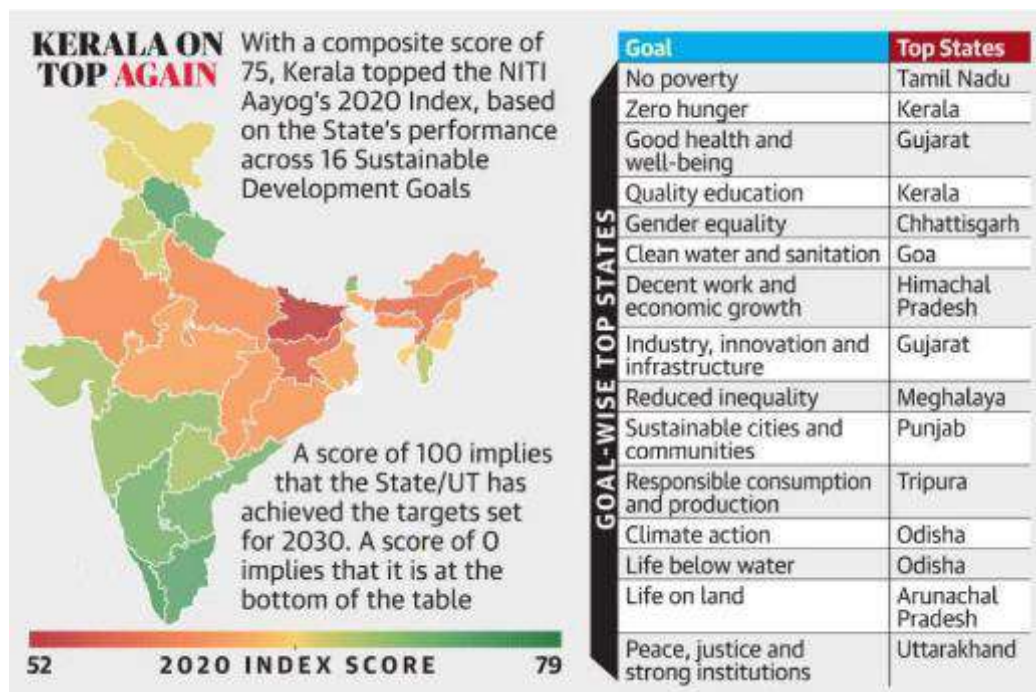
- ❖ BIS is the implementing agency for the 'One Nation, One Standard' scheme.
- ❖ RDSO and BIS will be now jointly defining the parameters to ensure quality goods and services for the Railways.
- ❖ The 'One Nation, One Standard' scheme was launched in 2019.
- ❖ Its objective is to develop one template of standard for one given product in the country, instead of having multiple agencies set it.
- ❖ This helps building a 'Brand India' identity in the long run.

## Nomination of members to Rajya Sabha

- ❖ The senior advocate Mahesh Jethmalani has been nominated to the Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind has also nominated renowned former journalist Swapan Dasgupta to Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ The President of India, on the advice of the Centre, can nominate 12 members to Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ The nominated members for the Upper House are drawn from the fields such as literature, arts, sports, science, and social service.

## NITI Aayog's SDG Index 2020-2021

- ❖ NITI Aayog released third edition of Sustainable Development Index for 2020-2021.
- ❖ The index is developed in collaboration with the United Nations in India.
- ❖ The Index evaluates the progress of states and union territories on social, economic and environmental parameters.
- ❖ Kerala retained its rank as the top state with a score of 75.
- ❖ Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu retained its second position with a score of - 74
- ❖ Bihar has been adjudged as the worst performer.





### **PanBio COVID-19 test kit**

- ❖ ICMR has approved second home-based Rapid Antigen Test kit named “PanBio COVID-19”.
- ❖ This test kit was developed by Abbott Rapid Diagnostics Division, Chicago.
- ❖ Earlier, ICMR had given its approval to “CoviSelf test kit”.
- ❖ That was developed by Pune-based Mylab Discovery Solutions.

### **Report on Variable Capital Company**

- ❖ Dr. K.P. Krishnan committee on “Variable Capital Company” has submitted its report to International Financial Services centres Authority (IFSCA).
- ❖ The report is regarding feasibility of Variable Capital Companies in International Financial Services Centres in India.
- ❖ VCC is an alternative form of corporate vehicle which can be used for open-ended as well as closed-ended alternative and traditional fund strategies.
- ❖ It is a corporate vehicle with flexible capital.
- ❖ These shares are created when investments are made and shares are readily redeemable by shareholders.
- ❖ It has been designed for fund management industry.

### **Mini kit programme**

- ❖ Union Agriculture Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar, launched a seed Mini kit programme by distributing high-yielding varieties seeds of oilseeds and pulses to farmers.
- ❖ About 20,27,318 seed mini kits of pulses, 74000 mini kits of groundnut and 8 lakhs for soybean will be provided free of cost to the farmers directly under National Food Security Mission.
- ❖ Mini-kits are being provided by NAFED, National Seeds Corporation (NCS), and Gujarat State Seeds Corporation.
- ❖ It is completely funded by government through National Food Security Mission.

### **30 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses - Biological-E**

- ❖ The Health Ministry has finalised arrangements with Hyderabad-based vaccine manufacturer Biological-E to reserve 30 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses (Corbevax).
- ❖ The Centre will be making an advance payment of Rs 1,500 crore to Biological-E for this order.

- ❖ This is the second made-in-India vaccine after Bharat Biotech's COVAXIN.



### **Global initiative for clean energy innovation**

- ❖ India launched the Mission Innovation Clean Tech Exchange.
- ❖ It is a global initiative that will create a network of incubators across member countries to accelerate clean energy innovation.
- ❖ This Mission was launched virtually at "Innovating to Net Zero Summit, 2021" organised by Chile.

### **AmB tablets**

- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad has developed nano-fibre based oral tablets of Amphotericin B, called as AmB.
- ❖ IIT Hyderabad researchers decided to keep this technology free of intellectual property rights.
- ❖ This medicine is reportedly cheaper, higher AmB absorption and less Nephrotoxicity.
- ❖ AmB was earlier available in injectable form only.
- ❖ It is used to treat fungal infections post COVID treatment.

### **Patent for Black Pepper Micronutrient**

- ❖ The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR) got patent for black pepper micronutrient foliar formulation.
- ❖ The application for this was submitted in 2013.
- ❖ Its formulation was developed by a team comprising of three scientists - Dr. V. Srinivasan, Dr. S. Hamza and Dr. R. Dinesh.

### **INS Sandhayak**

- ❖ It is Hydrographic survey ship.
- ❖ It is the first of its class indigenously designed and built.
- ❖ It was decommissioned recently after 40 years of service.
- ❖ The ship had undertaken approximately 200 major hydrographic surveys and numerous minor surveys.
- ❖ The ship has also been an active participant in many significant operations such as:
  - Op Pawan – assisting the Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka in 1987.
  - Op Rainbow – rendering humanitarian assistance post 2004 Tsunami.
  - Participation in the maiden joint Indo-US HADR Exercise 'Tiger-Triumph'.

### **NTPC – UN's CEO Water Mandate**

- ❖ NTPC Ltd, has become a signatory of UN Global Compact's CEO Water Mandate
- ❖ NTPC is India's largest power utility.
- ❖ CEO Water Mandate is a coveted league of companies focusing on efficient water management.
- ❖ Chairman and Managing Director of NTPC Gurdeep Singh, has joined a select group of business leaders.



### **ASPAGNII**

- ❖ The Department of Biotechnology - National Institute of Immunology receives ASPAGNII trademark for India's First Indigenous Tumour Antigen SPAG9.
- ❖ SPAG9 was discovered by Dr Anil Suri in 1998.
- ❖ Currently, ASPAGNII is being used in dendritic cell based immunotherapy in cervical, ovarian cancer and will be used in breast cancer.



## India slips two spots on achieving SDG

- ❖ India's rank has slipped by two places from last year to 117.
- ❖ It has got this result on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted as a part of the 2030 agenda by 193 United Nations member states in 2015.
- ❖ India ranks fifth after the four South Asian countries - Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.
- ❖ The overall SDG score of India is 61.9 out of 100.
- ❖ The report said Jharkhand and Bihar are the least prepared to meet the SDGs by 2030.
- ❖ The report also said that India ranked 168 out of 180 countries in terms of Environmental Performance Index.



## Norms for employing retired officials

- ❖ The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has laid down a defined procedure for getting vigilance clearance before employing a retired official on a contractual or consultancy basis.

### Procedure

- ❖ Before offering employment the vigilance clearance from the employer organisation, from which the officer has retired, should be obtained.
- ❖ In case a retired officer served in more than one organisation, clearance has to be obtained from all of them where the person was posted in the 10 years prior to retirement.
- ❖ A communication seeking clearance should also be sent to the CVC.



- ❖ If the employee is found involved in any vigilance-related matter or not cleared from the vigilance point of view, the erstwhile employer organisation would be responsible for all consequential actions.

### **Centre amends Civil Services Pension Rules**

- ❖ The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions informed that the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 are being amended.
- ❖ The newly amended Civil Services Pension Rules state that no retired official of security and intelligence organizations will publish material, including information about their experience and expertise gained in the organizations, without clearance from the head of the organization.
- ❖ In case of any failure to abide by the rules, their pension can be withheld or withdrawn in part of full.

### **Group for fixing minimum wages**

- ❖ The Union Labour and Employment Ministry had set up an expert group for fixing minimum wages and national floor minimum wages.
- ❖ The group, set up for three years, would be chaired by Professor Ajit Mishra, director of the Institute of Economic Growth.
- ❖ The decision is part of the Centre's implementation of the Code on Wages, 2019.
- ❖ Code on Wages, 2019 mandates a statutory national level floor wage.

### **E-100 Ethanol Project**

- ❖ PM Modi launched the E-100 Project.
- ❖ It was launched with the aim of setting up a network for production and distribution of ethanol in India.
- ❖ Prime Minister also launched 'Report of the Expert Committee on Road Map for ethanol blending in India 2020-2025'.
- ❖ It was released in line with the theme of World Environment Day - "promotion of biofuels for a better environment".

#### **Note**

- ❖ PM Modi also launched a Pilot Project of E 100 ethanol dispensing stations at three locations in Pune.
- ❖ The government has reset the target to achieve 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol by 2025.
- ❖ Earlier this target was to be met by 2030.

## YounTab scheme

- ❖ Ladakh Lt Governor has launched the YounTab scheme for students in the Union Territory to encourage digital learning.
- ❖ It is an initiative of Department of School Education.
- ❖ Under the scheme, 12,300 tablets with pre-loaded online and offline content.
- ❖ It includes textbooks, video lectures and online class applications.
- ❖ It would be distributed to government school students from Class 6th to 12th.



## Performance Grading Index

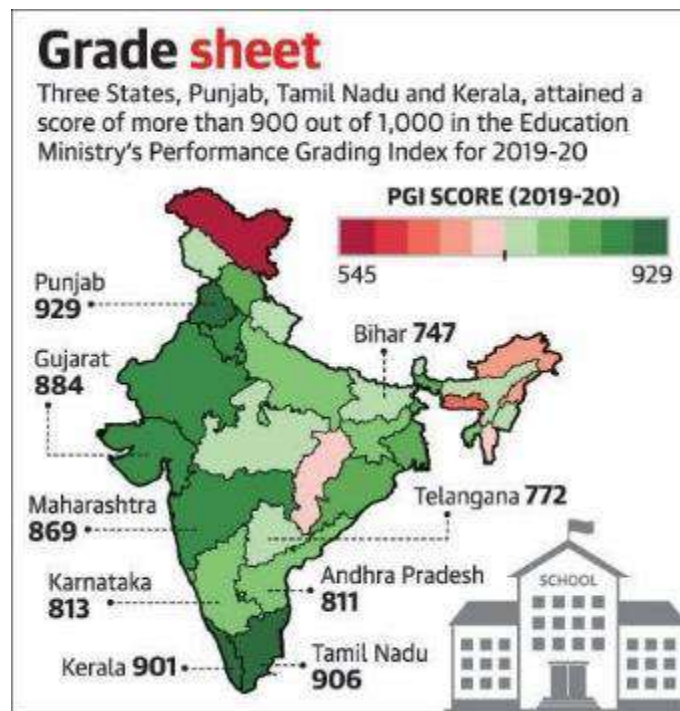
HOW THE REGION FARED						
The states and UTs were scored on 70 parameters under five main heads						
State (Rank)	Learning outcomes, quality (180)	Access (80)	Infra and facilities (150)	Equity (230)	Governance processes (360)	Total (1000)
<b>Punjab (1)</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>929</b>
Delhi (6)	124	77	149	224	324	898
Haryana (11)	134	75	131	217	305	862
HP (13)	140	77	131	220	271	839
J&K (26)	132	55	114	208	254	763

- ❖ The Ministry of Education has released the Performance Grading Index (PGI) for 2019-20.
- ❖ PGI is a tool to grade all States and UTs on their performance across 70 indicators on school education.
- ❖ It was first published in 2019 with reference year 2017-18.

## Findings

- ❖ Punjab, Chandigarh, Tamil Nadu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Kerala occupy the highest-grade A++ in 2019-20.
- ❖ Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan, Puducherry, Dadra and Nagar Haveli are in the A+ category.
- ❖ Punjab has scored the maximum points for governance and management.

- ❖ Bihar and Meghalaya have scored the lowest in terms of infrastructure and facilities.



### Raimona reserve forest



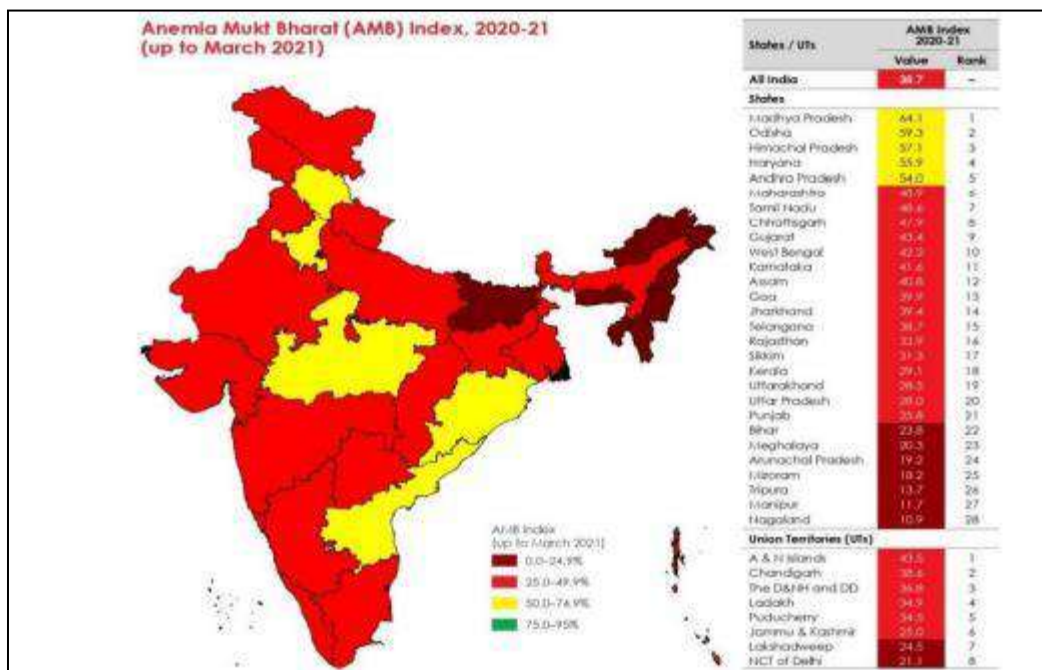
- ❖ Raimona reserve forest in Kokrajhar district has been upgraded to sixth national park of Assam.
- ❖ This forest comes under Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) across the border with Bhutan.
- ❖ Assam already has five national parks,



- Kaziranga National Park
- Manas National Park,
- Nameri National Park,
- Orang National Park and
- Dibru-Saikhowa National Park.

### Anemia Mukh Bharat Index 2020-21

- ❖ Himachal Pradesh has climbed to the third spot in the Anaemia Mukh Bharat Index 2020-21 national ranking.
- ❖ It has the score of 57.1.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh is in the first position with a score of 64.1
- ❖ It is followed by Odisha with a score of 59.3.



### Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyaan

- ❖ NITI Aayog and Piramal Foundation launched 'Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyaan'.
- ❖ This is to provide home-care support to asymptomatic covid-19 patients or patients with mild symptoms.
- ❖ This campaign was launched in 112 Aspirational Districts.



- ❖ This campaign will be supported by Piramal Foundation.
- ❖ It will work with district magistrates to support training of NGOs and volunteers.



### India wind energy market outlook

- ❖ It was released by Global Wind Energy Council.
- ❖ As per the report, India has a pipeline of 10.3 GW in Central and State markets.
- ❖ These pipelines will drive installations until 2023.
- ❖ This report highlights India will install 20 GW of wind energy capacity by 2021-25.
- ❖ India's total installed wind power capacity was 38 GW, as of February 2021.
- ❖ It has the fourth largest installed wind power capacity worldwide.
- ❖ European Union is the leading market in wind energy having around 48 GW of installed capacity.

### Hike in MSP

- ❖ The Central government has hiked the minimum support price (MSP) for common paddy, pulses, oilseeds and coarse cereals.
- ❖ The decision was taken by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

#### Note

- ❖ The Union Budget for 2018-19 had announced that MSP would be kept at levels of 1.5 the cost of production.

- ❖ The MSP is fixed twice a year on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
- ❖ CACP is a statutory body and submits separate reports recommending prices for kharif and rabi seasons.

## PADDY GETS MODEST RAISE

New MSP of kharif crops in 2021-22

CROP	NEW MSP*	% (ABSOLUTE*) HIKE
Sesamum	7,307	(₹452) 6.6%
Groundnut	5,550	(₹275) 5.2%
Tur	6,300	(₹300) 5%
Urad	6,300	(₹300) 5%
Bajra	2,250	(₹100) 4.6%
Jowar	2,738	(₹118) 4.5%
Cotton	5,726	(₹211) 3.8%
Paddy	1,940	(₹72) 3.8%
Niger Seed	6,930	(₹235) 3.5%
Ragi	3,377	(₹82) 2.5%
Sunflower Seed	6,015	(₹130) 2.2%
Soybean	3,950	(₹70) 1.8%
Moong	7,275	(₹79) 1.1%
Maize	1,870	(₹20) 1.1%

\*₹ per quintal; Paddy (common), Jowar (hybrid), Cotton (medium staple)

### Green airports recognition

- ❖ GMR Airports-run Delhi and Hyderabad airports have been felicitated by the Airports Council International (ACI) Asia-Pacific Green Airports Recognition 2021.
- ❖ They got this recognition for their environment sustainable initiatives.
- ❖ The Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) has been awarded the Platinum Recognition in the over 25 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA) category.
- ❖ Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL) received the Gold Recognition by the ACI in the below 25 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA) category.
- ❖ The program's objective

- Is to promote environmental best practices to minimize aviation's impact on the environment and
- Is to recognize airport members who have outstanding accomplishments in their environmental projects.
- ❖ The theme of ACI's Green Airports Recognition programme for 2021 was 'Air Quality Management'.



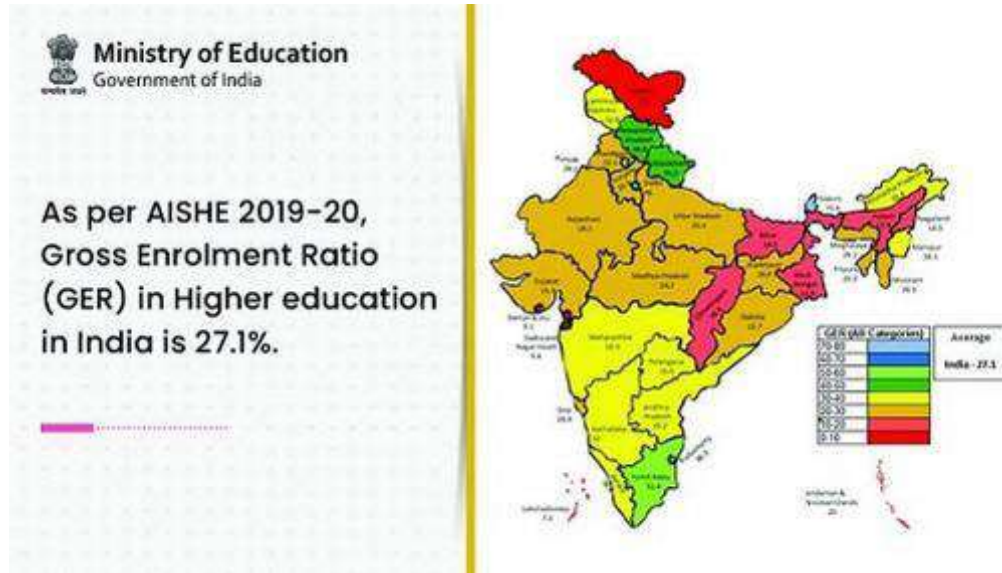
### **All India Survey on Higher Education**

- ❖ Ministry of Education has released latest edition of "All India Survey on Higher Education" (AISHE) 2019-2020.
- ❖ As per the survey, numbers of institutions of national importance have increased to 135 in 2020 from 75 in 2015.
- ❖ There has been a growth of 11.4 per cent in student enrolment from 2015-16 to 2019-20.
- ❖ The rise in female enrolment in higher education during the period is 18.2 per cent.
- ❖ Total enrolment in higher education is 3.85 crore (Improved by 3.04%) in 2019-20.
- ❖ It was 3.74 crore in 2018-19 & 3.42 crore in 2014-15.
- ❖ Gender parity Index has also improved (1.01).
- ❖ Number of PhDs has increased by 60 per cent since 2015.

### **Tamil Nadu**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu as it has a gross enrolment ratio (GER) of 51.4% in higher education, almost double the national average,

- ❖ In fact, the state's GER exceeds the National Education Policy's target of 50% to be achieved in the year 2030.
- ❖ The state's GER has increased from 32.9% in 2010-11 to 51.4% in 2019-20.



### India's 1<sup>st</sup> VSC based HVDC system

- ❖ Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) has fully commissioned India's first Voltage Source Converter (VSC) based HVDC (high voltage direct current) electricity transmission system.
- ❖ This project strengthens the power system of the southern region of the country.
- ❖ The PGCIL commissioned Monopole-I of the 320 kV, 2000 MW, Pugalur (Tamil Nadu) Thrissur (Kerala) Voltage Source Converter (VSC) based High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) System.

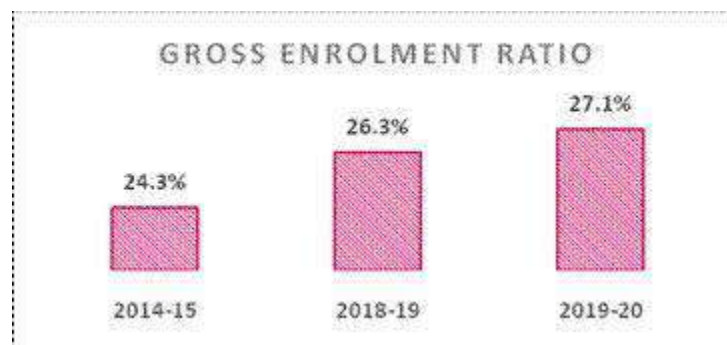
### Prana, VaU and Svasta

- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), had developed three different types of ventilators and an oxygen concentrator.
- ❖ They were named as Prana, VaU and Svasta.
- ❖ Prana is meant to deliver respiratory gas to the patient by automated compression of an Ambu bag.
- ❖ Svasta is designed to work without electric power.
- ❖ VaU is a low-cost ventilator.



## GER in India

- ❖ Gross enrolment ratio in higher education is calculated for the 18-23 age group
- ❖ Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education in India is 27.1 per cent for 2019-20
- ❖ It is an improvement from previous year's 26.3 per cent.
- ❖ For Scheduled Castes, the ratio is 23.4 per cent and for Scheduled Tribes, it is 18 per cent.
- ❖ The highest GER is in Sikkim, at 76%.
- ❖ Tamilnadu is at 51%
- ❖ Karnataka is at 32%
- ❖ The other states are Kerala (39%), Telangana (36%), AP (35%) and Maharashtra (32.3%).
- ❖ In terms of Student enrolment (In Numbers), Uttar Pradesh occupies the first place.
- ❖ It has 49.1% male and 50.9% female students.
- ❖ It is followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The number of universities has increased by 30.5% from 799 in 2015-16 to 1043 in 2019-20.
- ❖ Of the 42,343 colleges in the Country, 60.56% are located in rural areas and 10.75% of colleges are exclusively for girls.
- ❖ And the majority of the colleges (78.6%) in the country, are privately managed, led by Andhra Pradesh (81%), Telangana (80%), Uttar Pradesh (78.5%), and Tamil Nadu (77.6%).
- ❖ Maharashtra tops in the enrolment of students in universities (including constituent units) with 9,67,034, followed by Tamil Nadu with 9,26,490 students, and Delhi with 8,16,110 students.







### **Rainfall - May 2021**

- ❖ As per Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), May 2021 received second highest rainfall in 121 years.
- ❖ Rainfall over India as a whole for May month of 2021 was recorded as 107.9 millimetres.
- ❖ This is 74 percent more than its Long Period Average (LPA) of 62 mm.
- ❖ Highest ever rainfall was occurred in year 1990 with recorded rainfall of 110.7mm.
- ❖ Tauktae cyclone formed over Arabian Sea and Cyclone Yaas was developed over Bay of Bengal were the main reasons for this.

### **Increase in Organic farm products exports**

- ❖ The exports of India's organic farm products have increased to 51 percent in 2020-21.
- ❖ Farm exports have increased over 17 percent to 41.25 billion dollars in last fiscal.
- ❖ Organic farming in India is in beginning stage.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh tops with 0.76 million ha of area under organic cultivation.
- ❖ It equals to the 27 per cent of India's total organic cultivation area.

### **Namaste Yoga**

- ❖ A mobile application devoted to Yoga called "Namaste Yoga" was launched recently.
- ❖ This was launched in an event was organised by Ministry of Ayush in association with Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga.
- ❖ Namaste Yoga app is designed as an information platform for public.
- ❖ It was launched with the aim of raising awareness about yoga and make it accessible for larger community.

### **FAME-II scheme - Amended**

- ❖ Ministry of Heavy Industry has announced major amendments in ongoing FAME-II scheme.
- ❖ Ministry has fixed incentives for India-made electric two-wheelers.
- ❖ Earlier, subsidy rate for electric two-wheelers was Rs 10,000/kWh.
- ❖ It has been increased to Rs 15,000/kWh.

## 44<sup>th</sup> meeting of GST Council

### Recommendations of 44<sup>th</sup> GST Council meeting

S. No.	Description	Present GST Rate	GST Rate recommended by GST Council
<b>A. Medicines</b>			
1.	Tocilizumab	5%	Nil
2.	Amphotericin B	5%	Nil
3.	Anti-Coagulants like Heparin	12%	5%
4.	Remdesivir	12%	5%
5.	Any other drug recommended by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Dept. of Pharma (DoP) for Covid treatment	Applicable Rate	5%
<b>B. Oxygen, Oxygen generation equipment and related medical devices</b>			
1.	Medical Grade Oxygen	12%	5%
2.	Oxygen Concentrator/ Generator, including personal imports thereof	12%	5%
3.	Ventilators	12%	5%
4.	Ventilator masks / canula / helmet	12%	5%
5.	BiPAP Machine	12%	5%
6.	High flow nasal canula (HFNC) device	12%	5%
<b>C. Testing Kits and Machines</b>			
1.	Covid Testing Kits	12%	5%
2.	Specified Inflammatory Diagnostic Kits, namely D-Dimer, IL-6, Ferritin and LDH	12%	5%
<b>D. Other Covid-19 related relief material</b>			
1.	Pulse Oximeters, incl personal imports thereof	12%	5%
2.	Hand Sanitizer	18%	5%
3.	Temperature check equipment	18%	5%
4.	Gas/Electric/other furnaces for crematorium, including their installation, etc.	18%	5%
5.	Ambulances	28%	12%

**These rate reductions/exemptions shall remain in force up to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.**

- ❖ 44<sup>th</sup> meeting of Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council was chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on June 12, 2021.
- ❖ GST Council has accepted recommendations of Group of Ministers (GoM) which was set up to look on tax relief on Covid-19 medical supplies.
- ❖ Several changes in GST rate have been made.
- ❖ This would be applicable till September 30, 2021.
- ❖ GST rate for ambulances has been reduced from 28 percent to 12 percent.
- ❖ GST rate for COVID-19 testing kits, medical-grade oxygen and ventilator have been reduced from 12 percent to 5 percent.

