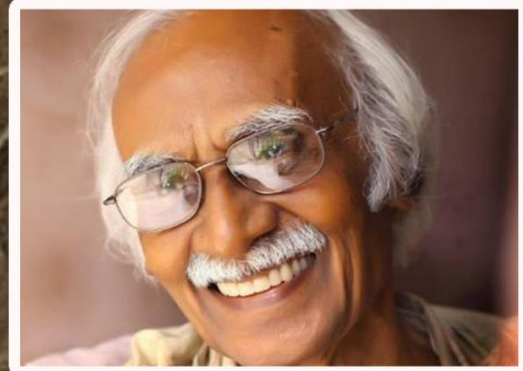


# TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM

## CURRENT AFFAIRS - MAY 2021

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## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Saudi Arabia, US, Canada, Norway, and Qatar to set up 'Net Zero Producers Forum' for oil and gas producers to support implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change.
- ❖ A group of 15 in France, explored the cave as part of the Deep Time project for 40 days and 40 nights.
  - 'Deep Time' project aimed at studying how people adapt to changes in living conditions, environments.
- ❖ In a move to counter China's dominance of supply chain in the Indo-Pacific region, trade ministers of India, Japan and Australia have formally launched the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI).
  - The SCRI aims to create a virtuous cycle of enhancing supply chain resilience with a view to eventually attaining strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth in the region.
- ❖ Vaishali S Hiwase will become the first woman officer to be appointed as Officer Commanding in the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), India.
  - She will be responsible for providing connectivity through an Indo-China border road.
- ❖ Shivalik Small Finance Bank has commenced operations as a small finance bank with effect from April 26, 2021.
  - This became the first urban co-operative bank (UCB) in India to receive a licence from RBI to operate as a Small Finance Bank (SFB).
- ❖ Dr. Krithi K Karanth, Chief Conservation Scientist at Bengaluru-based Centre for Wildlife Studies (CWS), has been chosen as the first Indian and Asian woman for the 2021 'WILD Innovator Award'.
  - This award given by the "WILD ELEMENTS Foundation".
- ❖ The United Kingdom has become the first country to announce regulation for the use of self-driving vehicles at low speeds.
  - The speed limit is to be set at 37 miles per hour and it shall drive itself in a single lane.
- ❖ The Central Bureau of the United States recently announced that the population of the United States has increased by 7.4%.
  - This is the second slowest growth of US Population since the Great Depression.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has reconstituted the State Commission for Women with Gowri Ashokan as its Chairperson.



- The Chairperson and the Members of the Commission will hold office for three years.
- ❖ Every year, the Ayushman Bharat Diwas is celebrated on April 30 in India to promote health and wellness to the poor and also to provide insurance benefits to them.
  - Ayushman Bharat Scheme was launched in April 2018.
- ❖ North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has launched joint military exercises “DEFENDER-Europe 21” in Albania.
  - This has been launched with thousands of military forces from the United States and other countries in the first such large-scale drills since World War II in the Western Balkans.
- ❖ World Tuna Day is observed globally on May 2nd by the United Nations to raise awareness about the importance of tuna fish.
  - It is observed for the first time in 2017.
- ❖ World’s longest pedestrian suspension bridge opens in Portugal.
  - The bridge hangs 175 meters above the River Paiva.
- ❖ Wipro regained its position as the 3rd largest Indian IT services company by market capitalization of ₹ 2.65 trillion by surpassing HCL Technologies’ ₹ 2.62 trillion market cap.
  - TCS remains at the top of the list with a market cap of ₹ 11.51 trillion followed by Infosys.
- ❖ The House of Representatives voted to pass a bill that would make Washington DC the 51st state of the United States.
  - It is yet to be passed in the Senate.
- ❖ Coal Miners’ Day is celebrated on May 4 to recognize the hard work of some of the great unsung heroes of the Industrial Revolution.
  - The day is celebrated to show appreciation for the coal miners and honour their accomplishments.
- ❖ Around eight Asiatic lions have tested positive for COVID-19 at Hyderabad Nehru Zoological Park.
  - This is the first time that transmission of virus to animal has been detected in India.
- ❖ Former Jammu and Kashmir Governor, Jagmohan Malhotra has passed away.
  - Jagmohan served two terms as Jammu and Kashmir Governor, once from 1984 to 1989, and then from January 1990 to May 1990.



- ❖ An international team of Palaeontologists (who studies fossils) has identified a new genus and species of hadrosaur/duck-billed dinosaur.
  - The species has been named as Yamatosaurus izanagii.
- ❖ The Central Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institute, Budni (Madhya Pradesh) has tested the first-ever electric Tractor in the Institute.
  - Electric tractor will be more environment friendly than other types of tractors.
- ❖ India and South Africa proposed for IP waiver at the World Trade Organisation in 2020.
  - Now US President Joe Biden's administration announced its support for a global waiver on patent protections for Covid-19 vaccines and will negotiate the terms at the World Trade Organisation (WTO).
- ❖ Hollywood star Tyler Perry took home the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award at the 2021 Oscars ceremony.
  - He has been at the forefront of the entertainment industry's recovery amid the coronavirus pandemic.
- ❖ India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar attended the G7 Foreign Ministers Meeting in London virtually.
  - He deliberated on increasing support for the global vaccine distribution scheme COVAX and ensure fair access to vaccine stocks, along with girls' education, arbitrary detention, and media freedom on the agenda.
- ❖ China "indefinitely" suspended all activity under the China-Australia Strategic Economic Dialogue.
  - This recent trade sanctions have affected several key Australian industries including wine, barley and coal.
- ❖ South Carolina lawmakers have passed a bill to allow inmates on death row to be executed by firing squad in the absence of lethal injection drugs.
  - If this becomes a law, it will make South Carolina the fourth state in the country to offer this option as a method of capital punishment.
- ❖ The first-ever India-France-Australia Trilateral Foreign Ministerial Dialogue was held in London, UK, on the side-lines of the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting.
  - The meeting was attended by External Affairs Minister, Dr S. Jaishankar from India, France's Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Mr Jean-Yves Le Drian and Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Marise Payne.
- ❖ Himanta Biswa Sarma has been named as the 15th Chief Minister of Assam.
  - He will replace the incumbent Sarbananda Sonowal.



- ❖ Every year during May 8-9, the United Nations marks the Time of Remembrance and reconciliation for those who lost their lives during the Second World War.
  - The day pays tribute to all the victims of the Second World War and this year is the 76th Anniversary of World War II.
- ❖ World Migratory Bird Day 2021 is observed globally on 8 May.
  - The aim of the day is to raise awareness of migratory birds and the importance of international cooperation to conserve them.
- ❖ Victory Day is celebrated in Russia to mark the surrender of Germans in the second world war.
  - On May 9, 2021 Russia marked the 76th anniversary of victory in World War II.
- ❖ Mount Sinabung in Indonesia has recently erupted.
  - The volcano has been active since 2010 when it erupted after nearly 400 years of inactivity.
- ❖ The Assam State Disaster Management Agency and the UNICEF has jointly developed an Online Flood Reporting System.
  - Assam becomes the first state to adopt digital reporting system to find out impact indicators during floods.
- ❖ The United States Food and Drug Administration gave the emergency use approval to Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine for the children in the 12-15 age groups.
- ❖ Former Chief Minister and AIADMK joint coordinator Edappadi K Palaniswami was elected the Leader of Opposition in the Tamil Nadu Assembly.
- ❖ Govi. Chezhian was named the chief government whip.
  - He is the DMK MLA from Tiruvidaimarudur.
- ❖ Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Medical) Kanitkar is the third woman to become a three-star general in the armed forces.
  - Vice Admiral Dr. Punita Arora & Air Marshal Padmavathy Bandopadhyay are the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- ❖ UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres honoured Indian UN Peacekeeping officer Yuvraj Singh during the UN annual Memorial Service 2021.
  - He died in line of duty in 2020.
- ❖ Delhi Police has launched a helpline number for senior citizens who are struggling with their essential needs amid Covid-19.
  - South District Police of the national capital has launched a COVI Van Helpline (012- 26241077) for senior citizens.





- ❖ Padmakumar Madhavan Nair of State Bank of India has been appointed as the CEO of Bad Bank.
  - The Bad Bank is a proposed entity of the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARC).
- ❖ The President of Nepal Bidhya Devi Bhandari recently prorogued the Parliament after the Prime Minister Oli lost vote of confidence.
  - Proroguing is to discontinue a session of parliament or legislative assembly.
- ❖ The Manchester City football team of England crowned Premier League champions for the third time in four seasons.
- ❖ K P Sharma Oli was sworn in as the Prime Minister of Nepal for the third time.
  - He was re-appointed as the Prime Minister as the opposition couldn't prove their majority.
- ❖ A bolt of lightning is believed to have killed a herd of at least 18 elephants in central Assam's Nagaon district.
  - The incident happened in the hilly Kandali Proposed Reserve Forest in the Forest Department's Kathiatoli Range.
- ❖ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of United Co-operative Bank Ltd based in Bagnan, West Bengal.
  - RBI said it cancelled the licence as United Co-operative Bank did not have adequate capital and earning prospects.
- ❖ The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted that Tauktae cyclone will intensify into a severe cyclonic storm and then later into a Very Severe Cyclonic storm.
  - It is expected to be the strongest in the west coast in two decades.
- ❖ Sabre Fencer Bhavani Devi has created history by becoming the first Indian fencer to qualify for the Olympic Games.
  - She won a quota through the Adjusted Official Ranking (AOR) method after the Budapest World Cup in March.
- ❖ The UN General Assembly, declared 16 May the International Day of Living Together in Peace, as a means of regularly mobilizing the efforts of the international community to promote peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding and solidarity.
  - The United Nations General Assembly decided to celebrate 16th May as the International Day of Living Together in Peace on 8th December 2017.
- ❖ The International Day of Light is celebrated on 16 May each year to mark the anniversary of the first successful operation of the laser in 1960 by physicist and engineer, Theodore Maiman.



- The message of 2021 International Day of Light is “Trust Science”.
- ❖ The Indian company, Shilpa Medicare has also joined the efforts to increase the manufacturing capacity of the Sputnik V Vaccine.
  - Last year the Hyderabad-based Dr Reddy's Laboratories had partnered with the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) to conduct the clinical trials of the Sputnik V and for its distribution rights in India.
- ❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research recently dropped the plasma therapy from COVID-19 treatment.
  - The decision was taken as the procedure was found to be ineffective.
- ❖ Every year, the World AIDS Vaccine Day / HIV Vaccine Awareness Day is celebrated on May 18.
  - This year the day is celebrated under the theme is 'Global Solidarity'.
- ❖ The former speaker of Tibet's parliament-in-exile, Penpa Tsering, has been elected the new president of the exile government.
  - This is the 3rd direct election of leadership after the withdrawal of Dalai lama from politics.
- ❖ Malerkotla, Punjab's only Muslim-majority town, has become the state's 23rd district.
  - It was carved out from the Sangrur district.
- ❖ China will support India's and South Africa's proposal for a temporary waiver of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement for coronavirus vaccines.
- ❖ India lost the ONGC Videsh discovered Farzad-B gas field in the Persian Gulf after Iran awarded a contract for developing the giant gas field to a local company.
  - Iran signed a contract with Petropars Group for the development of the Field.
- ❖ The United Kingdom eased its coronavirus lockdown restrictions allowing all restaurants, hotels, theatres and museums to open soon.
  - The lockdown rules have been eased in England, Wales and most of Scotland.
- ❖ Kerala government created history by appointing a leader from a minority community as the Devaswom minister of the state.
  - Senior CPM leader K Radhakrishnan will be taking over the reins of Devaswom ministry in the new cabinet.
- ❖ Government of India increased fertilizer subsidies to Rs 1,200 per bag. Earlier, it was Rs 500 per bag.
  - Thus, the subsidies have been increased by 140%.



- ❖ The Rajasthan government has declared Mucormycosis or black fungus as an epidemic.
  - Apart from Rajasthan, black fungus cases have also been reported in several states.
- ❖ India is the second-largest insurance technology market in Asia-Pacific.
  - This is according to S&P Global Market Intelligence data.
- ❖ World Metrology Day is observed globally on 20<sup>th</sup> May every year.
  - The theme for World Metrology Day 2021 is Measurement for Health.
- ❖ NASA and European Space Agency's Solar Orbiter spacecraft has captured the first solar eruption on the Sun's surface.
  - These eruptions are also known as coronal mass ejections (CME).
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government declared Black Fungus (mucormycosis) a notifiable disease under Epidemic Diseases Act 1897.
  - The Telangana government also declared Black Fungus a notifiable disease under Epidemic Diseases Act 1897.
- ❖ The United Nations has proclaimed May 22 'The International Day for Biological Diversity' to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues.
  - The theme of the 2021 International Day for Biological Diversity is "We're part of the solution"
- ❖ Ms Tashi Yangjom from Arunachal Pradesh for scales Mt. Everest & becomes the first Indian woman climber to Everest in 2021.
  - She was trained at National Institute of Mountaineering & Allied Sports (NIMAS) in Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Mylab Discovery Solutions announced that it has received the Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR) approval for the country's first self-use rapid antigen test for covid-19, CoviSelf.
  - The test can be purchased for ₹250 without a prescription from local pharmacies.
- ❖ Martha Karambu Koome is Kenya's first woman chief justice.
  - She is the first woman to head any of the three branches of government.
- ❖ The RBI has imposed monetary penalty on City Union Bank, Tamilnadu Mercantile Bank, Nutan Nagarik Sahakari Bank, Ahmedabad and Daimler Financial Services India Private Limited, Pune for contravention of certain directions issued by the central bank.
- ❖ Jharkhand has launched the 'Amrit Vahini' App for the online booking of hospital beds.



- Corona patients in Jharkhand can book hospital beds online through the 'Amrit Vahini' App launched by CM Hemant Soren.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India Central Board has approved transfer of Rs 99,122 crore as surplus to the central government.
  - This will be for the accounting period of nine months ended March 31 and it has also decided to maintain the Contingency Risk Buffer at 5.50 per cent.
- ❖ President of Nepal, Bidhya Devi Bhandari, dissolved the House of Representatives on May 22, 2021.
  - The decision was taken on the recommendations of cabinet headed by caretaker Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and the fresh elections will be held in November 2021.
- ❖ Bihar government has launched 'HIT Covid App' to ensure regular monitoring and tracking of those Covid-19 patients, who are in home isolation across the state.
  - HIT stands for home isolation tracks.
- ❖ Shaji.N.M., fondly called as 'Tuber Man' of Kerala, has been awarded the India Biodiversity Award 2021 in the individual category of 'Conservation of domesticated species'.
  - He has also received many state awards including the Plant Genome Savior Reward 2015, instituted by PPV&FR Authority, New Delhi.
- ❖ In India, the Commonwealth Day is celebrated on May 24.
  - Also known as the Empire Day, the Commonwealth Day commemorates the formation of the British Empire in India and other colonies of Britain.
- ❖ Singapore has approved a covid breath test which detect to covid-19 and show the accurate results in less than a minute.
  - The test has been developed by a start-up Breathonix.
- ❖ According to National Hurricane Centre, Miami, subtropical storm Ana is drifting northeast across the Atlantic Ocean after causing rain to Bermuda.
  - Thus, first named Atlantic storm of the season will cause no damage to land and will dissipate soon.
- ❖ A book titled 'India and Asian Geopolitics: The Past, Present' is authored by Shivshankar Menon.
  - He was the Prime Minister's former National Security Adviser and Foreign Secretary.
- ❖ A book has titled "Nehru, Tibet and China" authored by Avtar Singh Bhasin.





- The book analyses the events from 1949 to the Indo-China war in 1962 and its aftermath.
- ❖ Maharashtra Government has prepared and submitted a tentative serial nomination for 14 forts of the state, to get World Heritage Site tag.
  - They belong to either Peshwa rule or battle between Marathas & Mughals, while Some forts also served as naval or army bases for Maratha fighters.
- ❖ Forbes has unveiled its annual list of the 10 highest-paid athletes of the year.
  - UFC star Conor McGregor has topped the Forbes list by earning \$180 million in the past year beating soccer superstars Lionel Messi (\$130 million) and Cristiano Ronaldo (\$120 million) to become the highest-paid athlete in the world.
- ❖ Atletico Madrid pipped city rivals Real Madrid to get the La Liga title.
  - Luis Suarez fired them to a 2-1 comeback win at Real Valladolid.
- ❖ First lunar eclipse of 2021 took place on May 26, 2021.
  - It is a super lunar event because supermoon, lunar eclipse and blood moon, all occurred at once.
- ❖ The official death count in India, due to COVID-19 and the deadly second wave of the pandemic, has crossed the 3 lakh mark.
  - With this count, India has become the 3rd country globally to cross this mark with the two other countries - the United States and Brazil.
- ❖ Microsoft recently announced that Internet Explorer 11 desktop browser will be retired on June 15, 2022, for some versions of Windows 10.
  - However, Internet Explorer-based websites and applications will continue to work on new Microsoft Edge (Internet Explorer) mode till 2029.
- ❖ United Nations is observing “International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories” from May 25 to 31, 2021.
  - According to the UN Charter, a Non-Self-Governing Territory is a Territory “where people have not attained a full measure of self-government.”
- ❖ A new type of coronavirus, named as CCoV-HuPn-2018 is believed to have originated in dogs, was detected among patients hospitalised with pneumonia in 2017-2018.
  - This may be the eighth unique coronavirus known to cause disease in humans if it is confirmed as a pathogen.
- ❖ Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched the 'Sanjeevani Pariyojana' scheme.



- The initiative will allow people in the rural areas with mild to moderate symptoms to get access to quick medical care without having to leave their homes and travel to a hospital.
- ❖ The Billboard Music Awards 2021 concluded on May 23.
  - This year, BTS band was nominated for Top Duo/Group, Top Song Sales Artist, Top Social Artist, and Top Selling Song and the band won all four awards.
- ❖ NASA has set up a new Earth System Observatory which will help in mitigating climate change, forest fires and hurricanes.
  - It will also support real-time agriculture.
- ❖ Panacea Biotech (Indian pharmaceutical producer) in collaboration with the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) launched the production of the Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine in India.
  - Panacea and the RDIF had announced their plan to produce 100 million doses of the Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine per year.
- ❖ Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appointed David Barnea as the new head of the country's spy agency, the Mossad.
  - Barnea, a former longtime Mossad operative, will succeed Yossi Cohen as head of Israel's intelligence agency.
- ❖ The recent Presidential Election in Syria was the second one since the beginning of Syria's uprising-turned-war a decade ago.
  - The latest elections resulted a fourth term for President Bashar al-Assad.
- ❖ Chief Minister of Kerala announced a secretary level committee will formulate guidelines and recommendations on implementation of "Smart Kitchen Scheme" in state.
  - Under the scheme, women of state will be given loan to refurbish their kitchen.
- ❖ National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) issued guidelines for Toll centres to reduce waiting time to 10 seconds per vehicle at any point of time.
- ❖ Part of structure of a key protein in COVID-19 virus was revealed by researchers from Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi, Himachal Pradesh.
  - Covid-19 protein structure will help in understanding mode of action & its role in spread and severity of covid-19 disease and will also help in development of antiviral therapeutics.
- ❖ The "International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers" is observed on May 29 annually.



- The theme for this year is “The road to a lasting peace: Leveraging the power of youth for peace and security.”
- ❖ Initiated by the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO), every year on May 29, World Digestive Health Day is celebrated to create awareness among people regarding digestive disease or disorder they can face.
  - This year's theme is "Obesity: An Ongoing Pandemic".
- ❖ Bharat Ratna Professor C.N.R. Rao has been honoured with the International ENI Award 2020 for his research in renewable energy sources and energy storage.
  - Professor C.N.R Rao has been working on hydrogen energy as the only source of energy for the benefit of all mankind.
- ❖ Zydus Cadila announced that the company is seeking approval from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) to conduct clinical trials of its monoclonal antibody therapy ZRC-3308 (COVIMAB) that can neutralize COVID-19.
  - Zydus Cadila is the only Indian company that has been able to develop this monoclonal antibody therapy.
- ❖ French President Emmanuel Macron has said France recognised its “responsibility” in the 1994 Rwandan genocide, asking for forgiveness for his country’s role.
- ❖ This was said in a solemn speech at the Kigali Genocide Memorial, where 250,000 victims of the mass killings are buried.
- ❖ Elon Musk’s aerospace company, SpaceX, launched 60 Starlink Broadband Satellites with Falcon 9 first stage booster into the orbit.
  - Satellites were launched from Space Launch Complex 40 in Florida of USA.
- ❖ Andy Jassy will officially become the CEO of Amazon.
  - Amazon announced that Jassy, the current CEO of Amazon Web Services, would replace Jeff Bezos as CEO of the entire company in February.
- ❖ Art historian and curator Laurence des Cars has become the first woman to be appointed the president of Louvre in its 228-year history.
  - Louvre museum is the world’s largest art museum, based in Paris, France.

