



June - 20

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ 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.

## **NATIONAL**

### **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.

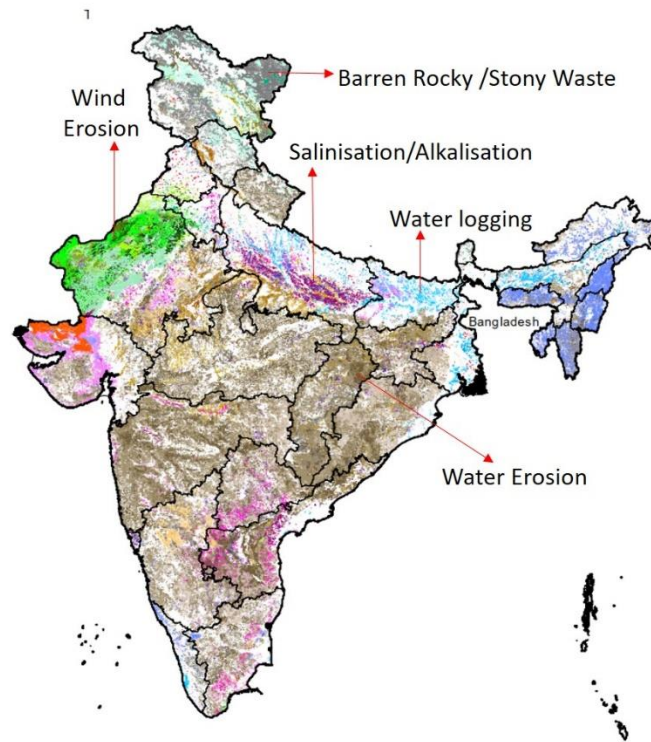
### **Global Yoga Conference 2021**

- ❖ 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).



## INTERNATIONAL

### **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.

**JUNE**  
**NINETEENTH**  
**1865**



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

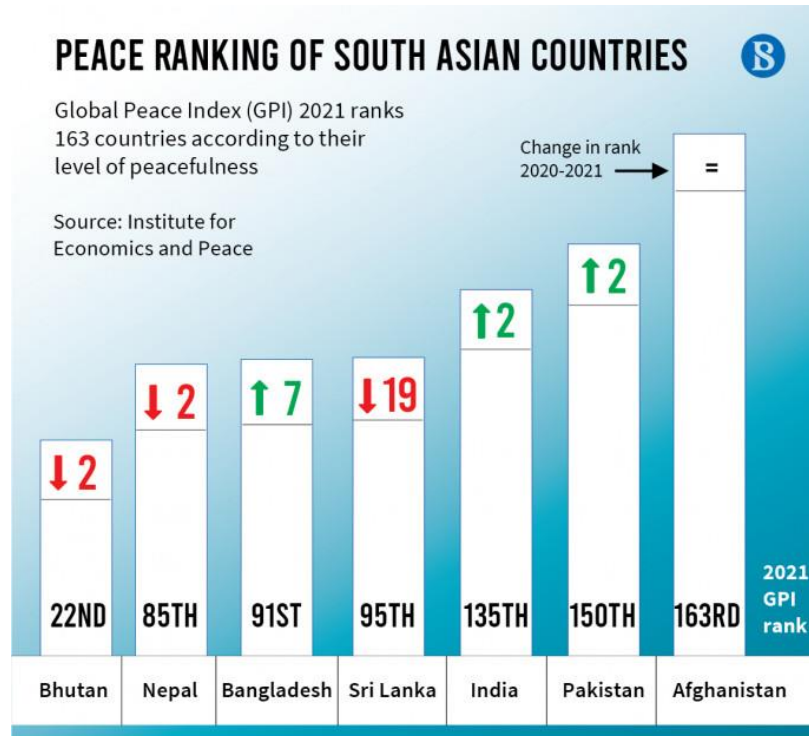
- ❖ The National Geographic magazine has recognised the ‘Southern Ocean’ as the world’s fifth ocean.
- ❖ The Southern Ocean is the only ocean to touch three other oceans.
- ❖ Its northern limit is latitude of 60 degrees south.
- ❖ It is also defined by its Antarctic Circumpolar Current that was formed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

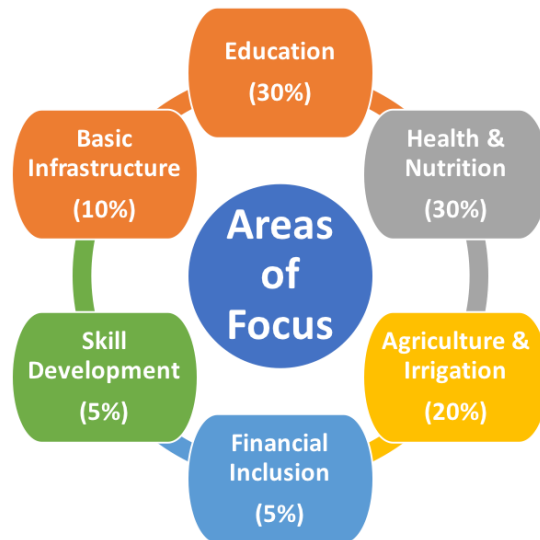


- ❖ World Competitiveness Index was compiled by Institute for Management Development (IMD).
- ❖ It examined the impact of COVID-19 on economies worldwide.

- ❖ 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**

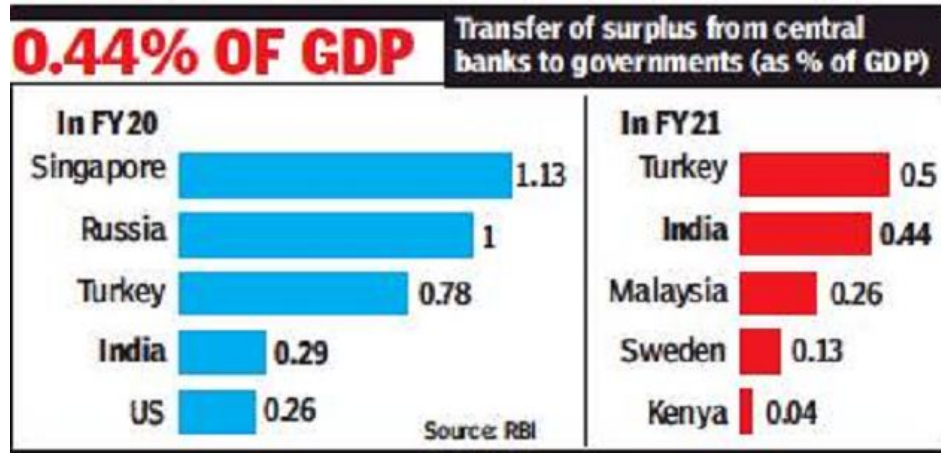
- ❖ The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India has lauded the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) as 'a very successful model of local area development'
- ❖ It was said in an independent appraisal report released recently.
- ❖ UNDP's analysis found that the programme has acted as a catalyst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



## **ECONOMY**

### **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.



## STATES

### 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.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### 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.