- ❖ Rate on hand sanitisers has been reduced from 18 percent to 5 percent.
- ❖ For temperature check equipment, rate was reduced from 18 percent to 5 percent.
- ❖ 5% GST tax will be applicable on pulse oximeters, including personal imports, from earlier 12 percent.
- ❖ On specified inflammatory diagnostic kits was reduced from 12 percent to 5 percent.
- ❖ GST rates on gas or electric or other furnaces used in crematorium including the installation charges has been reduced to 5% from 18%.
- ❖ No GST rate would be imposed on Covid-19 related drugs including Tocilizumab and Amphotericin B.
- ❖ Earlier it was kept at 5 percent.
- ❖ GST rates on anticoagulants such as Heparin and Remdesivir have been cut to 5 percent from 12 percent.
- ❖ 5% tax would be applied on ventilator masks or cannula or helmets.

### **Copperplate inscriptions found at Srisailam temple**



- ❖ The Bhramarambha Mallikarjuna Devasthanam, engaged in reviving ancient Ganta Matham near Srisailam temple complex.
- ❖ Six sets of copperplate inscriptions were found.
- ❖ 18 copper leaves were found.
- ❖ It could be dated back to somewhere between 14 and 16 centuries.

- ❖ Out of the six sets,
  - four have inscriptions in Sanskrit and Nandi-Nagari script and
  - the other two plates are in Telugu script.

### **Pyrostria laljii**

- ❖ A 15-metre-tall tree that belongs to genus of the coffee family has recently been discovered in Andaman Islands.
- ❖ The new species *Pyrostria laljii*, is also the first record of the genus *Pyrostria* in India.
- ❖ Trees belonging to these species are usually found in Madagascar.



### **Hallmarking of Gold jewellery**



- ❖ The Government had made hallmarking of gold jewellery as mandatory.



- ❖ The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has been established for this purpose.
- ❖ Gold hallmarking is a purity certification for precious metal.
- ❖ Thus, from 15 June 2021, jewellers will only be allowed to sell gold jewellery of 14, 18 and 22 carats.

### **MoU on cooperation on domestic worker recruitment**

- ❖ India and Kuwait signed an MoU on cooperation on domestic worker recruitment recently.
- ❖ This MoU will bring Indian domestic workers in Gulf nation within the legal framework.
- ❖ This will provide them protection under law.
- ❖ MoU was signed between Indian Ambassador Sibi George and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait Majdi Ahmad Al-Dhafiri.

### **Political donations**

- ❖ The Bharatiya Janata Party has topped the list of individual and corporate donations, pocketing around Rs 750 crore in 2019-20.
- ❖ The amount received by the Congress during the same period was Rs 139 crore.
- ❖ This is the seventh year in a row that the BJP has topped the list of political donations.

### **Deep Ocean Mission**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the implementation of “Deep Ocean Mission”.
- ❖ This mission is proposed by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- ❖ This is to explore the deep ocean for resources and develop deep-sea technologies for sustainable use of ocean resources.
- ❖ This is a 5 year Mission.
- ❖ The first phase will be carried during 2021-2024.
- ❖ The main objective of the Deep Ocean Mission is to support the Blue Economy Initiatives of the Government of India.
- ❖ The Ministry of Earth Sciences will be the nodal Ministry for implementing this.



### **India's foreign student population**

- ❖ India's foreign student population inched closer to 50,000 in 2019-20.
- ❖ According to an education ministry survey, the cumulative 2019-20 foreign student population of 49,348 was slightly more than the figure of 47,427 reported in 2018-19.
- ❖ This indicates India is still far from its aim to be a study-abroad destination with 200,000 foreign students.
- ❖ The Highest share of foreign students come from the neighbouring countries.
  - Nepal contributes 28.1%,
  - Afghanistan 9.1%,
  - Bangladesh 4.6% and
  - Bhutan 3.8%,
- ❖ Among states, Karnataka hosts the highest number of foreign students (10,231).
- ❖ Tamil Nadu (4,461) stands at 5th.

### **Conference of BRICS Network Universities 2021**

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) hosted a three-day virtual "Conference of BRICS Network Universities".
- ❖ This conference is being held as a part of India's Chairmanship of the 13th BRICS Summit in 2021.
- ❖ The theme of the Conference of BRICS Network Universities is "Electric Mobility".



### **NAFED Fortified Rice Bran Oil**

- ❖ The Department of Food and Public Distribution today E-launched "NAFED Fortified Rice Bran Oil".
- ❖ Rice bran oil is the oil extracted from the hard outer brown layer of rice called chaff (rice husk).

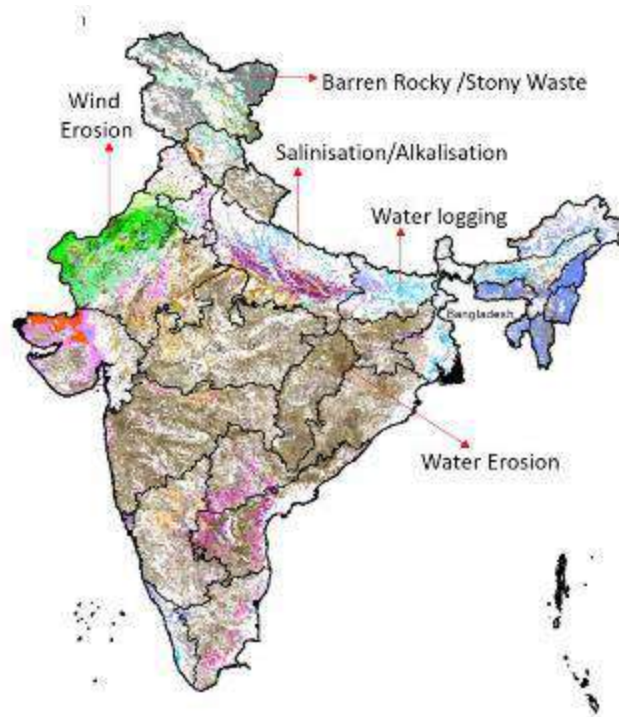
- ❖ Rice Bran oil from NAFED (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India) will be fortified.
- ❖ It will be ensured that it will contain additional nutrients and vitamins.
- ❖ This initiative will significantly reduce the country's consumption dependence on imported edible oil in the future.

### **Global Yoga Conference 2021**

- ❖ Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare addressed the inaugural ceremony of Global Yoga Conference 2021.
- ❖ The event was organised by 'Mokshayatan Yog Sansthan' along with the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India & Indian Council for Cultural Relations.
- ❖ This was organised to mark the occasion of the 7th International Day of Yoga which falls on 21st June 2021.

### **Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India**

- ❖ It has been published by Space Application Centre, ISRO, Ahmedabad.
- ❖ The Atlas provides state wise area of degraded lands for the time frame 2018-19.
- ❖ It was released on the occasion of the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, observed on 17 June.



### **National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)**

- ❖ The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Ministry of Culture have signed a MoU for Cooperation in Development of National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal, Gujarat.
- ❖ The NMHC would be developed as an international tourist destination.
- ❖ Here the maritime heritage of India from ancient to modern times would be showcased.
- ❖ The unique feature of NMHC is the recreation of ancient Lothal city (City of Ancient Indus valley civilization).



**MOU FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NMHC AT LOTHAL, GUJARAT**

- MoU signed between MoPSW & Ministry of Culture
- World class Historical Site showcasing India's rich Maritime Heritage
- Includes National Maritime Museum, Maritime Heritage based Theme Park, Maritime Research Institute, Nature Conservation Park
- State Pavilions and 14 Galleries highlighting diverse Maritime Heritage of India

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### **IN-EUNAVFOR**

- ❖ For the first time the Indian Navy is participated in joint drills with the European Union Naval Force comprising warships from the French, Spanish and Italian navies.
- ❖ It was held in the Gulf of Aden.
- ❖ The Indian Naval Ship Trikanth participated in this.



### India's new trilateral

- ❖ India-Italy-Japan launched their trilateral recently.
- ❖ It was launched to create stability and a rules-based international order based on the consent of all, not on the power of the few in the Indo-Pacific region.
- ❖ Last year, India-France-Australia launched a trilateral mechanism.

### Section 79 of IT Act

<b>FACES CRIMINAL LIABILITY OVER CONTENT</b>	
<p>➤ Twitter's top executives, including its India MD, may now face police questioning and criminal liability under IPC over <b>'unlawful' and 'inflammatory' content posted on the platform by any user</b></p> <p>➤ It is the <b>only US platform to have lost the protective shield</b> granted under Section 79 of the IT Act. Others such as Google,</p>	<p>YouTube, Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram remain protected in India</p> <p>➤ These companies <b>had to appoint statutory officers by May 25</b>, but many blamed the lockdown and tech challenges for their initial failure to comply with the rules on time. On June 5, the Centre issued "one last notice" to Twitter</p>
<p><b>“</b> An interim chief compliance officer has been retained and details will be shared with the (Union IT) ministry directly soon. Twitter continues to make every effort to comply with the new guidelines <b>”</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>—Twitter</b></p>	



- ❖ Twitter has lost its safe harbour immunity in India.
- ❖ This is because of its failure of appointing statutory officers, as required by the new IT rules of the Indian Government.
- ❖ This means Twitter will no longer be protected under Section 79 of the IT Act.
- ❖ Therefore top executives of Twitter will now be liable for all the content on its platform that is considered inflammatory or considered unlawful in nature.

## Second National Sickle Cell Conclave

- ❖ The Minister of Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda, inaugurated the Second National Sickle Cell Conclave.
- ❖ It is being organised by Ministry of Tribal Affairs in association with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), Apollo Hospitals, Novartis, Piramal Foundation etc.
- ❖ It will arrange discussions about latest advances and future trends in treatment of Sickle cell disease.



## MoU between India and Bhutan

- ❖ India and Bhutan have signed a MoU to develop cooperation between two countries in the area of environment.
- ❖ The MoU was signed virtually by Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar.
- ❖ It will open new vistas of bilateral cooperation in the area of climate change, waste management etc.





### **General Elections 2019: An Atlas**

- ❖ The Election Commission of India released 'General Elections 2019: An Atlas' recently.
- ❖ This Atlas was released by Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey.
- ❖ This document would be beneficial to researchers and academicians and help in exploring vast landscape of Indian elections.
- ❖ This General Election Atlas comprises of all statistical figures and data of General Elections 2019.

### **Flag Satyagraha**

- ❖ The Ministry of Culture on 18th June had organised a programme to observe the Flag Satyagraha in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The Flag Satyagraha is a movement by the freedom fighters that shook the British government.
- ❖ It infused a new life into the freedom movement.
- ❖ It is also called the Jhanda Satyagraha.
- ❖ It was held in Jabalpur and Nagpur in 1923.

### **Ajit Mishra expert group**

- ❖ The Central Government has constituted an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Professor Ajit Mishra.
- ❖ He is a renowned economist.
- ❖ The committee is to provide technical inputs and recommendations on fixation of Minimum Wages and National Floor Wages to the Government.

### **Ease of Living Index**

- ❖ Bengaluru has been named as the most liveable city of India.
- ❖ This is according to the Ease of Living Index 2020.
- ❖ This was released by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).
- ❖ The Ease of Living Index 2020 is part of the report titled State of India's Environment 2021.
- ❖ Bengaluru is followed by Chennai, Shimla, Bhubaneswar, and Mumbai.

- ❖ Each city was rated out of 100 in all parameters.
- ❖ The Ease of Living Index 2020 is the second edition of the index.
- ❖ The first one was launched in 2018.



### **Jaan Hai to Jahaan Hai Awareness Campaign**

- ❖ It is launched by the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- ❖ It is a nationwide awareness campaign to create awareness on Corona vaccination in rural and remote areas of the country.
- ❖ It is also to “Crush and Curb” the rumours and apprehensions regarding the on-going vaccination drive.

### **CASSAVA - Bioethanol production**

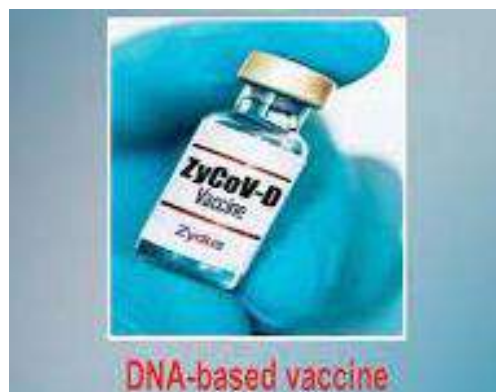
- ❖ The ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI) has found CASSAVA as a raw material for bioethanol production.
- ❖ This will help to meet Ethanol Blending Petrol (EBP) programme target of 2025 by India.
- ❖ Cassava is having a high starch content.
- ❖ It also has ability to grow under low management conditions.

### **Four-member Takeover Panel - SEBI**

- ❖ The Markets regulator Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has reconstituted its four-member Takeover Panel.
- ❖ The Takeover Panel looks into the applications that seek exemption from the mandatory open offer that an acquirer needs to make to minority shareholders.
- ❖ SEBI has appointed N Venkatram MD and CEO, Deloitte India as the new member of this Takeover Panel.
- ❖ SEBI had first constituted this Takeover Panel in November 2007.
- ❖ It was constituted under the chairmanship of former Bank of Baroda chairman K Kannan.

### **ZyCoV-D Vaccine**

- ❖ Indian pharmaceutical company Zydus Cadila is soon going to apply Central Drugs Regulator (DGCI) for emergency approval of the corona vaccine ZyCoV-D.
- ❖ If approved, it will be the world's first DNA-based vaccine.
- ❖ With this, the number of vaccines available in the country will increase to 4.
- ❖ ZyCoV-D is a needle free vaccine and will be fitted with a jet injector.
- ❖ It will be given in three dosages.



### **Bengaluru in Top 5 technology centers in Asia Pacific**


- ❖ The Report named 'Growth Engines of Innovation: How Asia Pacific Technology Hubs are Reshaping Regional Real Estate' was recently released by Colliers.
- ❖ Bengaluru has emerged as the top five technology centres in the APAC region.
- ❖ Hyderabad is ranked in the Top 10 list.
- ❖ Beijing, Shanghai, Bengaluru, Shenzhen and Singapore currently rank as the top five technology centres in APAC.

## Antibodies of Nipah Virus found in India

- ❖ A survey by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the National Institute of Virology has picked up samples with the possible presence of antibodies against the Nipah virus in some bat species.
- ❖ The samples were from a cave in Mahabaleshwar, Maharashtra.
- ❖ The survey was aimed at studying the prevalence of the Nipah virus (NiV) in bats of India.
- ❖ It is considered as one of the top-10 global priority list pathogens identified by the World Health Organization (WHO).

### Note

- ❖ India has experienced four NiV outbreaks.
- ❖ The most recent outbreak started in Kerala in 2018.
- ❖ Nipah is considered dangerous as there is no medicine or vaccines and the death rate among those affected is high.

FIRST NIPAH DETECTION IN MAHARASHTRA		The Disease
<b>THE VIRUS</b> Nipah Virus (NiV) is on the top 10 pathogen list of WHO ➤ First identified in Malaysia in 1998-99 during an encephalitis-like outbreak among pigs and pig handlers, with a case fatality rate (CFR) of 40%	<b>NIPAH IN INDIA</b> India has experienced four NiV outbreaks, with CFR ranging from 65 to 100% <b>2001</b> in Siliguri district, West Bengal <b>2007</b> in Nadia district in West Bengal <b>2018</b> in Kozhikode district in Kerala with 18 deaths <b>2019</b> in Kozhikode	➤ Infected bats shed the virus in excretion & it can jump to humans ➤ NiV can be fatal, causing swelling of brain (encephalitis) after signs of respiratory illness
 <p>Researchers test bats in Kozhikode in 2018</p>		<b>MAHABALESHWAR FINDINGS</b> ➤ Large fruit-eating Pteropus medius bats said to be NiV reservoir in India ➤ 65 Rousettus leschenaultii (medium fruit-eating) bats and 15 (tiny, insectivorous) Pipistrellus pipistrellus from a Mahabaleshwar cave tested in 2020 ➤ Antibodies found in 33 leschenaultii and one Pipistrellus bat ➤ First report of possible NiV infection in R. leschenaultii bats in India

## 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable

- ❖ India will host 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER9) next year.
- ❖ The announcement was made by the International Energy Forum (IEF).
- ❖ The event will take forward the understandings reached in the previous meeting held in Abu Dhabi in 2018.
- ❖ The 2018 meeting was co-hosted by India.
- ❖ The 2018 meeting focused on global energy security in the age of change.



### **India's best employers among Nation-Builders 2021 - NTPC**

- ❖ For the first time, NTPC won recognition as India's Best Employers among Nation-Builders 2021.
- ❖ It has been recognized as the 'Great Place to Work' for the 15th straight year by the Great Places to Work Institute.
- ❖ It has been ranked at 38th.
- ❖ It was ranked 47 last year.
- ❖ NTPC, a Maharatna Community and Public Sector Unit, works under the Ministry of Power.

### **Green rating system for High-Speed Rail**

- ❖ Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) in association with the National High-Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL) has launched the Green rating system for High-Speed Rail.
- ❖ The IGBC Green HSR rating system is a first-of-its-kind in the world.
- ❖ It is exclusively developed to address the sustainability aspects of High-Speed Rail (HSR) projects.
- ❖ The rating system is developed aligning the requirements with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

### **India's largest solar carport**

- ❖ Tata Motors and Tata Power inaugurated India's largest solar carport at the Tata Motors car plant at Chikhali in Pune.



- ❖ The 6.2 megawatt peak (MWp) solar carport will generate 86.4 lakh kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity per year.



- ❖ It is estimated to reduce 7,000 tonnes of carbon emissions annually.

### **Nano Urea Fertilizer Plant**

- ❖ The Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) will set up a nano urea liquid manufacturing plant in Argentina.
- ❖ It is to be done with a partnership with two agencies,
  - Instituto Nacional de Asociativismo y Economía Social (INAES) and
  - The Cooperative Confederation of Argentina 'Cooperar'.
- ❖ The use of nano urea will have,
  - a huge impact on the quality of underground water and
  - a very significant reduction of global warming.

### **Merger of CWC-CRWC**



- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved merger of Central Railside Warehouse Company (CRWC) and its holding enterprise Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC).
- ❖ These Companies were merged with the aim of improving efficiency and increase financial savings.
- ❖ With the merger, it is expected that, management expenditure of Railside Warehouse Complexes (RWCs) will be reduced by Rs 5 crore.



### Note

- ❖ CRWC is a Public Sector Enterprise of Mini-Ratna status of Category-II.
- ❖ It was incorporated on in 2007 under the Companies Act, 1956.

### Toyconomy

- ❖ Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, interacted with participants of Toycathon-2021 through video conferencing.
- ❖ During the meeting, PM Modi highlighted the importance of toys and game industry in Indian Economy.
- ❖ Toy and Game Industry was termed as 'Toyconomy' by him.

### Toycathon-2021

- ❖ It was a joint initiative by the Ministry of Education, Women and Child Development Ministry, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Textile Ministry, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and All India Council for Technical Education.
- ❖ It was launched on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.
- ❖ It aims to promote India as a global toy manufacturing hub.

### India – US PASSEX

- ❖ The Indian Navy and the Air Force had a two-day passage exercise with U.S. Navy Carrier Strike Group (CSG) Ronald Reagan.
- ❖ The passage exercise was in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- ❖ Indian Navy's INS Kochi and Teg, along with P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft and MiG 29K fighters, participated in the exercise.

### Smart City Awards 2020

- ❖ Smart City Awards 2020 was announced under the 'Smart Cities Mission'.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh was ranked as top performing state under India Smart Cities Award Contest 2020.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh came second while Tamil Nadu at third position.
- ❖ Surat and Indore won best smart cities award for their overall performance in 2020.
- ❖ Best union territory award was conferred to Chandigarh.
- ❖ These awards were announced to mark six years of three urban transformative missions.

- ❖ Those missions are,
  - Smart Cities Mission,
  - Atal Mission for Urban Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and
  - Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban.



### **Pinaka rocket - Enhanced version**

- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully test fired an extended range version of “Pinaka” rocket.
- ❖ This Test fire was carried at Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha.
- ❖ This 122 mm Calibre rockets were launched with the help of Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL).
- ❖ The enhanced version has been developed by Pune based Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) in association with High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL).
- ❖ They got manufacturing support from Economic Explosives Limited, Nagpur.
- ❖ Enhanced Systems can destroy targets kept at distances up to 45 kilometres.

### **India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier**

- ❖ India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC-I), is planned to be commissioned by 2022.
- ❖ Once commissioned, the carrier will be named as INS Vikrant, in memory of India's first aircraft carrier.
- ❖ The IAC-1 carrier is being built at the Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi, Kerala, under a public-private partnership.

## Digital Skill Champions Program



- ❖ The National Skill Development Corporation and WhatsApp announced an alliance to launch the Digital Skill Champions Program.
- ❖ This aims to train India's youth on digital skills, in order to make them employment ready.
- ❖ The partnership identifies two broad areas of collaboration viz., WhatsApp Digital Skills Academy and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) and WhatsApp Business App Training sessions.

## Paribartan Electoral Trust

- ❖ Paribartan Electoral Trust has anonymously disbursed Rs 3 crore it received from Birla Corporation in 2019-20 using electoral bonds.
- ❖ This is the first time that an electoral trust has taken the bonds route to disburse corporate donations to unnamed political parties.
- ❖ Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) has alleged that the use of electrical bonds route is "against the spirit" of the Electoral Trusts Scheme, 2013 and Income Tax Rules, 1962.

## Electoral Trusts Scheme, 2013

- ❖ Electoral Trust is a non-profit organization formed in India for orderly receiving of the contributions from any person.
- ❖ The scheme was notified by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

- ❖ The sole object of the electoral trust is to distribute the contributions received by it to the political party.
- ❖ These Electoral Trust companies are not allowed to accept contributions from foreign citizens or companies.
- ❖ The electoral trust may receive voluntary contributions from,
  - An individual who is a citizen of India.
  - A company which is registered in India.
  - A firm or Hindu undivided family or an Association of persons or a body of individuals, resident in India.

## Covovax



- ❖ Serum Institute of India has begun manufacturing the first batch of Covovax.
- ❖ It is a Covid-19 vaccine developed by Novavax Inc.
- ❖ Novavax is an US-based biotechnology company.

## Project Seabird





- ❖ It is the largest naval infrastructure project for India.
- ❖ The project aims at creation of a naval base at Karwar (Karnataka) on the west coast of India.
- ❖ Upon completion, the program will provide Indian Navy with its largest naval base on the west coast.
- ❖ It will also be the largest naval base east of the Suez Canal.

### **Fame II extended**

- ❖ Fame or Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (Fame) scheme's first phase began on 1 April 2015.
- ❖ It was extended till 31 March 2019.
- ❖ The second phase (Fame-2) that began on 1 April 2019 is to end on 31 March 2022.
- ❖ The Union government has now extended the scheme to promote electric mobility by two years till 31 March 2024.



### **Agni-Prime**

- ❖ India successfully carried out the test-firing of a new missile of the Agni series known as Agni-Prime off the coast of Odisha.
- ❖ The new nuclear-capable missile is fully made up of composite material.

- ❖ Agni-Prime is a canisterised missile with a range capability between 1000 and 2000 kilometres.

### **NTPC - Energy Compact Goals**

- ❖ National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Limited declared its Energy Compact Goals as part of the UN High-level Dialogue on Energy (HLDE).
- ❖ It became the first energy company in India to declare this.
- ❖ The NTPC is the India's largest power generating company under the Ministry of Power.
- ❖ The NTPC has set a target to install 60 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2032.
- ❖ The company also has aimed at a 10 per cent reduction in net energy intensity by 2032.

### **Hotels 50 2021 report**



- ❖ Taj has been rated as the Strongest Hotel Brand across the World by Brand Finance.
- ❖ This announcement was made by world's leading brand valuation consultancy, Brand Finance, in its annual 'Hotels 50 2021' report.
- ❖ This report recognises most valuable and strongest hotel brands worldwide.
- ❖ Taj Hotels is subsidiary of Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL).
- ❖ Indian Hotels Company Limited was founded by Jamsetji Tata.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Steadfast Defender 21 war games



- ❖ The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) is organising “Steadfast Defender 21 war games” military exercises in Europe as tensions with Russia increases.
- ❖ In the war names, NATO troops, warships and dozens of aircrafts are taking part.
- ❖ The Military exercises are taking place across Atlantic, through Europe and into Black Sea region.
- ❖ War games are being organised with the aim of simulating response of 30-nation military organisation for attack on any one of its members.





### Germany recognises genocide

- ❖ Germany for the first time has recognised that it committed genocide against the Herero and Nama people in present-day Namibia during its colonial rule over a century ago.
- ❖ Germany has also announced a fund of €1.1 billion (\$1.2 billion) to help aid community projects in Namibia.
- ❖ Between 1904 and 1908, German colonial settlers killed tens of thousands of men, women and children from the Herero and Nama tribes after they rebelled against colonial rule.
- ❖ In the Battle of Waterberg around 80,000 Herero, including women and children, were chased across the desert by German troops.

### Names for corona viruses

- ❖ World Health Organisation has recommended several names, to label emerging coronavirus variants of global concern.

- ❖ It named B.1.617.2 variant, identified first in India, as 'Delta'.
- ❖ B.1.617.1 virus identified in India has been labelled as 'Kappa.'
- ❖ 'UK variant' was named as 'Alpha'.

New names proposed for Covid variants		
Country/region	Scientific name	WHO name
 Kent, UK	B.1.1.7	Alpha
 South Africa	B.1.351	Beta
 Brazil	P.1	Gamma
 India	B.1.617.2	Delta

### **BRICS Foreign Ministers 2021 meeting**

- ❖ India is the hosting country and the chair of the BRICS Foreign Ministers 2021 meeting.
- ❖ The country chairs the meeting for the third time, after 2012 and 2016.
- ❖ India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar chaired the BRICS Foreign Ministers meeting virtually.

### **"Mixing and matching" of Covid-19 vaccines**

- ❖ Canada has recommended "mixing and matching" of AstraZeneca, Pfizer and Moderna Covid-19 vaccines.
- ❖ National Advisory Committee on Immunization has advised Canadians to combine either "AstraZeneca-Oxford, Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna shots" interchangeably for specific situations.
- ❖ Research highlights, mixing shots of AstraZeneca and Pfizer vaccines were safe and effective in preventing the disease.
- ❖ It recommended first shot of AstraZeneca vaccine can be followed by shots of Moderna or Pfizer.

### **Sinovac gains WHO's approval**

- ❖ World Health Organisation has given approval for global use of covid-19 Vaccine by Sinovac Biotech of China.
- ❖ WHO recommended its use for people above 18 years.

- ❖ Two-dose will be scheduled for it, with a gap of two to four weeks between shots.
- ❖ Other vaccines cleared for emergency use by WHO are vaccines from Pfizer Inc. & BioNTech SE, Johnson & Johnson, AstraZeneca Plc, and Moderna Inc.

### **Isaac Herzog - President of Israel**

- ❖ Veteran Israeli politician, Isaac Herzog, has been elected as the President of the country.
- ❖ The 60-year-old Herzog will be the 11th President of Israel.
- ❖ He will succeed Reuven Rivlin who is set to complete his tenure in July 2021 after seven years in office.