## TAMIL NADU

### Project 'Pyrasol'

- ❖ The foundation stone of the integrated Solar Dryer and Pyrolysis pilot plant was laid at Chennai.
- ❖ The pilot plant is part of the Indo-German project 'Pyrasol'.
- ❖ It was awarded to CSIR-CLRI by the Indo-German Science & Technology Centre.
- ❖ The project will ultimately lead for the technology development to transform urban organic waste and sewage sludge into biochar and energy in Indian Smart Cities as well as in other urban centres.

### 3D printed house

- ❖ The Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman inaugurated the first 3D printed house at IIT Madras.
- ❖ The House was constructed using indigenous 3D printing technology.
- ❖ It was built in just five days.
- ❖ It was built by TVASTA Manufacturing solutions based on a concept by former IIT-M students.
- ❖ 3D printing is a process of making three dimensional objects through digital instructions.



### Kaaval karangal

- ❖ The Commissioner of Police Maheshkumar Agarwal has launched a new integrated program called 'Kaaval karangal' in Chennai.
- ❖ The Greater Chennai Police has launched this program to help the elderly, women, children and the mentally ill who are left without support on the roads.



## Tamilnadu governor dissolves 15<sup>th</sup> assembly

- ❖ The Governor of Tamil Nadu accepted the resignation of Chief Minister Thiru Edappadi K Palaniswami and his Council of Ministers, with effect from the afternoon of 3.5.2021.
- ❖ However, Mr Purohit requested him and the present Council of Ministers to continue until alternative arrangements are made
- ❖ The Governor has dissolved the 15<sup>th</sup> (2016-21) Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly (May 3, 2021).

## Tamil Nadu cabinet 2021

- 1) மு.க.ஸ்டீவன் - மூதலமைச்சர் - பொதுநிர்வாகம் -இந்திய ஆட்சிப்பணி -இந்திய காவல்பணி- மாவட்ட வருவாய்-உள்துறை-மாற்றுத்திறனாளிகள் நலன்-சிறப்புத் திட்ட செயலாக்கம்
- 2) துரைமுருகன் - நீர்பாசனத்துறை மற்றும் கனிமங்கள்-சுரங்கங்கள்
- 3) கே.என்.நேரு -நகராட்சி நிர்வாகம் -நகர்பகுதி-குடிநீர் வழங்கல்
- 4) ஐ.பெரியசாமி -சட்டநிறுவ மற்றும் புள்ளியியல்-முன்னாள் ராணுவத்தினர் நலன்
- 5) க.பொன்முடி -உயர்கல்வித்துறை
- 6) எம்.ஆர்.கே.பன்னீர்செல்வம் -வேளாண்மைத்துறை
- 7) கே.கே.எஸ்.எஸ்.ஆர்.ராமச்சந்திரன் -வருவாய் மற்றும் பேரிடர் மேலாண்மை
- 8) தங்கம் தென்னரசு -தொழில்த்துறை மற்றும் தமிழ் வளர்ச்சித்துறை
- 9) எஸ்.ரகுபதி -சட்டம், நீதிமன்றங்கள், சிறைச்சாலை
- 10) எ.வ.வேலு -பொதுப்பணித்துறை மற்றும் நெடுஞ்சாலைத்துறை
- 11) மூத்துச்சாமி -ஈடுபாடுத்துறை மற்றும் சென்னை பெருநகர வளர்ச்சி குழுமம்
- 12) கே.ஆர்.பெரியசுருப்பன் -ஊரக வளர்ச்சித்துறை
- 13) தாமோ.அன்பரசன் -சிறுதொழில் மற்றும் குடிசை மாற்று வாரியம்
- 14) வெள்ளைக்கோவில் சாமிநாதன் -செய்தி மற்றும் விளம்பரத்துறை
- 15) கீதாஜீவன் -சமூக நலத்துறை
- 16) அனீதா ராதாகிருஷ்ணன் -மின்வளம் மற்றும் கால்நடை பராமரிப்பு
- 17) ராஜகண்ணப்பன் -போக்குவரத்துத் துறை
- 18) காராமச்சந்திரன் -வனம்
- 19) சக்கரபாணி -உணவுப் பொருள் வழங்கல் மற்றும் நுகர்வோர் பாதுகாப்பு
- 20) செந்தில்பாலாஜி -மின்சாரத்துறை
- 21) ஆர்.காந்தி -கைத்தறி மற்றும் துணிநூல் துறை
- 22) மா.சுப்பிரமணியன் -ககாதாரத்துறை
- 23) பி.மூர்த்தி -வணிகவரித்துறை
- 24) எஸ்.எஸ்.சிவசங்கர் -பிற்படுத்தப்பட்டோர் நலன்
- 25) சேகர்பாபு -இந்து சமய அறநிலையத்துறை
- 26) பழனிவேல் தியாகராஜன் -நிதித்துறை
- 27) ஆவடி சாமுநாசர் -பால்வளத்துறை
- 28) செஞ்சி மஸ்தான் -சிறுபான்மையினர் நலன்
- 29) அன்பில் மகேஸ் -பள்ளிக்கல்வித்துறை
- 30) மெய்யநாதன் -சுற்றுச்சூழல்துறை
- 31) சி.வி.கணேசன் -தொழிலாளர்கள் நலன்
- 32) மனோ தங்கராஜ் -தகவல் தொழில்நுட்பத்துறை
- 33) மதிவேந்தன் -சுற்றுலாத்துறை
- 34) கயல்விழி செல்வராஜ் -ஆதிதிராவிடர் நலத்துறை

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit appointed DMK president M.K. Stalin as the Chief Minister on May 5<sup>th</sup> 2021.

- ❖ He invited him to form the Ministry and to have swearing-in ceremony on May 7 2021 at Raj Bhavan, Chennai.
- ❖ M.K. Stalin had released a list of 34 ministers who will be part of his cabinet.
- ❖ The list containing names and portfolios of the ministers was sent to the Governor for his approval and it was approved.



### First 5 orders signed by CM Stalin

- ❖ MK Stalin signed five orders to provide relief to a state that is reeling under the coronavirus pandemic.
- ❖ Rs 4,000 will be provided to all 'Rice' ration card holders in the state in an attempt to provide them some relief amidst the pandemic.
- ❖ Of the Rs 4,000, Rs 2,000 will be distributed in the month of May and the remaining will be given later.
- ❖ The price of Aavin milk to be reduced by Rs 3.



- ❖ All women, including working professionals and students can travel in state-owned buses (Ordinary fare) for free from May 8<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ A new department to fulfil the promise of addressing all your complaints in the first 100 days of the DMK government will be formed.
- ❖ The expenses for COVID treatment in private hospitals will be covered under the Chief Minister's health insurance scheme and will be reimbursed to the hospitals by the government.

### **Xylophis deepaki**

- ❖ A tiny snake "Xylophis deepaki" has been named in honour of Indian herpetologist Deepak Veerappan.
- ❖ This is for his contribution in erecting a new subfamily Xylophiinae to accommodate wood snakes.
- ❖ The common name suggested for the species is 'Deepak's wood snake'.
- ❖ Xylophis deepaki is a tiny snake of just 20 cm length with iridescent scales.
- ❖ It was first found on a coconut plantation in Kanyakumari.
- ❖ It is now reported to be an endemic species of Tamil Nadu and also been sighted in some parts of the southern Western Ghats.
- ❖ It is found in the drier regions and in lower altitudes around Agasthyamalai hills.

### **COVID-19 War Room**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government announced the names of six nodal officers to the Unified Command Centre (UCC) that will function as the COVID-19 War Room.
- ❖ Darez Ahamed, Executive Director, Guidance, will head the UCC and will be in charge of overall co-ordination of the command centre.
- ❖ K. Nanthakumar, Secretary, TNPSC, will be the nodal officer for State oxygen monitoring and emergency response.
- ❖ Mr. Nanthakumar will co-ordinate with the Tamil Nadu Medical Supplies Corporation on all issues related to liquid medical oxygen and liaise with private hospitals for their oxygen requirements.
- ❖ Dr. S. Uma, Additional Collector (development), will be the nodal officer for bed management in both government and private hospitals.
- ❖ Dr. S. Vineet, Joint Managing Director, TANGEDCO, will be the nodal officer for field inspection of all empanelled and non-empanelled private medical college hospitals in and around Chennai.



- ❖ He will be assisted by R. Ishwarya, Assistant Collector, Vellore, and Anamika Ramesh, Collector, Tiruvallur.
- ❖ K.P. Karthikeyan, Executive Director, TIDCO, will be the nodal officer for major Government Medical Colleges (dedicate COVID-19 hospitals) and other dedicated COVID-19 hospitals in and around Chennai.
- ❖ R. Alagumeena, General Manager, TANFINET, will be the nodal officer for maintaining quality and responsiveness of the War Room.

### **Important Appointments in TN**

- ❖ V Irai Anbu, IAS has been appointed Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary.
- ❖ The DMK government also appointed IAS officer Shilpa Prabhakar Satish to head a special division that would take steps to redress within 100 days the grievances of people.
- ❖ Senior IAS officer from the 1993 batch, Gagandeep Singh Bedi, has been appointed as the Chennai Corporation Commissioner.
- ❖ R Shanmugasundaram is the new advocate-general of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ He is a veteran prosecutor who served as state public prosecutor from 1996 to 2001.

#### **Four new secretaries**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government posted four IAS officers as new secretaries to the Chief Minister MK Stalin.
- ❖ The officers are T Udhayachandran, Commissioner of Archaeology posted as Secretary I;
- ❖ P Umanath, Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation as Secretary II;
- ❖ MS Shanmugam, Commissioner of Museums as Secretary III and
- ❖ Anu George, Industries Commissioner and Director of Industries and Commerce as Secretary IV.

### **16<sup>th</sup> Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly**

- ❖ The 16th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly has been summoned to meet for its first session on May 11<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ The 234 newly elected Members of the legislative Assembly will be sworn in by the Pro Tem Speaker K.Pichandi.
- ❖ DMK's senior member Appavu has been selected for the Speaker post.

- ❖ K.Pichandy from DMK is selected for the Deputy Speaker's post.



### **Subdoluseps nilgiriensis**

- ❖ It is a new species of an Asian gracile skink that has been discovered recently at Anaikatti hills, Coimbatore.
- ❖ This species is only the third skink species discovered from mainland India in the last millennium.
- ❖ The reptile has a slender body of just about 7 cm and is sandy brown in colour.
- ❖ Most skinks are diurnal and are non-venomous.
- ❖ Skinks are known to feed on insects such as termites, crickets and small spiders.
- ❖ It is currently classified as a vulnerable species.



### **Bheema Bamboo**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) has designed an 'oxygen park' within its premises at Coimbatore with Beema or Bheema Bamboo.



- ❖ Beema Bamboo is a superior clone, selected from Bambusa balcooa, a higher biomass yielding bamboo species.
- ❖ This bamboo does not produce any seed and does not die also for several hundred years and keeps growing.
- ❖ This species is the best 'carbon sink' to mitigate carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions.
- ❖ A four-year-old bamboo may absorb over 400 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum.
- ❖ A fully-grown bamboo tree generates over 300 kg of oxygen annually.



### **Platyiceps josephi**

- ❖ An international team of researchers has discovered a new species of raver snake from Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The new species *Platyiceps josephi* is named after late Herpetologist Naveen Joseph.
- ❖ The discovery of the new species is published in Vertebrate Zoology.
- ❖ The team stated that the new species should be considered a species in the 'vulnerable' category according to the IUCN criteria.
- ❖ The *Platyiceps josephi* has distinct white bands on its body and irregular white spots on its head.
- ❖ It is a non-venomous terrestrial snake endemic to Tamil Nadu.





## **NATIONAL**

### **E-2025 initiative**

- ❖ The World Health Organisation recently identified twenty-five countries with the potential to eradicate malaria by 2025.
- ❖ This is called the E-2025 initiative.
- ❖ The WHO is to provide technical guidance and specialised support to these countries under the initiative.
- ❖ Three of the identified countries were from Africa
- ❖ They were namely Eswatini, Botswana and South Africa.

### **Ladakh Ignited Minds Project**

- ❖ The Indian Army initiated the Ladakh Ignited Minds Project to provide educational opportunities for the Ladakhi students from Kargil and Leh districts.
- ❖ The MoU has been signed with HPCL (Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited) and a Kanpur based NGO, the National Integrity and Educational Development Organisation.

### **LAC Scheme**

- ❖ The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare recently announced that around 14,491 hectares of land in Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been certified as organic.
- ❖ This is the first large contiguous territory to be certified under government scheme.
- ❖ The organic certification was provided under the Large Area Certification (LAC) Scheme of the Participatory Guarantee System certification programme.
- ❖ This was launched under the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana.

### **Single crystal blades**

- ❖ The DRDO has developed single-crystal blades technology for helicopters.
- ❖ It has supplied 60 of these blades to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- ❖ The single-crystal high-pressure turbine (HPT) blades are made of a nickel-based superalloy.



### **Helpline number for pregnant women**

- ❖ The National Commission for Women recently launched the WhatsApp number for pregnant women.
- ❖ The helpline number is 9354954224.
- ❖ It is a “message only” helpline number.
- ❖ It will provide round the clock medical assistance to expectant mothers all over the country.
- ❖ National Commission for Women was established under the National Commission for Women Act in 1992.

### **New technique in collecting COVID-19 samples**

- ❖ Rakesh Mishra, Director of Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) said that they devised a new dry swab technique for collecting COVID-19 samples.
- ❖ The dry swab technique of COVID-19 sample collection involves taking a nasal swab and transporting it in the dry state unlike the process using the viral transport medium.
- ❖ Viral Transport Medium (VTM) is the potential for further spread of the virus.
- ❖ The dry swab technique is safe, fast, cheap, and more accurate.

### **Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas emissions - Wipro**

- ❖ Wipro announced its commitment to achieving Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2040.
- ❖ This is in line with the objective of the Paris Agreement to cap temperature rise to 1.5°C.

- ❖ It also set an intermediate target of a 55 per cent reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 in absolute emission levels compared to its base year of 2016-17.

## Election results 2021

- ❖ Election results 2021 for West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry assemblies were declared on May 2.

### West Bengal (294 seats)

- ❖ The Trinamool Congress managed a landslide victory in West Bengal.
- ❖ Trinamool Congress is to form the government for a third consecutive term in West Bengal.

### Tamil Nadu (234 seats)

- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, MK Stalin, leader of DMK is set to become the state Chief Minister.

Seats Won by Parties					
State	Seats Won	Party and Alliances			
Assam	126/126	BJP+	INC+	OTH/IND	
		75	50	1	
Kerala	140/140	LDF	UDF	BJP+	OTH
		94	40	0	6
West Bengal	292/292	TMC+	BJP	LEFT+	OTH/IND
		213	77	1	1
Tamil Nadu	234/234	DMK+	AIADMK+	MNM	OTH/IND
		159	75	0	0
Puducherry	30/30	BJP+NRC	INC+	OTH/IND	
		16	8	6	

### Kerala (140 seats)

- ❖ The Pinarayi Vijayan-led Left Democratic Front government scripted history by retaining power.
- ❖ It is the first time in four decades that the same grouping will form the government for the second consecutive time.

### Assam (126 seats)

- ❖ The BJP managed to retain power in Assam.

### Puducherry (30 seats)

- ❖ The National Democratic Alliance is set to form the government with NR Congress and its ally BJP in the 30-member House.



### **New Soybean variety**

- ❖ The Indian scientists recently developed a new Soy Bean variety called the “MACS 1407”.
- ❖ The new variety was developed by the Agharkar Research Institute of Pune along with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.
- ❖ The MACS 1407 Soybean variety is to be made available to farmers in 2022 Kharif season.

### **State Disaster Relief Fund**

- ❖ The Ministry of Finance recently released the first instalment of State Disaster Relief Fund.
- ❖ According to the recommendation made by the Finance Commission, the funds were to be released by June 2021.
- ❖ Now the funds have been released early.
- ❖ The total amount of SDRF to be released for 2021-22 is Rs 8,873 crores.
- ❖ The ministry released 50% of the amount, which is Rs 4,436.8 crores.
- ❖ State Disaster Response Funds were constituted under Disaster Management Act, 2005.

### **Food grain production**

- ❖ The government has set the production target for food grain for the crop year 2021-22 at a record 307.31 million tonnes.
- ❖ This includes the production of
  - 151.43 million tonnes of food grains during kharif (summer) season and
  - 155.88 million tonnes during rabi (winter) season.
- ❖ The targeted production is over 1.3% more than the last year's estimated food grain production of 303.34 million tonnes.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Green Solar Energy Harnessing Plant**

- ❖ Indian Army Inaugurated its 1st Green Solar Energy Harnessing Plant of 56 KVA (KiloVolt-Ampere) in North Sikkim.
- ❖ The Plant uses Vanadium based battery Technology.
- ❖ It is situated at an Altitude of 16000 Ft.
- ❖ The project has been completed in collaboration with IIT Mumbai.



- ❖ It was completed by a team from IIT Mumbai which was led by Professor Prakash Ghosh and troops of the Indian Army.

### **Operation Samudra Setu II**

- ❖ The Indian Navy recently launched Operation Samudra Setu II.
- ❖ The operation will aid in fulfilling oxygen requirements of the country.
- ❖ Under the operation, warships have been deployed to carry liquid oxygen filled cryogenic containers.
- ❖ INS Talwar will transport 40 million tonnes of oxygen from Manama to Mumbai.
- ❖ INS Kolkata is to proceed to Doha to get medical supplies and then to Kuwait to get liquid oxygen tanks.
- ❖ INS Airavat is to enter Singapore to embark liquid oxygen tanks.
- ❖ INS Jalashwa will also be diverted to the mission.
- ❖ The INS Shardul from the Southern Naval Command has been readied to join the operation.
- ❖ This operation will augment the Oxygen Express mission that is already operating under Indian Railways.

### **P-8I Patrol aircraft**

- ❖ The United States Department recently approved the sale of P-8I Patrol aircraft to India.
- ❖ It is a long range patrol aircraft.
- ❖ It was manufactured by Boeing for Indian Navy.
- ❖ It is a variant of P-8A Poseidon.
- ❖ The Poseidon is operated by the US Navy.
- ❖ The P-8I is capable of conducting maritime patrol, anti-submarine warfare, reconnaissance missions and surveillance.





### **PLI Scheme for the Food Processing Industry**

- ❖ Ministry of Food Processing Industries has launched an online portal for 'Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry' (PLISFPI).
- ❖ This Central Sector Scheme 'PLISFPI' will be implemented for the period from 2021-22 to 2026-27.
- ❖ It is a part of Prime Minister's announcement of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- ❖ It will support creation of global food manufacturing champions commensurate with India's natural resource endowment and support Indian brands of food products in the international markets.
- ❖ The scheme has two components,
  - It will provide sales based incentives for manufacturing of four major food product segments - Ready to Cook/ Eat (RTC/ RTE) foods, Processed Fruits & Vegetables, Marine Products, Mozzarella.
  - It will provide grants for undertaking Branding & Marketing activities abroad.

### **PRAYAAS Scheme**

- ❖ The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) sent the pension payment orders to the retiring employees under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 through the "PRAYAAS" initiative.
- ❖ PRAYAAS is initiative of the EPFO to disburse pension payment order on the very day of retirement/ superannuation.

### **Roadmap 2030**

- ❖ The Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson held a virtual bilateral summit.
- ❖ During the summit, the leaders adopted an ambitious "Roadmap 2030".
- ❖ This will help to elevate the bilateral ties between the countries.

#### **Key points**

- ❖ India and UK agreed to work closely in the development of India's indigenous Light Combat Aircraft Mark 2.
- ❖ They will work together to ensure ambitious outcome at the COP26.
- ❖ The roadmap will expand India-UK health partnership
- ❖ The leaders agreed to remove the trade barriers between the countries and begin the negotiations of Free Trade Agreement.
- ❖ They are implementing "India-UK Together" (SAATH-SAATH).



- ❖ It is a joint cultural exchange programme.
- ❖ There is also to be an increase collaboration to accelerate development of GIFT city.

### **100 Most valued Indian firms - SAIL**

- ❖ The stock of SAIL increased to a nine year high of Rs 135.60 on the BSE.
- ❖ In the last six weeks, the stocks of SAIL have increased by 85%.
- ❖ It has entered the hundred most valued Indian firms list.
- ❖ SAIL is Steel Authority of Indian Limited. It operates under Ministry of Steel.
- ❖ It has five large integrated steel plants, namely
  - Rourkela steel plant,
  - Bhilai Steel plant,
  - Durgapur steel plant,
  - IISCO and
  - Bokaro Steel plant.
- ❖ It also has three special steel plants namely
  - Visvesvaraya iron and steel plant,
  - Salem Steel plant,
  - Alloy steel plant and Ferri Alloy plant at Chandrapur.