### **United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference**



- ❖ The second United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference will be held in Beijing, China.
- ❖ It will provide an opportunity to focus attention on the opportunities, challenges and solutions towards achieving sustainable transport worldwide.
- ❖ Its first conference held in 2016 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

### **President of the World Health Assembly**

- ❖ Bhutan assumed the presidency of the World Health Assembly for the first time.
- ❖ Health Minister Dechen Wangmo was officially elected as the president of the World Health Assembly.
- ❖ The World Health Assembly is the highest decision-making body of the World Health Organisation.

### **World Sustainable Development Summit 2021**

- ❖ Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar, addressed the summit.



- ❖ According to him, agriculture sector alone consumes 85 percent of available water.
- ❖ Thus, water conservation methods should be used in Agriculture to manage available water resources efficiently.
- ❖ World Sustainable Development Summit 2021 was held under theme “Redefining our common future: Safe & Secure Environment for All”.
- ❖ World Sustainable Development Summit is annual flagship event organised by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).
- ❖ It aims to provide long-term solutions to benefit of global community by assembling different stakeholders on single platform.



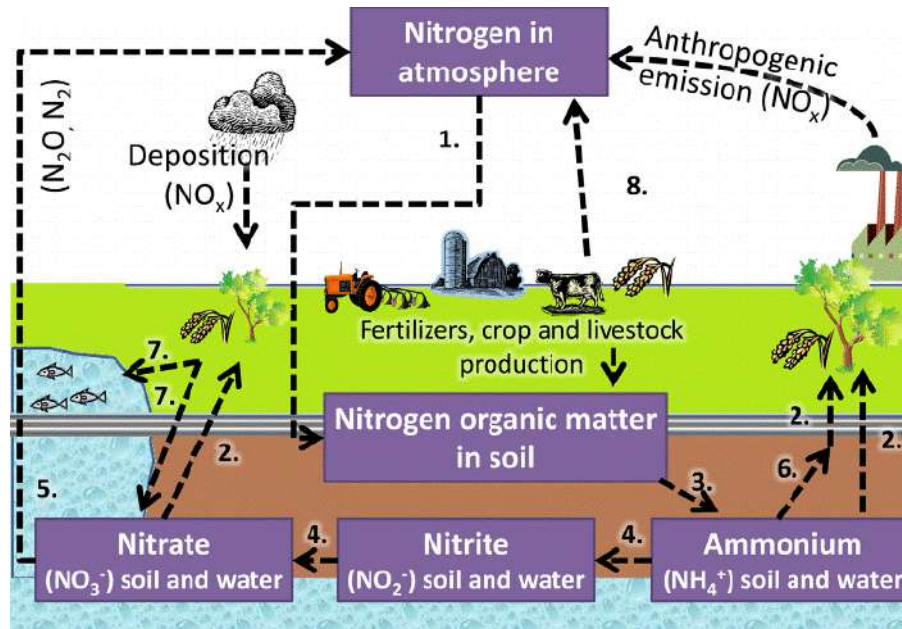
### **Red tourism**

- ❖ As the Chinese Communist Party celebrates its 100th anniversary this year, the popularity of ‘red tourism’ is at an all-time high in the country.
- ❖ Launched in 2004, Red Tourism involves visiting places that are of historical and cultural importance to the Communist Party’s history.
- ❖ It reminds people of the sacrifices made by the leaders of the Communist party to forge a modern China.



## International Nitrogen Initiative Conference

- ❖ Recently the 8th International Nitrogen Initiative Conference held virtually.
- ❖ This was set up in 2003 under sponsorship of the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) and from the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program (IGBP).
- ❖ It is a triennial event.
- ❖ It brings together scientists from around the world dealing with reactive nitrogen compounds in agriculture, industry, traffic, soil, water and air.
- ❖ Its objective is to stimulate an exchange among policymakers and other relevant stakeholders of results, ideas and visions to improve future holistic management of reactive nitrogen.
- ❖ The program is currently a sustained partner of Future Earth.

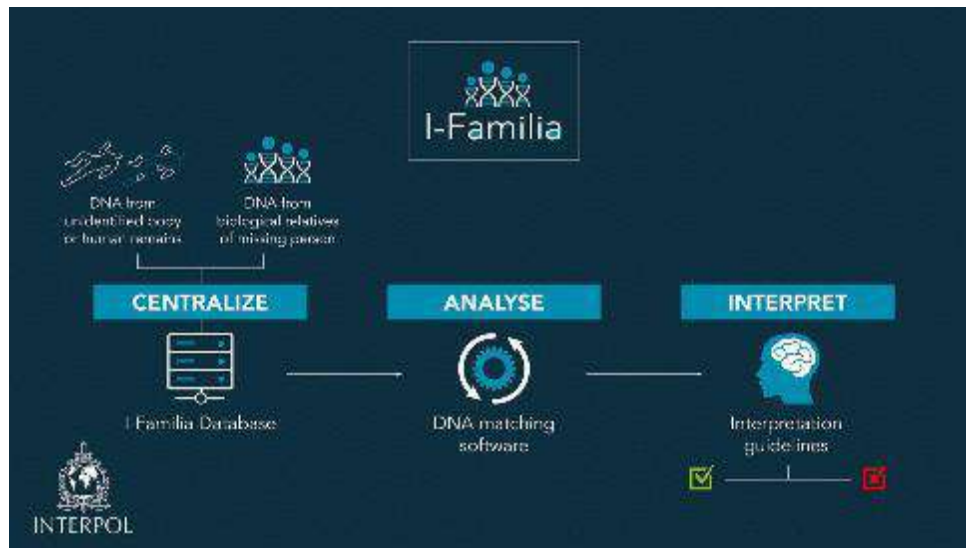


## G7 Health Ministers meet

- ❖ Britain hosted the Health Ministers meet from the Group of Seven (G7) countries in Oxford.
- ❖ A G7 report on progress in efforts to improve health in developing countries was also published.
- ❖ Equitable access to Corona virus vaccines was at the top of the agenda during the meeting.

## I-Familia

- ❖ It is a Global database to identify missing persons.
- ❖ It is launched by Interpol.
- ❖ It can identify missing persons through family DNA.
- ❖ It also helps the police solve cold cases in member countries.



## Tulsa Massacre

- ❖ U.S. President Joe Biden recently became the first sitting American head of state to officially recognise the 1921 Tulsa Massacre.
- ❖ It is one of the worst incidents of violent racial hate in the US' modern history.
- ❖ Tulsa was especially known for being an unofficial sanctuary city for African Americans.
- ❖ It was also called as the “Black Wall Street” of the U.S.

## Impact of climate change on plant pests

- ❖ The FAO & International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) published a report “Scientific review of the impact of climate change on plant pests”
- ❖ The report was prepared by Maria Lodovica from the University of Turin in Italy alongside 10 co-authors.
- ❖ The focus of this report is to outline the potential effects of climate change on plant pests, and hence on plant health.
- ❖ According to the report as much as 40 per cent of the world’s agricultural crops are lost to pests each year.

## FORTUNE 500

- ❖ The Fortune magazine announced the 67th FORTUNE 500 list.
- ❖ It is the annual list of the largest corporations in the United States, ranked by revenue.
- ❖ It has now released for the 2020 fiscal year.
- ❖ Walmart took the top spot on the 2021 list for the ninth year in a row.
- ❖ Amazon also held onto their No.2 spot.
- ❖ Apple is placed in the No. 3 spot.
- ❖ CVS Health is in the No.4 spot.
- ❖ CVS Health makes history as the highest-ranked company ever to be led by a female CEO (Karen Lynch).

## State of finance for nature report

- ❖ The report analyses the investment flow in nature-based solutions (NbS).
- ❖ It identifies the future investment needed to meet the climate change, biodiversity and land degradation targets (set in three Rio Conventions).
- ❖ The report was jointly produced by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Economic Forum and the Economics of Land Degradation.
- ❖ The NbS refers to sustainable management and use of nature to tackle socio-environmental challenges.

### Nature-Based Solutions Can Build Resilience to Multiple Climate Hazards





### **President of the UN General Assembly**

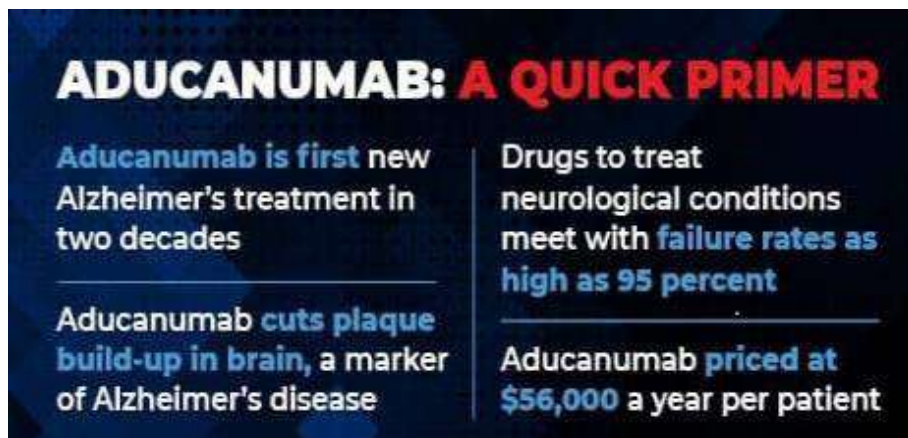
- ❖ Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid (Maldives) was elected as the President of the UN General Assembly for 2021-22.
- ❖ Abdulla Shahid won against Afghanistan's former foreign minister Zalmi Rassoul.
- ❖ Maldives will occupy office of President of UNGA for the first time.
- ❖ Election to UNGA presidential post is held annually.

### **Russia withdraws from Open Skies Treaty**

- ❖ Russian President Vladimir Putin recently signed a law formalizing Russia's withdrawal from Open Skies Treaty.
- ❖ This is after United States withdrew from pact in 2020.
- ❖ Open Skies Treaty is an international treaty that allows nations to collect information on one another's military forces.
- ❖ This was to increase transparency.
- ❖ United States withdrew from pact in November 2020 after accusing Russia of violating it.

### **Aducanumab**

- ❖ Aducanumab (Aduhelm) is the new drug approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for treating Alzheimer's disease.
- ❖ It is developed by the company Biogen.



**ADUCANUMAB: A QUICK PRIMER**

Aducanumab is first new Alzheimer's treatment in two decades	Drugs to treat neurological conditions meet with failure rates as high as 95 percent
Aducanumab cuts plaque build-up in brain, a marker of Alzheimer's disease	Aducanumab priced at \$56,000 a year per patient

- ❖ Alzheimer's disease causes the accumulation of the debris caused by the breakdown of neurons in the brain.
- ❖ This leads to plaque formation.





- ❖ Aducanumab is a monoclonal antibody.
- ❖ It is designed to reduce the presence of amyloid beta, a protein that forms plaques in the brain.

### **Remain in Mexico policy ended**

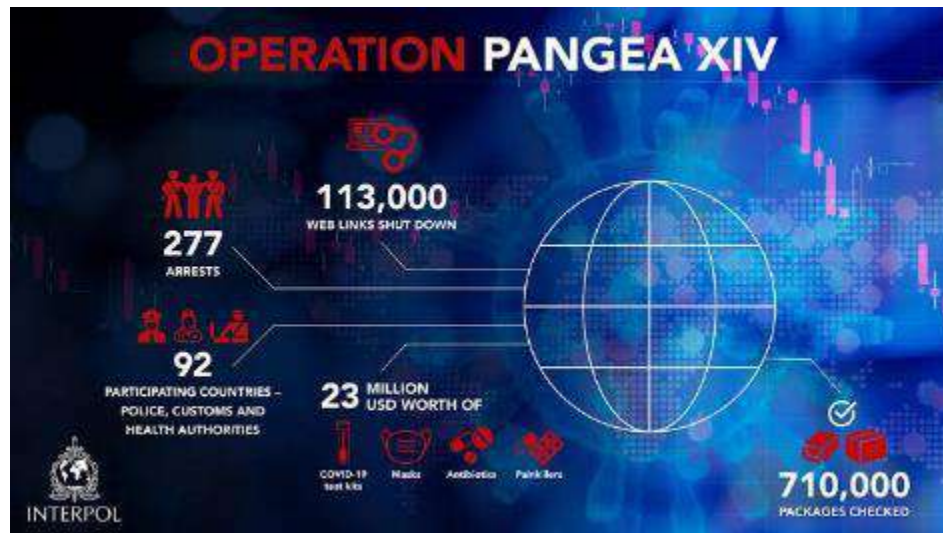
- ❖ The United States has formally ended the Trump's "remain in Mexico" policy.
- ❖ This policy forced thousands of Central American asylum-seekers to wait in Mexico for U.S. court cases.
- ❖ After ending this policy more than 11,000 migrants enrolled in it have been allowed to enter the United States to pursue asylum claims.

### **Child labour global estimates 2020 report**

- ❖ International Labour Organisation (ILO) and UNICEF jointly published report on child labour.
- ❖ As per report, the world has marked rise in child labour in two decades.
- ❖ Report highlights, coronavirus crisis might push millions more youngsters toward child labour.
- ❖ As of 2020, number of child labour stands at 160 million.
- ❖ It has increased by 8.4 million in four years.
- ❖ Sub-Saharan Africa is the worst affected part in the world.
- ❖ Boys are more likely to be affected.
- ❖ They will account for 97 million out of 160 million children engaging into child labour at start of 2020.

### **Operation Pangea XIV**

- ❖ A record number of fake online pharmacies have been shut down under Operation Pangea XIV.
- ❖ The operation targets the sale of counterfeit and illicit medicines and medical products.
- ❖ The operation coordinated by INTERPOL involved police, customs and health regulatory authorities from 92 countries.
- ❖ Its first Operation Pangea was in 2008.



### **Economist's annual survey of World's Most Liveable Cities**

- ❖ According to annual survey of World's most liveable cities 2021, Covid-19 pandemic has shaken up rankings of liveable cities.
- ❖ Auckland of New Zealand is the most liveable city in 2021 because of its successful approach in containing pandemic.
- ❖ It is followed by
  - Osaka & Tokyo in Japan,
  - Adelaide in Australia and
  - Wellington in New Zealand.
- ❖ Life remains most difficult in Damascus because of Syria's ongoing civil war.
- ❖ Vienna of Austria fell to 12th place in this year.
- ❖ That was world's most liveable city during 2018-20.

### **Urgent action to end AIDS by 2030**

- ❖ The UN General Assembly approved a declaration for urgent action to end AIDS by 2030.
- ❖ It noted that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated inequalities and pushed access to AIDS medicines, treatments and diagnosis further off track.
- ❖ It advises the member nations to reduce the annual new HIV infections to under 3,70,000.
- ❖ It also reduced the annual AIDS-related deaths to under 2,50,000 by 2025.

### **Global home price index**

- ❖ India has moved down by 12 spots in the global home price index.
- ❖ This is according to Knight Frank's Global House Price Index for Q1 2021.
- ❖ India is ranked at 55th position in terms of property prices.
- ❖ Property price in India has declined amid covid-19 pandemic.

#### **Note**

- ❖ Turkey is the topper in annual rankings with prices of 32 percent.
- ❖ Spain emerged as weakest-performing territory in Q1 2021.
- ❖ Spain is followed by India with 1.6 per cent decline on prices.

### **Secretary-General of the UNCTAD**



- ❖ Costa Rican economist Rebecca Grynspan was approved to be appointed as the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- ❖ She is the first woman and Central American to head UNCTAD.
- ❖ She was nominated as secretary-general of UNCTAD by the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

### **Prime Minister of Israel**

- ❖ Naftali Bennett took oath as the Prime Minister of Israel.
- ❖ He is the former Defence Minister and leader of the Yamina party.
- ❖ He replaces Benjamin Netanyahu.
- ❖ Netanyahu is the longest-serving PM of Israel (12 years).

### **Firmina - longest undersea cable**

- ❖ Alphabet's Google is all set to build world's longest undersea cable.
- ❖ It will connect United States, Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay.
- ❖ This undersea cable will boost internet connection capacity in these regions.
- ❖ The Undersea cable is called as Firmina.



### **New Atlantic Charter**

- ❖ US President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson held meeting recently in Cornwall.
- ❖ The meeting inspected documents related to Atlantic Charter and signed a document titled "New Atlantic Charter".
- ❖ New Atlantic Charter was signed with the objective of defending principles & institutions of democracy and strengthening & adapting the institutions.
- ❖ Atlantic Charter is a declaration signed in August 1941 (after the end of second world war).
- ❖ It was signed by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt.
- ❖ The recent Atlantic charter is a new version of the Atlantic Charter of 1941.

### **Global Skills Report 2021**

- ❖ As per the 'Global Skills Report 2021', India has been ranked 67th overall globally.
- ❖ The report is released by Coursera.
- ❖ Indian learners have high proficiency in digital skills like Cloud Computing (83%) and Machine Learning (52%) & 54% in Mathematical skills.

- ❖ Improvement is needed in digital skills because in Data Analysis (25%) and Statistical programming (15%) skills.
- ❖ Countries that topped the report are
  - Switzerland - Rank 1
  - Luxembourg - Rank 2
  - Austria - Rank 3

### **UN conference on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought**

- ❖ This conference was convened by President of 75th session of General Assembly, Volkan Bozkir.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the high-level virtual conference on desertification, land degradation and drought.
- ❖ PM Modi was President of 14th session of Conference of the Parties to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
- ❖ India aims to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.

#### **Note**

- ❖ As per United Nations, one-fifth of earth's land area worldwide is degraded.

### **Brussels summit of NATO**



- ❖ 31st formal meeting of heads of government of NATO was held in Brussels, Belgium.
- ❖ NATO summit 2021 is also being dubbed as Brussels summit of NATO.
- ❖ NATO leaders declared that China poses a constant security challenge and is working to undermine global order.
- ❖ NATO leaders declared China a global security challenge.



### **'Report it, don't share it' – initiative**

- ❖ Facebook has launched a new initiative 'Report it, don't share it!'.
- ❖ This encourages people to report child abuse content on its platforms and not to share it.
- ❖ The initiative is in collaboration with civil society organisations like Aarambh India Initiative, Cyber Peace Foundation and Arpan.



### **Report on Small Island developing States**

- ❖ The 2021 edition of UNCTAD's Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures report was released recently.
- ❖ According to the report,
  - COVID-19 had affected all spheres of life in SIDS (Small island developing States) including health, the economy and trade.
  - This has had a huge impact on SIDS as most of them are heavily reliant on tourism.
  - SIDS were also 35 per cent more vulnerable to external economic and financial shocks than other developing countries.

### **Viva Tech – 5<sup>th</sup> edition**

- ❖ Viva Tech is one of the largest digital and start-up events of Europe.
- ❖ It is held in Paris every year since 2016.
- ❖ PM Modi was invited as a Guest of Honour to deliver the keynote address at Viva Tech 2021.
- ❖ During his address, PM Modi invited the world to invest in India based on the five pillars: Talent, Market, Capital, Eco-system and, Culture of openness.

### United Kingdom – Australia trade deal

- ❖ United Kingdom and Australia has signed a free trade deal.
- ❖ This trade deal eliminates tariffs on wide range of goods.
- ❖ This deal was signed following UK's exit from European Union.
- ❖ This deal is expected to boost exports of traditional British products like Scotch whisky.

### SIPRI Yearbook 2021

- ❖ Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has released the SIPRI Yearbook 2021.
- ❖ The report assesses the current state of armaments, disarmament and international security.
- ❖ According to the yearbook, India possessed an estimated 156 nuclear warheads at the start of 2021.
- ❖ Pakistan had 165 warheads.
- ❖ China's nuclear arsenal consisted of 350 warheads.
- ❖ Russia and the U.S. together possessed over 90% of global nuclear weapons.

Country	Deployed warheads*	Other warheads**	Total 2021	Total 2020
USA	1 800	3 750	5 550	5 800
Russia	1 625	4 630	6 255	6 375
UK	120	105	225	215
France	280	10	290	290
China		350	350	320
India		156	156	150
Pakistan		165	165	160
Israel		90	90	90
North Korea		[40–50]	[40–50]	[30–40]
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 825</b>	<b>9 255</b>	<b>13 080</b>	<b>13 400</b>

### UNESCO Science Report

- ❖ The Latest edition of UNESCO Science Report (USR) was published recently.
- ❖ It is entitled as “race against time for smarter development”.
- ❖ USR is a flagship publication of UNESCO.
- ❖ It is published once every five years.

- ❖ It is a report on science, technology and innovation (STI).
- ❖ Every edition comprises of a chapter on India.
- ❖ The Chapter on India in latest edition was authored by Prof Sunil Mani.
- ❖ He is director at Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram.

### **ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus**

- ❖ 8th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) Plus was held recently.
- ❖ It is being hosted by Brunei as it is the chair of the ASEAN grouping this year.
- ❖ The ADMM-Plus is a platform for ASEAN and its eight Dialogue Partners to strengthen security and defence cooperation for peace, stability, and development in the region.
- ❖ Eight Dialogue Partners are Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia and the USA (collectively referred to as the “Plus Countries”).



### **Juneteenth**

- ❖ US Government has recognised Juneteenth, or June 19th, as a federal holiday.
- ❖ The day is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the US.
- ❖ It is also known as Emancipation Day or Juneteenth Independence Day.



### **‘Southern Ocean’ - globe’s fifth ocean**

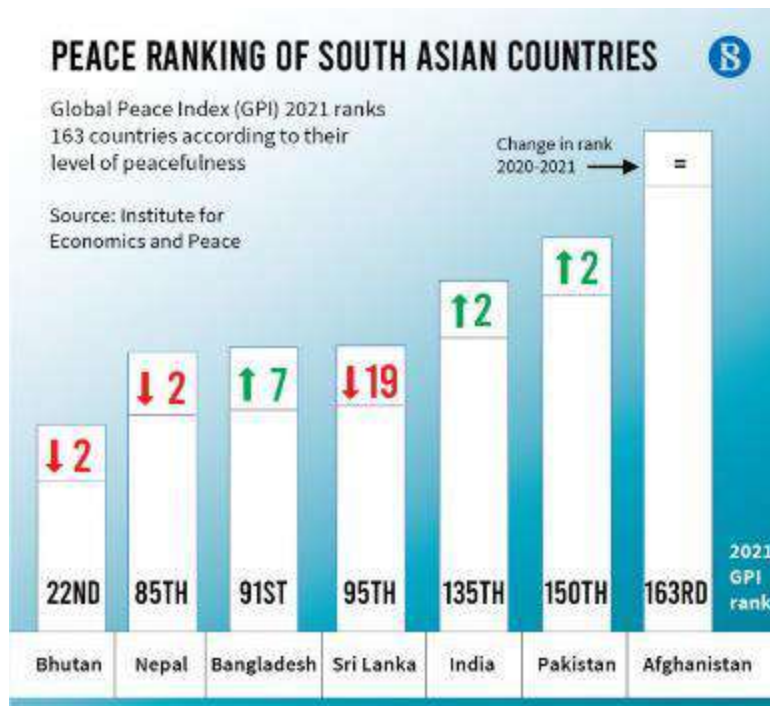
- ❖ The National Geographic magazine has recognised the ‘Southern Ocean’ as the world’s fifth ocean.
- ❖ The Southern Ocean is the only ocean to touch three other oceans.
- ❖ Its northern limit is latitude of 60 degrees south.
- ❖ It is also defined by its Antarctic Circumpolar Current that was formed 34 million years ago.
- ❖ The current flows from west to east around Antarctica.



### **Global Peace Index 2021**

- ❖ The 15th edition of the Global Peace Index (GPI) announced by Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) Sydney.
- ❖ GPI is the world’s leading measure of global peacefulness.
- ❖ Iceland remains the most peaceful country in the world, a position it has held since 2008.

- ❖ It is joined at the top of the index by New Zealand, Denmark, Portugal, and Slovenia.
- ❖ Afghanistan is the least peaceful country in the world for the fourth consecutive year.
- ❖ It is followed by Yemen, Syria, South Sudan, and Iraq.
- ❖ India becomes the 135th most peaceful country in the world.
- ❖ It ranks 5th in South Asia.
- ❖ Bhutan and Nepal are named as the first and second most peaceful in South Asia region.



### World Competitiveness Index

- ❖ World Competitiveness Index was compiled by Institute for Management Development (IMD).
- ❖ It examined the impact of COVID-19 on economies worldwide.
- ❖ India was ranked at 43rd position among 64 countries.
- ❖ Switzerland has topped the list.
- ❖ It is followed by Sweden (2nd), Denmark (3rd), Netherlands (4th) and Singapore (5th).





### Aspirational Districts Programme - UNDP

- ❖ The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India has lauded the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) as 'a very successful model of local area development'
- ❖ It was said in an independent appraisal report released recently.
- ❖ UNDP's analysis found that the programme has acted as a catalyst for expediting development in these districts.



### COVID-19 deaths in USA

- ❖ The COVID-19 death toll in the United States crossed 600,000 recently.
- ❖ This is as per the data released by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University.
- ❖ California has reported the highest number of deaths in the USA.

## UN Trade Forum 2021

- ❖ At UN Trade Forum 2021, Union Minister Piyush Goyal has said, India's per-capita carbon dioxide emission is the lowest amongst big economies.
- ❖ India has an ambitious renewable energy target of 450 Gigawatts by 2030.
- ❖ It shows India's commitment towards United Nations 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals.
- ❖ UN Trade Forum was established as a space for dialogue on how trade can be harnessed to get a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable world.



## Children and Digital Dumpsites report

- ❖ The new report, titled Children and Digital Dumpsites, was recently released by the WHO.

### Highlights

- ❖ More than 18 million children and adolescents working at e-waste dumpsites in low and middle-income countries are potentially at the risk of severe health hazards.
- ❖ They face risk due to discarded electronic devices or e-waste being dumped from high-income countries.
- ❖ The processing is done in low-income countries, which do not have proper safeguarding regulation.
- ❖ Children are especially preferred at these dumpsites because of their small and dexterous hands.
- ❖ About 53.6 million tonnes of e-waste was generated in 2019.
- ❖ Only 17.4 per cent of this e-waste was processed in formal recycling facilities.
- ❖ The rest of it was dumped in low or middle-income countries for illegal processing by informal workers.



## Global Trends report

- ❖ According to the UNHCR's latest annual Global Trends report
  - 82.4 million people forcibly displaced globally.
  - 20.7 million refugees under UNHCR's mandate (20.4 million in 2019)
  - 5.7 million Palestine refugees under UNRWA's mandate (5.6 million in 2019)
  - 48.0 million internally displaced people (45.7 million in 2019)
  - 4.1 million asylum-seekers (4.1 million in 2019)
  - 3.9 million Venezuelans displaced abroad (3.6 million in 2019)
- ❖ 2020 is the ninth year of uninterrupted rise in forced displacement worldwide.
- ❖ More than two thirds of all people who fled abroad came from just five countries
  - Syria (6.7 million),
  - Venezuela (4.0 million),
  - Afghanistan (2.6 million),
  - South Sudan (2.2 million) and
  - Myanmar (1.1 million).
- ❖ For the seventh year in a row, Turkey hosted the largest refugee population worldwide (3.7 million refugees).



### World Bank-IMF High Advisory Group

- ❖ Montek Singh Ahluwalia was named a member of a high-level Advisory Group formed by the World Bank and IMF.
- ❖ He is the former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission.
- ❖ The group will be jointly led by Mari Pangestu, Ceyla Pazarbasioglu and Lord Nicholas Stern.
- ❖ The group was formed in the face of the dual crisis posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change.

### India-US Hydrogen Task Force

- ❖ US-India Hydrogen Task Force was constituted with the aim of serving as a forum to achieve affordable hydrogen solutions.
- ❖ It seeks to enhance energy security & resilience by boosting up low or zero-carbon hydrogen technologies & deployment.
- ❖ This task force was launched by
  - United States Department of Energy,
  - Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and
  - US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF).



### **India abstains from voting on UN's Myanmar resolution**

- ❖ The UN's resolution demonstrated widespread global opposition to the Myanmar military and demanded that the country's democratic transition be restored.
- ❖ India abstained from voting on the United Nations General Assembly's (UNGA's) resolution for an arms embargo against Myanmar.
- ❖ 119 countries voted 'yes', Belarus voted 'no' and 36 countries abstained.