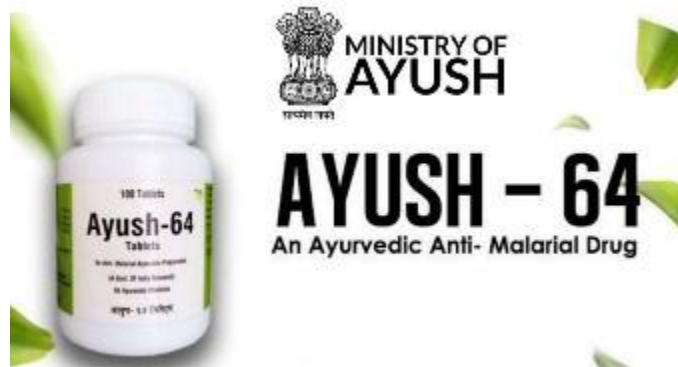
### **Mobile operators to conduct 5G trials**

- ❖ The Department of Telecommunications recently allowed mobile operators to conduct 5G trials.
- ❖ The Telecom Department has allowed Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea and MTNL to conduct trials using 5G technology. These service providers have tied up with original equipment manufacturers such as Nokia, Ericsson, Samsung.
- ❖ The Reliance Jio is to conduct trials using its own technology.
- ❖ The Chinese companies have been kept out of the trials.

### **AYUSH 64**

- ❖ Ayush Ministry announced that it has taken steps to streamline the distribution of AYUSH 64.

- ❖ AYUSH 64 is a polyherbal Ayurvedic medicine.
- ❖ It could be used across the country to treat mild to moderate cases of coronavirus infections.
- ❖ AYUSH- 64 was originally developed in 1980 for treatment of malaria.
- ❖ It complies with all regulatory requirements and quality and pharmacopoeial standards.



### **Only Centre can identify SEBC**

- ❖ The Supreme Court recently pronounced that only President can take decisions in declaring the Socially and Economically Backward Community.
- ❖ The judgement was pronounced upholding the 102<sup>nd</sup> constitutional amendment.
- ❖ The Apex court said that the 102<sup>nd</sup> constitutional amendment has taken away the powers of state governments to designate Socially and Economically Backward Classes.
- ❖ The 102<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional Amendment inserted Articles 338 B and Article 342 A.
- ❖ The Article 338 B deals with the structure, powers and duties of National Commission for Backward Classes
- ❖ The Article 342 A deals with the power of the president to notify a particular caste as Socially and Economically Backward.

### **Hoolock Gibbons**

- ❖ Hoolock Gibbons are lesser apes.
- ❖ They are the second largest of the Gibbons after Siamang.
- ❖ There are three Hoolock Gibbon species.
- ❖ They are
  - Western Hoolock Gibbon,

- Skywalker Hoolock Gibbon and
- Eastern Hoolock Gibbon.
- ❖ Earlier it was said that India (North East India) is home to two species namely Eastern Hoolock Gibbon and Western Hoolock Gibbon.
- ❖ However, a recent study by Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology has found that only western Hoolock Gibbon is found in India.



### **Section 142 of the Social Security Code**

- ❖ The Ministry of Labour and Employment recently notified Section 142 of the Social Security Code, 2020.
- ❖ The Section covers applicability of the Aadhar.
- ❖ The notification will enable the Ministry of Labour and Employment to collect Aadhaar details from the beneficiaries of various social security schemes.
- ❖ This includes migrant workers as well.
- ❖ Section 142 says that Aadhaar details are compulsory for an employee or unorganised person or any other person to get benefits of government schemes.
- ❖ The benefits can be in kind of cash for medical sickness, availing services of career centre, maternity benefits, receiving payment as insured person, etc.
- ❖ The Social Security Code was introduced in 2019.

### **Supreme Court declares Maratha quota law unconstitutional**

- ❖ A five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court unanimously declared a Maharashtra law which provides reservation benefits to the Maratha community as unconstitutional.
- ❖ This is because the particular community is taking the quota limit in the State in excess of 50%.



- ❖ The Supreme court also states that the separate reservation for the Maratha community violates Articles 14 (right to equality) and 21 (due process of law).
- ❖ The Supreme Court struck down the findings of the Justice N.G. Gaikwad Commission which led to the enactment of Maratha quota law.
- ❖ The court also set aside the Bombay High Court judgment which validated the Maharashtra State Reservation for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) Act of 2018.
- ❖ The High Court in June 2019, reduced the quantum of reservation for Marathas from the 16% recommended by the Gaikwad Commission to 12% in education and 13% in employment.
- ❖ The Supreme Court now concluded that even the reduced percentages of reservation granted by the High Court were ultra vires.

### **Drive in Vaccination Center**

- ❖ The Nation's first 'Drive in Vaccination Centre' was inaugurated by MP Rahul Shewale in Mumbai.
- ❖ This centre has been set up in the parking lot of Kohinoor Square Tower at Dadar.
- ❖ This first of its kind 'Drive-in Vaccination Centre' facility has been made available to the citizens at a time when people with disabilities are facing difficulties in getting to the vaccination centre.

### **Mission Bharat O2**



- ❖ The Start-up Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) of IIT Kanpur has launched Mission Bharat O2.

- ❖ It is a 45-day open challenge for manufacturing high-quality indigenous, rapidly scalable oxygen generation units to help combat the emergency.
- ❖ Last year also, SIIC had supported its incubated companies to develop indigenous products like Swasa N-95 mask and Noccarc V310 ventilator.

## 2-DG oral drug



- ❖ The 2-DG was developed by the Defence Research Development Organisation for Emergency Use.
- ❖ 2-DG is 2-Deoxy – D – Glucose.
- ❖ It was developed in collaboration with Dr Reddy's Laboratories.
- ❖ The DCGI has granted permission for emergency use of the drug in moderate to severe COVID-19 patients.

## Model Insurance Villages

- ❖ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has come out with the concept of Model Insurance Villages (MIV).
- ❖ The idea behind the MIV concept is to offer comprehensive insurance protection to all the major insurable risks that villagers are exposed to and make available covers at affordable or subsidised cost.
- ❖ Such MIVs are expected to tackle losses due to natural calamities like floods and earthquakes.
- ❖ There's no catastrophe insurance in India now.

### Area of summer crops increased

- ❖ The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare recently announced that the area of summer crops has sharply increased by 21.58% as compared to 2020.
- ❖ The increase has almost doubled.
- ❖ Summer crops are also called Zaid crops.
- ❖ They are grown between March and June.
- ❖ The area under summer crops has increased to 12.75 hectares in 2021.
- ❖ It was 6.45 hectares in 2020.

	Current year 2021	Last Year 2020	% diff over 2020
Rice	39.43	34.13	15.52
Pulses	17.75	10.49	69.22
Moong	14.42	8.29	74.03
Urad	2.94	1.95	50.95
Coarse Cereals	12.11	11.62	4.22
Bajra	3.42	3.46	-1.01
Maize	7.81	7.19	8.60
Oilseeds	10.74	9.58	12.05
Groundnut	5.87	5.23	12.33
Sesamum	4.25	3.80	11.71
Total	98.99	81.58	21.58



### Women soldiers in Indian Army's military police

- ❖ The first batch of 83 women soldiers was inducted into the Indian Army's military police by the Corps of Military Police Centre and School (CMP C&S) at the Dronacharya Parade Ground in Bengaluru.
- ❖ This is the first time that women have been inducted in the non-officer category.
- ❖ These women soldiers will perform duties similar to what is done by the male military police personnel.



## CO-JEET

- ❖ The armed forces have launched operation “CO-JEET” to aid anti-COVID-19 efforts.
- ❖ Their efforts lie in strengthening the medical system in India and oxygen supply chains.
- ❖ CO-JEET also takes measures to ensure the mental wellbeing of people.

## VINCOV-19

- ❖ VINCOV-19 is Novel antibody engineered product to treat COVID-19 cleared for clinical trials.
- ❖ It is a collaborative effort of
  - University of Hyderabad (UoH),
  - CSIR-Centre for Cellular and
  - Molecular Biology (CSIR-CCMB) and Vins Bioproducts Ltd.
- ❖ It got approval from the Drugs Controller General of India (DGCI) for clinical trials to test against the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Digitally Inclusive Bharat

- ❖ NITI Aayog and Mastercard released a report titled ‘Connected Commerce: Creating a Roadmap for a Digitally Inclusive Bharat’.
- ❖ The report identifies challenges in accelerating digital financial inclusion in India.
- ❖ It provides recommendations for making digital services accessible to its 1.3 billion citizens.



### Key recommendations

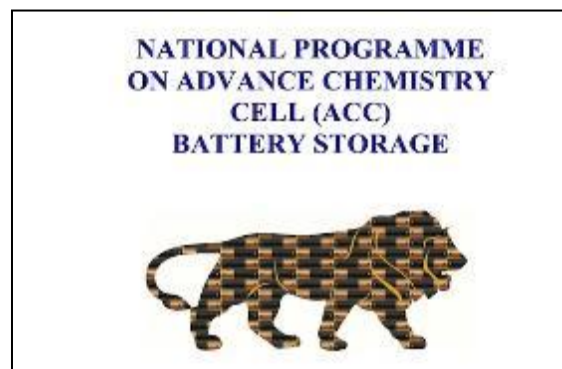
- ❖ Strengthening the payment infrastructure to promote a level playing field for NBFCs and banks.



- ❖ Digitizing registration and compliance processes and diversifying credit sources to enable growth opportunities for MSMEs.
- ❖ Building information sharing systems and ensuring that online digital commerce platforms carry warnings to alert consumers to the risk of frauds.
- ❖ Enabling agricultural NBFCs to access low-cost capital and deploy a 'phygital' (physical + digital) model for achieving better long-term digital outcomes.

### **National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell Battery Storage**

- ❖ The Cabinet has approved the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme 'National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage'.
- ❖ ACCs are the new generation of advanced storage technologies that can store electric energy either as electrochemical or as chemical energy and convert it back to electric energy as and when required.
- ❖ The National Programme on ACC Battery Storage aims for achieving manufacturing capacity of 50 Giga Watt Hour (GWh) of ACC and 5 GWh of "Niche" ACC - To reduce India's dependence on import for ACC.



### **Ivermectin**

- ❖ Two Indian states have said they plan to dose their populations with the anti-parasitic drug ivermectin.
- ❖ This is to protect against severe COVID-19 infections as their hospitals are overrun with patients in critical condition.
- ❖ The move is made by Goa and Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The World Health Organisation has recommended against the use of 'Ivermectin' drug for COVID-19 except within clinical trials.
- ❖ WHO warns against the drug as there is no sufficient data or meaningful evidences for its clinical efficacy in patients.

- ❖ Ivermectin is used for the treatment and eradication of two life-threatening illnesses - Onchocerciasis and filariasis.

### **Gap between the two doses - COVISHIELD**

- ❖ The Government of India recently increased the gap between the two doses of the COVISHIELD Vaccine.
- ❖ The gap was increased from six to eight weeks to twelve to sixteen weeks.
- ❖ A Lancet study says that the protection (efficacy) against COVID-19 increased from 55.1% to 81.3% if the gap between the doses was increased from six to eight weeks to twelve to sixteen weeks.



### **Sputnik V in India**

- ❖ Dr Reddy's Laboratories announced that it had launched Sputnik V in India.
- ❖ The vaccine is imported from Russia.
- ❖ And is distributed by Dr Reddy's laboratory.
- ❖ Currently, Sputnik V is the second most expensive COVID1-19 vaccines in the country.
- ❖ The cost of one dose of Sputnik V is Rs 995.
- ❖ The price of COVISHIELD vaccines was Rs 400 per dose.
- ❖ It recently reduced it to Rs 300 per dose.
- ❖ It is manufactured locally by Serum Institute of India.
- ❖ COVAXIN costs Rs 600 per dose for the state governments and Rs 1,200 for private hospitals.

### **About Sputnik V**

- ❖ Sputnik V was developed by Gamleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology in Moscow.



- ❖ It is a two-dose vaccine.
- ❖ However, recently a single dose vaccine of Sputnik V has been produced in Russia.
- ❖ It is called Sputnik Light Single Dose.
- ❖ India is administering only the double dose Sputnik V.
- ❖ Sputnik V is created using different Human Adenoviruses.
- ❖ The efficacy of the vaccine is 91%.
- ❖ The first dose of Sputnik V was administered in Hyderabad.



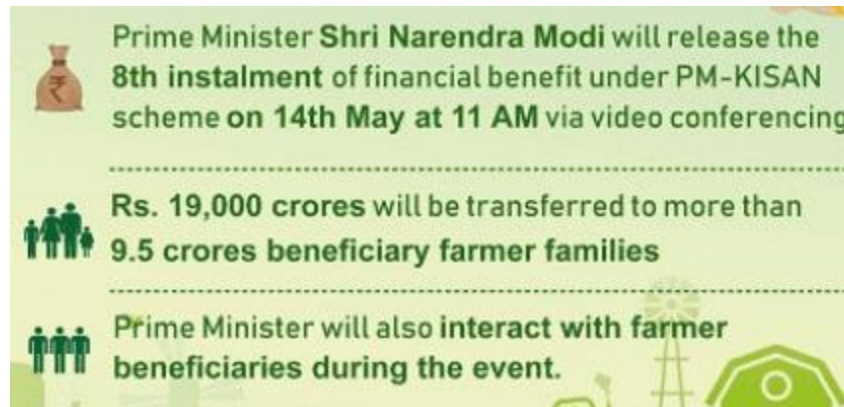
### **Tauktae Cyclone**

- ❖ Tauktae Cyclone is the first cyclone in 2021 in India formed as deep depression over the Arabian Sea.
- ❖ The Kerala Government has issued “Red Alert”.
- ❖ The word Tauktae has been suggested by Myanmar.
- ❖ It means ‘gecko’, a distinctively vocal lizard, in the Burmese language.

### **8<sup>th</sup> instalment of Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi**

- ❖ Recently the eighth instalment of Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi was released.
- ❖ The Government of India transfers Rs 6,000 to the account of small and marginal farmers.
- ❖ These funds are transferred in three instalments.
- ❖ The first instalment of Rs 2,000 is made between April and June.
- ❖ The second Instalment is made between August and November.

- ❖ The third instalment is made between December and March.
- ❖ The scheme was begun in 2018.



### SWAMIH Fund

- ❖ Centre's Special Window for Affordable & Mid-Income Housing (SWAMIH) has completed its first residential project.
- ❖ The residential project, Rivali Park in suburban Mumbai, is the first housing project in India to have received funding under the SWAMIH Fund.
- ❖ The SWAMIH Fund was launched by Sitharaman in November 2019.
- ❖ SWAMIH Investment Fund has been formed to complete construction of stalled, and mid-income category housing projects which are stuck due to paucity of funds.
- ❖ The Sponsor of the Fund is the Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, and Ministry of Finance.

### Go First Airline



- ❖ Wadia Group-owned, GoAir has rebranded itself as 'Go First'.
- ❖ Its new motto is "You Come First".
- ❖ The decision to rebrand after 15 years is part of the company's attempt to operate the carrier in an ULCC (ultra-low-cost carrier) airline model, to tide over the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### 186 elephants killed on rail tracks

Elephant deaths in India due to train hits from 2009-10 to 2020-21	
STATE	NO. OF DEATHS
Assam	62
West Bengal	57
Odisha	27
Uttarakhand	14
Kerala	9
Jharkhand	7
Tamil Nadu	5
Karnataka	3
Tripura	1
U.P	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>186</b>

Source: MoEFCC. Data up to December 31, 2020

- ❖ According to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), a total of 186 elephants were killed after being hit by trains across India between 2009-10 and 2020-21.
- ❖ Assam accounted for the highest number of elephant casualties on railway tracks (62), followed by West Bengal (57), and Odisha (27).
- ❖ Eco Bridges could be a solution for this.
- ❖ Eco Bridges are wildlife corridors also known as wildlife crossing that are a link of wildlife habitat which connects two larger areas of similar wildlife habitat.

### High Rice and Wheat Exports

- ❖ In 2020-21, India exported close to 20 million tonnes (mt) of grains and also distributed a record 92 mt of rice and wheat.
- ❖ 92 mt was distributed from the central pool included,
  - 60.32 mt under the National Food Security Act and other welfare schemes,

- 31.52 mt under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, Atma Nirbhar Bharat Package (for returning migrant labourers) and assorted programmes launched in the wake of Covid-19 lockdown.
- ❖ The total grain channelled through the public distribution system (PDS) in 2020-21 was nearly 50% higher than in normal years.

### EXPORTS AND CENTRAL POOL OFFTAKE OF FOODGRAINS (in lakh tonnes)

	EXPORTS			CENTRAL POOL OFFTAKE	
	Wheat	Basmati	Non-basmati	Wheat	Rice
2012-13	65.15	34.60	66.88	332.09	326.37
2013-14	55.72	37.54	71.48	306.22	292.11
2014-15	29.15	37.02	82.26	252.54	306.73
2015-16	6.14	40.45	63.74	313.97	318.01
2016-17	2.62	40.00	68.13	289.98	327.80
2017-18	2.30	40.52	86.33	253.33	350.40
2018-19	1.83	44.15	75.34	314.71	344.35
2019-20	2.17	44.55	50.36	272.16	349.74
2020-21	20.86	46.32	130.88	360.56	557.78

Source: Departments of Commerce and Food & Public Distribution.

### Narada Bribery Case

- ❖ The Central Bureau of Investigation arrested the TMC Ministers of West Bengal, Subrata Mukherjee, Firhad Hakim, MLA Madan Mitra and Sovan Chattopadhyay (former Kolkata Mayor).
- ❖ In Narada Bribery Case, the state ministers were shown taking money in a video footage.
- ❖ Calcutta High Court had ordered a CBI probe against the sting operation in Narada Bribery case in March 2017
- ❖ CBI can investigate a crime in the state after the consent from the State Government.
- ❖ However, the Supreme Court or the High court shall order CBI to conduct investigation anywhere in the country.

### Norms on imports of pulses

- ❖ The Government of India recently allowed free import of tur, moong and urad dal.
- ❖ All the three pulses have been put under non-restricted list.

- ❖ This is because their retail prices increased in the last few weeks due to low stock levels with the traders.
- ❖ Also, the Government of India has announced that the import consignments should be cleared strictly before November 30, 2021.
- ❖ India primarily imports these three pulses from Myanmar and African countries.

### **Jal Jeevan Mission - first instalment**

- ❖ The Union Government released Rs 5,968 crores of rupees to implement the Jal Jeevan Mission.
- ❖ The funds were released to fifteen states.
- ❖ This is the first instalment of the four to be released in 2021-22.
- ❖ In 2021, the GoI allocated Rs 50,011 crores to Jal Jeevan Mission in its budget.
- ❖ Out of the total funds allocated under the Jal Jeevan Mission,
  - 93% are to be utilized for developing water supply infrastructure,
  - 2% in water quality monitoring and surveillance activities and
  - 5% on support activities.



### **SAMVEDNA**

- ❖ SAMVEDNA is Sensitizing Action on Mental Health Vulnerability through Emotional Development and Necessary Acceptance.
- ❖ It is a toll-free helpline through which children affected during COVID-19 pandemic are provided counselling.
- ❖ The main objective of SAMVEDNA is to provide psychological first aid and emotional support to the children.



- ❖ The tele-counselling is to be provided to children in three categories.
  - Children who have lost their parents due to COVID-19
  - Children who are in quarantine in COVID care centres
  - Children who have COVID-19 positive parents or family members.



### **Digital Transformation of Tribal Schools**

- ❖ The Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Microsoft signed a Memorandum of Understanding on joint initiative for Digital Transformation of Tribal Schools.
- ❖ This includes introduction of Ashram Schools and Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) in tribal areas.
- ❖ In the first phase of the programme, 250 EMRS are to be established.

### **The State of Working India (SWI) report**

- ❖ The State of Working India (SWI) 2021 was brought out by the researchers at Azim Premji University of Karnataka.





- ❖ The annual report documented the impact of one year of Covid-19 in India, on jobs, incomes, inequality, and poverty.
- ❖ According to the report,
  - The pandemic had forced people out of their formal jobs into casual work, and led to a severe decline in incomes.
  - There is a sudden increase in poverty over the past year.
  - Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi, contributed disproportionately to job losses.

### **State of Healthcare in India**

- ❖ The report titled 'State of Healthcare in India – Indian cities through the lens of healthcare' ranks health infrastructure in the country's most urbanised eight cities.
- ❖ Pune outranks other cities on health parameters.
- ❖ Ahmedabad scores the highest on sanitation and solid waste management and the lowest on water quality and availability
- ❖ Bengaluru has the highest number of hospital beds, as compared to other top eight cities
- ❖ Hyderabad scores low on number of hospital beds and ease of living, but fared well in air quality, sanitation and solid waste management
- ❖ Chennai topped in air quality, looming water scarcity pulls down the overall rank
- ❖ Kolkata sits at the lower end due to inadequate hospital beds and ease of living, but fared well in air quality and water availability
- ❖ Delhi NCR ranks the lowest, as inadequate number of hospital beds, poor air quality and low score on the liveability index pulls down the city's ranking.