#### **Background**

- ❖ The elected leaders of Myanmar were overthrown on February 1 this year in a coup by the army.
- ❖ It accused Aung Sang Suu Kyi's ruling party of cheating in the November elections.
- ❖ The army's allegation has been rejected by the previous election commission and international monitors.

### **Children & Armed Conflict - Report**

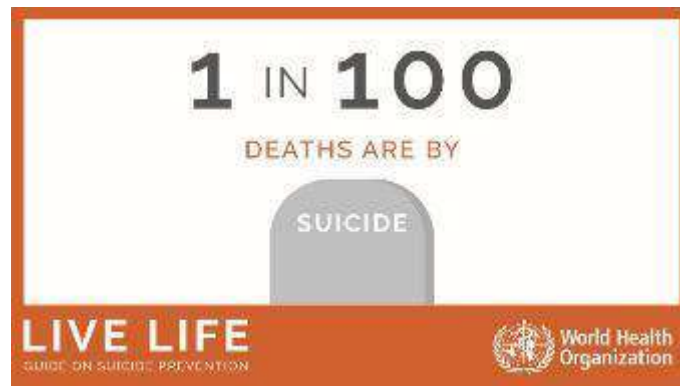
- ❖ The United Nations published its "Annual Report of Secretary-General on Children & Armed Conflict (CAAC)".
- ❖ As per the report, 26425 grave violations were committed against children in 2020.
- ❖ About 19,300 children affected by war in 2020.
- ❖ Crimes of abduction have increased by 90%.
- ❖ Incidents of rape & other forms of sexual violence have increased by 70%.
- ❖ One in four children affected by grave violations like rape & other forms of sexual violence were girls.

### **Suicide worldwide in 2019**

- ❖ Suicide worldwide in 2019 report was published by World Health Organization.
- ❖ According to the report, only 38 countries have a national suicide prevention strategy, as of now.
- ❖ Suicide crisis was already in place in 2019.
- ❖ About one in 100 died by suicide in 2019.
- ❖ 58% of the suicides occurred before the age of 50 years.
- ❖ Suicide was fourth-leading cause of death in young people aged 15-29 worldwide in 2019.



- ❖ 77% of global suicides occurred in low-income and middle-income countries in 2019.
- ❖ Africa, Europe and South-East Asia accounted for suicide rates higher than world's average.
- ❖ India has highest suicide rate in Southeast Asian region.
- ❖ Rate of suicide was 9.9 in 2017 which increased to 10.2 in 2018.



### **TIWB programme - Bhutan and India**

- ❖ This programme is expected to be of about 24 months' duration.
- ❖ The focus of the programme will be in the area of International Taxation and Transfer Pricing.
- ❖ Through this India aims to aid Bhutan in strengthening its tax administration.
- ❖ TIWB Programme is a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

### **CEOS COAST**

- ❖ Recently, UN body has endorsed a multinational project called (CEOS COAST).
- ❖ CEOS COAST is Committee on Earth Observation Satellites Coastal Observations, Applications, Services, and Tools.
- ❖ CEOS COAST programme is co-led by ISRO and NOAA from US.
- ❖ This programme aims to improve accuracy of coastal data on the basis of satellite and land-based observations.
- ❖ Themes of these projects are disaster risk reduction & coastal resilience among continental shorelines & small island nations.



### **Mega-comet 2014 UN271**

- ❖ The mega-comet 2014 UN271 is expected to pass by the Sun by 2031 bringing it closest to Saturn's orbit.
- ❖ The mega comet was identified during the astronomical findings of the Dark Energy Survey that captured data between 2014 and 2018.
- ❖ The mega comet 2014 UN271 is estimated to be between 100 and 370 kms wide.
- ❖ The Comets are frozen leftovers from the formation of the solar system composed of rock, dust, and ice.

### **Abdala vaccine**

- ❖ Cuba said that its Abdala vaccine against the coronavirus had proved 92.28% effective in last-stage clinical trials.
- ❖ It is a three-shot vaccine.
- ❖ It is developed by the Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology in Cuba.



### **Strawberry Moon**

- ❖ The Strawberry Moon marks the last Full Moon of the spring season.
- ❖ It also marks the first Full Moon of the summer.
- ❖ The celestial event is significant for two reasons,
  - it's a Strawberry Moon and
  - a Supermoon.
- ❖ This celestial event took place on 24<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and Japan**

- ❖ Japan had recently ratified the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).



- ❖ It is a free trade agreement between Australia, China, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- ❖ Japan has become the third member to ratify the agreement.
- ❖ Among the signatories, China and Singapore have completed the ratification procedures.
- ❖ Joining RCEP will be Japan's first trade deal involving China and South Korea.

### **China to run First Electric Train in Tibet**

- ❖ China will operationalise first electric train in remote Himalayan region of Tibet.
- ❖ The electric train will connect provincial capital Lhasa with Nyingchi.
- ❖ Nyingchi is a strategically located Tibetan border town close to Arunachal Pradesh.



### **New human species - Israel**

- ❖ An international group of archaeologists have discovered new human species in Israel.
- ❖ Excavations were done at Israeli site of Nesher Ramla.
- ❖ Archaeologists have recovered a skull there.
- ❖ It is expected that, they lived about 420,000 to 120,000 years ago.
- ❖ This analysis finds that, this jaw belonged to person who were neither fully Homo sapiens nor were Neanderthal.

## **Denmark signed the ISA Framework agreement**



- ❖ Denmark has signed the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement (ISA FA) and Instrument of Ratification with India.
- ❖ Denmark has become the first country to ratify this after amendments in the ISA FA entered into force on January 8, 2021.

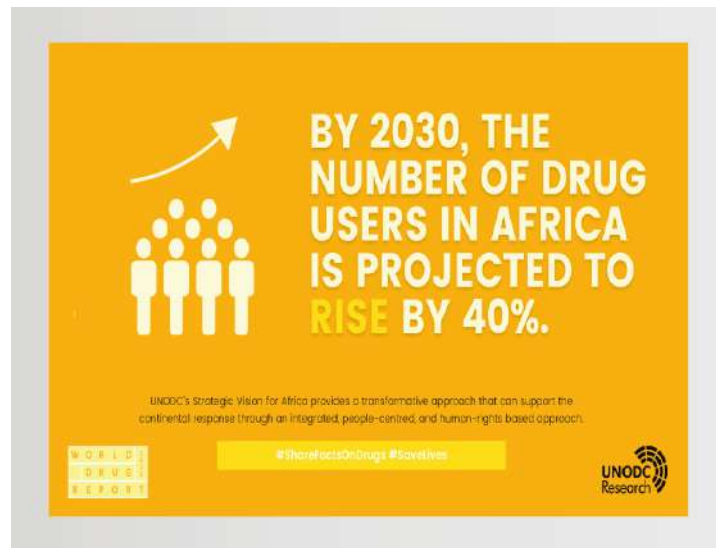
### **Note**

- ❖ ISA was established with the objective of working for efficient consumption of solar energy in a bid to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
- ❖ ISA initiative was first proposed by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his speech in November 2015 at Wembley Stadium.
- ❖ During his speech, he referred the sunshine countries as Suryaputra.

## **World Drug Report 2021**

- ❖ World Drug Report 2021 was released by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
- ❖ As per the report, 275 million people used drugs across the world in 2020.
- ❖ As per the report, 36 million people suffered from drug use disorders.
- ❖ Percentage of adolescents who perceived drug as harmful has reduced by 40 per cent.





## Windows 11

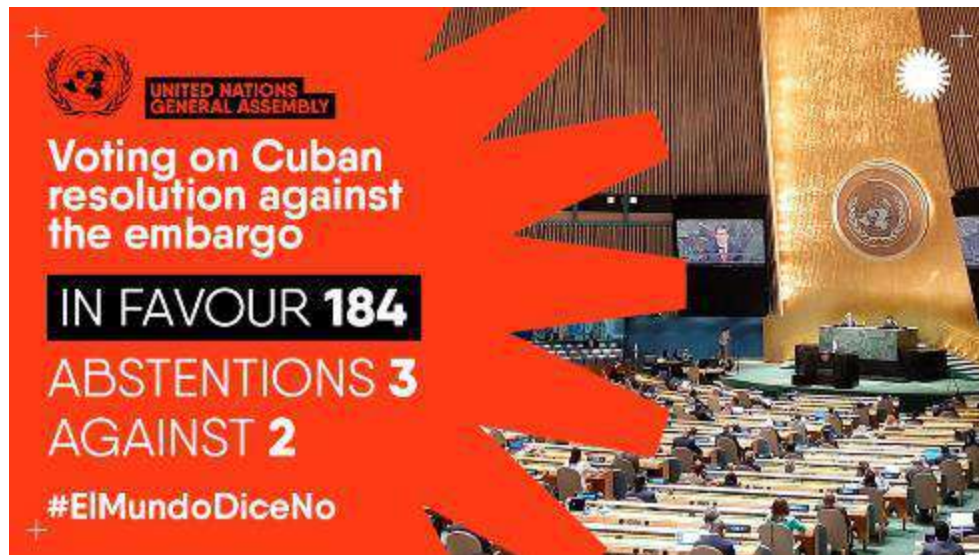
- ❖ Microsoft officially launched its new Windows operating system 'Windows 11'.
- ❖ It is being called as the “next generation” of Windows.
- ❖ The previous Windows Operating System 'Windows 10' was launched in July 2015.
- ❖ PCs having Intel's sixth and seventh-generation processors will not be eligible to use Windows 11.



## U.S. economic blockade against Cuba

- ❖ India, along with 183 countries voted in favour of a General Assembly resolution that demanded ending the U.S. economic blockade against Cuba.
- ❖ The U.S. and Israel were the only nations voting against the resolution.

- ❖ Colombia, Ukraine and Brazil abstained on the resolution.
- ❖ The embargo against Cuba was imposed in 1960.
- ❖ This was following the revolution led by Fidel Castro and the nationalisation of properties belonging to U.S. citizens and corporations.



### **Last print edition newspaper Apple Daily**

- ❖ Apple Daily's final edition of 1 million copies was sold out in Hongkong.
- ❖ The newspaper said it would cease operations after Hongkong police froze \$2.3 million in assets, searched its office and arrested five top editors and executives recently.
- ❖ The Hongkong police were accusing them of foreign collusion to endanger national security.
- ❖ In recent years, the newspaper has become increasingly outspoken, criticizing Chinese and Hong Kong authorities for limiting the city's freedoms.

### **FATF - Grey list**

- ❖ The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) added Haiti, Malta, the Philippines and South Sudan to the grey list.
- ❖ Ghana was removed from the list.

### **FATF**

- ❖ The Financial Action Task Force is an inter-governmental body established on the initiative of the G7.

- ❖ It was established in 1989.
- ❖ FATF is a Paris-based organization.
- ❖ It sets anti-money-laundering law standards.
- ❖ There are now 22 countries or territories on the so-called grey list.

### **Baihetan Hydro power Station**

- ❖ China began operating the world's second-largest hydro power station (Baihetan Hydro power Station) recently.
- ❖ Baihetan Hydro power Station has been built with a total installed capacity of 16,000 megawatts.
- ❖ The hydropower dam is built on the upper section of the Yangtze river.
- ❖ Yangtze is the longest river in China.
- ❖ Three Gorges dam (China) is the largest hydro power station in the world in terms of power generation.



### **Most expensive city for foreign workers - Ashgabat**

- ❖ Ashgabat has been named the world's most expensive city for foreign workers.
- ❖ It is the capital of Turkmenistan.
- ❖ The city topped the list in a 2021 cost-of-living survey by consultancy firm Mercer.
- ❖ Hong Kong was on the second position.
- ❖ Hongkong was followed by Beirut in Lebanon and Tokyo in Japan.





## Dragon Man

- ❖ Researchers from China have claimed to have found an ancient human skull that could belong to an altogether new species of humans.
- ❖ The skull was found in north-east China's Harbin city.
- ❖ It has been dubbed the "Dragon Man" or Homo longi.
- ❖ The name has been derived from the Long Jiang or Dragon River in the Heilongjiang province of China where the city of Harbin is located.
- ❖ The cranium could be over 146,000 years old.





## **ECONOMY**

### **RBI Annual Report 2021**

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has published its annual report.
- ❖ It has highlighted “asset quality of banks and their preparedness requires close monitoring for higher provisioning for upcoming quarters”.

#### **Highlights**

- ❖ In its report, RBI cautioned “banks being lenders will have to provide true picture of bad loans after Supreme Court lifted interim stay on classifying non-performing assets (NPA) in March 2021.
- ❖ According to it, waiver of compound interest on all loan accounts opted for moratorium during March-August 2020 would put stress on financial health of banks.
- ❖ Gross NPA ratio of banks decreased from 8.2% in March 2020 to 6.8% in December 2020.
- ❖ Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) of banks improved from 66.6% in March 2020 to 75.5 % by December 2020.
- ❖ Capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) of banks increased to 15.9% by December 2020, in March it was 14.8%.
- ❖ Gross NPA ratio for non-banking financial institutions (NBFCs) increased from 6.8% in march to 5.7% in December 2020.
- ❖ Capital adequacy ratio of NBFCs increased from 24.8% in December 2020 from 23.7% in March.

### **New loan products**

- ❖ Public sector banks (PSBs) have announced support measures and launch of new loan products to mitigate economic impact of Covid-19 pandemic.
- ❖ PSBs would provide unsecured loans of up to 5 lakh rupees to individuals.
- ❖ Loan can be utilized to meet their and family members’ treatment cost.
- ❖ Indian Banks Association and State Bank of India announced three new loan products in Mumbai.
- ❖ One will provide fresh lending support to vaccine manufacturers, hospitals or dispensaries, manufacturers & suppliers of oxygen, pathology labs, Ventilators, importers of vaccines, Covid drugs logistics firms and patients for treatment.
- ❖ The other two loans includes the Healthcare Business Loan of up to 2 crore rupees and Business loans for Healthcare Facilities of up to 100 Crore rupees.



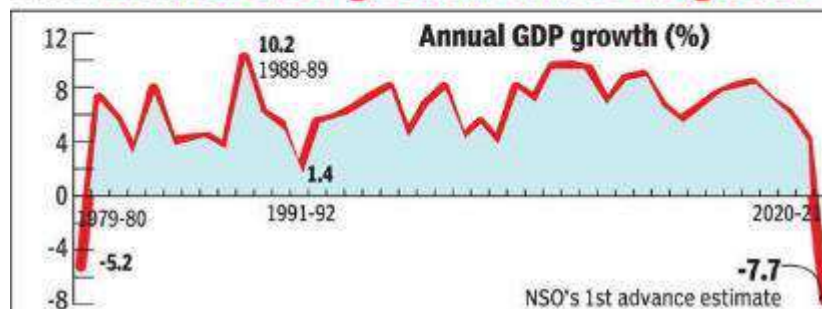
## Business Confidence Survey

- ❖ FICCI has published its quarterly “Business Confidence Survey”.
- ❖ According to it, Business confidence of Indian companies has come down to its lowest in three quarters in May.
- ❖ In last survey, confidence was at decadal high.
- ❖ Business Confidence Index (BCI) declined due to decline in optimism levels of participating companies with respect to current conditions.
- ❖ BCI stands at 51.5 in latest survey, after hitting 74.2 in previous survey round.

## GDP data

- ❖ The Central Statistics Office (CSO) released India’s gross domestic product (GDP) data for January-March quarter of financial year 2020-21.
- ❖ Before second wave of Covid-19, India’s GDP grew 1.6 per cent in fourth quarter (January-March) of 2020-21.
- ❖ However, for all quarters together, GDP contracted to 7.3 percent.

**2020-21 will be the first time in 41 years that annual GDP growth will be negative**

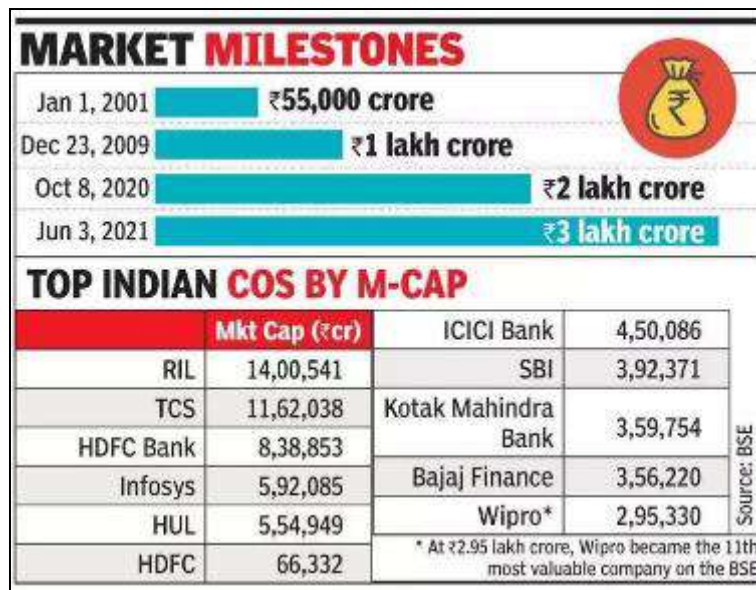


**What other institutions have estimated (%)**



### Wipro to touch Rs 3 trillion in m-cap

- ❖ Wipro has touched Rs 3 trillion in market capitalisation for the first time.
- ❖ It has become the third Indian IT firm to achieve this milestone after Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys.
- ❖ India has a total of 13 listed firms that have crossed the Rs 3 trillion m-cap.
- ❖ Wipro now ranks at 14<sup>th</sup> place.
- ❖ Reliance Industries is India's most valued company with a market capitalisation of ₹14.05 trillion.
- ❖ It is followed by Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (₹11.58 trillion) and HDFC Bank (₹8.33 trillion).



### Initial public offer – Paytm

- ❖ Paytm has announced that it will bring an initial public offer (IPO) worth USD 3 billion later this year.
- ❖ When companies wish to raise funds to fuel their growth, they sell a part of their stock on the stock market.
- ❖ This process is called an initial public offering, or IPO.
- ❖ In response to this Paytm's stock has risen largely in the grey market.
- ❖ The IPO grey market is an unofficial market that performs outside SEBI's purview.
- ❖ All transactions here are undertaken on the basis of trust and carry counterparty risk.



### **RBI monetary policy**

- ❖ Reserve Bank of India unveiled its bi-monthly monetary policy.
- ❖ It has kept the interest rates unchanged.

#### **Highlights**

- ❖ Monetary policy opened a Rs 15,000-crore liquidity window for contact-intensive sectors such as hotels and tourism.
- ❖ On the liquidity front, it announced securities purchases of Rs 40,000 crore in June quarter while Rs 1.2 lakh crore in September under G-SAP 1.0 to revive the growth.
- ❖ Repo rate was kept at 4 per cent while reverse repo rate was kept unchanged at 3.35 per cent.
- ❖ G-SAP 2.0 will be launched to buy bonds worth Rs 1.2 trillion.
- ❖ Under it, RBI will also buy bonds issued by state governments.

#### **Note**

- ❖ G-SAP 1.0 is Government Security Acquisition Programme 1.0 announced by RBI.
- ❖ It is for orderly evolution of yield curve in Financial Year 2022.

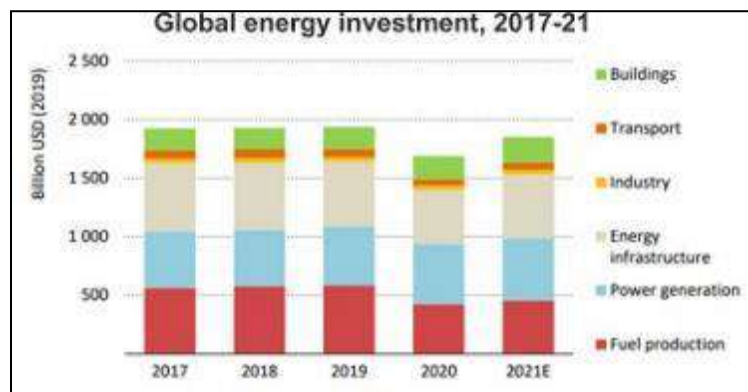
### **SWIFT gpi Instant facility**

- ❖ ICICI Bank has announced has tied up with SWIFT to offer a facility that helps overseas partner banks to send instant remittances on behalf of their customers to the beneficiary in India.
- ❖ The beneficiary gets the credit to the bank account instantly.
- ❖ This makes ICICI Bank the first bank in Asia-Pacific and the second globally to offer the facility, called 'SWIFT gpi instant', for cross border inward payments.
- ❖ The personal remittances of up to 2 lakhs will be sent through 'SWIFT gpi instant'.
- ❖ This can be processed instantly and credited into the beneficiary account held with any bank in India.
- ❖ It is sent via the IMPS network.

### **World Energy Investment Report 2021**

- ❖ The International Energy Agency (IEA) has released the World Energy Investment Report, 2021.

- ❖ According to this report, global energy investment is expected to rebound this year and increase 10% year-on-year to around \$1.9 trillion.
- ❖ Most of this investment will flow towards power and end-use sectors, shifting out of traditional fossil fuel production.
- ❖ The global energy demand is projected to rise 4.6% year-on-year in 2021, offsetting its contraction in 2020.
- ❖ Energy efficiency sector will see a 10% rise in investment, though the low fossil fuel price may act as a deterrent.



### Global corporate tax deal

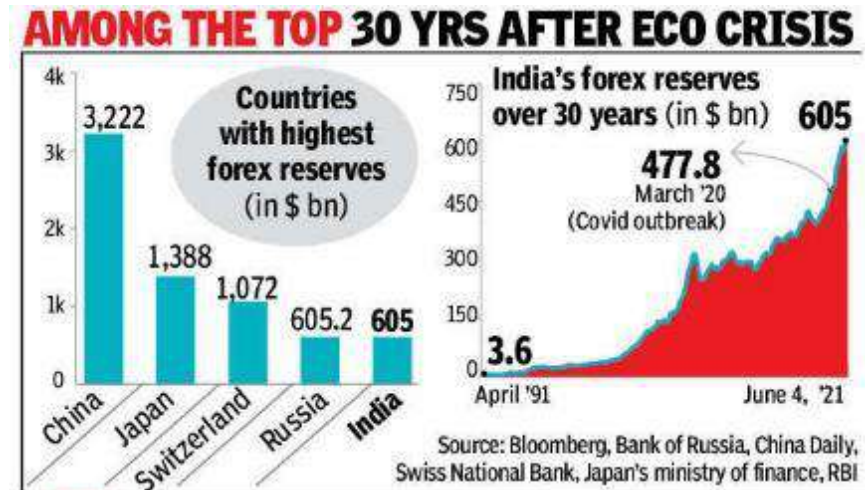
- ❖ Finance ministers from wealthy G7 nations have endorsed a new global corporate tax deal.
- ❖ The agreement will now be discussed in detail at a meeting of G20 financial ministers and central bank governors in July.
- ❖ The aim is to counter tax avoidance to make companies pay in the countries where they do business.
- ❖ The agreement commits states to a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15% to avoid countries undercutting each other.

### World Bank's Global Economic Prospects Update

- ❖ According to this, the Global economy is expected to expand 5.6 per cent in 2021.
- ❖ This would be the fastest post-recession pace in 80 years because of strong rebounds from a few major economies.
- ❖ US growth is projected to 6.8 percent in 2021.
- ❖ China will rebound to 8.5 percent.
- ❖ Rebound in group of developing countries, other than China, is expected to be 4.4 percent.

## India's forex reserves

- ❖ India's forex reserves crossed \$600 mark for the first time.
- ❖ With this, India equals Russia as the fourth largest reserve holder worldwide.
- ❖ Forex are assets on reserves which are held by central bank in foreign currencies.
- ❖ It includes bonds, treasury bills and other government securities.
- ❖ Most of the foreign exchange reserves are held in U.S. dollars.



## DBS Bank - World's Best Bank 2021

- ❖ DBS Bank has been named by Forbes in their list of World's Best Banks 2021.
- ❖ DBS was ranked 1 out of 30 domestic and international banks in India for the second consecutive year.
- ❖ This is the third edition of the 'World's Best Banks' list by Forbesc.
- ❖ It was conducted in partnership with market research firm Statista.
- ❖ Recently, DBS Bank India was recognised as 'India's Best International Bank 2021' by Asiamoney.
- ❖ DBS was named 'Safest Bank in Asia' for the 12th consecutive year by New York-based trade publication Global Finance in 2020.
- ❖ The bank was also Global Finance's pick for 'Best Bank in the World' in the same year.
- ❖ Previously, DBS was named 'World's Best Bank' by leading financial publication Euromoney in 2019.
- ❖ CEO of DBS bank is Piyush Gupta.
- ❖ Its Headquarters is in Singapore;
- ❖ Its tag line is "Make Banking Joyful".



### Bitcoin Investment Gain - 2020

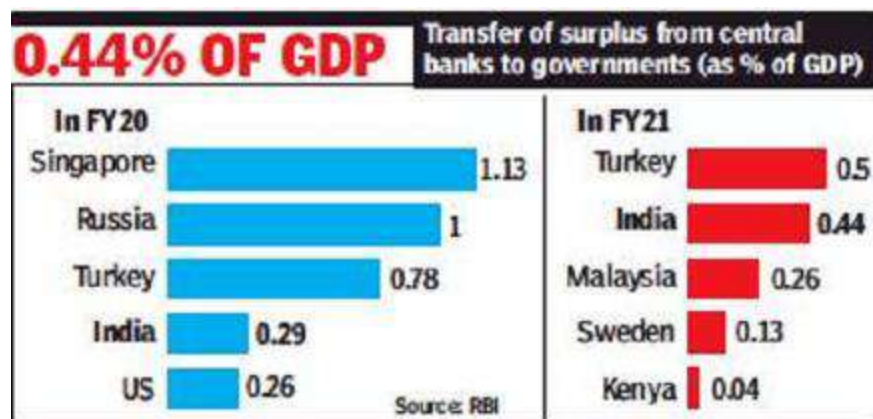
- ❖ The US traders have benefited the most in Bitcoin Investment Gain in 2020 with a profit of \$4.1 billion.
- ❖ This is in according to the latest report by Chainalysis.
- ❖ Chinese traders stood second, with a profit of \$1.1 billion.
- ❖ India has been ranked at 18th spot with a profit of \$241 million.

### Food Price Index - May

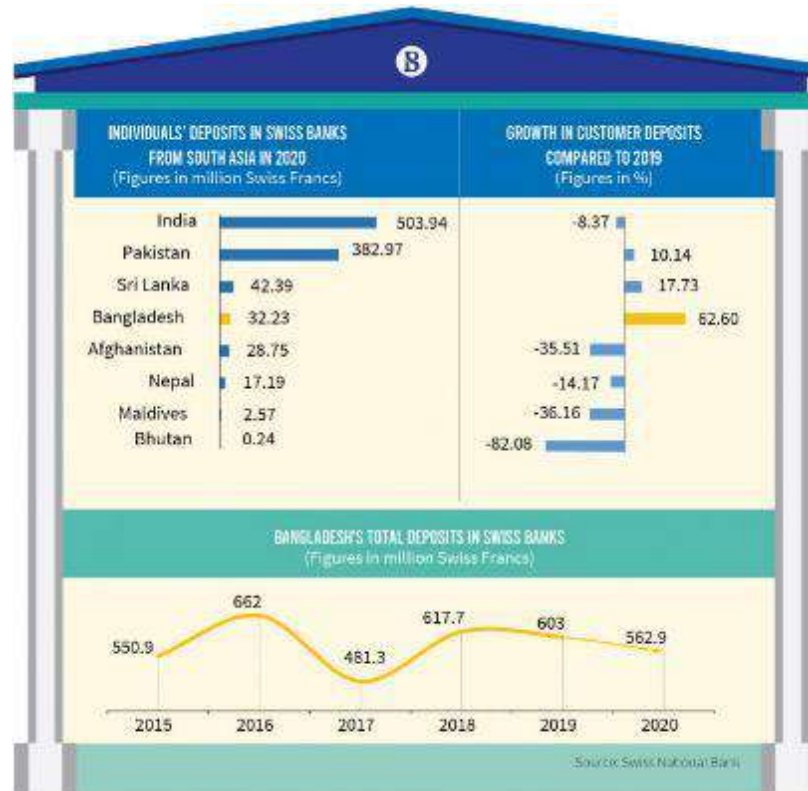
- ❖ United Nations announced recently that World food prices rose for the 12th consecutive month in in May.
- ❖ This is the highest level since September 2011.
- ❖ This announcement was made based on the Food Price Index released by the Food and Agriculture Organisation.
- ❖ On a year-on-year basis, prices were up 39.7 per cent in May.
- ❖ FAO also issued its first forecast for world cereal production in 2021.
- ❖ It predicted output of nearly 2.821 billion tonnes.
- ❖ It is a new record and 1.9 per cent up on 2020 levels.

### Second in share of central bank surplus transfers - India

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India was second in terms of reserves transferred to the government as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) for the fiscal year 2020-21.
- ❖ Turkey has been ranked first.
- ❖ The surplus transferred by RBI constitutes 0.44% of GDP.
- ❖ The Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey constitutes 0.5% of GDP.



## Annual bank statistics 2020



- ❖ The Annual bank statistics 2020 is released by Swiss national bank.
- ❖ India with Swiss Francs (CHF) 2.55 billion (INR 20, 706 Crore) has been placed at 51st place in the list of foreign clients' money in Swiss Banks during 2020.
- ❖ It has increased from 899 million CHF (INR 6, 625 Crore) in 2019.
- ❖ The United Kingdom (UK) topped the list with CHF 377 billion.
- ❖ It is followed by US (152 billion).

## Centrum to takeover PMC bank

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cleared proposal to takeover of Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperatives Bank (PMC Bank).
- ❖ The Consortium of non-bank lender Centrum Financial Services & fintech start-up BharatPe will take over it.
- ❖ This decision was taken in the backdrop of collapse of Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperatives Bank.

### RBI's Approval

- ❖ The RBI has decided to grant in-principle approval to Centrum so as to set up a small finance bank.

- ❖ It will be set up under on-tap licensing norms.
- ❖ On-tap licensing means, when regulator gives out bank licences on continuous basis rather than once in several years.

### **World Investment Report 2021**

- ❖ "World Investment Report 2021" was released by UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- ❖ As per the report, India received USD 64 billion in foreign direct investments (FDI) in 2020.
- ❖ It has emerged the fifth largest recipient of FDI inflows across the world.
- ❖ The United States remained the largest recipient of FDI.
- ❖ China was the second-largest recipient.



### **India's bank credit-to-GDP ratio**

- ❖ The bank credit-to-GDP ratio rose to a five-year high of a little over 56 per cent in 2020.
- ❖ This is according to the latest data from the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).
- ❖ At a 56.075 per cent credit-to-GDP ratio, total outstanding bank credit stood at USD 1.52 trillion in the country in 2020.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### NGC 691

- ❖ NASA's Hubble Space Telescope captured beautiful photo of spiral galaxy called "NGC 691".
- ❖ It is an unbarred spiral galaxy located about 125 million light-years away in Aries constellation.
- ❖ It was discovered by German-born British astronomer William Herschel in November, 1786.



### AmbiTAG

- ❖ IIT Ropar has developed the "AmbiTAG".
- ❖ This is India's first indigenous temperature data logger developed for cold chain management.
- ❖ AmbiTAG is shaped as USB device.
- ❖ It continuously records temperature of its immediate surroundings.
- ❖ It can detect temperatures "from -40 to +80 degrees" in any time zone for 90 days on a single charge.



- ❖ Logger recorded temperature that will further help to know whether particular item transported from anywhere in world is still usable or perished because of temperature variation.
- ❖ This information is significant for transportation of vaccines including Covid-19 vaccine, organs and blood transportation.

### **Vajra Kavach Disinfection System**

- ❖ Mumbai-based start-up, Indra water has developed “Vajra Kavach Disinfection System”.
- ❖ This removes scourge of viral particles from equipment used by Corona warriors front line workers.
- ❖ Disinfection System removes any possible traces of SARS-Cov-2 virus from Personal Protective Equipment, coats, gloves, N95 masks and gowns.



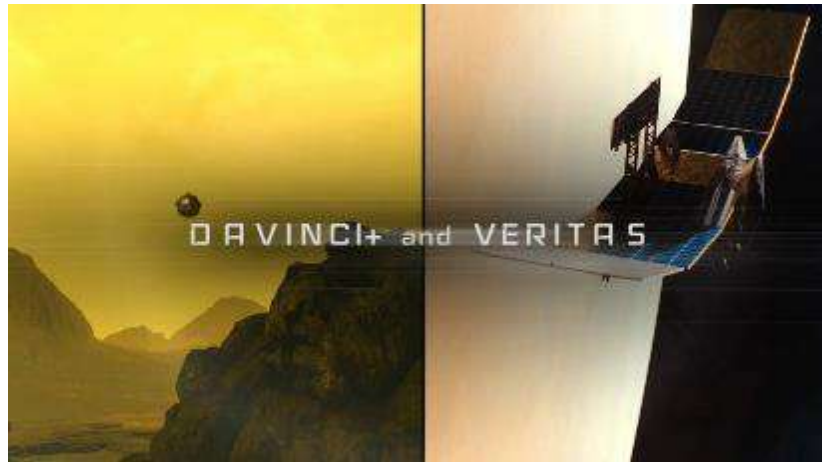
### **SWASTIIK technology**

- ❖ CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory (CSIR-NCL), Pune has launched a new technique called SWASTIIK technology.
- ❖ It helps to disinfect water by using natural oils.
- ❖ It was launched because, water-borne diseases have increased India's disease burden.



- ❖ This technology was developed in backdrop of National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM).
- ❖ NJJM recently issued an advisory for states and Union territories to monitor and survey water quality and ensure potable water amid rising covid-19 cases.

### **Davinci+ and Veritas**



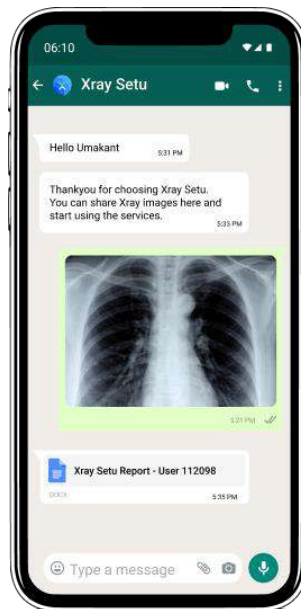
- ❖ NASA, has announced its two new robotic missions namely Davinci+ and Veritas.
- ❖ These are to examine to Venus.
- ❖ They will be launched in between 2028 and 2030.
- ❖ Davinci+ is “Deep Atmosphere Venus Investigation of Noble gases, Chemistry, and Imaging” mission.
- ❖ It will measure atmosphere of Venus.
- ❖ It also seeks to determine whether Venus ever had an ocean.
- ❖ Veritas is called as “Venus Emissivity, Radio Science, InSAR, Topography, and Spectroscopy”.
- ❖ It will map surface of Venus to understand its geologic history.
- ❖ It will discover if volcanoes and earthquakes are still happening.

### **Madad Map**

- ❖ It is India’s first country-wide map showing availability of hospital beds in real-time updates.
- ❖ This portal was launched by Project Madad (help).
- ❖ Washington-based Dr Rajesh Anumolu was head architect of ‘Madad Maps’.

## **XraySetu**

- ❖ A new AI-driven platform called 'XraySetu' has been developed to help in the early detection of COVID 19, with the help of Chest X-ray.
- ❖ The solution will be beneficial for early detection especially in rural areas,
- ❖ In rural areas, RT-PCR tests and CT-Scans are not easily available.
- ❖ XraySetu will operate through WhatsApp.
- ❖ It will identify COVID positive patients even from low-resolution Chest X-Ray images sent over Whatsapp-based Chatbot.
- ❖ The solution has been developed by ARTPARK (AI & Robotics Technology Park), established by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, with support from the Department of Science & Technology (DST), in collaboration with Bangalore based HealthTech startup Niramai and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).



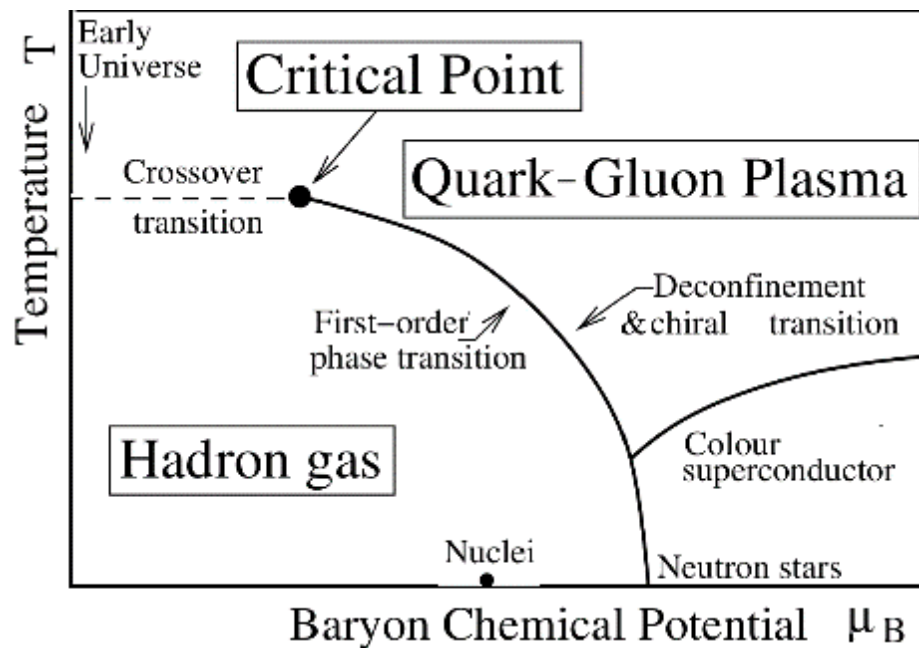
## **'EAST' - China's Artificial Sun**

- ❖ The China's EAST (Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak) reactor is an advanced nuclear fusion experimental research device.
- ❖ The EAST Tokamak device is designed to mimic the energy generation process of the sun.
- ❖ It replicates the process of nuclear fusion process carried out by the sun and stars.
- ❖ It has set a new record after it ran at 216 million degrees Fahrenheit (120 million degrees Celsius) for 101 seconds.

- ❖ EAST is one of three major domestic tokamaks that are presently being operated across the country.
- ❖ Other two are HL-2A reactor and J-TEXT.
- ❖ Also, in 2020, South Korea's KSTAR reactor set a record by maintaining a plasma temperature of 100 million degrees C for 20 seconds.

### Quark-gluon plasma

- ❖ Smashing together lead particles at 99.9999991% the speed of the light, the first matter that appeared after the Big Bang has been recreated.
- ❖ This primordial type of matter is known as quark-gluon plasma, or QGP.
- ❖ This matter lasted only for a fraction of a second.
- ❖ This new study is performed by researchers from the University of Copenhagen, Denmark.



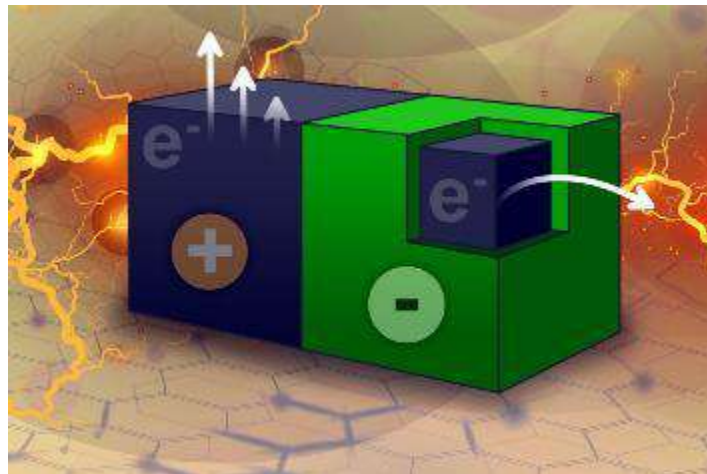
### LEO satellites – Internet connectivity

- ❖ OneWeb is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite communications operator.
- ❖ It has launched its next batch of 36 satellites from Russia.
- ❖ With the latest launch, OneWeb's total in-orbit constellation stands at 218 satellites.
- ❖ These would be a part of OneWeb's 648 LEO satellite fleet.

- ❖ Using LEO satellites OneWeb seeks to offer connectivity across the UK, Alaska, Northern Europe, Greenland, the Arctic Seas and Canada.
- ❖ It calls this programme the 'Five to 50' service.
- ❖ It offers internet connectivity to all regions north of 50 degrees latitude.

### **Electricity from carbon nanotubes**

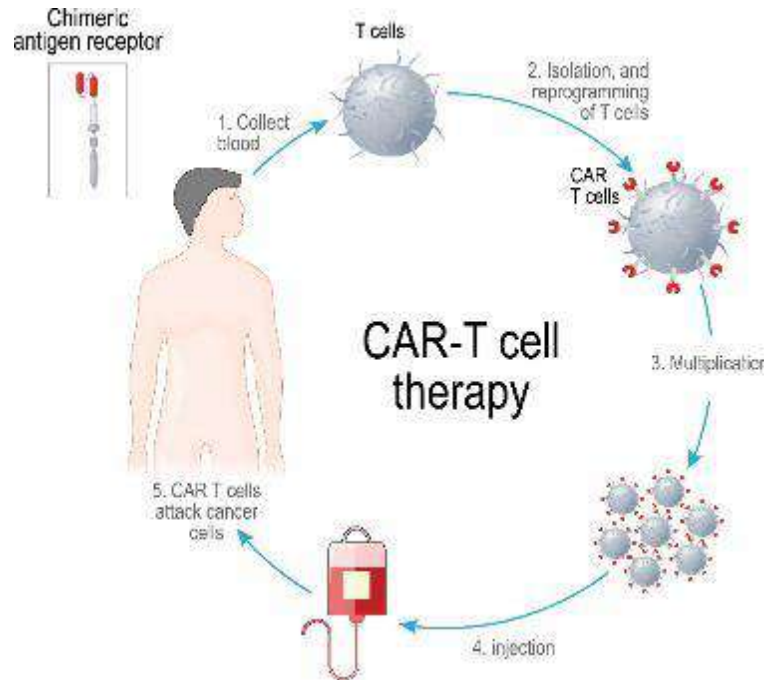
- ❖ MIT engineers (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) have discovered a new way of generating electricity using carbon nanotubes.
- ❖ A new material made up of carbon nanotubes has potential to generate electricity by collecting energy from its environment.
- ❖ These micro carbon particles can create current by interacting with liquid around them.
- ❖ Liquid, an organic solvent, attracts electrons out of the nanoparticles, which generates current.



### **CAR-T cell therapy**

- ❖ The clinical trials of Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell (CAR-T) therapy were conducted globally.
- ❖ It has shown promising results on end stage cancer patients, especially in patients of Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia.
- ❖ First CAR-T cell Therapy was done by IIT Bombay and cancer care in India.
- ❖ It was done at Bone Marrow Transplant unit of Tata Memorial Centre in Mumbai.
- ❖ CAR-T cells were designed and manufactured at Bioscience and Bioengineering (BSBE) department, IIT Bombay.

- ❖ This was also supported by BIRAC-PACE scheme.
- ❖ Now, this therapy will undergo Phase I and II trial of their CAR-T product through National Biopharma Mission.



### Early cyclone detection technique

- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur has developed an early cyclone detection technique.
- ❖ This will help in early detection of development or strengthening of tropical cyclones in North Indian Ocean region.
- ❖ IIT developed this technique using Eddy detection technique.

### 3D-printed Masks coated with anti-viral agents

- ❖ Thincr Technologies India Private Limited, has developed an 3D-printed Masks coated with anti-viral agents.
- ❖ Thincr Technologie is a Pune-based start-up firm.
- ❖ Masks are coated with anti-viral agents known as virucides.
- ❖ These cost-effective masks are more effective in containing spread of COVID-19.
- ❖ This project received financial support from TDB (Technology Development Board).
- ❖ Masks were developed with support from Merck Life Sciences.





### **EnVision**

- ❖ European Space Agency is now developing its own probe to study Venus.
- ❖ The mission is named as “EnVision”.
- ❖ It will probably be launched to the planet in early 2030.
- ❖ ESA will undertake this mission with contributions from NASA.

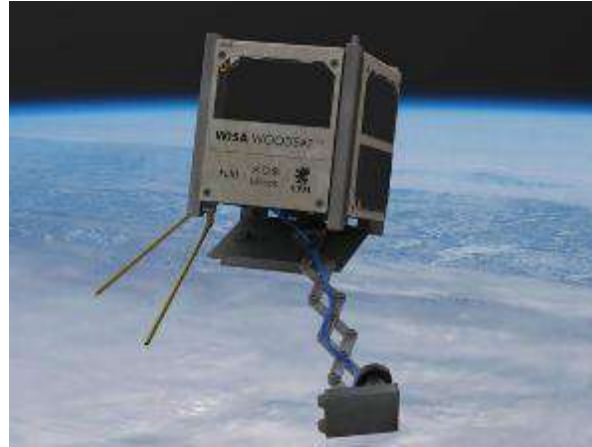
### **CHIME telescope results**

- ❖ Scientists with the CHIME Collaboration have assembled the largest collection of fast radio bursts (FRBs) in the telescope’s first FRB catalogue.
- ❖ CHIME is Canadian Hydrogen Intensity Mapping Experiment.
- ❖ It is a large stationary radio telescope in British Columbia, Canada.
- ❖ Sight of an FRB is considered a rare thing in the field of radio astronomy.
- ❖ Radio astronomers had only caught sight of around 140 bursts in their scopes since the first FRB was spotted in 2007.
- ❖ FRBs are oddly bright flashes of light which blaze for a few milliseconds before vanishing without a trace.
- ❖ They are registered in the radio band of the electromagnetic spectrum.

### **WISA Woodsat**

- ❖ European Space Agency (ESA) will launch world’s first wooden satellite in the Earth’s orbit.
- ❖ It is called as WISA Woodsat.

- ❖ It will be launched to test the applicability of wooden materials such as plywood in spacecraft structures.
- ❖ Wooden satellite will be launched with a Rocket Lab Electron rocket.
- ❖ It will be launched from Mahia Peninsula launch complex in New Zealand.
- ❖ Satellite has been designed and built in Finland.

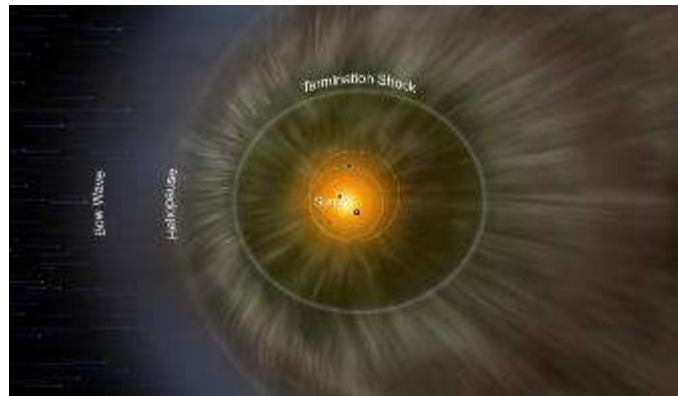


## **Shenzhou-12**

- ❖ Chinese spacecraft, Shenzhou-12, blasted off from Gobi Desert on a Long March rocket.
- ❖ This Spacecraft will ferry three men to an orbiting space.
- ❖ They will stay for three-month.
- ❖ This will be the first time China will send humans into space since 2016.
- ❖ Shenzhou-12 means Divine Vessel.

## **Boundary between Solar System and Interstellar Space**

- ❖ The Scientists have created first-ever 3D map of boundary between our solar system and interstellar space called Heliosphere.
- ❖ This 3D map was created using data from NASA's IBEX satellite.
- ❖ The Boundary of heliosphere has been mapped for the first time.
- ❖ It will provide for scientists to understand how solar and interstellar winds interact.
- ❖ Earlier, this boundary was mentioned in theories of Physics models.
- ❖ This is the first-time scientists were able to measure it and make its three-dimensional map.



### **T2T-CHM13**

- ❖ Telomere-to-Telomere (T2T) consortium, an international collaboration of around 30 institutions has sequenced the “first truly complete human reference genome”.
- ❖ The new sequence is named as “T2T-CHM13”.
- ❖ This unlocks newer regions in human DNA.
- ❖ It might help understanding of a wide variety of disorders affecting people.

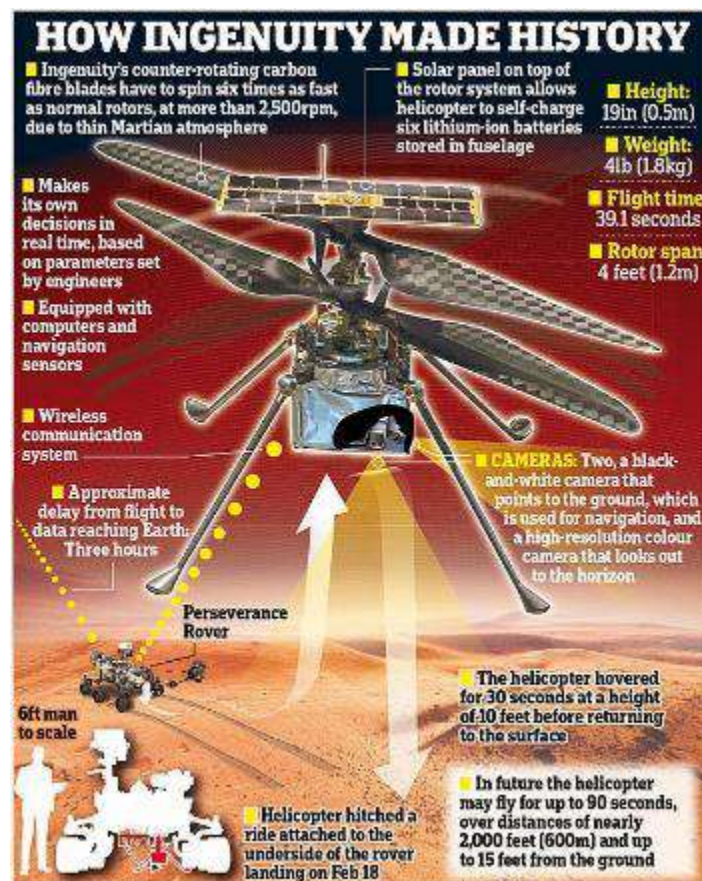
### **Yellow watermelon**

- ❖ Yellow watermelon has been developed by Bayer’s global research and development efforts.
- ❖ Yellow watermelon variety has been commercially introduced in India after two years of local trials.
- ❖ Yellow Gold 48 have enhanced yield potential, better disease & pest tolerance.
- ❖ Yellow Gold 48 variety is best suited for cultivation during October to February.
- ❖ Harvest can be done from April onwards.



## Ingenuity on its 8<sup>th</sup> flight

- ❖ NASA's experimental Mars helicopter called Ingenuity undertook its 8th flight on Red Planet.
- ❖ Ingenuity is a small robotic helicopter which is operating on Mars under NASA's Mars 2020 mission.
- ❖ Ingenuity was built by Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) of NASA.
- ❖ Ingenuity was originally designed to fly only five times.
- ❖ But its steady successes made agency to extend its mission and experiment with more ambitious flights.



## Nirbhay

- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation successfully test-fired the subsonic cruise missile 'Nirbhay'.
- ❖ It is tested from an Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur in Odisha's Balasore.
- ❖ This was the eighth test flight of the missile.



- ❖ The first test flight of Nirbhay was held on 12 March 2013.
- ❖ Nirbhay is a long-range, all-weather, subsonic cruise missile indigenously designed and developed by DRDO.
- ❖ It has a strike range of about 1500 km.



### **Rapid Antigen Test kit - IIT Delhi**

- ❖ The Minister of State for Education, Sanjay Dhotre, launched a Rapid Antigen Test kit for COVID-19.
- ❖ It was developed by IIT Delhi.
- ❖ RAT kit has been developed by IIT Delhi researchers led by Dr. Harpal Singh.
- ❖ He is a professor at Centre for Biomedical Engineering of IIT Delhi.
- ❖ The kit has been developed entirely using internal resources at IIT Delhi.

### **LiDAR based survey of forest areas**

- ❖ The Union Environment Minister released the Detailed Project Reports of LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) based survey of forest areas in ten states.
- ❖ The 10 mapped states are Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, and Tripura.
- ❖ The Survey of Forest Areas Project was awarded to WAPCOS.
- ❖ WAPCOS is a Mini Ratna Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Jal Shakti Ministry.
- ❖ It is a first of its kind and a unique experiment using LiDAR technology.
- ❖ This survey will help augment water and fodder in jungle areas thereby reducing human-animal conflict.
- ❖ LiDAR technology has been found to have 90% accuracy.



## ENVIRONMENT

### UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration report



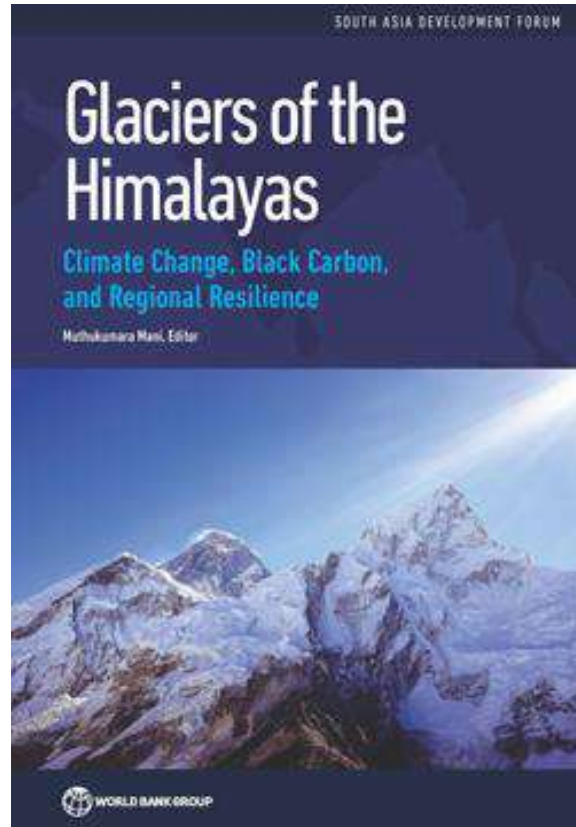
- ❖ UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and Food & Agriculture Organisation of UN (FAO) launched 'UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration' report for 2021-2030.
- ❖ It called the nations to meet commitments of restoring 1 billion hectares of land.
- ❖ As per the report, the world is facing triple threat of climate change, loss of nature and pollution.

### Industrial Deep Decarbonization Initiative

- ❖ India along with Govt. of United Kingdom launched the Industrial Deep Decarbonization Initiative (IDDI).
- ❖ It was launched under the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) at the 12th Chief Energy Ministerial (CEM).
- ❖ IDDI is a global coalition of public and private organisations who are working to stimulate demand for low carbon industrial materials.
- ❖ It is coordinated by United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).
- ❖ IDDI is co-led by the UK and India.
- ❖ The current members also include Germany and Canada.



## **World Bank study on glacier melt**



- ❖ The World Bank had recently conducted a research study on impact of Black Carbon over the Himalaya, Karakoram and Hindu Kush (HKHK) mountain ranges.
- ❖ In these places the glaciers are melting faster than the global average ice mass.
- ❖ The report is titled “Glaciers of the Himalayas, Climate Change, Black Carbon and Regional Resilience”.

### **Highlights**

- ❖ Black carbon (BC) deposits produced by human activity accelerate the pace of glacier and snow melt in the Himalayan region.
- ❖ The rate of retreat of HKHK glaciers is estimated to be 0.3 metres per year in the west to 1.0 metre per year in the east.