### **UNESCO World Heritage Site Tentative list**

- ❖ The Union Culture Minister Prahlaad Singh Patel recently announced that around six cultural heritage sites have been added to the UNESCO World Heritage Site Tentative list.
- ❖ They are,
  - Ganga Ghats of Varanasi
  - Temples of Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu
  - Satpura Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh
  - Maharashtra Military Architecture

- Hire Benkal Megalithic site
- Bhedaghat Lametaghat (Grand Canyon of India) of Narmada Valley in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ With this, the total number of sites in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites Tentative list has increased to 48.

### **India climbs to 3<sup>rd</sup> spot on EY index**

- ❖ India has moved a notch higher at the third spot (from fourth position) on EY's Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index.
- ❖ This is due to exceptional performance on the solar photovoltaic (PV) front.
- ❖ The US retains the top position and China maintains the second position.
- ❖ India also committed to setting up 450 GW for renewable energy power capacity (installed) by 2030 in the recent climate summit hosted by the US.

### **World's 1<sup>st</sup> Private Digital Court**

- ❖ 'Jupitice Justice Technologies', an Chandigarh-based start-up has developed World's 1st Private Digital Court (powered by Blockchain & Artificial Intelligence).
- ❖ This is setup to resolve disputes under the Private Justice System through Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms (ADR).
- ❖ The platform is designed for private justice system arbitration, conciliation, mediation & negotiation.
- ❖ It allows parties involved in disputes to conduct arbitration, conciliation or mediation without the help of an administering body.
- ❖ An online arbitration award received on the Jupitice platform is legally enforceable as a court decree.



### **Goa Maritime Symposium - 21**

- ❖ Indian Navy hosted 'Goa Maritime Symposium (GMS) -21' under the aegis of Naval War College, Goa.
- ❖ The event for the first time was hosted in virtual mode.
- ❖ The symposium was hosted towards fostering friendly relations with its maritime neighbours.
- ❖ It saw an online participation of Naval representatives from 13 Indian Ocean Littoral countries
- ❖ The theme for GMS-21 was focused on "Maritime Security and Emerging Non-Traditional Threats: A Case for Proactive Role for IOR Navies".

### **Infrastructure' status for exhibition and convention centres**

- ❖ The Finance Ministry has granted 'Infrastructure' status for exhibition and convention centres.
- ❖ This is expected to ease bank financing for such projects.
- ❖ The convention and exhibition centres had been included in the harmonised master list of infrastructure sub-sectors under the social and commercial infrastructure sub-sector.
- ❖ To qualify under the category, projects will require a minimum built-up floor area of 100,000 square metres of exclusively exhibition space or convention space.
- ❖ Inclusion in the list implies access to concessional funds, promotion of projects and continuity of construction for the specified sub-sectors

### **INS Rajput decommissioned**

- ❖ The first destroyer of the Indian Navy, INS Rajput was decommissioned on May 21.
- ❖ It was commissioned on 04 May 1980.
- ❖ After rendering service for 41 years, it will be decommissioned at the Naval Dockyard of Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ INS Rajput was built by Russia in the 61 Communards Shipyard.
- ❖ Its Original Russian name was 'Nadezhny'.
- ❖ INS Rajput served for both Western and Eastern Fleets and its first commanding officer was Captain Gulab Mohanlal Hiranandani.
- ❖ It is the 1st Indian Naval Ship to be associated with an Indian Army regiment – the Rajput Regiment.

- ❖ It participated in many operations including Operation Aman, Operation Pawan, Operation Cactus, etc.



## DIPCOVAN

**'DIPCOVAN'**  
COVID-19 antibody detection kit developed by DRDO

- Developed indigenously by the scientists, followed by extensive validation on **more than 1,000 patient samples**
- Approved by **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** in April 2021
- Regulatory approval by DCGI** in May 2021 to manufacture for sale and distribution
- Intended for the qualitative detection of **IgG antibodies in human serum or plasma**
- The kit has a **shelf life of 18 months**
- The kit will be commercially launched **during the first week of June 2021**
- Readily available stock at the time of launch will be **100 kits (approx. 10,000 tests)**
- Production capacity of **500 kits/month** after the launch
- It is expected to be available at **about Rs 75 per test**
- Faster turn-around-time as it requires just **75 minutes to conduct the test** without any cross reactivity with other diseases



- ❖ The Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (DIPAS), a laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), has developed an antibody detection-based kit 'DIPCOVAN'.
- ❖ The kit is developed indigenously by the DRDO scientists in association with Delhi-based Vanguard Diagnostics Pvt Ltd.
- ❖ DIPCOVAN is a Covid-19 antibody detection kit.
- ❖ It will help a person detect if they have previously been exposed to Covid-19 virus and if they have antibodies for it.
- ❖ Its primary purpose is to detect antibodies.
- ❖ It will be used in Covid-19 epidemiology studies such as sero-surveys.
- ❖ You can also use it for detecting if you have Covid antibodies.

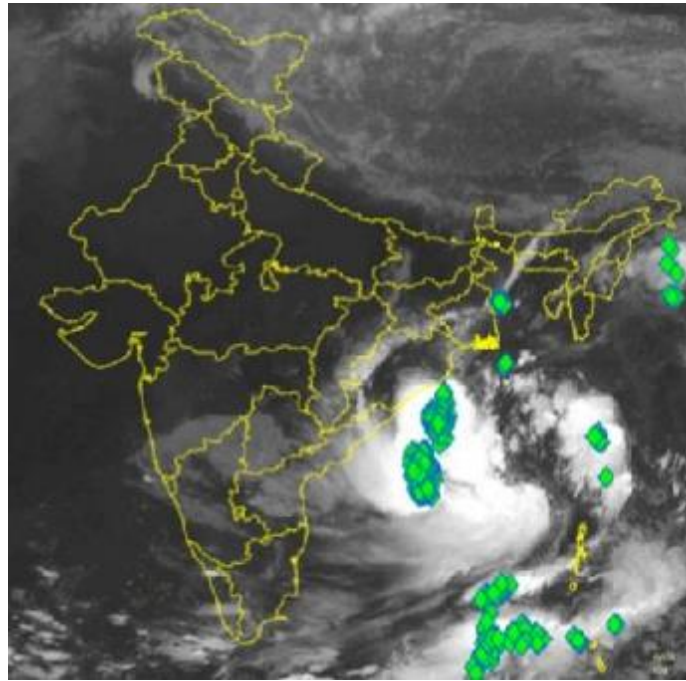
### **Health Ministry list out India's best COVID practices**

- ❖ The Union Health Ministry wrote to states/ UTs recently listing out the best practices used by them while dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ This includes Rajasthan's mobile OPD, Tamil Nadu's taxi ambulance and 12 other unique initiatives.
- ❖ The Health Secretary listed many initiatives including the mobile OPD at block level to provide non-Covid essential services to villages and also the provision of "Oxygen Mitra" in each hospital to check oxygen wastage in Bikaner, Rajasthan.
- ❖ He also mentioned door-to-door testing using both RAT and RT-PCR in rural areas in Raebareli, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ This helped bring down the positivity from 38 percent to 2.8 percent in a period of one month.
- ❖ He also mentioned the use of Oxygen Nurses in Kerala to ensure rational use of Oxygen in hospitals and also the worksite Covid vaccination centres and drive through Covid vaccination centres in Gurugram, Haryana.

### **Cyclone Yaas**

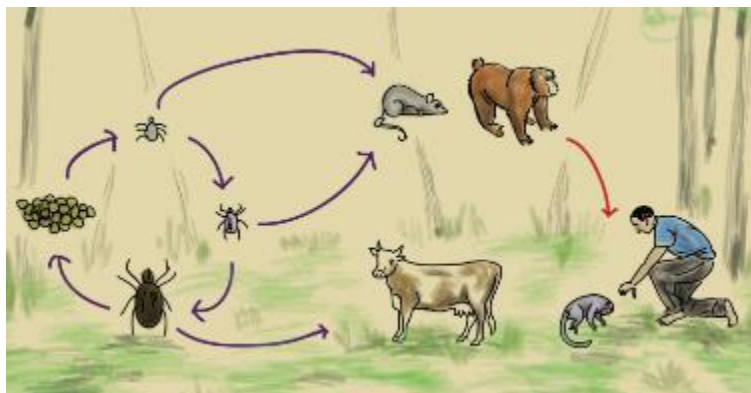
- ❖ India Meteorological Department has informed that, Cyclone Yaas is likely to intensify into a very severe cyclonic storm.
- ❖ Cyclone Yaas is likely to affect the coastal parts of Odisha and West Bengal.
- ❖ This name "Yaas" has been given by Oman.





### **Kyasanur forest disease**

- ❖ Recently, researchers found a new point-of-care test to be highly sensitive for rapid diagnosis of Kyasanur forest disease.
- ❖ The point-of-care tests has been developed by ICMR-National Institute of Virology.
- ❖ It will be beneficial to diagnose KFD which is also called as monkey fever.
- ❖ The disease is tick-borne viral haemorrhagic fever which is endemic to South-western part of India.
- ❖ It is caused by a virus from family Flaviviridae.
- ❖ Virus is transmitted to humans through bite of infected hard ticks.

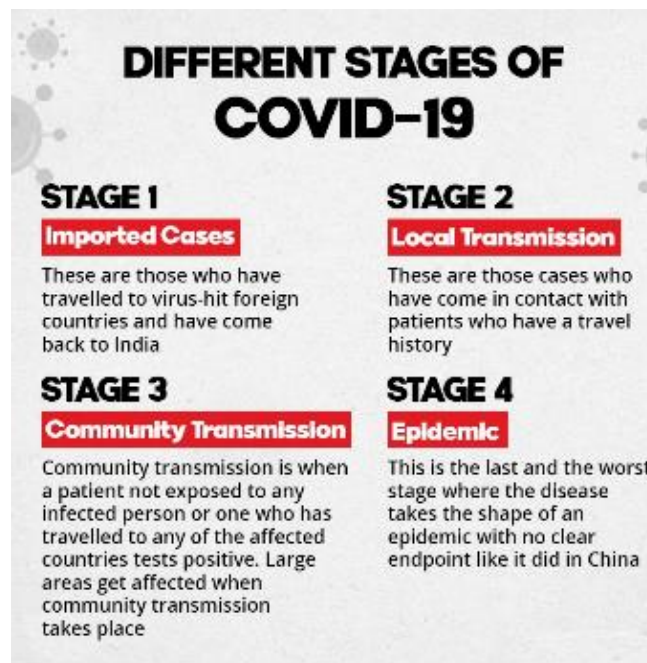




## Cheetahs to be reintroduced in India

- ❖ Cheetah will be introduced at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh in November 2021.
- ❖ India had spotted its last Cheetah in Chhattisgarh in 1947.
- ❖ After the death of last Cheetah, it was declared extinct in 1952.
- ❖ Supreme Court of India had also given its approval in January 2020 to introduce African cheetahs in a suitable habitat in India.
- ❖ Cheetah Reintroduction Project was prepared by Wildlife Institute of India (WII).

## Community Transition



- ❖ According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), since the beginning of the pandemic, India has never marked itself as being in 'Community Transition (CT)'.
- ❖ Instead, India is opting for the lower, less serious classification called 'cluster of cases'.
- ❖ Countries such as the United States, Brazil, United Kingdom, France have all labelled themselves as being in 'community transmission'.
- ❖ Among the 10 countries with the most number of confirmed cases, only Italy and Russia didn't label themselves as being in 'CT'.
- ❖ Community Transmission (CT) is a pandemic stage when new cases in the last 14 days can't be traced to those who have an international travel history, when cases can't be linked to specific cluster.



- ❖ Four Stages of a Pandemic Transmission are,
  - Imported Transmission,
  - Local Transmission,
  - Community Transmission and
  - Epidemic.

### **National Mission on use of Biomass**

- ❖ Union Ministry of Power has announced to set up a 'National Mission on use of Biomass' in coal based thermal power plants.
- ❖ This decision was taken to address issue of air pollution caused due to farm stubble-burning.
- ❖ Mission will be administered by Steering Committee.
- ❖ The Steering Committee is headed by Power Secretary consisting of all stakeholders, representatives from Petroleum and New & Renewable Energy Ministries.

### **Indo-Israel Agriculture Action Plan**

- ❖ India and Israel have inked a three-year joint work programme which will continue till 2023.
- ❖ Joint work programme was initiated with the aim of enhancing cooperation in agriculture.
- ❖ Under new work programme,
  - 13 Centres of Excellence (CoEs) were to be set up to make Indian farmers aware of Israeli farm and water technologies.
  - A model ecosystem in agriculture called Villages of Excellence (VoE) will also be created across eight states within 75 villages.
- ❖ "India and Israel started the bilateral relations in agriculture sector in 1993.
- ❖ The new programme is 5th Indo-Israel Agriculture Action Plan (IIAP).

### **MCA21 version 3.0**

- ❖ First phase of India's first mission mode e-governance project, MCA21 version 3.0 was launched.
- ❖ It was launched by Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Anurag Thakur.

- ❖ This version of MCA21 is data analytics driven.
- ❖ MCA21 is an online portal of corporate affairs ministry.
- ❖ Launched in 2006, the portal has made all the information related to company, accessible to stakeholders and general public.
- ❖ MCA21 version 3.0 makes use of new technologies to streamline corporate compliance and experiences of stakeholders.

### WHO and EU's approval for Covaxin

- ❖ EU member countries recently approved a proposal to allow “fully vaccinated” tourists from countries outside Europe under certain criteria.
- ❖ For this the vaccine used by the tourists must be placed in the WHO's Emergency Use List (EUL).
- ❖ The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has been tasked with studying the matter and help get Covaxin a place in WHO's Emergency Use List (EUL).

### One Stop Centre Scheme



- ❖ Union Ministry of Women and Child Development Ministry is to set up One-Stop Centres (OSCs) in 10 missions across 9 countries.
- ❖ It will be set to curb the cases of violence against women.
- ❖ One OSC will be set up each in Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, UAE, Qatar, Canada, Australia and Singapore.
- ❖ Two OSCs will be set up in Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ Also 300 OSCs will be set up across India.



- ❖ All OSCs will be supported by Women and Child Development Ministry while, Ministry of External Affairs will operate it.
- ❖ Centrally sponsored One Stop Centre Scheme will be funded through Nirbhaya Fund.

### **Statement of law**

- ❖ The Centre has appointed Maharashtra cadre IPS officer of 1985 batch, Subodh Kumar Jaiswal, currently Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force.
- ❖ He is appointed as CBI Director for two years.
- ❖ The government has picked him from a panel of three officers.
- ❖ They were shortlisted by the Prime Minister-led Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) consisting of CJI as well as leader of the largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha.
- ❖ In the PM led panel, Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana opined to avoid officers with less than six months left to retire for appointment as CBI Director.
- ❖ This is being termed as a simple “statement of law”.
- ❖ Because, as per the CJI, the panel’s selection of officers should be able to withstand the “scrutiny of law in the future”.

### **SeHAT OPD Portal**

- ❖ Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh, has launched ‘Services e-Health Assistance & Tele-consultation (SeHAT) OPD Portal.
- ❖ Portal has been launched to provide telemedicine services in Armed Forces.
- ❖ Service will be provided by defence services doctors who are on regular duties.
- ❖ Persons aged 75 and above can consult without waiting.

### **UNITE AWARE**

- ❖ India will launch ‘UNITE AWARE’, a mobile tech platform for the United Nations Peacekeepers to improve their safety and security in the line of duty.
- ❖ It will be launched during India’s United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Presidency term in August 2021 (Presidency of the UNSC Council is held by each of the members in turn for one month).
- ❖ UNITE AWARE will increase the situational awareness of the peacekeepers by providing terrain-related information.



### **First research reactor on PPP model**

- ❖ The department of atomic energy (DAE) announced that it will be constructing the country's first research reactor on public-private partnership (PPP) model.
- ❖ The research reactor, which will be designed by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), will produce radioisotopes.
- ❖ It is expected to bring down the costs of nuclear medicine that is used in cancer treatment in India.
- ❖ DAE will provide the upfront capital and build the plant through its subsidiary – Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd.

### **Dharavi model**

- ❖ Dharavi is a slum in Mumbai that reported some 99 COVID-19 cases every day in April 2021.
- ❖ But, in last some days, number of cases is declining gradually.
- ❖ According to officials, 'Dharavi model' of COVID-19 management and vaccination drive have helped in containing second wave in the slum.
- ❖ The Dharavi model involves 4Ts which stands for "tracing, tracking, testing and treating".
- ❖ This strategy was also praised by World Health Organisation (WHO) during first wave of COVID-19.
- ❖ Under the model, Door-to-door screening of people is conducted with symptoms, aggressive testing and regular screening.

### **DBT for Mid-Day-Meal Scheme**

- ❖ Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', has approved proposal to provide monetary assistance through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to students under Mid-Day meal scheme.
- ❖ The Central government will provide additional funds of Rs 1200 crore to State Governments and UT Administrations to implement the monetary assistance programme.
- ❖ It will be a one-time special welfare measure to benefit children studying in class I to VIII across 11.20 lakh Government and Government aided schools in India.



### **Panel to examine online gaming for GST**

- ❖ The Government has constituted a panel of state ministers to examine valuation of services by online gaming to levy goods and services tax (GST).
- ❖ They will also examine services by casinos and race courses.
- ❖ In India, online gaming is currently in nascent stages which thus lead to issues revolving around taxation and valuation.
- ❖ Thus, the panel has been set up to understand, examine and resolve uncertainty on valuation of services by these companies.
- ❖ Panel will submit its report, in six months, to GST Council headed by Union Finance Minister and comprising state Finance Ministers.

### **Issues in Lakshadweep**

- ❖ Administrator of Lakshadweep, Praful Khoda Patel, is being opposed by people of the union territory and politicians over policies he drafted in recent time.
- ❖ Lakshadweep Development Authority (LDA) was recently created with extensive powers such as eviction of land owners.
- ❖ The legislation provides extensive powers to that authority to prepare comprehensive development plans for any area and to remove or relocate people living in Lakshadweep from their property for the purpose of town planning or any developmental activity.
- ❖ This is being criticised as they think LDA was pushed by real estate lobby against the will of islanders.
- ❖ Also, the Prevention of Anti-Social Activities Act (PASA) was introduced in January 2021.
- ❖ According to it, person can be detained without any public disclosure for a period of up to one year.

#### **Note**

- ❖ Praful Khoda Patel, an Indian politician, is currently holding the post as Administrator of Union Territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep.
- ❖ He is the 1st administrator of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.
- ❖ He was made administrator of Lakshadweep in December 2020 by unfollowing the earlier practice of appointing only IAS officers as administrator.
- ❖ Administrator is appointed by the President of India.



## INTERNATIONAL

### Chandler Good Government Index

- ❖ It is an annual Index.
- ❖ It is built by government practitioners, for government practitioners, measuring the capabilities and effectiveness of 104 governments around the world.
- ❖ The Chandler Institute of Governance (CIG) is an international non-profit organisation, headquartered in Singapore.
- ❖ India has been ranked 49th.
- ❖ Singapore ranks first in Asia.

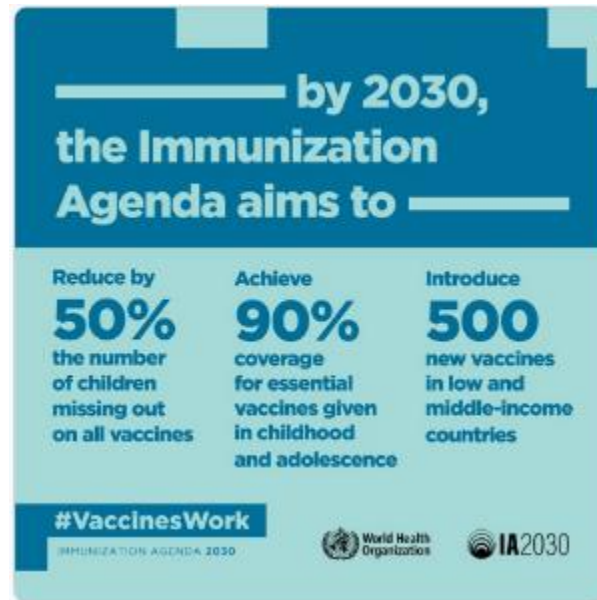
Overall Rank		
1		Finland
2		Switzerland
3		Singapore
4		Netherlands
5		Denmark
6		Norway
7		Sweden
8		Germany
9		New Zealand
10		Canada

### Gambia eliminates Trachoma

- ❖ Gambia became the second African country to eliminate Trachoma.
- ❖ Trachoma is one of the leading causes of blindness.
- ❖ Ghana became the first African country to eliminate Trachoma in 2018.
- ❖ Trachoma is one of the Neglected Tropical Diseases.
- ❖ Trachoma is caused by bacterium Chlamydia trachomatis.

### Global immunization strategy - WHO

- ❖ This strategy will boost the immunization services worldwide.
- ❖ It aims at achieving 90 percent coverage for the essential vaccines that are given in childhood and adolescence by 2030.



### Time Magazine's list 2021



- ❖ Two Indian firms, Reliance Industries' technology arm Jio Platforms and e-learning startup BYJU'S have figured in the Time Magazine's first-ever list of 100 most influential companies.
- ❖ BYJU'S was listed alongside Tesla, Huawei, Shopify, Airbnb, and DiDi Chuxing in the Disruptors category.
- ❖ Jio Platforms was listed under the Innovators category alongside Zoom, Adidas, TikTok, Ikea, Moderna, and Netflix.