## **CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral cement plant**

- ❖ Heidelberg Cement plans to turn its Swedish factory in Slite into the world’s first CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral cement plant by 2030.
- ❖ This could be done via carbon capture technology.
- ❖ Heidelberg Cement is the world’s second-largest cement maker.

## HEIDELBERGCEMENT

### Sea snot

- ❖ Turkey's Sea of Marmara has witnessed the largest outbreak of 'sea snot'.
- ❖ Sea of Marmara connects the Black Sea to the Aegean Sea.
- ❖ Sea snot is a slimy layer of grey or green sludge.
- ❖ It can cause considerable damage to the marine ecosystem.
- ❖ It is formed when algae are overloaded with nutrients.



### Keeling Curve

- ❖ The amount of carbon in Earth's atmosphere in May 2021 reached its highest level in modern history.
- ❖ It is indicated by the Keeling Curve.
- ❖ Keeling Curve is a global benchmark for carbon levels in the atmosphere.
- ❖ It is named after its creator Dr. Charles David Keeling.
- ❖ It is a graph that represents the concentration of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in Earth's atmosphere since 1958.
- ❖ Its measurements are taken at the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii.



### **Net-zero carbon emission - Indian Railways**

- ❖ Indian Railways is now moving towards “net-zero carbon emission” before the year 2030.
- ❖ The Railways has adopted modern measures such as Head-On-Generation systems, Bio-Toilets and LED lights, automatic coach washing plants and so.
- ❖ Currently, the Railways is developing Dedicated Freight Corridors (Eastern DFC and Western DFC) in the form of a low carbon green transportation network with a long-term low carbon roadmap.
- ❖ It also gives Green certifications to stations that are constructed keeping in mind the sustainable development goals.

### **Operation Olivia**

- ❖ Coast Guard have enforced laws and started operation Olivia to protect Olive Ridley turtles in Odisha.
- ❖ Operation Olivia was started by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), first in early 1980s.
- ❖ This operation helps in protecting Olive Ridley turtles every year.

### **Sustainable Development Report 2021**

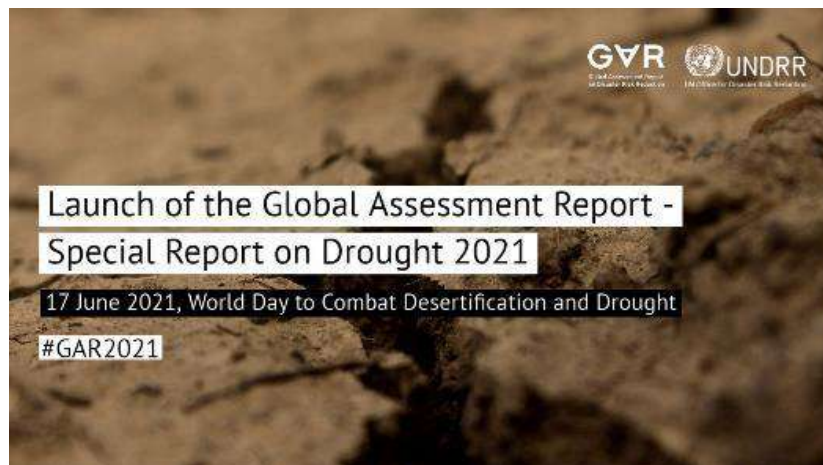
- ❖ Sustainable Development Report was prepared and released by experts from UN Sustainable Development Solution Network (SDSN).
- ❖ The index compares how countries implement 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- ❖ This year Finland was ranked highest in the index.
- ❖ This is the first time a Nordic country has ranked at the top of SDG Index.
- ❖ India ranked 120 in this report.

### **May month records low temperature**

- ❖ May month of this year in India recorded the lowest average maximum temperatures in since 1977.
- ❖ The figure for entire India stood at 34.18-degree Celsius, as per data shared by India Meteorological data (IMD).
- ❖ This happens to be lowest in 44 years and fourth lowest since 1901.
- ❖ The lowest ever average maximum temperature in May was recorded in the year 1917 at 32.68-degree Celsius.

### **Special Report on Drought 2021**

- ❖ The report titled “Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction: Special Report on Drought 2021” was published recently.
- ❖ It was published by UNDRR (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction).
- ❖ It will be a part of discussions at vital UN climate talks called Cop26.
- ❖ Cop26 is scheduled to take place in Glasgow of Scotland in November 2021.
- ❖ As per the report, Drought is a hidden global crisis which can become “the next pandemic” if no urgent action is taken.
- ❖ About 1.5 billion people are directly affected by drought this century.
- ❖ Economic cost was roughly estimated at \$124bn.



### **Karnataka Coastal Zone Management Authority**

- ❖ Union ministry of Environment, forest & Climate Change has notified about constituting a Karnataka Coastal Zone Management Authority.
- ❖ The Notification was issued under Environment Protection Act, 1986.
- ❖ Karnataka Coastal Zone Management Authority is a 15-member body.
- ❖ This will be constituted to protect & improve the quality of coastal environment.
- ❖ Its primary work is to prevent, abate and control environmental pollution in Coastal Regulation Zone of Karnataka.
- ❖ The Term of office of present members is for three years.

### **Green Hydrogen Initiatives**

- ❖ India hosted a two-day summit on Green Hydrogen Initiatives.
- ❖ This Summit involves the BRICS nations.





- ❖ This prestigious event offers a platform to share their respective Green Hydrogen initiatives & views on how to take it to next level in their countries.
- ❖ This Online event was hosted by India's largest power producer and global energy majors called NTPC Ltd.
- ❖ Green Hydrogen is obtained entirely from renewable power sources.

### **Ramgarh Vishdhari wildlife sanctuary**

- ❖ Ramgarh Vishdhari wildlife sanctuary becomes the 4th Tiger reserve of Rajasthan.
- ❖ This will be the 52nd Tiger Reserve of India.
- ❖ Rajasthan's other three tiger reserves are,
  - Ranthambore Tiger Reserve (RTR) in Sawai Madhopur,
  - Sariska Tiger Reserve (STR) in Alwar and
  - Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve (MHTR) in Kota.

#### **Note**

- ❖ Project Tiger was launched in 1973 with 9 tiger reserves.
- ❖ It is an ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

## **STATES**

### **Ankur scheme**

- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh government announced the launch of Ankur recently.
- ❖ It is a scheme under which citizens will be awarded for planting trees during monsoon.
- ❖ The People who take the initiative to plant saplings will be given the Pranvayu Award for their participation.

### **West Bengal chief secretary issue**

- ❖ Bandyopadhyay, a 1987-batch IAS officer of West Bengal cadre, was scheduled to retire on May 31 after completion of 60 years of age.
- ❖ However, he was granted a three-month extension following a nod from the Centre.



- ❖ West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had written to Prime Minister urging him to grant Bandyopadhyay an extension for at least six months in view of his experience of handling the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **Issue**

- ❖ Barely four days after he was granted extension, the Centre sought the services of West Bengal Chief Secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay and asked the state government to relieve the officer immediately.
- ❖ The Centre also directed Bandyopadhyay to report to the Department of Personnel and Training, North Block, New Delhi.

#### **Maratha Community avail benefits under EWS quota**

- ❖ Supreme Court struck down the Maharashtra law granting quota to the Maratha community in admissions and government jobs, by terming it "unconstitutional".
- ❖ The Maharashtra Government announced that the Maratha Community can now avail benefits under the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) quota.
- ❖ Earlier, the Maratha Community recognized as the Socially and Economically Backward Class (SEBC) category was not eligible for the availing the 10 per cent EWS quota due to the prevalence of Maratha reservation in the state.

#### **Skill development colleges**

- ❖ The government of Andhra Pradesh has passed an order to establish of one Skill Development University and 30 skill development colleges across the state.
- ❖ One college will be set up in each of the 25 parliamentary constituencies.
- ❖ One will be set up in each IIIT across the state.
- ❖ One will be set up in Pulivendila, Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy's constituency.

#### **Guardian Ministers**

- ❖ Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has appointed 'Guardian Ministers'.
- ❖ They are appointed to oversee the implementation of government policy decisions, administrative reforms, and other welfare schemes in all the 34 districts of the state.
- ❖ 13 'Guardian Ministers' have been appointed for all 34 districts in Assam
- ❖ The assigned ministers will be responsible for the implementation of all centrally-sponsored schemes as well as the state's own priority programmes.

### **Indimimus jayanti**

- ❖ Recently, a new species of Cricket named 'Indimimus jayanti' was found in the Kurra caves of Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ The new species was named after Professor Jayant Biswas, one of the leading cave explorers in the country.
- ❖ The new species of cricket has been identified under the genus Arachnomimus Saussure, 1897.
- ❖ Jayanti has led to the new subgenus 'Indimimus'.
- ❖ Males of the new Jayanti subgenus cannot produce sound and their females don't have ears.



### **Corona-free Village Competitions**

- ❖ Maharashtra government has launched "Corona-free Village Competitions".
- ❖ Under this, three villages will be selected in each revenue district.
- ❖ There are selected on the basis of their good work and efforts in Covid-19 management.
- ❖ This competition is part of 'My Village Corona Free' initiative.

### **Indus Best Mega Food Park**

- ❖ Union Minister for Food Processing Industries, Narendra Singh Tomar virtually inaugurated the Indus Best Mega Food Park in Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ The Park will also provide direct and indirect employment to about 5,000 persons.
- ❖ It will benefit about 25,000 farmers in the CPC and PPC catchment areas.



### **GIFT - Goa**

- ❖ Goa government has established the “Goa Institution for Future Transformation (GIFT)”
- ❖ GIFT will function on the lines of NITI Aayog.
- ❖ It will assist, advice and guide government on policy making, its formulation and implementation.
- ❖ It will also help in monitoring sustainable development goals and evaluation of several development plans, programmes and schemes.
- ❖ It will be backed up under Article 309 of Constitution of India to attain autonomy.

### **Kerala launches ‘Knowledge Economy Mission’**

- ❖ The project will be launched to bring ongoing efforts of providing employment to educated people and support ‘knowledge workers’ under a single programme.
- ❖ It was being spearheaded by Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K-DISC).
- ❖ For implementation and funding purposes, a ‘knowledge economy fund’ will be created.

### **International maritime services cluster - GIFT City**

- ❖ Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) will set up the country’s first international maritime services cluster at GIFT City.
- ❖ This will be a dedicated ecosystem comprising ports, shipping, logistics services providers and government regulators, all present in the same geographic vicinity.
- ❖ GIFT City is India’s first operational smart city and international financial services.

### **Assam awards**

- ❖ Asom Ratna Award award will be presented every year to one person for his significant contribution to society.
- ❖ Cabinet also decided to constitute Asom Bibhushan, Assam Bhushan Award and Asom Shree award.
- ❖ These will be conferred every year to three people, five people and ten people, respectively.
- ❖ Awards will be accompanied by a cash reward.
  - Rs 5 lakhs for Asom Ratna Award,



- Rs 3 lakhs for Asom Bibhushan Award,
- Rs 2 lakhs for Assam Bhushan Award and
- Rs 1 lakh for Asom Shree Award.

#### **Other Decisions**

- ❖ Literary Pension will be conferred in the name of litterateur Dr Homen Borgohain on his birthday (December 7).
- ❖ Sports Pension will be given in the name of Arjun Bhogeswar Barua on his birthday (September 3) while
- ❖ Artiste Award will be given on January 17 every year.

#### **Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary**

- ❖ The Assam Government has decided to declare Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary as the 7th National Park of the state.
- ❖ It is popularly known as Dehing Patkai Rain Forest.
- ❖ The state now has the second-highest number of national parks in the country.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands have nine national parks each.

#### **Net energy neutral status - Bengaluru airport**

- ❖ The Kempegowda International Airport has achieved net energy neutral status in the Financial Year 2020-21.
- ❖ Bengaluru international airport has been able to save nearly 22 lakh units of energy in the Financial Year 2020-21.
- ❖ These measures were achieved through solar installation.

#### **eIDs**

- ❖ Punjab Government has initiated the usage of eIDs for their officers/employees.
- ❖ Punjab becomes the first state to use this.
- ❖ The eIDs are equipped with Near Field Communication (NFC) technology.

#### **Heritage Tree concept**

- ❖ The state Cabinet approved the action plan to implement 'Heritage Tree' concept in Maharashtra.



- ❖ This action plan was proposed by Environment Department headed by Aaditya Thackeray.
- ❖ This is to protect ancient and old trees aged 50 years and above in urban areas.
- ❖ Action plan amends Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Tree Protection and Conservation Act, 1975.



### **Aerosol nucleation**

- ❖ The Scientists from the University of Hyderabad have found frequent formation of sub-3 nanometres aerosol particles in the atmosphere.
- ❖ This is measured using AIRMODUS nano Condensation Nucleus Counter.
- ❖ The formation of small molecular clusters of sub-3nm size is technically called aerosol nucleation.

### **Raja Parba - Odisha**

- ❖ Raja Parba festival celebrated in Odisha.
- ❖ It is a 3-days unique festival.
- ❖ It is celebrated during the onset of monsoon.
- ❖ It is believed that during this time the Mother Earth or Bhudevi undergoes menstruation.
- ❖ The fourth day is the day of the 'purification bath'.
- ❖ This festival is synonymous with varieties of cakes (pithas).

## **Jalgaon Banana**

- ❖ Jalgaon Banana was exported to Dubai.
- ❖ Jalgaon Banana is a GI certified agricultural produce from Jalgaon district of Maharashtra.
- ❖ Jalgaon District is an identified banana cluster under Agri Export Policy.
- ❖ It is also called as “Banana city” of Maharashtra.

## **Stygarctus Keralensis**

- ❖ A new species named “Stygarctus Keralensis” has been identified in Kerala.
- ❖ This tiny & tough species of Tardigrades has been named after Kerala.’
- ❖ Tardigrades are small specie which are commonly called as ‘water bears’ and moss piglets.
- ❖ They were first described by German zoologist Johann August Ephraim Goeze in 1773.

## **Crocodiles’ species in Odisha**



- ❖ Odisha has become the only state in India to have all the three species of crocodiles.
- ❖ They are,
  - Reptile freshwater Gharials at Satkosia in Mahanadi,
  - Muggers in Bhitarkanika National Park and
  - Saltwater crocodiles in Bhitarkanika National Park.
- ❖ Odisha has witnessed natural nesting of Gharials (a critically endangered species) for the first time since they were introduced in its rivers in 1975.

### **Benefits in Punjab due to BT Cotton adoption**

- ❖ The Researchers in India recently conducted one study funded by Agricultural Extension Division of Indian Council of Agricultural Research.
- ❖ It was done under an extramural project named “Impact evaluation of integrated pest management technologies”.
- ❖ The study says that,
  - The use of highly hazardous & riskiest insecticides has reduced over time.
  - Expenses associated with insecticide use have also reduced.
  - Cotton yields in the past 13 years have been stable, except in 2015.
- ❖ BT cotton is a genetically modified pest resistant plant cotton variety.
- ❖ BT toxins are insecticidal to larvae of moths, butterflies, cotton bollworms, beetles and flies.

### **GM Rubber planted in Assam**

- ❖ The Rubber Board has started field trial of world’s first GM (genetically modified) rubber in the state of Assam.
- ❖ GM Rubber was developed in biotechnology laboratory at Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII) in Puthuppally, Kottayam.
- ❖ It was planted at Rubber board’s Sarutari research farm in Guwahati.
- ❖ In Kerala, the state Government denied permission for the field trial of GM Rubber because of its adverse impact on environment.

### **Incentives for having more children - Mizoram**

- ❖ Sports Minister of Mizoram, Robert Romawia Royte, has announced a cash incentive of Rs 1 lakh for having more children.
- ❖ Rs 1 lakh would be given to living parent with highest number of children in minister’s constituency.
- ❖ This is to encourage population growth among the demographically small Mizo communities.

### **Freshwater Black Softshell Turtle**

- ❖ Hayagriva Madhava Temple Committee (Assam) signed a MoU with two NGOs, Assam State Zoo cum Botanical Garden and the Kamrup district administration.
- ❖ This is for conserving the rare freshwater black softshell turtle.

- ❖ Also, a Vision Document 2030 was launched to raise at least 1000 black softshell turtle (*Nilssonia nigricans*) by 2030.
- ❖ These turtles are found along the Brahmaputra River's drainage in Assam, and in ponds of temples in north-eastern India and Bangladesh.
- ❖ The International Union for Conservation of Nature had in 2021 listed the turtle as 'critically endangered'.



### **Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine**

- ❖ The Odisha Government will launch Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) under the universal vaccination programme.
- ❖ The Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) has been developed by the Serum Institute of India (SII).
- ❖ It was developed in association with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

### **Kaval Plus programme**

- ❖ The Department of Women & Child Development in Kerala has decided to expand Kaval Plus programme to five districts.
- ❖ The programme is to lend holistic support to children in need of care & protection and to the survivors of sexual abuse.
- ❖ This Project was before implemented in Thiruvananthapuram and Palakkad district.
- ❖ It will be now implemented in Ernakulam, Idukki, Malappuram, Kozhikode, and Kannur districts.



### Reforms in AP Public Service Commission

- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh government issued a formal order dispensing with the process of interviews for all future recruitments into government service.
- ❖ This includes the executive posts also.
- ❖ Written tests and interviews were, however, retained for executive posts like deputy collector, Deputy Superintendent of Police, commercial taxes officer, regional transport officer and the like.
- ❖ The reforms were implemented as per the recommendations of a high-level committee headed by the then Special Chief Secretary J Satyanarayana.

### Hemis festival

- ❖ The legendary two days Hemis festival celebrated in Leh in Ladakh.
- ❖ It's also popularly known as Hemis Tses-Chu.
- ❖ It is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Guru Padma sambhava.
- ❖ Guru Padma sambhava introduced and flourished Vajrayana Buddhist tradition in the entire Himalayas.
- ❖ Guru Padma sambhava is popularly known as the second Buddha.



### Export of Dragon fruits

- ❖ The first consignment of dragon fruit has been exported to Dubai recently.
- ❖ In India, this dragon fruit is also known as Kamalam.
- ❖ Dragon Fruit for exports was sourced from the farmers of Tadasar village, Sangli district, Maharashtra



- ❖ Dragon fruit is the fruit of a species of wild cactus indigenous to South and Central America.
- ❖ It is called pitaya or pitahaya over there.



## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

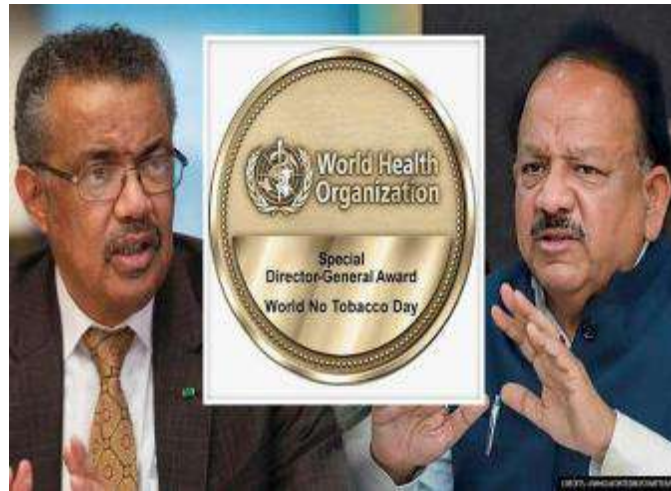
### 3 Indian peacekeepers to be honoured - UN

- ❖ Corporal Yuvraj Singh, civilian peacekeeper Ivan Michael Picardo, and Moolchand Yadav are among those to be honoured with the UN's prestigious medal.
- ❖ Corporal Yuvraj Singh was serving at the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).
- ❖ Ivan Michael Picardo was associated with UNAMISS as a civil peacekeeper.
- ❖ Moolchand Yadav was associated with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI).



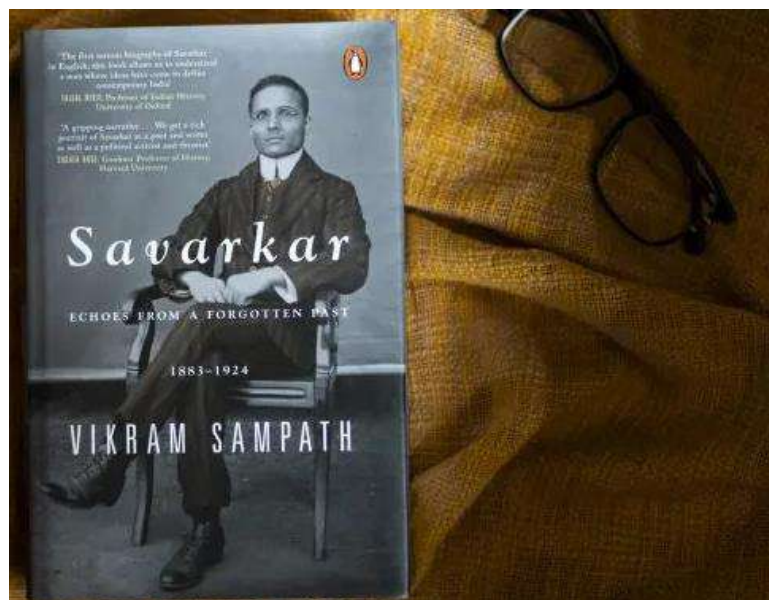
### **WHO Director-General Special Recognition Award**

- ❖ World Health Organisation has awarded Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan with `WHO Director-General Special Recognition Award`.
- ❖ This is for his accomplishments in the area of tobacco control.
- ❖ Dr Harsh Vardhan leadership was instrumental in the 2019 national legislation to ban E-cigarettes and heated tobacco products.



### **Savarkar: A contested Legacy (1924-1966)**

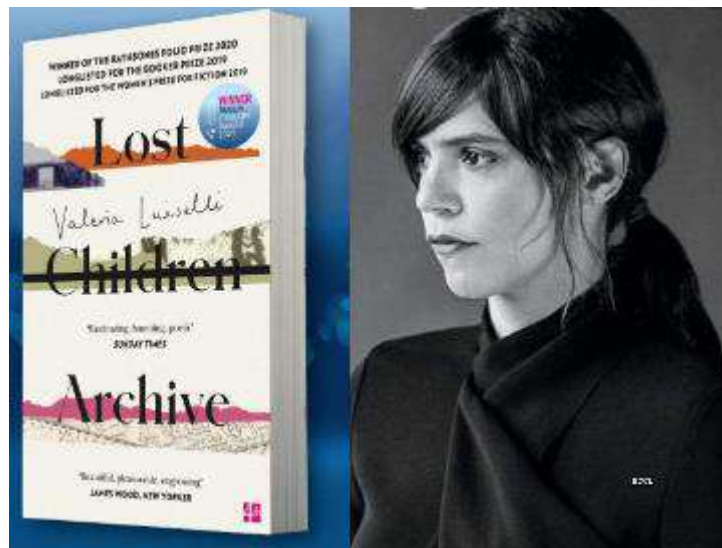
- ❖ Historian and author Vikram Sampath has come out with the second volume of the book on the life and works of Veer Savarkar.
- ❖ It is titled as "Savarkar: A contested Legacy (1924-1966)".



- ❖ The book will be published under the Penguin Random House India.
- ❖ The first volume, “Savarkar: Echoes from a Forgotten Past” was released in 2019.
- ❖ It covered Savarkar’s life from his birth in 1883 to his conditional release from prison in 1924.
- ❖ The second volume will bring to light the life and works of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, from 1924 to 1966, the year he died.

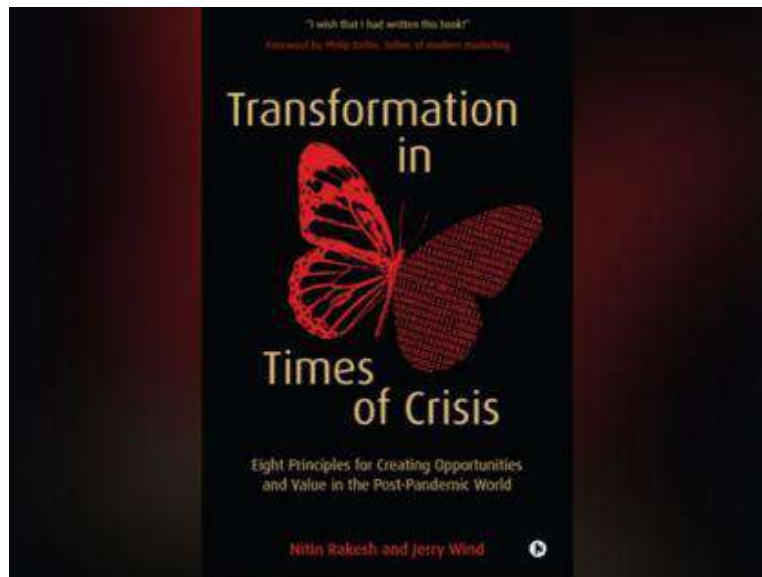
### **International Dublin Literary Award 2021**

- ❖ Mexican author Valeria Luiselli won the International Dublin Literary Award 2021 for her novel 'Lost Children Archive'.
- ❖ Established in 1994, the International Dublin Literary Award is considered as one of the world’s wealthiest awards for literature.
- ❖ It's noted that the author also won the Rathbones Folio Prize in 2020 for the same book.



### **International Business Book of the Year Award 2021**

- ❖ Authors Nitin Rakesh and Jerry Wind win International Business Book of the Year Award 2021
- ❖ Award was given for their recently launched book Transformation in Times of Crisis, published by Notion Press.
- ❖ Author Nitin Rakesh, a winner of the ‘Gold Stevie Award’ for Tech Innovator of the Year, is the CEO and Executive Director of IT major Mphasis, since 2017.
- ❖ His Co-author Jerry Wind is an internationally renowned academician.



### **Jagjit Pavadia - President of the INCB**

- ❖ Jagjit Pavadia has been elected president of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB).
- ❖ She is the former Narcotics Commissioner of India and a retired officer of the Indian Revenue Service (Customs).
- ❖ She is the first Indian to be heading the Vienna-based organization and the second woman to hold this office.
- ❖ INCB monitors the compliance of UN Member States with the three international drug control conventions and the functioning of the international drug control system.

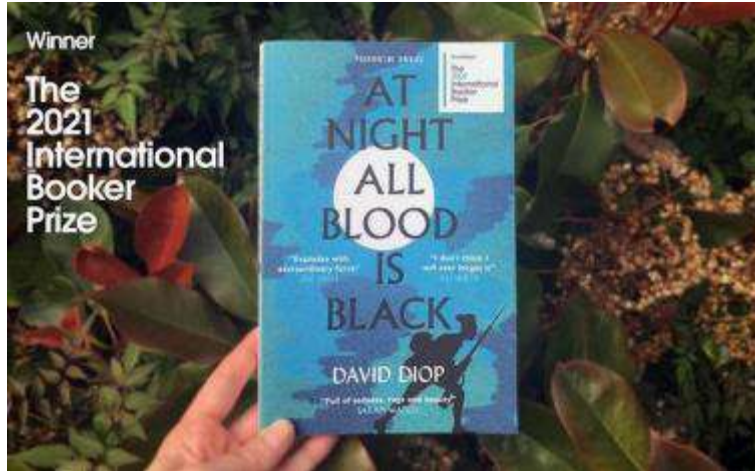


### **At Night All Blood is Black**

- ❖ French novelist David Diop won the prestigious International Booker Prize for his book "At Night All Blood is Black".



- ❖ The Paris-born writer became the first French winner of the prize.
- ❖ The book was first published in 2018 in French.
- ❖ The book's translator Anna Moschovakis won half the £50,000 (\$70,850) prize.



### **2021 Nature TTL Photography Awards**

- ❖ Kerala-based Thomas Vijayan has won the 2021 Nature TTL Photography Awards.
- ❖ This is for his photo of an Orangutan clinging to a tree.
- ❖ The photograph is titled 'The World is Going Upside Down'.
- ❖ Vijayan was adjudged as the overall winner of the competition from over 8,000 entries.
- ❖ Nature TTL is the world's leading online nature photography resource.





### **M Ananda krishnan passes away**

- ❖ He had served as Vice-Chancellor of Anna University and was Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur.
- ❖ He had also served as Chief Science Officer in the United Nations in New York.
- ❖ He was honoured with Padma Shri award.
- ❖ Chief Minister Stalin described Mr Anandakrishnan as the hero behind the DMK government's decision to scrap entrance examinations for higher education earlier.



### **BAFTA TV Awards 2021**

- ❖ Michaela Coel scooped Best Actress and Best Mini-series awards for her show I May Destroy You.
- ❖ Paul Mescal took home the award for Best Actor for his performance in Normal People.
- ❖ The winners of the BAFTA TV awards were announced at London's Television Centre.
- ❖ The BAFTA TV Awards or British Academy Television Awards are presented annually since 1955.

### **Times 50 Most Desirable Women 2020**

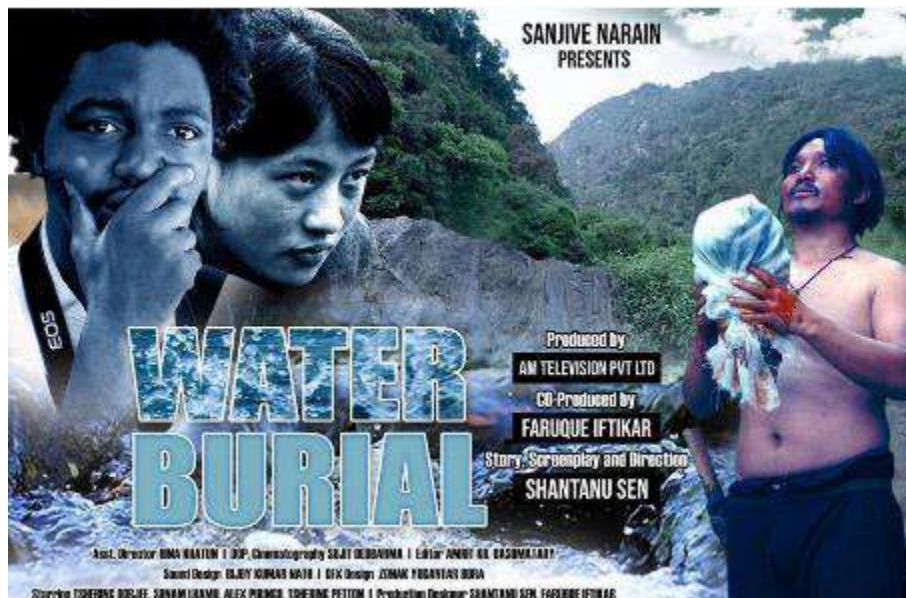
- ❖ The Times 50 Most Desirable Women 2020 list has been unveiled recently.
- ❖ It features women under 40 across various fields.
- ❖ Rhea Chakraborty has bagged the number 1 spot on Times Most Desirable Women 2020 list.
- ❖ She was in the news for most of last year due to the sudden demise of Sushant Singh Rajput and the controversy around his death.

- ❖ Miss Universe 2020, 3rd runner-up Adline Castelino bagged the second spot in the list.
- ❖ Actress Disha Patani, Kiara Advani and Deepika Padukone were on the third, fourth and fifth spot respectively.

### **The PEN Pinter prize**

- ❖ Tsitsi Dangarembga, Zimbabwean writer has been awarded the PEN Pinter prize.
- ❖ She has been awarded the PEN Pinter prize, praised for her “ability to capture and communicate vital truths even amidst times of upheaval”.
- ❖ Dangarembga was also shortlisted for the 2020 Booker Prize for her work ‘This Mournable Body’.
- ❖ Established in 2009, PEN Pinter prize is given in memory of Nobel-laureate playwright Harold Pinter.

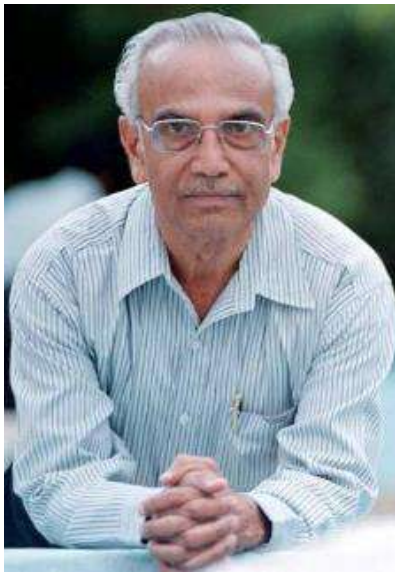
### **Water Burial bags award**



- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh’s Water Burial has bagged the best film National Award on environment conservation.
- ❖ It was awarded at the 67th National Films Awards 2021.
- ❖ The film was directed by Shantanu Sen.
- ❖ Water Burial is produced by AM Television.
- ❖ It was inspired by the popular Assamese novel Saba Kota Manuh.
- ❖ It was written by Yeshe Dorjee Thongchi.

### **Virendra Nanavati**

- ❖ Virendra Nanavati is the first Indian to be elected as a Bureau member of the International Swimming Federation (FINA).
- ❖ He was elected for the term of 2021-2025.
- ❖ He is currently a vice-president of Indian Olympic Association and executive director of Swimming Federation of India (SFI),
- ❖ He is also a former general secretary of SFI.
- ❖ He is also a vice chairman of FINA Technical Swimming Committee.
- ❖ He is also the senior vice president of Asia Swimming Federation.



### **2021 UK Asian Film Festival**

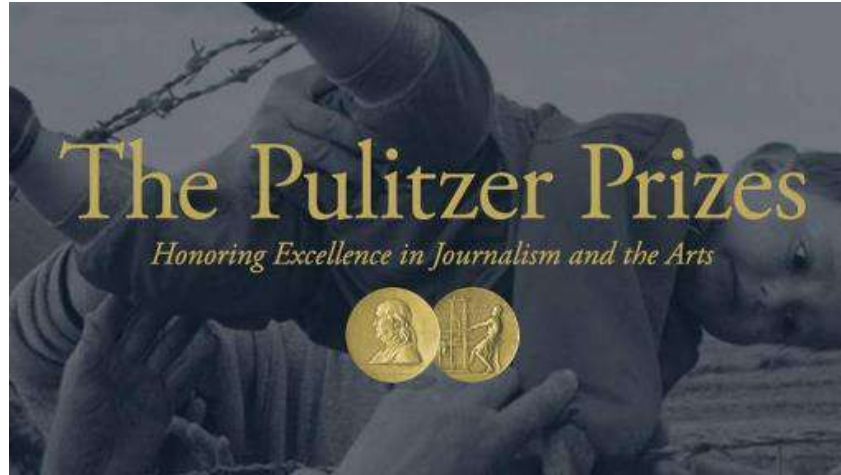
- ❖ Indian actress Tillotama Shome has won the Best Actor award at the 2021 UK Asian Film Festival (UKAFF).
- ❖ Tillotama won the award for her role in the film 'Raahgir: The Wayfarers'.
- ❖ The film has been directed by Goutam Ghose.
- ❖ The UK Asian Film Festival (UKAFF) 2021 was the 23rd edition of the annual event.
- ❖ Filmmaker Goutam Ghose has also won the Best Director award at the UKAFF.

### **Asia Pacific Productivity Champion award**

- ❖ The Managing Director of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (Amul), R.S. Sodhi, was conferred with the Asia Pacific Productivity Champion award.

- ❖ This was awarded by the Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Tokyo.
- ❖ It is awarded in recognition of enhanced productivity and efficient milk supply chain.
- ❖ He is the first Indian to have received the prestigious award, in the last 20 years.

### **Pulitzer Prize 2021**



- ❖ Pulitzer Prize 2021 was recently conferred recently.
- ❖ It is an award for achievements in newspaper, magazine and online journalism, literature and musical composition within the United States.
- ❖ It was established in 1917 and administered by the Columbia University
- ❖ Megha Rajagopalan, an Indian-origin journalist, has won this top journalism award of USA.
- ❖ Other two important winners are Tampa Bay Times' Neil Bedi and Kathleen McGrory.

### **Shailesh Govind Ganpule**

- ❖ Shailesh Govind Ganpule was conferred the award with the 'NSG Counter-IED and Counter-Terrorism Innovator Award 2021'
- ❖ He was conferred for developing a "blast-resistant" helmet.
- ❖ He is an assistant professor at the mechanical and industrial engineering department (MIED), IIT Roorkee.
- ❖ This was the second edition of the annual award by NSG.
- ❖ The Ceremony held at the National Security Guard (NSG) campus in Maneswar, near Gurgaon.





### **Aashish Chandorkar**

- ❖ The government of India has appointed a private person Aashish Chandorkar as Counsellor in India's Permanent Mission in the World Trade Organisation.
- ❖ He has a term of three years.
- ❖ For the first time, a private person has been appointed at the Mission.
- ❖ Chandorkar is director of Bengaluru-based policy think tank Smahi Foundation of Policy and Research.

### **Milkha Singh**

- ❖ The Indian athlete Milkha Singh died at the age of 91.
- ❖ Milkha Singh was a four-time Asian Games gold medallist and 1958 Commonwealth Games champion.





- ❖ He also represented India in the 1956 and 1964 Olympics.
- ❖ He was bestowed the Padma Shri in 1959.
- ❖ He was popularly referred as the 'Flying Sikh'.
- ❖ He was born in a village Gobindpura in the Muzaffargarh district now in Pakistan in undivided India in 20th November 1929.
- ❖ During the partition of India, he moved to India from Pakistan in 1947.

### **Kofi Annan Changemakers 2021 initiative**

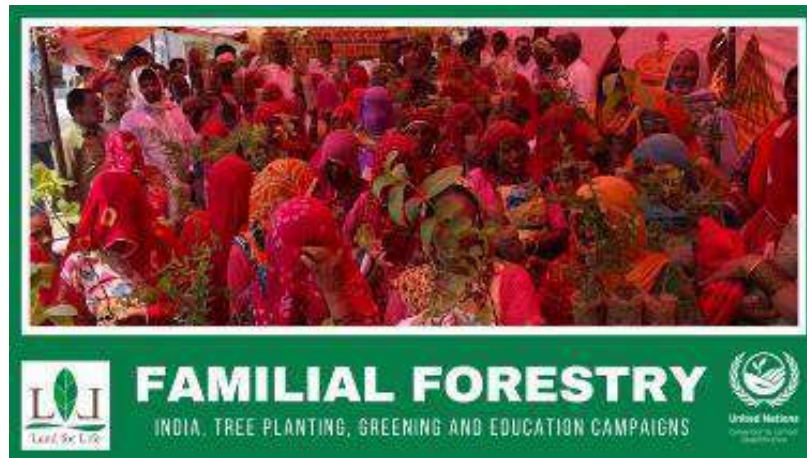


- ❖ Zeinorin Stephen Angkang is selected as one of world's 12 'exceptional young leaders' for the Kofi Annan Changemakers 2021 initiative.
- ❖ She has been selected by the Geneva-based Kofi Annan Foundation.
- ❖ She is a 29-year-old woman from Manipur's Ukhrul district.
- ❖ Angkang has been selected for her involvement with indigenous farmers of the Tangkhul Naga tribe in Manipur.

### **2021 Land for Life Award**

- ❖ The 2021 Land for Life Award has been won by Familial Forestry of Rajasthan.
- ❖ Familial Forestry is a unique concept that relates a tree with a family, making it a green "family member."
- ❖ The UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) organises the Land for Life Award every two years.
- ❖ This is to recognize excellence and innovation in efforts towards land in balance.
- ❖ The theme for the 2021 Award is "Healthy Land, Healthy Lives".

- ❖ Land for Life Award has been considered as the world's highest reward regarding land conservation and restoration.



### **Kenneth Kaunda**

- ❖ Zambian politician Kenneth Kaunda has passed away.
- ❖ He served as the first President of Zambia.
- ❖ He served for 27 years from 1964 to 1991.
- ❖ Zambia gained independence from Britain in October 1964.

### **Sumant Sinha**

- ❖ United Nations Global Compact has recognised Sumant Sinha, Chairman & MD of ReNew Power, as one of the ten SDG Pioneers 2021.
- ❖ This honour comes in recognition of Sumant's work to advance access to clean and affordable energy (SDG 7).
- ❖ SDG Pioneers are business leaders selected by the UN Global Compact.
- ❖ They are selected for doing an exceptional job to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

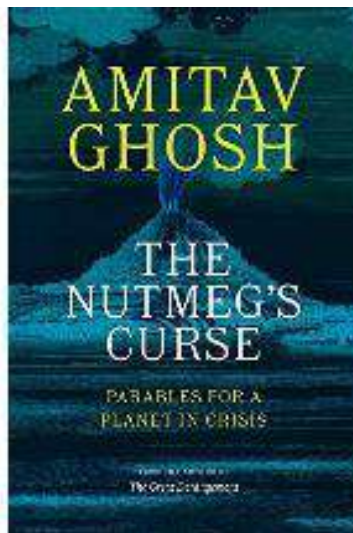
### **Open Society Prize**

- ❖ The Former Kerala Health Minister KK Shailaja has been chosen for the prestigious Central European University (CEU) Open Society Prize.
- ❖ She has been selected for the award in recognition of her commitment to public health services.

- ❖ The Open Society Prize, the highest civilian recognition by the university.
- ❖ It is annually awarded to persons of exceptional distinction who serve the ideals of an open society.
- ❖ In 2020, Nobel Laureate Svetlana Alexeyevich received the Open Society Prize.



### **The Nutmeg's Curse**



- ❖ Amitav Ghosh's authored a book titled, 'The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis'.
- ❖ He is a Jnanpith Awardee.
- ❖ The book is published by John Murray.
- ❖ The book talks about the history of the influence of colonialism on the world today.

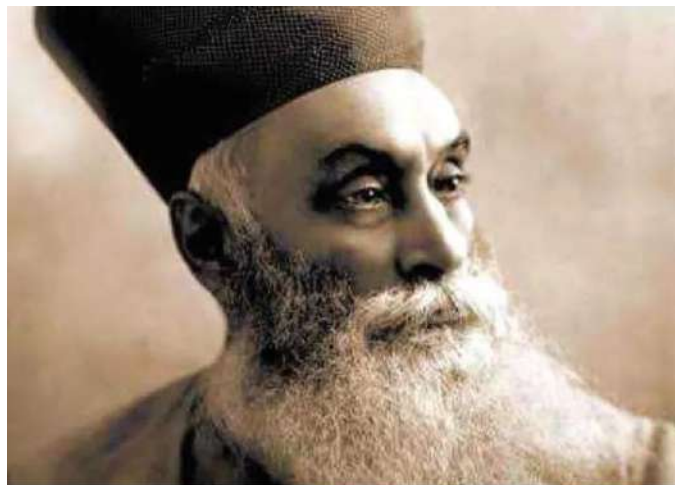
### European Inventor Award 2021

- ❖ Indian-American chemist Sumita Mitra has been honoured with the European Inventor Award 2021 in the 'Non-European Patent Office countries' category.
- ❖ She was the first to have successfully integrated nanotechnology into dental materials to produce stronger and more aesthetically pleasing fillings.
- ❖ The award is presented annually by the European Patent Office (EPO).
- ❖ This award is to recognise outstanding inventors from Europe and beyond.



### Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata

- ❖ Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata has emerged as the topper of the list of EdelGive Hurun Philanthropists of Century.
- ❖ He is the only Indian among the top 10 list, compiled by Hurun Research and EdelGive Foundation.



Jamsetji Tata **tops** the list of 'Philanthropist of the Century' with donations worth \$102 billion



- ❖ He was the founder of Tata Group.
- ❖ Jamsetji Tata was the founder of Tata Iron and Steel Works Company (TISCO) in Jamshedpur.
- ❖ Jamsetji Tata is regarded as the “Father of Indian Industry”.
- ❖ Jawaharlal Nehru referred him as “One-Man Planning Commission”.

### **Will Smith's autobiography**



- ❖ Actor Will Smith revealed the title and cover of his upcoming autobiography “Will”.
- ❖ The book is to be published by Penguin Press.
- ❖ Will Smith is co-writing the book with author Mark Manson.
- ❖ The cover is designed by New Orleans artist Brandan “BMike” Odums.

### **John David McAfee passes away**

- ❖ John David McAfee, the creator of the McAfee antivirus software, has passed away.
- ❖ John was found dead in his cell in a jail near Barcelona.
- ❖ He had been there since October 2020, for evading taxes.

### **Ruskin Bond's new book**

- ❖ The Indian British author Ruskin Bond has authored a new book titled ‘It’s a Wonderful Life’.
- ❖ It is published by Aleph Book Company.
- ❖ He is a recipient of Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan.
- ❖ His First Novel was ‘The Room on the Roof’.



### **The Order of Polar Star**

- ❖ RK Sabharwal has been honoured with the highest civilian award of Mongolia 'The Order of Polar Star'.
- ❖ He is the Chairman & Managing Director of Engineers India Limited.
- ❖ The President of Mongolia recognises the outstanding contribution made by him towards the establishment of the first-ever oil refinery in Mongolia.

## **SPORTS**

### **UEFA Champions League title - Football**

- ❖ Chelsea defeated Manchester City 1-0 in the final, to lift the 2020-21 UEFA Champions League title.
- ❖ It was played at the Estádio do Dragão in Porto, Portugal.
- ❖ Kai Havertz scored the only goal of the football match.
- ❖ This is the second Champions League title for Chelsea, after winning the first won in 2012.

### **Jordan Clarkson**

- ❖ Utah Jazz's player Jordan Clarkson has won the 2020-21 Kia NBA Sixth Man Award.
- ❖ This is for his contributions in a reserve role.
- ❖ This is the first Sixth Man honour for Clarkson.
- ❖ Also he becomes the first player to win the annual award with the Jazz.



## Sunil Chhetri



- ❖ 36 years old Indian football, Sunil Chhetri, has surpassed Argentina's Lionel Messi.
- ❖ He has become second-highest active international goal-scorer with 74 strikes.
- ❖ Chhetri now leads Barcelona star Messi by two goals.
- ❖ He is placed above Ali Mabkhout of UAE, who is at third place with 73 strikes.
- ❖ He achieved this feat against Bangladesh.
- ❖ Sunil Chhetri is popularly known as Captain Fantastic.
- ❖ Following Cristiano Ronaldo, Chhetri is the second-highest international goal scorer among active players.

## French Open 2021

- ❖ The 125th Edition of French Open 2021 took place from at Stade Roland Garros in Paris, France.
- ❖ It is the 2nd Grand Slam of 2021.
- ❖ It is a Clay-Court.
- ❖ It is organized by the International Tennis Federation.
- ❖ Novak Djokovic (Serbia) defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece) to win the Men's Singles Title.
- ❖ Barbora Krejckova (Czech Republic) defeated Anastasia Pavylyunchenkova (Russia) to win the Women's Singles Title.
- ❖ It is her maiden Grand Slam Title.
- ❖ Barbora along with her partner Katerlina Siniakova (Czech Republic) defeated Bethanie Mattek-Sands (USA) & Iga Swiatek (Poland) to win the Women's Doubles Title.

- ❖ Barbora Krejcikova becomes first player to win women's singles and doubles title in French Open since 2000.
- ❖ French pair of Pierre-Huues Herbert & Nicola Mahut became the 1st French pair to win the men's doubles title at the French Open 2021.

## ICC Hall of Fame



- ❖ The ICC has inducted 10 icons of the game, including India's Vinoo Mankad, into its illustrious Hall of Fame.
- ❖ Two players each from five eras have been chosen.
- ❖ The announcement has been coincided with the inaugural World Test Championship final.
- ❖ The match is to be played between India and New Zealand from June 18 in Southampton.

Aubrey Faulkner of South Africa and Monty Noble of Australia for the early era (pre-1918), Sir Learie Constantine of West Indies and Stan McCabe of Australia for the inter-war Era (1918-1945), Ted Dexter of England and **Vinoo Mankad of India** for the **post-war Era (1946-1970)**. Desmond Haynes of the West Indies and Bob Willis of England were inducted from the ODI era (1971-1995) Andy Flower of Zimbabwe and Kumar Sangakkara of Sri Lanka were from the modern era (1996-2016).

## Poland open - Vinesh Phogat

- ❖ The Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat won the gold medal in the 53 kg category at the Poland Open.
- ❖ It is her third title of the season.

- ❖ Earlier, She had won gold at the Matteo Pellicone event (March) and Asian Championship (April).

### **Laurel Hubbard**

- ❖ The New Zealand weightlifter Laurel Hubbard becomes the first transgender athlete to compete at an Olympic Games.
- ❖ She is 43-year-old.
- ❖ She will be the fourth oldest weightlifter at an Olympics.
- ❖ She is to participate in the women's super-heavyweight 87kg-plus category in Tokyo.



### **Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce**

- ❖ Jamaican sprinter Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce became the second-fastest woman of all time.
- ❖ She clocked 10.63 seconds at a 100 metre meet in Kingston.





- ❖ She is behind 100 metres world record holder Florence Griffith-Joyner.
- ❖ Florence Griffith-Joyner holds the women's 100m world record of 10.49 seconds, set in Indianapolis in 1988.

### **ICC World Test Championship**

- ❖ New Zealand defeated India to win the ICC's first World Test Championship for the first time.
- ❖ Kyle Jamieson (NZ) has been adjudged as the "Player of the match".
- ❖ Kane Williamson (NZ) is the "Player of the series".
- ❖ The final match was played at Ageas Bowl Stadium (Rose Bowl Stadium) in Southampton, England.



### **Saurabh Chaudhary**





- ❖ The Indian shooter Saurabh Chaudhary won the bronze medal in the men's 10m air pistol shooting at the ISSF World Cup 2021.
- ❖ The event took place in Osijek, Croatia on June 24, 2021.

**Note**

- ❖ Chaudhary was the youngest Indian athlete to win gold at the 2018 Asian Games in the 10m air pistol event.
- ❖ Chaudhary is also the only Indian shooter who has won a gold medal in ISSF World Championship, ISSF World Cup, Asian Games, Asian Air Gun Championship, and Youth Olympic Games.

**Kaylee McKeown - New world record**



- ❖ The Australian swimmer Kaylee McKeown breaks the 100-meter backstroke world record.
- ❖ It was done in the event at the South Australian Aquatic Centre.
- ❖ She completed at a time of 57.45 seconds.
- ❖ The previous mark was 57.57 seconds set by American Regan Smith in 2019.

**Ali Daei and Cristiano Ronaldo**

- ❖ Asian football legend Ali Daei had scored a remarkable 109 goals in 149 appearances for Iran between 1993 and 2006.
- ❖ This record was met recently by Cristiano Ronaldo.
- ❖ Ali Daei congratulated Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal) after he scored his 109th goal.
- ❖ The goal was scored in Euro 2020 game against France.



### Abhishek Verma

- ❖ Abhishek Verma won his 2nd World Cup gold medal in Archery recently.
- ❖ He is the first Indian man to win two World Cup gold medals in individual compound event.
- ❖ Verma won a shoot-off against American heavyweight Kris Schaff in gold medal match.

### International Cricket stadium at Bokaro

- ❖ The Jharkhand State Cricket Association has inked a Memorandum of Understanding with SAIL Bokaro Steel Plant.
- ❖ This is for the construction of an International Cricket Stadium in Bokaro city.
- ❖ Once the stadium is ready, Bokaro will become the third city in Jharkhand to have an International Cricket Stadium after Jamshedpur and Ranchi.

### Shafali Verma

- ❖ Opener Shafali Verma became the youngest Indian cricketer to make debut across all the formats.
- ❖ Shafali Verma at the age of 17 years and 150 days made her ODI debut to achieve the feat.

- ❖ This made her the 5th youngest cricketer overall in the list which is headed by Afghanistan's Mujeeb Ur Rahman.
- ❖ Shafali Verma was 15 years and 239 days old when she made her debut in T20Is in September 2019.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Milk Day - June 01

- ❖ World Milk Day was established by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations in 2001.
- ❖ It is observed to recognize the importance of milk as a global food, and to celebrate the dairy sector.
- ❖ The theme for 2021 will focus on Sustainability in the dairy sector with messages around the environment, nutrition, and socio-economics.

### Telangana Formation Day – June 02

- ❖ The state of Telangana was officially formed on 2 June 2014.
- ❖ In February 2014, Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 bill was passed by the Parliament for the formation of Telangana state.
- ❖ It comprised ten districts from the former north-western Andhra Pradesh.



### **World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day - Jan 30**

- ❖ The ongoing 74th World Health Assembly declared January 30 as 'World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day'.
- ❖ The proposal to recognise the day was floated by the United Arab Emirates.
- ❖ A major milestone in the movement to recognise the global burden of these diseases was the London Declaration on NTDs.
- ❖ It was adopted January 30, 2012.



### **World Bicycle Day - June 03**

- ❖ The day is observed to draw people's attention towards the importance and benefits of riding a bicycle.
- ❖ It is a well-known fact that riding a bicycle is not only good for one's health but is also good for the environment as it is a zero pollution mode of transportation.
- ❖ The date of June 3 was declared as World Bicycle Day by the United Nations General Assembly.

### **International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression - June 04**

- ❖ This is observed globally to affirm UN's commitment to guard the rights of children.
- ❖ This day is to acknowledge the pain suffered by children throughout the planet who are the victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse.

### **World Environment Day - June 05**

- ❖ World Environment Day is observed to raise awareness about protecting the environment.
- ❖ The theme of this year's World Environment Day is 'Reimagine. Recreate. Restore.'
- ❖ Pakistan is the global host for the day this year.
- ❖ The first time World Environment Day was celebrated in 1974 with the slogan "Only one Earth".



### **UN Russian Language Day - June 06**

- ❖ Russian is one of the six official languages used by the United Nations throughout the Organization.
- ❖ The day was established by the UNESCO in 2010.





- ❖ 6<sup>th</sup> June is chosen as UN Russian Language Day as it coincides with the birthday of Aleksandr Pushkin.
- ❖ He is a Russian poet.
- ❖ He is considered the father of the modern Russian language.

### **World Pest Day – June 06**



- ❖ World Pest Day is also called as World Pest Awareness Day.
- ❖ World Pest Day was initiated by the Chinese Pest Control Association.
- ❖ The first World Pest Day was marked in 2017.

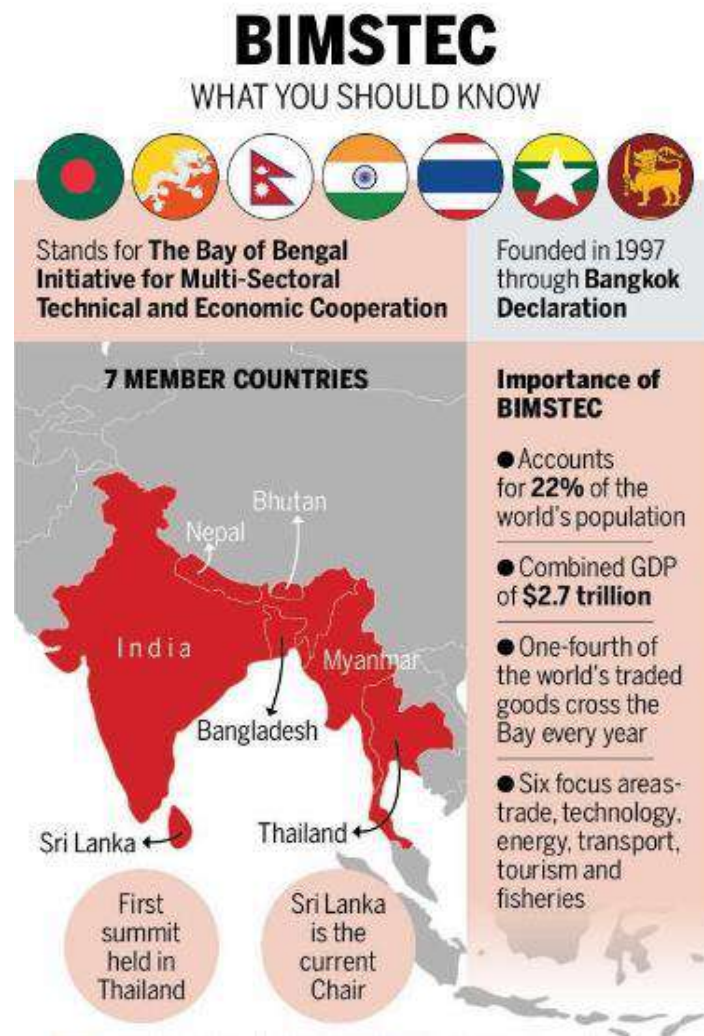
### **World Food Safety Day - June 07**

- ❖ The aim of the day is to raise awareness about different foodborne risks and the measures of how to prevent it.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Safe food today for a healthy tomorrow".
- ❖ WHO in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations decided to celebrate this day since 2019.