### **Trends in world Military Expenditure - report**

- ❖ The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute recently released its “Trends in world Military Expenditure” report.
- ❖ According to the report, the top military spenders in the world are the United States, China and India.
- ❖ These three countries alone contributed 62% global military expenditure.
- ❖ The military expenditure of
  - India has grown by 2.1%,
  - China has grown by 1.9% and
  - United States has grown by 4.4%.

### **Immunisation Agenda 2030**

- ❖ IA 2030 was launched by World Health Organisation, GAVI and the UNICEF.
- ❖ It aims to maximise lifesaving impact of vaccines.
- ❖ The Immunisation Agenda 2030 was launched during the World Immunisation Week.
- ❖ It aims to achieve 90% coverage of essential vaccines that are administered to infants, children and adolescents.
- ❖ Also, it will aim to halve the number of children missing vaccines by 2030.

### **Massacre of Armenians as genocide**

- ❖ US President Joe Biden has called the massacre of Armenians during the World War I as genocide.
- ❖ He is the first US president to describe the atrocities on Armenians in 1915 as such.
- ❖ Turkey acknowledges the atrocities but reject the term genocide.

#### **Background**

- ❖ The Ottoman Empire suffered a humiliating defeat in the Caucasus in 1915 at the hands of the Russians.
- ❖ The Turks accused the Armenians of treachery.
- ❖ Therefore, the Armenian soldiers, public intellectuals and writers were executed.
- ❖ Hundreds of thousands of Armenians, including children, were forcibly moved to the Syrian desert.
- ❖ Many died during this exodus and many others, after reaching the concentration camps in the deserts.



- ❖ Between 1915 to 1922, in the First World War, thousands of Armenians perished due to killings, starvation and disease.

### **India Russia 2+2 ministerial dialogue**

- ❖ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Russian President Vladimir Putin recently agreed to establish “2+2 Ministerial Dialogue”.
- ❖ The “2+2 Ministerial” dialogue is held between the defence ministers and foreign ministers.
- ❖ India holds similar dialogues with US, Australia and Japan.
- ❖ Russia is the first non-QUAD member with which India is to hold the dialogue.
- ❖ In 2021, President Vladimir Putin is to visit India to hold the India-Russia bilateral summit.
- ❖ The summit is alternatively held in India and Russia.
- ❖ Currently, Russia is the largest Defence Supplier of India.

### **Global Electric Vehicle Outlook**

- ❖ The International Energy Agency recently released the Global Electric Vehicle Outlook.
- ❖ According to the report,
  - Three million new electric cars were registered in 2020.
  - This was 41% higher than those registered in 2019.
  - South Korea has the largest number of hydrogen car distribution in the world.
  - Around 30% of new vehicle sales in 2030 will be Electric in India.

### **World largest airplane**

- ❖ The World largest airplane built by Stratolaunch recently completed its second test flight from Mojave Air and Space Port in California of USA.
- ❖ It has been named “Roc”.
- ❖ Stratolaunch was established by Paul Allen in 2011.
- ❖ He was a co-founder of Microsoft.

### **COVID-19 vaccines for animals**

- ❖ Russia recently produced the first batch of COVID-19 vaccines for animals.
- ❖ The name of the vaccine is Carnivac-Cov.



- ❖ The World Health Organisation recently confirmed the possibility for transmission of virus between humans and virus.
- ❖ Carnivac-Cov was produced by Rosselkhoznadzor, a federal service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance in Russia.

### **Global Forest Goals Report**

- ❖ The United Nations recently released the Global Forest Goals Report, 2021.
- ❖ According to the report, the COVID-19 has increased the challenges faced by countries in managing their forests
- ❖ According to the report,
  - Around 1.6 billion people rely on forests.
  - This is 25% of global population.
  - Of the rural areas in the world, more than 40% live in Savannah and forests.
  - This is 20% of the global population.
- ❖ India is to add 200,000 hectares of tree and forest cover per year as its key goal.

### **Brand Finance Insurance 100 report - 2021**

- ❖ The state-owned insurance behemoth 'Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)' has emerged as the third strongest and the tenth most valuable insurance brand globally.
- ❖ This is according to the Brand Finance Insurance 100 report for 2021.
- ❖ The annual report is released by London-based brand valuation consultancy firm Brand Finance.
- ❖ This report is to identify the most valuable and strongest insurance brands globally.

#### **Note**

- ❖ Most Valuable Global Insurance Brand - Ping An Insurance, China
- ❖ Most Strongest Global Insurance Brand - Poste Italiane, Italy

### **TPLF - a terrorist group**

- ❖ The Ethiopian Government has recently added the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and OLF-Shene to its terror list.
- ❖ In 2020, Ethiopia launched a mass military operation against Tigray People Liberation Front.





- ❖ It is a political party founded in 1975 in Ethiopia.
- ❖ Also, TPLF is an armed ethnic nationalist insurgent group.
- ❖ This conflict between the State Government of Tigray and the Ethiopian Government is going on for thirty years now.

### **mRNA-1273**

- ❖ The World Health Organisation recently listed mRNA vaccine of Moderna for Emergency Use.
- ❖ This makes it the fifth vaccine to receive emergency use validation from WHO.
- ❖ mRNA-1273 is the technical name for the Moderna vaccine.

### **Special 301 Report**

- ❖ The United States Trade Representative recently released the Special Report 301.
- ❖ It is published under Section 301 of Trade Act of 1974 and hence the name.
- ❖ The report basically lists the countries that do not provide sufficient IP rights to American companies.
- ❖ According to the report, India has been put on the “Priority Watch List” along with eight other countries.
- ❖ Another twenty-three countries were also put on “Watch List”.

### **Congo – end of Ebola outbreak**

- ❖ The Democratic Republic of Congo, declared the end of the 12th outbreak of Ebola virus disease that affected the eastern province of North Kivu.
- ❖ Ebola virus was first discovered near the Ebola River in 1976.
- ❖ Since then, the virus has gripped several African countries.

### **PepsiCo Foundation partnered with SEEDS**

- ❖ PepsiCo Foundation said it has partnered with the not-for-profit organisation, Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS).
- ❖ This partnership is to launch a community COVID-19 vaccination drive and set up COVID care centres.
- ❖ This is to focus on Maharashtra, Punjab, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Telangana.

- ❖ As part of the partnership, SEEDS will drive Covid-19 vaccinations for the community at large, set up Covid care centres equipped with beds and medical facilities, including oxygen cylinders.



### **R21/Matrix M**

- ❖ R21/Matrix M has been developed by scientists at University of Oxford.
- ❖ This malaria vaccine candidate has shown promise in phase 2b clinical trials, with high efficacy at 77%.
- ❖ The new vaccine candidate, called R21/Matrix M, is a modified version of RTS,S.
- ❖ This vaccine is designed to stop the Plasmodium falciparum malaria parasite from entering the liver and preventing the subsequent deadly blood stages.

### **2021 Global Report on Food Crises**

- ❖ The Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC) recently released the “2021 Global Report on Food Crises”.
- ❖ The GNAFC is an international alliance formed by the European Union, United Nations and other governmental and non-governmental agencies.
- ❖ The report says that economic crisis was the major reason to push 40 million people towards hunger in 2020.
- ❖ This has increased by 24 million as compared to that of 2019.

#### **Note**

- ❖ Africa is the most affected continent due to food shortages.



- ❖ More than 63% of global food shortage cases are from Africa.
- ❖ Zimbabwe and Haiti were hit by climate issues that affected food security of 15 million people.

### **Oldest human burial**

- ❖ The scientists have found the oldest human burial in Africa.
- ❖ The site is 78,000 years old.
- ❖ The cave site was discovered near Kenyan coast.
- ❖ The site is called “Panga ya Saidi”.
- ❖ The remains of a child whose age was two to three years led to the discovery of the cave.
- ❖ The scientists have nick named the child as “Mtoto”.

### **Food Price Index**

- ❖ The United Nations recently announced that the world food prices increased for the eleventh consecutive month in April 2021.
- ❖ It reached the highest level since May 2014.
- ❖ This announcement was made based on the Food Price Index released by the Food and Agriculture Organisation.
- ❖ The Food Price Index measures monthly changes of a basket of food grains such as oil seeds, cereals, dairy products, sugar and meat.
- ❖ In April 2021, the Food Price Index was 120.9.
- ❖ It was 118.9 in March 2021.

### **Asian Development Outlook 2021**

- ❖ The Asian Development Outlook 2021 is a report released by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- ❖ The report said the 45 economies that excluded Japan, Australia and New Zealand, were to grow 7.3% this year, supported by a healthy global recovery and early progress on COVID-19 vaccines.
- ❖ The pandemic was the biggest threat to Asia and the Pacific (including India), mainly due to delay in vaccine rollouts or major new outbreaks.
- ❖ Average inflation in the region was forecast to fall to 2.3% in 2021, from 2.8% in 2020.

- ❖ While east and south Asia forecast were to see the strongest growth, the central and Southeast Asia and the Pacific were to see more moderate growth.
- ❖ The report said that the ongoing 'second wave' COVID-19 pandemic could put India's economic recovery at risk.
- ❖ It said that excluding the second wave, India's economy was expected to grow 11% in fiscal year 2021-2022, amid a strong vaccine drive.
- ❖ India's GDP was expected to expand 7% in 2022.



### **US participation in PESCO**

- ❖ The European Union recently approved the requests of Norway, Canada and United States to participate in Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) defence initiative.
- ❖ For the first time, the European bloc has allowed a third state to participate in the PESCO project.
- ❖ The countries will now participate in the Military Mobility Project in Europe.
- ❖ PESCO is a part of the European Union security and defence policy.
- ❖ It was introduced based on the Treaty of European Union introduced by Treaty of Lisbon in 2009.

### **WHO approves Sinopharm**

- ❖ The World Health Organisation recently approved the Emergency Use of Sinopharm vaccine.
- ❖ Recently, the WHO approved COVID-19 vaccines developed by AstraZeneca, Pfizer, BioNTech, Johnson and Johnson as well.

- ❖ Sinopharm vaccine was developed by China.
- ❖ This is the first time the WHO has given approval to a Chinese vaccine.
- ❖ It is also a sign that Sinopharm vaccine might be allowed to be included in COVAX programme.
- ❖ According to WHO, the efficacy of Sinopharm vaccine is 79%.
- ❖ The other popular Chinese Vaccine is sinovac.



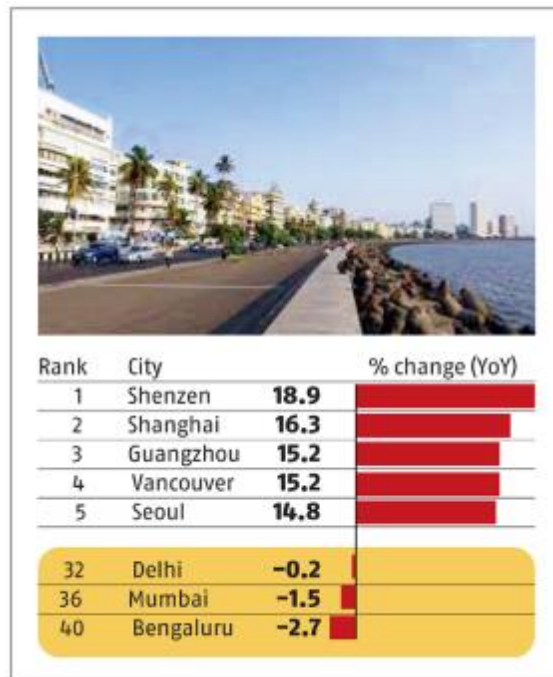
### **India, Israel and UAE trilateral agreement**

- ❖ An Israel-based company 'Ecoppia' is set to produce robotic solar cleaning technology in India for a project in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- ❖ The project will take place through the Trilateral cooperation agreement between Israel, India, and UAE.
- ❖ This is the 1st of its kind between the 3 countries.

### **Global Prime Residential Index**

- ❖ London-based property consultant Knight Frank has ranked New Delhi and Mumbai in 32nd and 36th positions respectively in the Global Prime Residential Index.
- ❖ This Index is a valuation-based index tracking movement in prime residential prices in local currency across 45 plus cities worldwide.
- ❖ Bengaluru moved down by four places in Q1 2021 and is ranked 40.
- ❖ Three Chinese cities – Shenzhen, Shanghai and Guangzhou lead the index this quarter.
- ❖ New York was the weakest-performing global city during the period.





### 3<sup>rd</sup> Arctic Science Ministerial meeting

- ❖ The Ministry of Earth Science recently announced that India participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Arctic Science Ministerial meeting.
- ❖ The Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan represented India at the meeting.
- ❖ Theme for the year 2021 is 'Knowledge for a Sustainable Arctic'.
- ❖ The first two Arctic Science Ministerial meeting were held in USA in 2016 and in Germany in 2018.
- ❖ This meeting held this year was organised by Japan and Iceland.
- ❖ It is the first meeting to be held in Asia.
- ❖ India is an “Observer” in the Arctic Council since 2013.



## Population growth of China

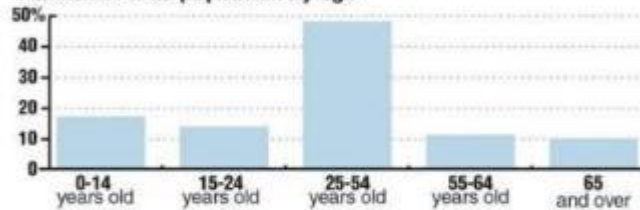
### China demographics

China's ruling party announced that the country will start allowing all married couples to have two children

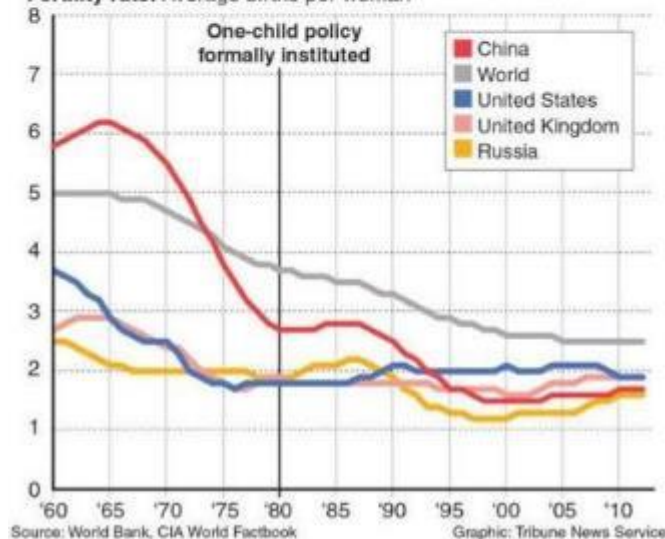
Percent of total population by gender



Percent of total population by age



Fertility rate: Average births per woman



- ❖ The annual population of China has slowed during the decade.
- ❖ This has put the demographic dividend of the country at risk.
- ❖ The annual population growth of China was at 0.53% in 2020 census.
- ❖ It was 0.57% in 2010 census.

## Covid-19 Line on Everest

- ❖ To prevent coronavirus transmission at the summit of Mount Everest, China is planning to erect a “line of separation” at the top.
- ❖ This line would prevent any contact between mountaineers from both sides of the peak i.e. Nepal and China.
- ❖ In Nepal, a wave of the pandemic is currently surging.
- ❖ But in China, the pandemic is largely suppressed.

### **BRICS Employment Working Group Meeting**

- ❖ The first BRICS Employment Working Group Meeting was held virtually.
- ❖ It was hosted by India.
- ❖ India assumed BRICS Presidency in 2021.
- ❖ The member countries discussed about promoting social security agreements among BRICS Nations, participation of women in labour force, formalisation of labour markets.
- ❖ The members that participated in the meeting were BRICS countries and also members from International Labour Organisation and International Social Security Agency.

### **Pacific Football Fish**

- ❖ The Pacific Football Fish was recently washed ashore on California coast of USA.
- ❖ It is usually found in deep sea.
- ❖ Black in colour, it is usually addressed to as “Monster looking fish”.



### **US Google Pay to India and Singapore**

- ❖ Alphabet Inc's Google has launched international money transfer partnerships for users of its U.S. payments app.
- ❖ The partnerships were made with remittances firms Wise and Western Union Co.
- ❖ Google Pay users in the United States can now transfer money to app customers in India and Singapore.
- ❖ This plan would expand to the 80 countries available via Wise, and 200 via Western Union by the end of the year.

### **LiveWire - Harley-Davidson**

- ❖ Harley-Davidson Inc. has launched an all-electric motorcycle brand “LiveWire”.
- ❖ This is the latest effort by the company to ramp up bets on the rapidly growing electric vehicle market.
- ❖ The separate electric vehicle-focused division aims to attract the next generation of younger and more environmentally conscious riders.

### **Martin Griffiths - new Chief at OCHA**

- ❖ Veteran British diplomat Martin Griffiths has been appointed as the new Chief at the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- ❖ He is appointed for a period of five years.
- ❖ Griffiths will replace Mark Lowcock as the new Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator of OCHA.
- ❖ The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs aims to strengthen the international response to complex emergencies and natural disasters.



### **China to ban synthetic cannabinoid substances**

- ❖ China will become the world’s first country to ban all synthetic cannabinoid substances.
- ❖ The move comes as China tries to curb the manufacturing & trafficking of the drug.
- ❖ Synthetic cannabinoids are highly camouflaged, as some are found in e-cigarette oil.
- ❖ The synthetic cannabinoid has become one of the most-abused new psychoactive substances.

- ❖ Cannabinoid substances pose a severe threat to society, where the abuse of such substances gives rise to incidents such as intentional injuries and impaired driving.

### **Mice Rain in Australia**

- ❖ The mice population in Australia has increased exponentially.
- ❖ The mice are causing extensive damages to the cultivated crop and stored food grains.
- ❖ This is being referred to as Mice Rain.
- ❖ Also, plague in the country has increased.

### **Tlatolophus galorum**

- ❖ The Palaeontologists recently identified a new species of dinosaur called the Talkative Dinosaur.
- ❖ It was identified in the northern Mexico.
- ❖ The research is being conducted by the National Institute of Anthropology and History of Mexico.
- ❖ It is called “Tlatolophus galorum”.
- ❖ It is a herbivore dinosaur.
- ❖ The Talkative Dinosaurs had ears that could hear low frequency sounds.
- ❖ These dinosaurs emitted strong sounds for reproductive purposes and also to scare away predators.



### **Miss Universe 2020 - Andrea Meza**

- ❖ Miss Mexico Andrea Meza has been crowned as the 69th Miss Universe 2020.
- ❖ Miss India's Adline Quadros Castelino made it to the Top 4.



- ❖ Brazil's Julia Gama is the first runner-up.
- ❖ Peru's Janick Maceta is the second runner-up.
- ❖ India's Adline Castelino and Dominican Republic's Kimberly Perez are third runner-up and fourth runner-up respectively.
- ❖ This year, the pageant was held in Miami, Florida in USA.
- ❖ Zozibini Tunzi of South Africa crowns her successor in the event.



### **Winchcombe Meteorite**



- ❖ The National History Museum located in London is to display a piece of the meteorite that touched down the town of Winchcombe in Gloucestershire in the UK.
- ❖ The meteorite touched the UK soil in February 2021.
- ❖ The meteorite is 4.5 billion years old.
- ❖ This meteorite is rare as it is a carbonaceous meteorite.
- ❖ Out of the 65,000 meteorite types known to mankind, only thousand are of this type.
- ❖ The Winchcombe meteorite is similar to that retrieved by the Hayabusa 2 mission.

## Israel - Palestine conflict

- ❖ The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) held a meeting on the Israel-Palestine situation.
- ❖ The meeting was chaired by the Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi.
- ❖ This was UNSC's first public meeting on the Israeli-Palestine conflict.



## Iron Dome - Israel

- ❖ The Hamas group from Gaza made an attack with rockets on Israel.
- ❖ These rockets were intercepted by Israeli Iron Dome.
- ❖ It was as if the rockets were hitting some invisible shield.





### **About**

- ❖ It is an air defence system.
- ❖ It neutralises any missiles or rockets.
- ❖ It is a short-range ground air-to-air defence system.
- ❖ It is used to counter rockets, mortars, aircraft, helicopters, mortars artillery and unmanned vehicles.
- ❖ Iron Dome was deployed in 2011.

### **Study on long working hours**

- ❖ A study conducted by the World Health Organisation and the International Labour Organisation recently found that the long working hours kills hundreds of people every year.
- ❖ The study has included 22 studies on strokes and 37 studies on ischemic heart diseases.
- ❖ Also, it collected data from more than 2,300 surveys in 194 countries.
- ❖ Working 55 hours a week increases risks of strokes by 35% and increased the risk of ischemic heart disease by 17%.

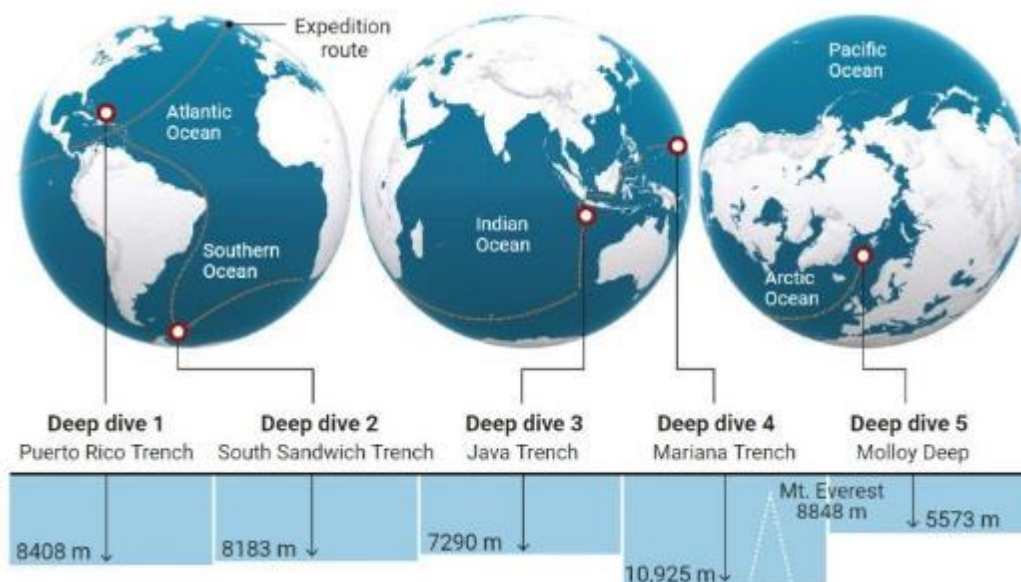
### **Anti-dumping investigation against China, Vietnam and Thailand**

- ❖ The Ministry of Commerce has recently initiated the anti-dumping investigation against China, Vietnam and Thailand.
- ❖ The investigation is against the import of solar cells from these countries.
- ❖ The investigation has been started by the Ministry following the application submitted by the Indian Solar Manufacturer Association.
- ❖ The solar cells that are being imported from China are 15% to 20% less expensive as compared to that of the solar cells produced in India.
- ❖ This is affecting the business of solar modules produced using locally available raw materials.
- ❖ Ultimately it is increasing the price of domestic solar modules.

### **Five Deeps Expedition**

- ❖ The Five Deeps Expedition has measured the extreme depths of the World's 5 Oceans.
- ❖ The Challenger Deep (10, 924 m) in Mariana Trench in Pacific Ocean remains the Deepest Trench in the world.

- ❖ The 2nd Deepest Trench in the world is the Horizon Deep (10, 816 m) in the Tonga Trench, Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ American undersea explorer Victor Lance Vescovo of the US launched the Five Deeps Expedition in 2018.
- ❖ The Five Deeps Expedition was the first to reach the deepest point in each of the Earth's five oceans.



### ***Ocean & Deepest Points***

- ❖ Atlantic Ocean – Brownson Deep (8, 378 m) in Puerto Rico Trench
- ❖ Southern Ocean (Antarctic ocean) – Factorian Deep (7, 432 m) in South Sandwich Trench
- ❖ Indian Ocean – Unnamed Deep (7, 187 m) in Java Trench
- ❖ Pacific Ocean – Challenger Deep (10, 924 m) in Mariana Trench (deepest trench in the world).
- ❖ Arctic Ocean – Molloy Hole (5, 551 m)

### **US shares 80 million vaccine doses**

- ❖ The US President announced that the US will be sharing 80 million vaccine doses globally over the next six weeks.
- ❖ The 80 million doses pledged by the US will include,
  - 20 million doses of Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson as well as AstraZeneca Vaccine.
  - 60 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

## **Island of Sulawesi**

- ❖ A new study revealed that the oldest-known hand stencil drawing is degenerating at an 'alarming rate' due to climate change.
- ❖ The island of Sulawesi in Indonesia consists of a cave art that dates back more than 45,000 years.
- ❖ The ancient cave paintings drawn in red and mulberry pigments is considered the earliest known narrative scene in prehistoric art.



## **Johnson and Johnson vaccine - Biological E**

- ❖ Biological E (Hyderabad based) is to produce Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine along with its own vaccine.
- ❖ This is to boost the overall vaccine production of the country.
- ❖ United States International Development Finance Corporation is to assist the Biological E.

## **Biggest Nuclear Power Project – Russia and China**

- ❖ Russia and China held a ground-breaking ceremony of their biggest Nuclear Power Project.
- ❖ Under this project, Moscow will jointly build four high-power nuclear power plants in two Chinese cities.
- ❖ The Tianwen Nuclear Power Plant, of which the 7 and 8 units will be built, is located in the city of Lianyungang in Jiangsu Province, China.
- ❖ The Xudapu Nuclear Power Plant, of which 3 and 4 units will be jointly built by China and Russia, is located in Xingcheng in Liaoning Province.
- ❖ With the nuclear power project, China and Russian have successfully firmed up their close ties as they have been facing mounting adversity from the United States and the European Union on various issues.





## **2 billion doses of Covid - 19 vaccine to poor countries**

- ❖ Pfizer and BioNTech have pledged to provide 2 billion doses of Covid-19 vaccine to poor countries in middle-income and low-income countries in next 18 months.
- ❖ This announcement was made at the global health summit hosted by Italy.
- ❖ Both the companies developed first vaccine which was authorised for use in United States and Europe.
- ❖ Pfizer Inc is an American multinational pharmaceutical corporation established in New York City.
- ❖ BioNTech SE is a German biotechnology company based in Mainz, Germany.

## **Italy hosts the Global G 20 Health Summit**

- ❖ The Global G20 Health Summit was co-hosted by European Commission along with Italy as part of its G20 presidency.
- ❖ The summit adopted the agenda to overcome Covid-19 pandemic.
- ❖ It also decided to develop and endorse a Rome Declaration of principles.

## **50 billion global vaccination plan**

- ❖ The IMF (International Monetary Fund) proposed a USD 50 billion global vaccination plan.
- ❖ This will cover about 40 percent of global population by the end of 2021.
- ❖ It also seeks to cover at least 60 percent of the population by first half of 2022.
- ❖ This plan was proposed on the line of work of the World Health Organisation (WHO), World Bank, Gavi and African Union.

## **Invasive species in Africa**

- ❖ Recent study shows that, Invasive species are costing African agriculture about \$3.66 trillion per year.
- ❖ It equals to 1.5 times of the combined gross domestic product of all African countries.
- ❖ It was found that, a moth known as *Phthorimaea absoluta* caused most of the losses.
- ❖ This moth affects tomato plants and incur an estimated cost of \$11.4 billion each year.
- ❖ Other insects inflict about \$21.5 billion worth of crop losses per year to mango, maize, cassava and citrus crops.

## Mount Nyiragongo



- ❖ DR Congo's Mount Nyiragongo volcano erupted recently.
- ❖ Mount Nyiragongo is an active stratovolcano with an elevation of 3,470 m in the Virunga Mountains.
- ❖ Mount Nyiragongo volcano is located 10 km from Goma.
- ❖ It is located inside Virunga National Park, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- ❖ Nyiragongo and nearby Nyamuragira are together responsible for 40 percent of Africa's historical volcanic eruptions.

## “Fully digital border” Britain

- ❖ This is part of a wider overhaul of the country's immigration system, which will also include the introduction of a points-based migration system.
- ❖ The move means those coming to Britain without a visa or immigration status will need an Electronic Travel Authorisation.
- ❖ Digital identity checks will also be used to reduce the need to visit visa application centres.
- ❖ Digitising the border will mean officials “can now count who is coming in and out of the country and whether they have permission to be there”.

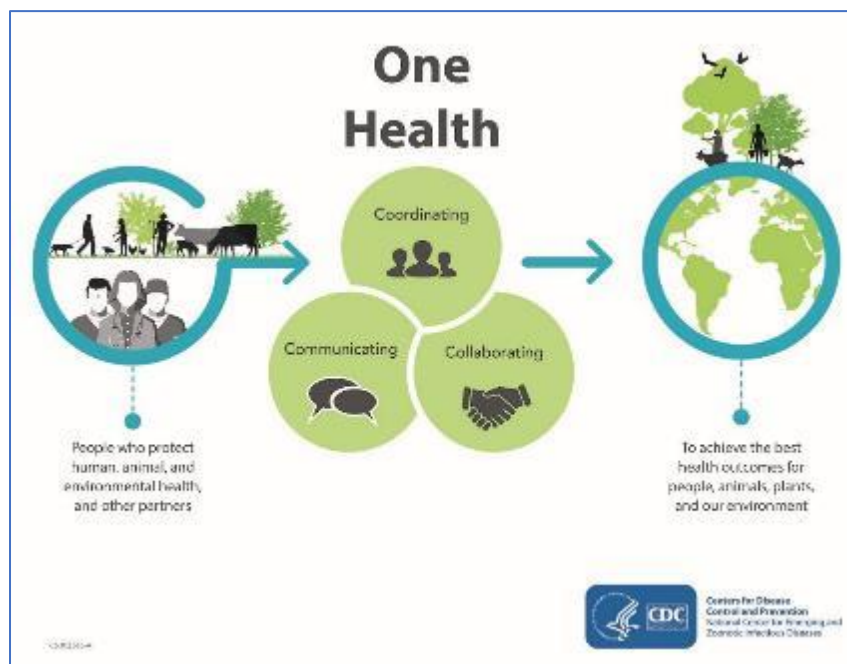
## Lithuania quits China's 17+1

- ❖ Lithuania quitted China's 17+1 Cooperation between forum China and Central and Eastern European Countries (China-CEEC).
- ❖ It has also urged fellow EU members to pursue a much more effective 27+1 approach and communication with China.

- ❖ China-CEEC was founded in 2012 in Warsaw.
- ❖ Earlier, it was known as 17+1.
- ❖ But after Lithuania quits it in May 2021 it is known as 16+1.



### One Health panel



- ❖ This initiative was launched by France and Germany in 2020, but held its first meeting in May 2021.
- ❖ World Health Organization along with three other international bodies have set up a team of experts who will help in developing a global plan called "One Health" panel.
- ❖ This panel will help preventing the spread of Zoonotic diseases.
- ❖ Zoonotic disease or Outbreak is an infectious disease, transmitted between species from animals to humans or from humans to animals.



### **74<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly**

- ❖ Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chairman of WHO Executive Board, Dr Harsh Vardhan, chaired 74<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly.
- ❖ Director-General of World Health Organisation, Dr Tedros, also participated in the event.
- ❖ An executive board has asked for further efforts which can ensure fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines under COVAX Facility.
- ❖ Board recommended 74<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly to consider report on mental health preparedness and response for Covid-19 pandemic.

### **Mali's Military Action**

- ❖ Military officers in Mali arrested the President, Prime Minister, and Defence Minister of the country's interim government.
- ❖ Mali President Bah Ndaw, Prime Minister Moctar Ouane, and Defence Minister Souleymane Doucoure of the interim government were arrested in Kati outside the capital Bamako.
- ❖ They were arrested after two members of the military lost their place during a government reshuffle.

### **New Consulate General of India in Maldives**

- ❖ Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the opening of a new Consulate General of India in Addu City, the Maldives in 2021.
- ❖ India and Maldives share ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious and commercial links steeped in antiquity.
- ❖ Maldives occupies an important place in the 'Neighbourhood First Policy' and the 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision of the Government of India.

### **WHO BioHub**

- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) will establish the first BioHub Facility in Spiez, Switzerland.
- ❖ The BioHub will allow rapid sharing of pathogens between labs and partners to facilitate a better analysis and preparedness against them.
- ❖ It will also help in safe reception, sequencing, storage and preparation of biological materials for distribution to other labs.
- ❖ It will enable member states to share biological materials with and via the BioHub under pre-agreed conditions and regulations.



- ❖ The move will help contribute to the establishment of an international exchange system for SARS-CoV-2 and other emerging pathogens, to assess risks and launch countermeasures.

### **Smokers worldwide Count**

- ❖ Global Burden of Disease collaboration has published studies on number of smokers worldwide.
- ❖ As per the study, number of smokers surged to 1.1 billion in 2019.
- ❖ As per study, India had about 2 crores smokers aged 15-24 in 2019.
- ❖ It is the second highest number of tobacco smokers worldwide, while China is at first.
- ❖ India also witnessed highest increase of male smokers since 1990 in age group 15-24.

### **Sacrificial pits in China**

- ❖ A sacrificial pit was recently discovered at Sanxingdui Ruins Site in China.
- ❖ According to National Cultural Heritage Administration, Chinese archaeologists found six new sacrificial pits and about 500 items at Sanxingdui Ruins in Sichuan Province.
- ❖ They date back to 3,000 years.
- ❖ Archaeologists have found gold masks, gold foil, miniature ivory sculptures, bronze trees, bronze masks, carbonized rice and seeds in four of the six pits.
- ❖ Sanxingdui is an archaeological site and a major Bronze Age culture of China.

### **US and Open Skies Treaty**

- ❖ US administration led by Biden, does not seek to re-join Open Skies Treaty with Russia.
- ❖ The treaty is a key arms control agreement.
- ❖ It allows US and Russia to fly surveillance aircraft over their military facilities.
- ❖ According to US administration, US does not seek to rejoin the pact because of Russia's failure to comply with it.
- ❖ Now, "New START treaty" is the only major arms control pact between both the countries.
- ❖ It was extended for five years recently by US.



## ECONOMY

### RBI new guidelines

- ❖ The RBI recently laid down set of instructions to improve the corporate bank governance.
- ❖ The post of MD and CEO shall not be held by the same person for more than 15 years.
- ❖ However, they can be reappointed after a cooling period of three years.
- ❖ The MD or the CEO shall not hold these posts more than twelve years.
- ❖ However, in extraordinary circumstances, they shall be allowed to continue till 15 years.
- ❖ The guidelines are not applicable to the foreign banks whose branches are operating in the country.
- ❖ The maximum age limit of the Chairman or the Non-Executive Director has been fixed at 75 years.
- ❖ The fixed remuneration for the Non-Executive Directors shall not exceed Rs 20 lakhs.

### Network for Greening the Financial System

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India recently joined the Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS).
- ❖ By joining the system, RBI is to learn from and contribute to the Global Climate risk management in the financial sector.
- ❖ Ultimately, the apex bank will work with its global partners to support the transition towards a sustainable economy.



- ❖ There are 83 central banks associated with the Greening the Financial System.
- ❖ Of these 75 are members and 13 are observers.



- ❖ The main objective of the system is to increase and accelerate green finance.
- ❖ It aims to help the members design policies and climate risk resilience in financial sector.

### **World's Oldest Water at Canada**

- ❖ Barbara Sherwood Lollar, the geochemist had spent much of her career wandering around some of the deepest mines in the world, finding and extracting water that was millions of years old.
- ❖ The research, published in Nature Communications, states that the Canadian mine water extracted by her in 2009, to be 1.6 billion years old.
- ❖ This is the oldest to be found on our planet.

### **T Rabi Shankar - fourth Deputy Governor**

- ❖ The Government of India recently appointed T Rabi Shankar as the fourth Deputy Governor.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India is governed by the Central Board of Directors.
- ❖ The Central Board consists of Governor, four Deputy Governors, two finance ministry representatives and four directors of local boards.

### **GST revenue ₹1.41 lakh crore**

- ❖ Gross revenues from the Goods and Services Tax hit a record high of ₹1.41 lakh crore in April 2021 in India.
- ❖ This suggests economic activity may not yet be as badly affected amidst the ongoing second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, as last year.
- ❖ April's GST collections surpassed the previous highest collections of ₹1.24 lakh crore in March 2021 by 14%.
- ❖ This also marks the seventh month in a row since October that GST revenues have crossed ₹1 lakh crore.

### **Global FDI**

- ❖ The global FDI dropped by 38% in 2020 (compared to 2019).
- ❖ This is a 15-year low (lowest since 2005).
- ❖ These are according to a new set of data released by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD),



- ❖ India became the 3rd Largest Recipient of FDI inflows in 2020 with an inflow of USD 64 Billion.
- ❖ China became the largest Recipient of FDI (USD 212 Billion) overtaking the United States (USD 177 Billion).
- ❖ Luxembourg finished 4th.

### **Special Long Term Repo Operation**

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India recently announced that it is to conduct the first Special Long Term Repo Operation (SLTRO) of Rs 10,000 crores for Small Finance Banks.
- ❖ The RBI will conduct the SLTRO for each month starting from May 2021.
- ❖ This is to continue till October 2021.
- ❖ The SLTRO will be valid for three years.
- ❖ All the Small Finance Banks shall participate in the SLTRO.
- ❖ However, these banks should make sure that the amount borrowed from RBI should be lent only to specified segments such as unorganised sectors and small business units.
- ❖ Reserve Bank of India launched this as one of the measure to protect the small and medium enterprises in the country.

### **Green Urja Award**

- ❖ Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA) has been conferred with the “Green Urja Award” by the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC).
- ❖ This award is given for being the Leading Public Institution in the Financing Institution for Renewable Energy this year.
- ❖ IREDA gets the award for the pivotal and developmental role it plays in Green Energy Financing.
- ❖ The award recognises our immense contribution to the development of the Renewable Energy Sector in line with the Hon’ble Prime Minister’s vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat.

### **‘I choose my number’ feature**

- ❖ Jana Small Finance Bank has announced the launch of the “I choose my number” feature for all its customers across India.

- ❖ The bank will allow its customers to choose their favourite numbers as the last 10 digits of their bank account, savings or current.
- ❖ The allocation of the account number chosen by the customer will be subject to the availability of the requested number.

#### **Jana Small Finance Bank**

- ❖ It was founded on 24 July 2006.
- ❖ Its headquarters is at Bengaluru.
- ❖ The tagline of Jana Small Finance Bank is 'Paise Ki Kadar'



#### **Indian economy in the year 2022**

- ❖ The United Nations, in its mid-year update of the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP), projected that the Indian economy would grow at 10.1% in the calendar year 2022.
- ❖ It was first released in January 2021.
- ❖ At a growth rate of 10.1% in 2022, India will be the fastest growing major economy in the world,
- ❖ The mid-year update said that India will register a -7.5% growth rate in calendar year 2021, after an estimated contraction of 6.8% in 2020.

#### **Migration and Development Brief report**

- ❖ The World Bank recently released its "Migration and Development Brief" report.
- ❖ The report said that the remittance flows to the low-income and middle-income countries were 1.9% lower in 2020 as compared to that of 2019.
- ❖ It was 540 billion USD in 2020 and 548 billion USD in 2019.
- ❖ Remittance is a sum of money sent from one country to other country.

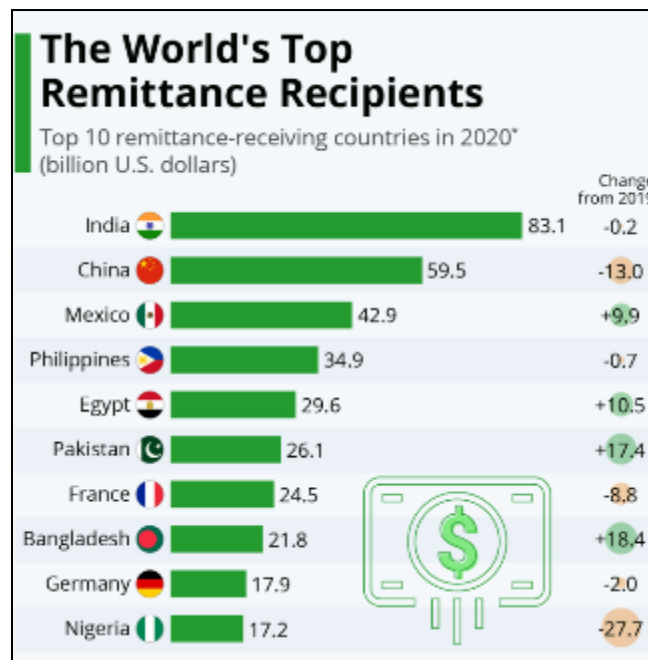
- ❖ It can be business payments or remittances paid to a family member, friends.
- ❖ They help the currency to hold its value against a foreign currency.
- ❖ The World Bank says that the remittances are the second largest resource inflow for developing countries after FDI.
- ❖ As the flow of remittances increases, the currency value of receiving country increases and the value of foreign currency depreciates.

#### Note

- ❖ India has been the largest recipient of remittances since 2008.
- ❖ The largest remittance-sending country in 2020 was United States (USD68 billion).
- ❖ In 2019, India received 83.3 billion USD remittances.
- ❖ This fell by 0.2% in 2020.
- ❖ The remittance from UAE to India reduced by 17%.

### India – the largest recipient of remittances in 2020

- ❖ India was the largest recipient of remittances in 2020, as per the report, “Migration and Development Brief “
- ❖ The report was released by the World Bank.
- ❖ India has been the largest recipient of remittances since 2008.