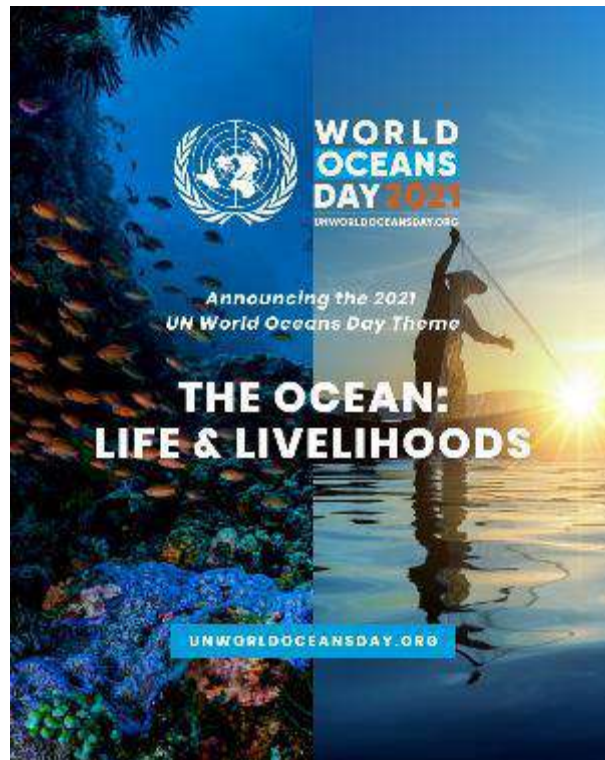
## BIMSTEC Day - June 06

- ❖ Prime Minister extended his greetings on the occasion of 24th BIMSTEC Day on June 6, 2021.
- ❖ The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional multilateral organisation.
- ❖ It consists of seven South and South-East Asian countries.
- ❖ These countries are- India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Myanmar.
- ❖ Under India's Vaccine Maitri initiative, India sent the life-saving doses to BIMSTEC neighbours on priority.
- ❖ The supply has been sent to five BIMSTEC Nations - Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka.



### **World Ocean Day - June 08**

- ❖ This day is observed to raise global awareness about the importance of the ocean in our lives and the ways through which we can protect it.
- ❖ "The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods" is the theme for World Oceans Day 2021.
- ❖ The government of Canada had proposed the concept of World Ocean Day, at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.



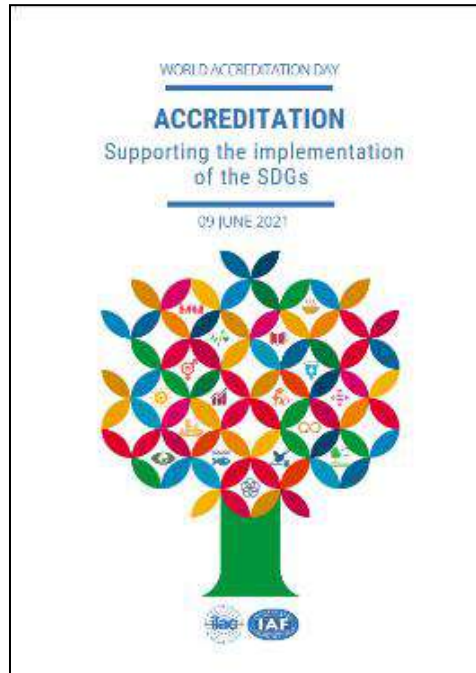
### **World Brain Tumour Day - June 08**

- ❖ World Brain Tumour Day is marked in order to educate people about the disease.
- ❖ The day was started by the German Brain Tumour Association in year 2000.
- ❖ As per the National Health Portal, the cases of brain tumours are on the rise in India.
- ❖ The government has introduced the National Cancer Control Programme for early detection of tumours and thus control and prevention of cancer.

### **World Accreditation Day 2021 - June 09**

- ❖ World Accreditation Day (WAD) is celebrated every year to promote the role of accreditation in trade & the economy.

- ❖ The theme for WAD 2021 is “Accreditation: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”.
- ❖ WAD is a global initiative, jointly established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC).



### **Coral Triangle Day - June 09**



- ❖ The Day is observed by the Coral Triangle Initiative.
- ❖ The Initiative is a multilateral partnership of six countries namely Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste.



- ❖ It is a multilateral partnership of six countries that are working to sustain marine and coastal resources and address issues such as food security.
- ❖ The Coral Triangle Initiative is also called the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security.

### **International Level Crossing Awareness Day - June 10<sup>th</sup>**

- ❖ This day is observed as the International Union of Railways (UIC).
- ❖ The theme of ILCAD 2021 is “distraction”.
- ❖ The motto is “Distraction kills!”
- ❖ “South-Central Railway (SCR)” of India observed the day by creating awareness programmes for public at level crossing gates.
- ❖ SCR is one among 18 zones of Indian Railways
- ❖ Jurisdiction of SCR lies with states of Telangana, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh
- ❖ Secunderabad railway station is current headquarter of SCR.

### **World Day against Child Labour 2021 - June 12**

- ❖ The day is observed to raise awareness regarding detrimental consequences of the Child Labour.
- ❖ The day was celebrated under theme- ‘Act Now: End Child Labour.’
- ❖ 2021 has been declared as the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour by the UN General Assembly.
- ❖ The International Labour Organization (ILO) launched the World Day against Child Labour in 2002.





### **International Albinism Awareness Day - June 13**

- ❖ The day is to celebrate the human rights of persons with albinism worldwide.
- ❖ “Strength beyond all odds” is the theme for this year’s International Albinism Awareness Day.
- ❖ Albinism results in a lack of pigmentation (melanin) in the hair, skin and eyes.



### **World Blood Donor Day - June 14**



- ❖ The day was observed with the aim of creating awareness about need for safe blood and life-saving components of blood which is required for transfusion.
- ❖ Theme for this year is “Give blood and keep the world beating”.
- ❖ The host country for World Blood Donor Day 2021 is Rome, Italy.
- ❖ The day was first organised in 2005.
- ❖ It was then a joint initiative of World Health Organization, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.
- ❖ World Blood Donor Day is celebrated on 14<sup>th</sup> June to mark birthday anniversary of Karl Landsteiner.

- ❖ Landsteiner was awarded with Nobel Prize for his discovery of ABO blood group system.

### **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day - June 15**

- ❖ The day is observed globally to raise a voice for the elderly who are abused and victimized.
- ❖ The theme for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is 'Access to Justice'.
- ❖ The day was officially recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2011.
- ❖ It was recognized following a request from the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA).

**WORLD ELDER ABUSE  
AWARENESS DAY 2021**

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**Theme: Access To Justice**

### **Global Wind Day - June 15**

- ❖ The Global Wind Day is organised by Wind Europe and the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) and the national associations.
- ❖ This day is introduced to create awareness of the benefits of wind energy for the general public.
- ❖ The first Global Wind Day was held in 2007.

### **International Day of Family Remittances - June 16**

- ❖ The day was adopted by the United Nations.
- ❖ It recognizes the migrant workers who send money home to their family members.
- ❖ The first International Day of Family Remittances was celebrated on June 16, 2015.

### **ASEAN Dengue Day - June 15**

- ❖ This day is celebrated to create awareness on dengue prevention and control at the regional and National level.

- ❖ It is celebrated by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- ❖ The theme of the ASEAN Dengue Day is “ASEAN Unite Against Dengue Amidst the Pandemic”.
- ❖ The theme of 2021 ASEAN Chairmanship “We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper”.
- ❖ The 10th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting held in 2010 declared the 15th June of every year as the “ASEAN Dengue Day”.
- ❖ The first official ASEAN Dengue Day was observed on 15th June 2011.
- ❖ India observes the National Dengue Day on 16th May.

### **International Day of the African Child - June 16**

- ❖ The day was set aside to raise awareness of the importance of education for children in Africa.
- ❖ The day not only honours the participants of the Soweto Uprising in 1976 but also raises awareness of the imperative need for improvement of the education of African children.

#### **Note**

- ❖ On June 16th, 1976, thousands of black students from Soweto, South Africa, took to the streets to protest.
- ❖ It was the protest for the prevailing disparity in the education system that preferred quality education for the whites over the black population in Africa.



### **World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought - June 17**

- ❖ The day is celebrated to raise awareness of the presence of desertification and drought, and highlight methods of preventing desertification and recovering from drought.

- ❖ “Restoration. Land. Recovery. We build back better with healthy land” is the theme for this year.



### **Autistic Pride Day - June 18**

- ❖ Autistic Pride Day is observed to create awareness about autism among people.
- ❖ The day recognises the importance of pride for autistic people and its role in bringing about positive changes in the broader society.
- ❖ The day is represented by a rainbow infinity symbol.
- ❖ The symbol denotes the infinite possibilities that autistic people have.
- ❖ Autistic Pride Day was first celebrated in Brazil in 2005, at the initiative of an organisation named Aspies for Freedom.

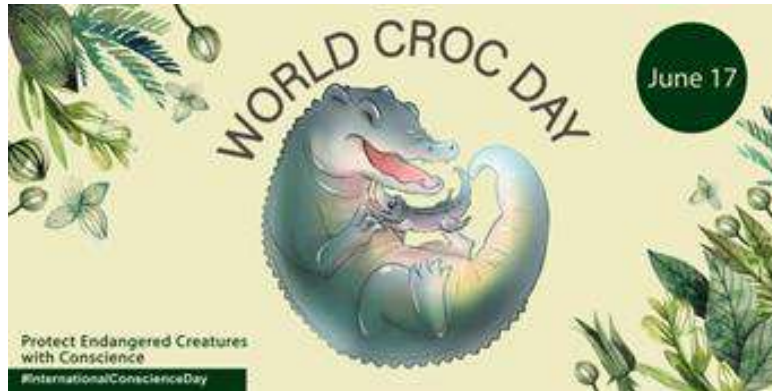
### **Sustainable Gastronomy Day - June 18**

- ❖ The day is observed globally to focus the attention of the world on the role that sustainable gastronomy plays in our lives.
- ❖ The day was designated by UN General Assembly on 21 December 2016.
- ❖ Gastronomy means the practice or art of choosing, cooking, and eating good food.

### **World Crocodile day - June 17**

- ❖ The day is celebrated as a global awareness campaign to highlight the plight of endangered crocodiles and alligators around the world.
- ❖ India is home to three crocodilian species, namely
  - The mugger or marsh crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*) - IUCN Vulnerable.

- The estuarine or saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*)-IUCN Least Concern.
- The gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*)-IUCN Critically Endangered.



### **International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict - June 19**

- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness of the need to put an end to conflict-related sexual violence, honour the victims and survivors of sexual violence around the world.
- ❖ It also say tribute to all those who have courageously devoted their lives to and lost their lives in standing up for the eradication of these crimes.
- ❖ On 19 June 2015, the United Nations General Assembly announced this day.

### **National Reading Day - June 19**

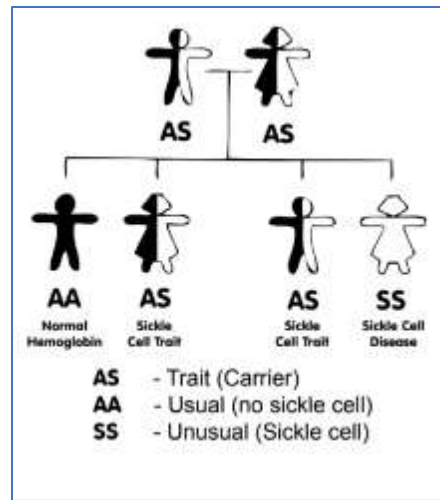
- ❖ The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) celebrates this day.
- ❖ The Day is celebrated to honour the late P.N. Panicker, whose death anniversary falls on June 19.
- ❖ He is the father of the 'Library Movement in Kerala'.
- ❖ This year marks the 26th National Reading Day.
- ❖ The week following June 19 will be observed as Reading Week.
- ❖ The entire month till July 18 will be observed as Reading Month.

### **World Sickle Cell Awareness Day - June 19**

- ❖ This day is observed to increase awareness and understanding of the sickle cell disease and the challenges faced by its patients and their families.
- ❖ Sickle cell disease causes patients to have sickle-shaped red blood cells.



- ❖ This leads in blocking blood flow.
- ❖ It is an inherited blood disorder.



### World Refugee Day - June 20



- ❖ The day seeks to honour refugees, highlights their plight to the world and seeks to improve their lives.
- ❖ The theme for this year is “Together we heal, learn and shine.”

### International Yoga Day - June 21

- ❖ World is celebrating the 7th International Yoga Day this year.
- ❖ It is celebrated with the motto of achieving “One World, One Health”.
- ❖ This year, day is celebrating under the theme “Yoga for wellness”.

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled the mYoga mobile app on this occasion.
- ❖ The app has been developed in collaboration between the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Ministry of AYUSH.



### **International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice - June 21**

- ❖ This day bring awareness about solstices and equinoxes and their significance for several religions and ethnic cultures.
- ❖ There are two solstices that occur annually.
- ❖ It happens twice yearly, once in each hemisphere (Northern and Southern).
- ❖ They are
  - “Summer Solstice” - the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and shortest day on the southern hemisphere - June 21
  - “Winter Solstice” - the shortest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and longest day on the Southern hemisphere - December 21.



### **World Music Day - June 21**

- ❖ This day is celebrated to honour amateur and professional musicians.
- ❖ The aim of celebrating World Music Day is to
  - provide free music to everyone and
  - encourage amateur musicians to showcase their work to the world.

### **World Humanist Day - June 21**

- ❖ The day is celebrated every year around the world on the June solstice (June 21).
- ❖ The day aims to spread awareness of Humanism as a philosophical life stance and means to effect change in the world.
- ❖ The day has been organised by the International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU), since 1980.



### **World Hydrography Day June - 21**

- ❖ This day was adopted by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO).
- ❖ It is an annual celebration to publicise the work of hydrographers and the importance of hydrography.
- ❖ This year, the IHO is also celebrating the 100th anniversary of its formation.

### **World Rainforest Day - June 22**

- ❖ The day is celebrated to raise awareness about the preservation of rainforests.
- ❖ With the efforts of groups called the Rainforest Partnership, the first World Rainforest Day was introduced on 22 June in the year 2017.
- ❖ This year, the theme is 'Protected Together. Now. Forever'.



### **International Olympic Day - June 23**

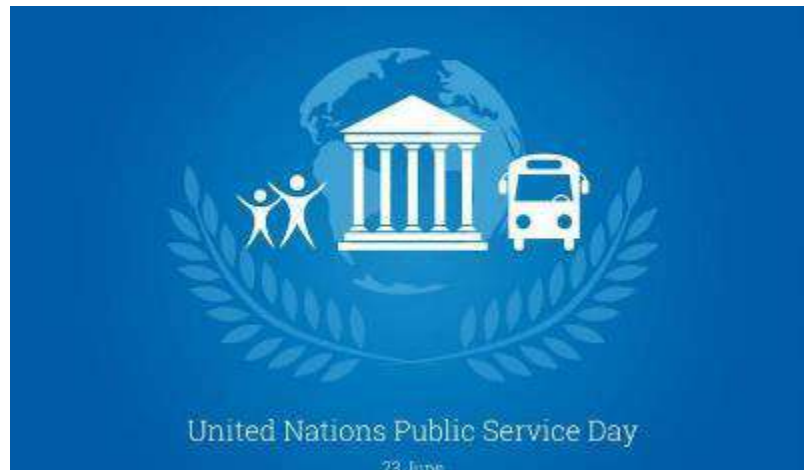
- ❖ This day signifies the Olympic Games which is held every four-year featuring summer and winter sports competitions.
- ❖ Olympic Day is observed on the basis of three pillars. They are,
  - Move
  - Learn
  - Detect
- ❖ World Olympic Day was introduced in 1948.
- ❖ It was started to commemorate the birth of modern Olympic Games on June 23, 1894.
- ❖ Modern Olympic Games was born at Sorbonne in Paris.
- ❖ Theme for 2021 is "Stay healthy, stay strong, stay active with the #OlympicDay workout on 23 June."





### **United Nations Public Service Day - June 23**

- ❖ This day is to highlight the contribution of public service in the development process and to value public service to the community.
- ❖ As a part of the occasion, a virtual event named “Innovating the Future Public Service: New Government Models for a New Era to Reach the SDGs” was conducted.
- ❖ This event will be hosted by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with the government of the United Arab Emirates.



### **World Vitiligo Day – June 25**

- ❖ The day is observed to build global awareness about vitiligo.
- ❖ Vitiligo is a skin disorder leading to loss of colour in the skin.
- ❖ It creates a variety of patterns on the skin from loss of pigment.
- ❖ The first World Vitiligo Day was observed on June 25, 2011.

### **Day of the Seafarer – June 25**





- ❖ This day is observed to pay respect to Seafarers and sailors who help the entire world function by conducting sea transport.
- ❖ The day is organised by the International Maritime Organization.
- ❖ 2021 marks the 11th anniversary of this day.
- ❖ The theme of the 2021 campaign is “Seafarers: at the core of shipping’s future”.

### **International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking - June 26**

- ❖ The day is observed by the United Nations as an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse.
- ❖ The theme for this year is “Share Facts on Drugs, Save Lives”.
- ❖ Headquarters of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is in Vienna, Austria.



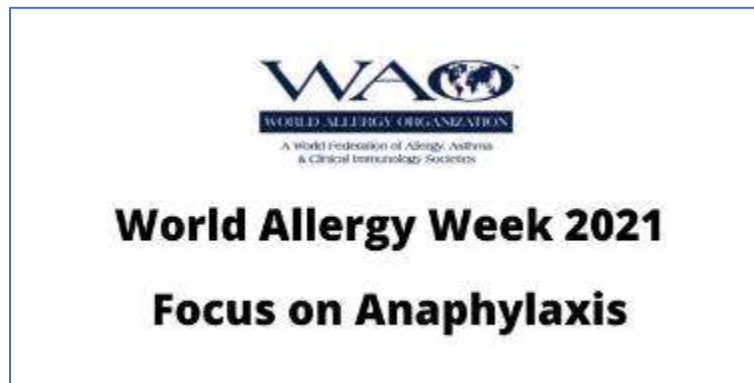
### **Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day - June 27**

- ❖ United Nations celebrates the work of MSME in local and global economies and their contribution to sustainable development.
- ❖ The day also recognises the contribution of these industries in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ❖ The theme is “MSME 2021: key to an inclusive and sustainable recovery”.



### **World Allergy Week - June 13 to 19**

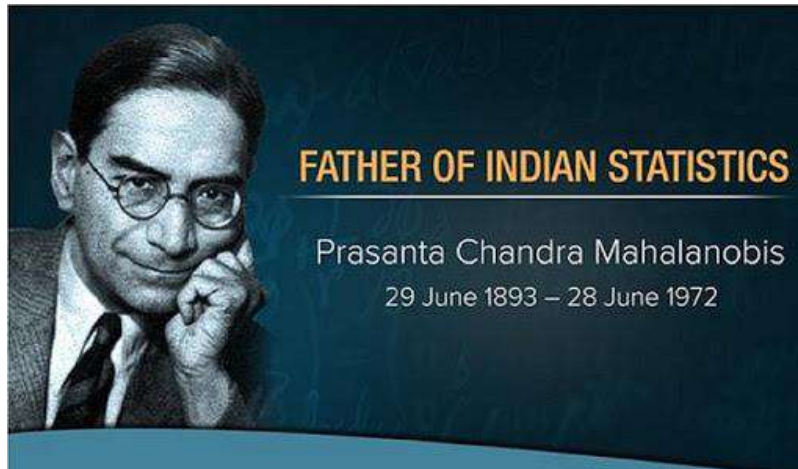
- ❖ World Allergy Organization organizes the World Allergy Week.
- ❖ It was held from June 13 to 19, 2021.
- ❖ The topic of 2021 World Allergy Week is Anaphylaxis.
- ❖ The theme of the World Allergy Week 2021 is “Anaphylaxis: Be Aware.Be prepared.Save lives”.
- ❖ Anaphylaxis is most commonly related to food allergy.
- ❖ The First World Allergy Week was observed in 2011.



### **National Statistics Day - June 29**

- ❖ The National Statistics Day is celebrated every year in India to create public awareness about the importance of statistics in socio-economic planning and policy formulation.
- ❖ End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture (SDG 2 of the UN) is the theme of this year's National Statistics Day.
- ❖ The day also acknowledges the notable contribution of Late Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in fields of statistics, statistical system, and economic planning.
- ❖ He is often referred to as the 'father of Indian statistics'.
- ❖ In 1933, he had founded the first Indian statistical journal Sankhya.
- ❖ He is also best remembered for the statistical measure of Mahalanobis distance.
- ❖ He had founded the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI).
- ❖ The Union Government had designated June 29 as National Statistics Day in 2007.
- ❖ The Second Five-Year Plan had relied on Mahalanobis's mathematical description of Indian economy.

- ❖ This plan had encouraged the development of heavy industry in India.
- ❖ This later became as Nehru-Mahalanobis model or Basic Industry strategy of economic growth.



### **World Asteroid Day - June 30**

- ❖ It is an annual UN-sanctioned global awareness campaign event.
- ❖ The Day aims to raise public awareness about the asteroid impact hazard and to inform the public about the crisis communication actions to be taken at the global level in case of a credible near-Earth object threat.



### **International Day of Parliamentarism - June 30**

- ❖ The Day celebrates parliaments and ways during which parliamentary systems of government improve the everyday lives of individuals throughout the world.
- ❖ The Day was established in 2018 through a United Nations General Assembly Resolution.
- ❖ This day also acknowledges the formation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.
- ❖ Inter-Parliamentary Union was established in 1889.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### **Pesticides - leading cause of poisoning in India**

- ❖ 'Toxicoepidemiology of poisoning exhibited in Indian population from 2010 to 2020: A systematic review and meta-analysis' was the study published by the British Medical Journal.
- ❖ It revealed that pesticides were the main case of poisoning in India, with an overall prevalence of 63 per cent.
- ❖ It is due to widespread use of pesticides for agricultural and household activities.
- ❖ According to the study, the prevalence of pesticide poisoning in the adult population was 65 per cent and 22 per cent in children.
- ❖ An analysis of the region-wise distribution of the prevalence of poisoning showed that it was
  - the highest in north India at 79 per cent
  - followed by south India (65.9 per cent),
  - central India (59.2 per cent),
  - west India (53.1 per cent),
  - north east India (46.9 per cent) and
  - east India (38.5 per cent).

### **Centre for World University Rankings 2021-22**

- ❖ Harvard University has topped the ranking globally followed by Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University, University of Cambridge, and Oxford University respectively.
- ❖ As many as 68 Indian institutes have made it to the list of the top 2000 higher education institutes across the world.
- ❖ IIM-Ahmedabad has bagged 415th rank, followed by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) at 459th rank.

### **Times Higher Education Asia university rankings 2021**

- ❖ IISc Bangalore, IIT Ropar and IIT Indore have secured ranks among the top 100 universities in Asia.
- ❖ IISc Bangalore ranked at 37th position.
- ❖ IIT Ropar is placed at 55<sup>th</sup> rank.

- ❖ IIT Indore at 78<sup>th</sup> rank among the top 100 universities.
- ❖ Tsinghua University, China has gained the first position in the Asia university rankings 2021.
- ❖ The second place is also secured by China's Peking University.

## QS World University Rankings 2022

<b>Top varsities</b>   JNU, featuring for the first time in the QS World Universities Ranking list, is among the top-600 in the world <i>= indicates shared ranking</i>	
2022 global rank	Name
177=	Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay
185	Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi
186=	Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
255=	Indian Institute of Technology, Madras
277=	Indian Insititute of Technology, Kanpur
280	Indian Insititute of Technology, Kharagpur
395=	Indian Insititute of Technology, Guwahati
400=	Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee
501-510 (ranking band)	University of Delhi
561-570 (ranking band)	Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi

- ❖ The London-based Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) has released the QS World University Rankings 2022.
- ❖ Eight Indian universities have found a place among the best 400 global universities in the QS World University Rankings 2022
- ❖ Three Universities got featured among the top 200. They are,
  - IIT-Bombay - 177.
  - IIT-Delhi - 185
  - IISc, Bengaluru - 186
- ❖ The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, has also been adjudged as "world's top research university".
- ❖ It has achieved a perfect score of 100/100 for Citations Per Faculty (CPF) indicator, which measures research impact.



- ❖ This is the first time that any Indian institute has scored a perfect 100 in research or any other parameter.
- ❖ Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) of USA has topped the ranking for the 10th years in a row.
- ❖ MIT is followed by the University of Oxford of England in the second position.
- ❖ Stanford University of USA and the University of Cambridge of England shared the third spot.

### **Bdelloid rotifer**



- ❖ A microscopic animal reportedly came back to life after being frozen for 24,000 years in Siberia.
- ❖ The micro-animal was frozen in siberia's permafrost.
- ❖ The micro-animal is as called bdelloid rotifer.

### **Head the world's largest family**

- ❖ Ziona Chana, the man who believed to head the world's largest family died at the age 76.
- ❖ He was from Mizoram.
- ❖ He was with at least 39 wives and 94 children and 33 grandchildren.
- ❖ Ziona was the leader of a Christian sect, called Chana pawl.
- ❖ It allowed its male members to be polygamous.
- ❖ Ziona was featured in Ripley's Believe It or Not in 2011 and 2013 for having the world's largest family.

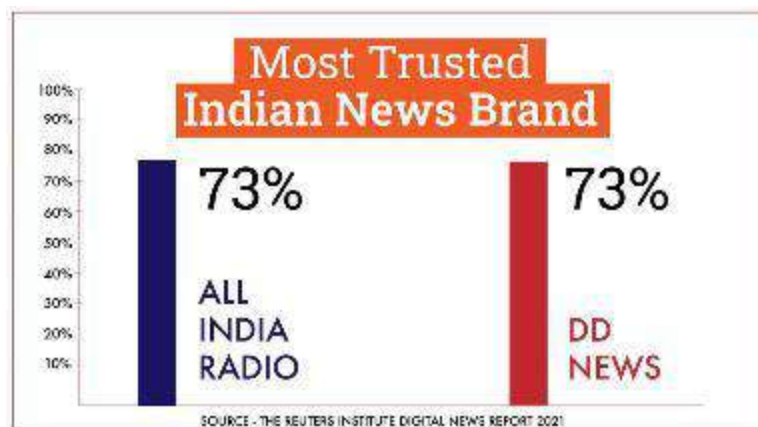


### Green Fungus

- ❖ Green Fungus is Aspergillosis.
- ❖ It is an infection caused by Aspergillus.
- ❖ It is a type of fungus that lives indoors and outdoors.
- ❖ Covid-19 survivor in Indore (Madhya Pradesh) was diagnosed with Green Fungus infection.

### Reuters Digital News Report 2021

- ❖ 10th edition of Reuters Digital News Report 2021 was published recently.
- ❖ The report is published by Reuters Institute for Study of Journalism (RISJ).
- ❖ India was ranked at 31st position in the category of “trust in news”.
- ❖ Finland, with 65%, has highest levels of overall trust in news.
- ❖ USA, with 29 %, has the lowest levels of trust.



## **QS EMBA Rankings 2021**

- ❖ The Post Graduate Programme in Enterprise Management of the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore has been ranked the best in India in the latest edition of QS Executive MBA Rankings.
- ❖ IIM Bangalore has bagged the 39th spot globally.
- ❖ It makes it the only Indian institute to feature in the list of the top 100.
- ❖ In the Asia-Pacific category, IIM Bangalore holds the 10th spot.



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