- ❖ The top five remittance recipient countries in 2020, in current US dollar terms, were
  - India,
  - China,
  - Mexico,
  - the Philippines,
  - and Egypt.
- ❖ The largest remittance-sending country in 2020 was United States (USD68 billion).
- ❖ From India, the Remittances outflow in 2020 was USD 7 billion.
- ❖ It was against USD 7.5 billion in 2019.

### **DigiGold**

- ❖ Airtel Payments Bank has launched “DigiGold”.
- ❖ It is a digital platform for customers to make investments in gold.
- ❖ This has been rolled out in partnership with SafeGold, a provider of digital gold.
- ❖ With DigiGold, Airtel Payments Bank’s saving account customers can invest in 24K gold using the Airtel Thanks app.
- ❖ Customers can also gift DigiGold to their family and friends, who have a savings account with Airtel Payments Bank.



### **WPI Inflation Surges To 10.49**

- ❖ The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade recently released Wholesale Price in India for the month of April 2021.
- ❖ The annual rate of inflation for the month of April 2021 was 10.49%.



- ❖ The WPI for the month of April 2021 stood at 128.1.
- ❖ The base year in calculating WPI is fixed as 2011-12.
- ❖ Wholesale inflation which galloped to double digits in April is the fastest in 11 years.
- ❖ The inflation rate is high mainly because of the
  - price rise in crude petroleum and
  - increase in the cost of manufactured foods.

### **Gautam Adani - the second richest man in Asia**

- ❖ Group founder and chairman Gautam Adani has now become the second richest man in Asia after overtaking China's Zhong Shanshan.
- ❖ Gautam Adani's net worth stands at \$67.6 billion, making him the second richest Asian.
- ❖ He becomes the 14th richest businessman in the world.
- ❖ Gautam Adani now remains just a spot behind Reliance Industries Limited chief Mukesh Ambani, who is Asia's richest man (net worth of \$76 billion).
- ❖ On the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Mukesh Ambani is currently on the 13th spot, just a place above Gautam Adani.

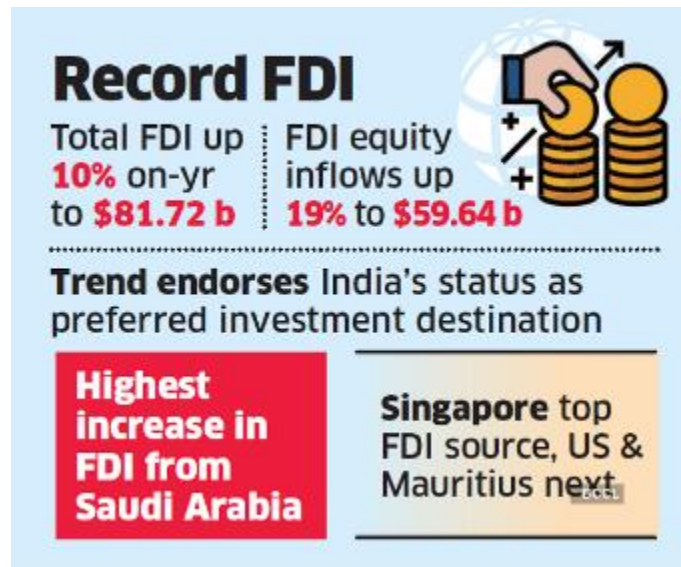
### **Rise in Currency with Public**

- ❖ According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) the currency with the public rose by Rs 35,464 crore to hit an all-time high of Rs 28.39 lakh crore.
- ❖ The currency with the public has been rising over the last 14-month period, since the pandemic broke out.
- ❖ Between March and June 2020, people withdrew cash heavily from banks in the wake of lockdown as dependence on cash transactions rose.
- ❖ Its pace slowed after July 2020, in one with decline of cases.
- ❖ However, it gathered momentum in February 2021 as the cases started rising.
- ❖ Since the government announced demonetisation on November 8, 2016, the currency with public has risen by 58 per cent.

### **FDI in 2020-21 in India**

- ❖ India has attracted highest ever total FDI inflow of \$ 81.72 billion during the financial year 2020-21.

- ❖ It is 10% higher as compared to the last financial year 2019-20 (US\$ 74.39 billion).
- ❖ Gujarat is the top recipient state during the F.Y. 2020-21 with 37% share of the total FDI Equity inflows.
- ❖ It is followed by Maharashtra (27%) and Karnataka (13%).
- ❖ Majority of the equity inflow of Gujarat has been reported in the sectors,
  - `Computer Software & Hardware' (94%) and
  - `Construction (Infrastructure) Activities' (2%).



### **‘Ricochet Impact’**

- ❖ According to International Monetary Fund (IMF), Emerging-market nations’ struggle to move out of covid-19 pandemic-induced economic crisis can hurt developed nations.
- ❖ It said, crisis has “Ricochet impact” on the developed and advanced economies.
- ❖ IMF suggests that, developed nations should be doing all to ensure better & equitable access to vaccines and equitable recovery.
- ❖ Poorer nations are facing the risk of increasing interest rates even though, their economies aren’t growing.
- ❖ International Monetary Fund is an international financial institution is headquartered in Washington, D.C.
- ❖ It comprises of 190 countries.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### **Zhurong**

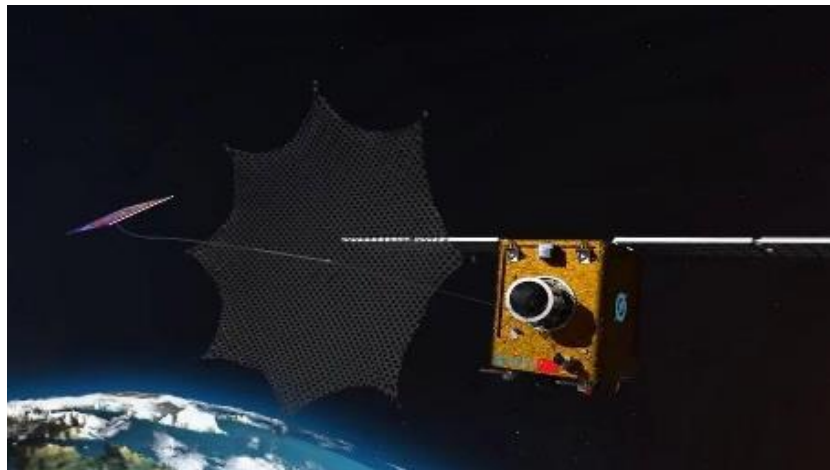
- ❖ China's first Mars rover has been named 'Zhurong' after a traditional fire god.
- ❖ The rover is currently aboard China's Mars probe Tianwen-1.
- ❖ China's Tianwen-1 probe aims to analyse and map the Martian surface and geology, looking for water ice and studying the climate and surface environment.

### **Supercomputer - UK**

- ❖ The Met Office of UK and Microsoft are to build a weather forecasting supercomputer in the UK.
- ❖ The supercomputer is expected to be one of the top twenty-five supercomputers in the world.
- ❖ This Supercomputer is to run completely on renewable energy.

### **NEO - 01**

- ❖ A Space Mining Startup of China recently launched NEO-01.
- ❖ It is a robotic platform launched into the low earth orbit.
- ❖ It will conduct experiments on space debris removal technique.
- ❖ The NEO-01 robot was launched on Long March 6 rocket.



### **Tiangong space station**

- ❖ China has successfully sent the first section of its own space station - the Tianhe core module cabin - into preset orbit.



- ❖ It was sent via a Long March-5B Y2 carrier rocket from Wenchang spaceport.
- ❖ The Tianhe core module houses life support equipment and a living space for astronauts.
- ❖ The Tiangong space station means "Heavenly Palace".

### **Python 5**

- ❖ DRDO announced that the Python 5 Air to Air Missile has been successfully added to the Light Combat Aircraft Tejas.
- ❖ The missiles were test fired in Goa and achieved 100% hits.
- ❖ It is an air-to-air missile built by the Israeli weapon manufacturer Rafael Advanced Defence Systems.

### **ALISC**

- ❖ A Community Service Centre has been set up on board India's first dedicated Solar Space Mission.
- ❖ The centre is called ALISC.
- ❖ ALISC is Aditya-L1 Support Cell.
- ❖ It is to be set up at the ARIES at Haldwani, Uttarakhand.
- ❖ ALISC is a joint effort of ISRO and ARIES.
- ❖ The knowledge to be provided by ALISC will help scientists to connect the features in heliosphere to the surface of the sun.
- ❖ Aditya-L1 is an Indian space mission that will study the sun and also the region between the earth and the sun.

### **First galaxy in Blow away state**

- ❖ The astrophysicists from the Minnesota Institute for Astrophysics of USA have discovered the first blow away galaxy using the "Gemini Telescope".
- ❖ The galaxy has been named as Pox 186.
- ❖ The Blow away state means that the hydrogen clouds have been removed.
- ❖ This allows light to escape.
- ❖ The Blow away state may be was caused by dying stars, supernovas.



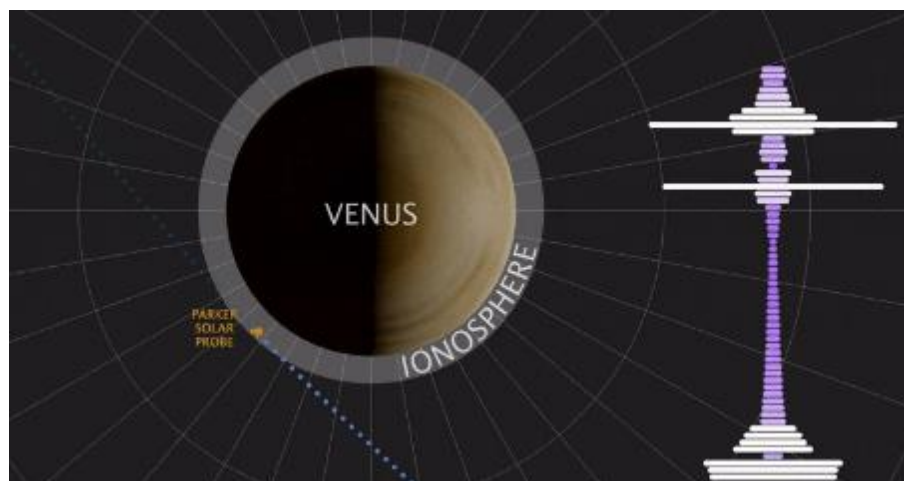
## Uranium-214

- ❖ The scientists have recently created lightest form of Uranium.
- ❖ It is called the Uranium-214.
- ❖ It was created at the Heavy Ion Research Facility in Lanzhou, China.
- ❖ The new isotope found also showed unique behaviours during its decay.
- ❖ This new finding will help scientists understand radioactive process called Alpha decay.

## Millisecond pulsars discovered

- ❖ A group of astronomers have discovered 8 milli second Pulsars.
- ❖ These pulsars are located within the dense clusters of stars called the “Globular Clusters”.
- ❖ The Pulsars were discovered using the MeerKAT telescope located in South Africa.
- ❖ The Milli second pulsars are the most compact stars known to mankind.
- ❖ The Milli second pulsars are made of neutrons.
- ❖ Their mass is hundreds of thousands of times the mass of the earth.
- ❖ They emit beams of radio waves.

## Radio signal from Venus



- ❖ The NASA Spacecraft Parker Solar Probe has discovered a natural radio signal from Venus.
- ❖ These signals were detected when the space probe flew over the upper atmosphere of Venus.



- ❖ The Parker Solar probe has measured the Venusian atmosphere.
- ❖ According to the findings of Parker Solar Probe, just like the earth, planet Venus also has an electrically charged layer of gas in its upper atmosphere called the ionosphere.
- ❖ The radio signal was picked up by the probe from a sea of charged particles in this layer.
- ❖ Also, the space probe has confirmed that the upper Venus atmosphere undergoes changes over a solar cycle.

### **Solar Cycle**

- ❖ The sun is a huge ball of electrically charged hot gas.
- ❖ This gas moves generating powerful magnetic field.
- ❖ The magnetic field of the sun undergoes changes every eleven years. This is called solar cycle.

### **Mayflower 400**

- ❖ Mayflower 400 is the world's first Artificial Intelligence ship.
- ❖ The ship is to study marine pollution and analyse plastics in water.
- ❖ It navigates with complete autonomy.
- ❖ Mayflower 400 is helps to study the rough seas where sailors get sick at sea or a storm might strike them down.

### **First Genetically Modified Mosquitos**

- ❖ A Biotech firm in the United States, Oxitech, recently launched field test of Genetically Modified mosquitos in Florida.
- ❖ The female Aedes aegypti mosquitos are responsible for all diseases transmitted by mosquitos such as zika, chikungunya, dengue and yellow fever.
- ❖ The researchers have now bioengineered the male Aedes aegypti mosquitos.
- ❖ The bioengineered male Aedes aegypti carries a gene that passes to their offsprings and kills the female progeny alone in early larval stages.

### **Osteocytes**

- ❖ The researchers from the Garvan Institute of Medical Research have mapped the Osteocytes for the first time.
- ❖ Osteocytes are oblate shaped bone cells.



- ❖ They are found in bone tissues.
- ❖ The researchers have pictured the whole landscape of osteocytes.
- ❖ This network is responsible for monitoring bone health.
- ❖ It responds to ageing.
- ❖ The researchers have found that majority of the genes that are active within osteocytes had no role in bones.
- ❖ This means that they only give commands.
- ❖ This discovery will help to understand what controls the skeleton actually.

### **Starship SN15 - SpaceX**

- ❖ SpaceX successfully launched and landed its Starship SN15 without any explosion.
- ❖ The Starship SN15 became SpaceX's first Starship prototype that did not get destroyed during its test flight.
- ❖ All the previous SpaceX's Starship prototypes, SN8, SN9, SN10, and SN11, had exploded during or after landing.

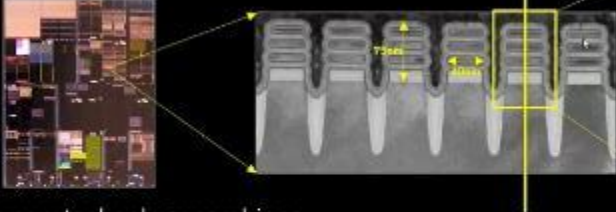
### **Lightning Cleanser**

- ❖ A team of researchers found that lightning bolts increase the ability of the atmosphere to cleanse itself or breakdown greenhouse gases (GHGs).
- ❖ The extreme amounts of hydroxyl radical (OH) and hydroperoxyl radical (HO<sub>2</sub>) were discharged during lightning events.
- ❖ This OH initiates chemical reactions and breaks down molecules like the GHG methane.

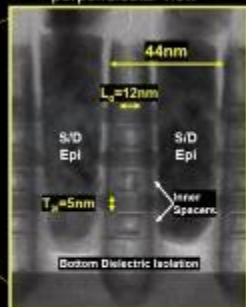
### **2-nanometer chipmaking technology**

- ❖ IBM introduced the world's first 2-nanometer chipmaking technology.
- ❖ The technology could be as much as 45% faster than the mainstream 7-nanometer chips (used in today's laptops and phones).
- ❖ Also, it is up to 75% more power efficient
- ❖ The 2-nanometer chips will be smaller and faster than today's leading edge 5-nanometer chips, which are just now showing up in premium smartphones like iPhone 12 models.

• IBM will announce a *new breakthrough* in semiconductor scaling, the world's first chip with 2nm technology.



perpendicular view



• This new technology combines:

- An industry-first *Bottom Dielectric Isolation* to enable 12nm gate length
- A 2<sup>nd</sup> generation *Inner Spacer dry process* for precise gate control
- *EUV patterning* to produce variable Nanosheet widths from 15nm to 70nm
- A novel *Multi-Vt scheme* for both SoC and HPC applications

• Expected to offer 45% performance improvement or 75% power reduction compared to 7nm

This new technology will drive semi. chip performance and efficiency for the next decade.

### Chinese Rocket falls into Indian Ocean

- ❖ On April 28, 2021, China launched the Long March 5B rocket.
- ❖ The rocket carried the Tianhe core module of China space station.
- ❖ The Tianhe core module weighed 22.5 tonnes, one of the heaviest space modules.
- ❖ The first stage began to decay due to atmospheric drag.
- ❖ The rocket fell in the Indian Ocean near the Maldives.



### DOGE-1 Mission to the Moon

- ❖ SpaceX is to launch DOGE-1, a satellite that is completely funded with crypto currency.
- ❖ It is the first ever commercial payload to be paid with Dogecoin.
- ❖ The satellite weighs 40 kilograms.

- ❖ The satellite is to be launched in 2022.
- ❖ DOGE-1 is to be launched in Falcon 9.



### **Dogecoin**

- ❖ It is basically a crypto currency.
- ❖ It was released in 2013.
- ❖ It was created by IBM engineers.

### **OSIRIS-REx**

- ❖ The NASA Spacecraft called the “Osiris-Rex” has started a two-year long journey back to the earth.
- ❖ The spacecraft reached asteroid Bennu in 2018.
- ❖ The mission was launched to study asteroid Bennu.





### **Mission Ax-1**

- ❖ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) recently signed an agreement with Axiom Space.
- ❖ Under the agreement, Axiom is to send its astronauts to International Space Station.
- ❖ This is the first private astronaut mission to the space station. The mission has been named as Ax-1.
- ❖ The Axiom astronauts will spend eight days in the space station.

### **Changsei 2C rocket**

- ❖ China recently launched Changsei 2C rocket from the Xichang satellite launch centre.
- ❖ It is a Yaogan satellite.
- ❖ This satellite has joined the previous seven groups in orbit that were launched after 2017.
- ❖ The satellite is to be used for electromagnetic environmental surveys and other related technical tests.

### **Yaogan satellite**

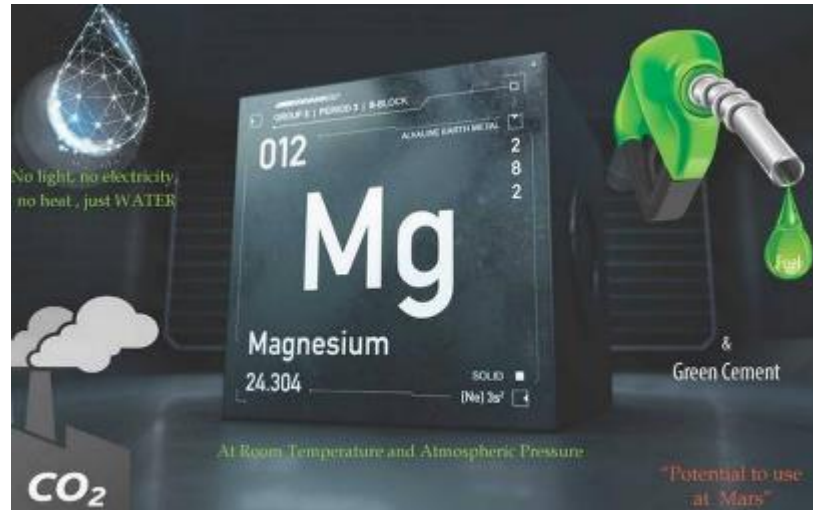
- ❖ It is a series of Chinese Reconnaissance satellites.
- ❖ Reconnaissance satellite is a spy satellite deployed for military or intelligence applications.
- ❖ However, Chinese claim that Yaogan satellites are launched for land survey, crop yield assessment, scientific experiment and disaster monitoring.

### **TIFR's Carbon dioxide Conversion Process**

- ❖ The Tata Institute of Fundamental Research scientists have found the cheapest carbon dioxide conversion process.
- ❖ This magnesium-assisted process mixes carbon dioxide, water and magnesium, at room temperature and pressure to get methane, methanol, formic acid and some hydrogen.
- ❖ Magnesium carbonate is the by product.
- ❖ It is used in the production of green cement and in the pharma industry.
- ❖ With this process, one can make methane on Mars.
- ❖ This is because,



- Mars's atmosphere is almost entirely comprised of carbon dioxide.
- Mars has water in the form of ice.
- Its soil contains an abundance of magnesium.



### Plasma Wave Emission - Voyager 1

- ❖ The Voyager 1 probe recently picked up humming sound.
- ❖ The scientists have named this as “Plasma Wave Emission”.
- ❖ This humming sound has been interpreted as interstellar gas activity.
- ❖ Moving forward, the Voyager 1 will help scientists to understand the interactions between solar winds and the interstellar medium.
- ❖ The hum was of narrow frequency bandwidth.

### Voyager 1

- ❖ The Voyager 1 was the first spacecraft to enter the heliosphere of the sun in 2012.
- ❖ The Voyager 1 was launched in 1977.
- ❖ It was launched to study the outer solar system and planets such as Saturn and Jupiter on its way.

### DeepShake

- ❖ DeepShake is an earthquake early warning system that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to predict how the ground will move during a temblor.
- ❖ This will give several seconds' advance notice that the earthquake is coming.
- ❖ It uses a deep neural network, a type of AI learning,

- ❖ It aims to identify patterns from past earthquakes in order to predict how the shaking from a new quake will travel.
- ❖ DeepShake was developed by Daniel J. Wu, Avoy Datta, Weiqiang Zhu and William Ellsworth at Stanford University.

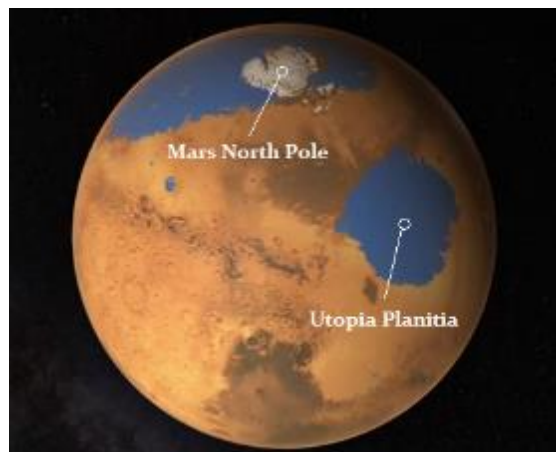
### **Tianwen 1 - Mars**

- ❖ The Chinese Spacecraft Tianwen 1 landed on Mars successfully.
- ❖ It was launched in July 2020 on a Long March 5 rocket.
- ❖ Tianwen 1 has been orbiting Mars for three months now.
- ❖ The lander that carried the Zhurong rover touched down the Martian surface successfully.
- ❖ It landed in the Utopia Planitia region.

### **Zeolites in Oxygen Production**

- ❖ The Air India recently airlifted 35 tonnes of Zeolite used in Oxygen Production plants from Rome to Bengaluru.
- ❖ Zeolites are used as adsorbent material in Pressure Swing Adsorption.
- ❖ An oxygen concentrator uses Zeolites to adsorb atmospheric nitrogen and then vents out the nitrogen.
- ❖ This leaves oxygen gas remaining to be used for patients.
- ❖ In high pressure, the surface area of zeolites increases and thus is capable of adsorbing large quantities of nitrogen.

### **Utopia Planitia of Mars**





- ❖ The Chinese Mission to Mars Tianwen 1 recently landed in the Utopia Planitia.
- ❖ It is the place where the Viking 2 lander touched down.
- ❖ Utopia Planitia is an Impact basin of Mars.
- ❖ Impact Crater is a circular depression in the surface of planets formed due to hypervelocity impact of smaller bodies.
- ❖ It may be due to meteors.

### **Jupiter Icy Moon Explorer - European Space Agency**

- ❖ The Jupiter Icy Moon Explorer of the European Space Agency recently entered into a critical sequence of tests.
- ❖ It is called JUICE.
- ❖ It is an interplanetary spacecraft developed by European Space Agency.
- ❖ It is under its development phase.
- ❖ The main contractor of the mission is Airbus Defence and Space.
- ❖ The JUICE Mission will study three Galilean Moon of Jupiter.
- ❖ They are Europa, Ganymede and Callisto.
- ❖ All these three moons have significant amount of water beneath their surfaces.
- ❖ The spacecraft is to be launched in June 2022.
- ❖ It will reach Jupiter in October 2029.
- ❖ It will reach Jupiter after five gravity assists.
- ❖ Gravity Assists is the use of the gravity of other planet or astronomical object to increase speed of a spacecraft or to alter its path.
- ❖ This is done to save the propellant and reduce expenses.

### **Simorgh supercomputer**

- ❖ Iran recently launched its supercomputer called Simorgh.
- ❖ This supercomputer is hundred times more powerful than the previous Iranian supercomputers.
- ❖ The Supercomputer has been named after the phoenix like bird called the Simurgh.
- ❖ The Simorgh Supercomputer was developed by the Amir kabir University of Technology in Tehran, the capital of Iran.
- ❖ It is located at the Iranian High Performance Computing Research Centre.



### **Undersea cable network**

- ❖ Telecom operator Reliance Jio is constructing the largest international submarine cable system centred on India.
- ❖ It is partnered with global partners and submarine cable supplier Subcom to cater to increased data demand.
- ❖ The two submarine cable systems which the company plans to deploy will connect India with Asia Pacific markets (Singapore, Thailand & Malaysia) and others with Italy & Africa.

### **SPOT**

- ❖ The US scientists has invented a new COVID-19 Saliva Testing method called SPOT.
- ❖ SPOT is Scalable and Portable Testing.
- ❖ SPOT was invented by a research team from the Carle Illinois College of Medicine.
- ❖ The SPOT gives COVID-19 test results in thirty minutes.
- ❖ This testing uses Reverse Transcriptase Loop Mediated Isothermal Amplification (RT-LAMP).

### **SBRIS Geo-5 Missile Warning Satellite**

- ❖ The United Launch Alliance launched the Atlas V Rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida.
- ❖ The Atlas V rocket carried SBRIS Geo-5 Missile Warning Satellite.
- ❖ This Satellite will provide key capabilities in missile warning, battle space, missile defence.

### **FakeBuster**

- ❖ It is a 'Deepfake' detection tool developed by the Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar and Monash University (Australia).
- ❖ FakeBuster can identify imposters attending a virtual conference without anybody's knowledge.
- ❖ It enables the organizer to detect if another person's video is manipulated or spoofed during a video conferencing.
- ❖ They can even be used during online examinations and job interviews.



### **Ultra-high-energy gamma rays detected**

- ❖ Large High Altitude Air Shower Observatory (LHAASO) of China has recently detected dozen sources of ultra-high-energy gamma rays.
- ❖ LHAASO cosmic ray observatory has discovered 12 sources of ultrahigh-energy photons.
- ❖ It has also detected a photon with energy level of 1.4 peta-electron volt.
- ❖ They are the brightest Milky Way gamma ray sources discovered till date.
- ❖ LHAASO is a gamma-ray and cosmic-ray observatory located at Daocheng in Sichuan province of China.

### **VIPER Rover to Search Resources on Moon**

- ❖ US space agency NASA has announced to send its first mobile robot to the Moon in 2023.
- ❖ Mobile robot will search ice and other resources on and below the surface of moon.
- ❖ This mission is an example showing “robotic science mission” and “human exploration” go hand in hand.
- ❖ Mobile robot is a part of Artemis programme.
- ❖ It will collect data from Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover (VIPER).
- ❖ It will help scientists in mapping the resources at South Pole of the lunar.

### **Amphotericin-B**

- ❖ Several States and UTs have reported a shortage of Amphotericin-B drug that is used for treatment of the Mucormycosis or Black Fungus disease.
- ❖ Amphotericin B is an antifungal medication that is used to treat serious fungal infections.
- ❖ It was isolated from *Streptomyces nodosus* in 1955 and came into medical use in 1958.
- ❖ It is typically given by injection into a vein.
- ❖ It slows down the growth of fungi that cause infection.
- ❖ It is listed in the World Health Organization’s (WHO’s) List of Essential Medicines, the safest and most effective medicines in a health system.

### **Smart window material**

- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati of Assam have developed a smart window material which can automatically control climate of buildings.
- ❖ The smart window material can effectively control the amount of heat and light passing through it when voltage is applied to it.
- ❖ Thus, it will help to develop efficient automatic climate control.

### **Princess of Asturias Award**

- ❖ Indian economist and Nobel Laureate, Amartya Kumar Sen, was conferred with “Princess of Asturias Award” in social sciences category.
- ❖ It is the Spain’s top prize.
- ❖ Amartya Sen was selected for his best-known work - “Poverty and Famines”.

### **Dr D Nageshwar Reddy**

- ❖ Dr D Nageshwar Reddy, the chairman of AIG Hospitals, has won the Rudolf V Schindler Award from the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE).
- ❖ Rudolf V Schindler Award is the highest category in the prestigious Crystal Awards named after Dr Schindler.
- ❖ Dr Schindler is considered as “the father of gastroscopy.”
- ❖ With this, Dr Reddy becomes the first Indian medical practitioner to win this award.
- ❖ He is also a Padma Bhushan awardee.
- ❖ Dr Reddy is one of the first to promote endoscopy in India.





## ENVIRONMENT

### Maui dolphins

- ❖ The New Zealand Government along with World Wide Fund and some few fishing companies is to develop a drone that is capable of finding and tracking Maui dolphins using AI.
- ❖ The Maui Dolphins are found only in the West Coast of New Zealand.
- ❖ They are one of the smallest dolphin's subspecies globally.
- ❖ There are only 63 Maui dolphins left in the world.
- ❖ The IUCN has listed the Maui Dolphins under Critically Endangered species.



### Olive Ridley turtles

- ❖ Millions of Olive Ridley turtle nest near the mouth of Rushikulya river.
- ❖ The nesting time of Olive Ridley turtles is between January and May.
- ❖ The turtle is known for its unique mass nesting sites called the Arribadas.
- ❖ During Arribadas, thousands of females come together to lay eggs on the same beach.



### Issue

- ❖ This year, they are yet to begin their nesting.
- ❖ Though some of the scientists say that this delay of nesting is normal, the conservationists are worried.
- ❖ This is because, the atmospheric temperature is to reach its peak in May and the sand becomes very hot.
- ❖ It is likely that mass nesting of Olive Ridley turtles might skip this year.
- ❖ The nesting of the turtles has been skipped earlier in 2002, 2007, 2016 and 2019.

### Crocidura Norcondamica

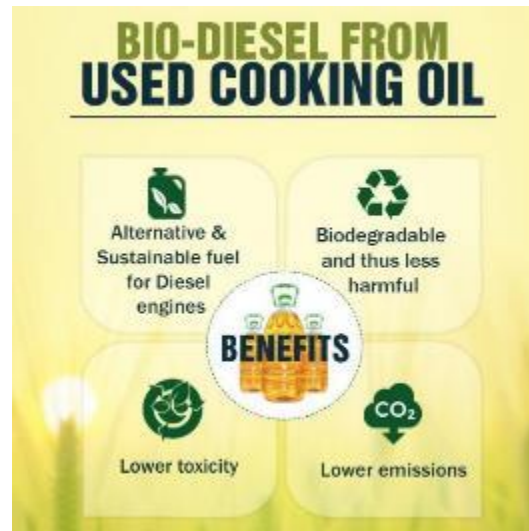


- ❖ A team from the Zoological Survey of India has discovered a new insect eating mammal species in the Norcondam Island at Andaman.
- ❖ The animal has been named Crocidura Norcondamica.
- ❖ It is almost the size of the house mouse.
- ❖ It lives in the forest floor and feed on insects.
- ❖ They help to control the insect population in the dense Narcondam forest.
- ❖ It belongs to Shrews family.
- ❖ Shrews are not rodents.

### Cooking oil-based biodiesel

- ❖ The Union Minister of Petroleum Shri Dharmendra Pradhan flagged off the first supply of used cooking oil-based biodiesel.
- ❖ It was launched under the Expression of Interests Scheme.
- ❖ The scheme was launched in 2019.
- ❖ It was launched for the procurement of bio diesel produced from used cooking oil.

- ❖ It mainly aims to create a system for collection and conversion of Used Cooking Oil into biodiesel.
- ❖ To begin with 7% biodiesel extracted from the Used Cooking Oil is to be doped in diesel.

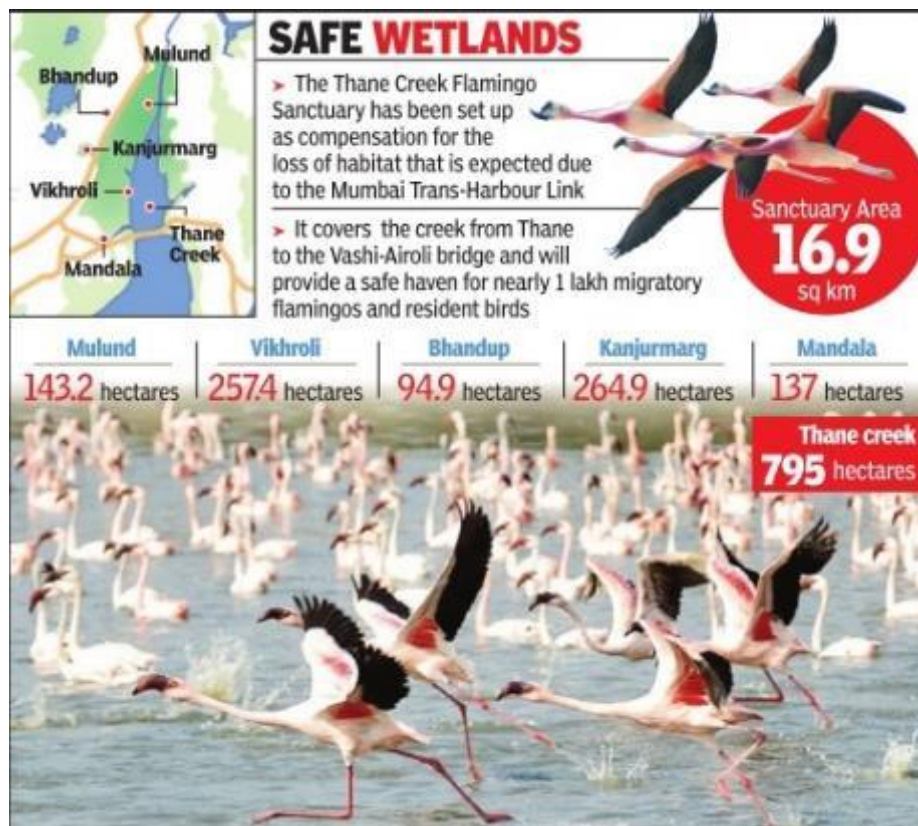


### **Global Assessment on methane emissions**

- ❖ A Global Methane Assessment released today by the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- ❖ This shows that human-caused methane emissions can be reduced by up to 45 per cent this decade.
- ❖ Such reductions would avoid nearly 0.3°C of global warming by 2045.
- ❖ Also, this reduction would be consistent with keeping the Paris Climate Agreement's goal to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius (1.5°C) within reach.

### **Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary as ESZ**

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change recently notified 48.32 square kilo metres around Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary as the Eco Sensitive Zone.
- ❖ Eco Sensitive Zones act as a buffer zone for protected areas.
- ❖ They are economically fragile areas in a radius of ten kilometres around the national parks, protected areas and wildlife sanctuaries.
- ❖ They reduce development pressures around national park or wildlife sanctuary.



### Conflict and Conservation report

- ❖ The International Union for Conservation of Nature recently released a report called the “Nature in a Globalised World: Conflict and Conservation”.
- ❖ The report focuses on complex relationships between nature and armed conflict.
- ❖ The major threats posed by conflicts in the world are disruption of conservation efforts, direct killing of wildlife, degradation of ecosystems.
- ❖ The armed conflicts are prevalent in major biodiverse regions in the world.
- ❖ For instance, India-Pakistan and India-China border conflicts are being fought in the Himalayan Biodiversity hotspots.
- ❖ Military Exercises and Civil unrest pose a risk to two hundred threatened species.
- ❖ This includes the iconic species such as the Critically Endangered Eastern Gorilla.
- ❖ Countries are more prone to wars if less land is available for agriculture or if the agricultural productivity of the land was low.
- ❖ The wars were also frequent when increased number of droughts occurs.



### **China's greenhouse gas emission**

- ❖ China emits greenhouse gas pollution more than the 37 member nations of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
- ❖ This according to the report released by Rhodium Group.
- ❖ In 2019, the country created 27 per cent of the world's greenhouse gases.
- ❖ With this, China produces more than a quarter of global climate pollution.
- ❖ The US stood as the second-largest contributor of greenhouse gas pollution at 11 per cent.
- ❖ India was ranked third with 6 per cent of the world's emissions.

### **2021 Renewable Energy Market Update**

- ❖ The International Energy Agency recently released the “2021 Renewable Energy Market Update”.
- ❖ The Agency has increased its forecast for the global growth of solar energy and wind energy by 25%.
- ❖ The report reveals that 280 GW of the renewable energy was installed in 2020.
- ❖ This is 45% increase as compared to that of 2019.
- ❖ This increase is the highest in last three decades.
- ❖ The wind power increased by 90% and the solar power (Photo Voltaic) increased by 50%.
- ❖ The Biofuel demand in 2020 decreased.

### **Cranes return to Ireland after 300 years**



- ❖ The Cranes that have been a part of Irish folklore (traditional stories and beliefs) were recently spotted in Ireland.
- ❖ The birds were spotted in the country during their breeding season after three hundred years.

### **Cranes**

- ❖ The Cranes were extinct in Ireland in 1700.
- ❖ This was mainly due to the destruction of their habitats.
- ❖ They construct platform nests in shallow water.
- ❖ They lay only two eggs at a time.
- ❖ They are the world tallest flying birds.
- ❖ They are four feet tall.

### **Environmental Risk Outlook 2021**

- ❖ A report on 'City Risk Analysis' in the Environmental Risk Outlook 2021 study was done by Verisk Maplecroft.
- ❖ As per this report,
  - Kanpur has been ranked 10th,
  - followed by Jaipur (22nd),
  - Lucknow (24th) and
  - Mumbai (27th).
- ❖ With 43 Indian cities in the top 100, our country is the most at-risk nation in the world.
- ❖ Pollution is identified as the main threat for this.

### **Eco-friendly electric cremation system**



- ❖ IIT Ropar has developed a portable eco-friendly electric cremation system.
- ❖ It is one of its kind of technology that produces no smoke despite using wood for cremation.
- ❖ It is based on wick-stove technology.



- ❖ The cart has been developed in collaboration with the company Cheema Boilers Limited.

### **Antarctica heads towards Climate Tipping Point by 2060**

- ❖ An Iceberg recently carved off from the continent of Antarctica.
- ❖ This iceberg is now the largest iceberg in the world.
- ❖ It has been named as A-76.
- ❖ The Ice Berg is 170 kilometres long and 25 kilometres wide.
- ❖ The ice berg was spotted by a European Space Agency satellite called Copernicus Sentinel.

#### **Note**

- ❖ A new study states that Antarctica ice sheets are headed towards Climate Tipping Points by 2060.
- ❖ Climate Tipping Point is the threshold that leads to large changes in the state of the system.
- ❖ It is defined as an irreversible change in the climate system.

### **IEA releases a landmark special report**

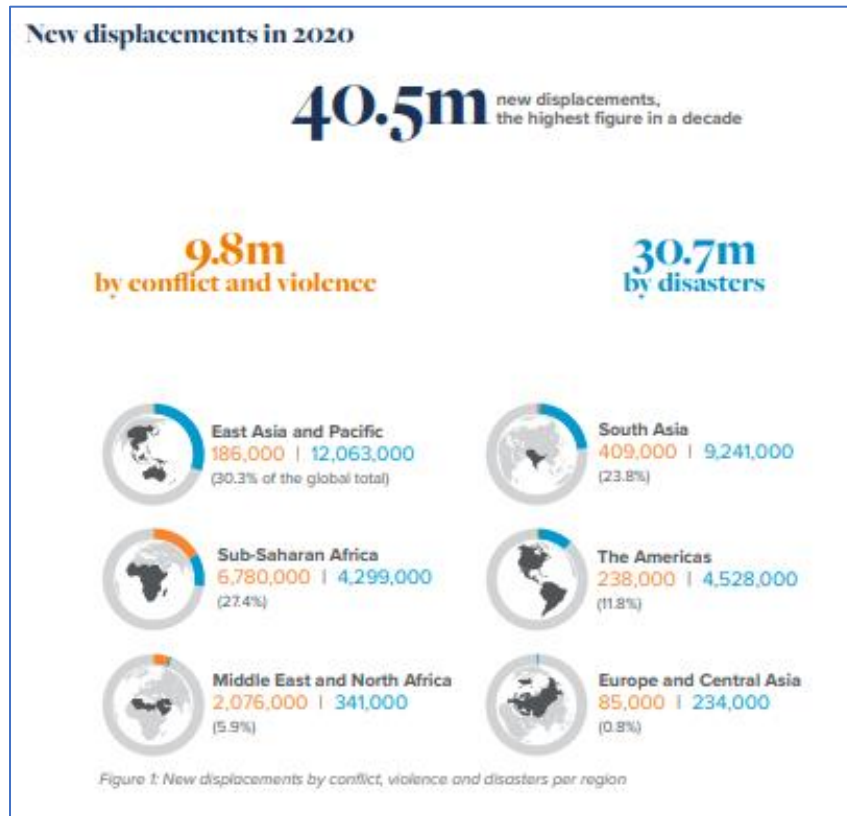
- ❖ 'Net Zero by 2050 - A Roadmap for the Global Energy Sector' report is released by International Energy Agency.



- ❖ This special report is the world's first comprehensive study of how to transition to a net zero energy system by 2050.
- ❖ That system will be ensuring stable and affordable energy supplies, providing universal energy access, and enabling robust economic growth.
- ❖ It sets out a cost-effective and economically productive pathway, resulting in a clean, dynamic and resilient energy economy dominated by renewables like solar and wind instead of fossil fuels.

- ❖ The report also examines key uncertainties, such as the roles of bioenergy, carbon capture and behavioural changes in reaching net zero.

## Global Report on Internal Displacement 2021



- ❖ Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID 2021) is released by Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
- ❖ According to the report, there were 40.5 million new internal displacements in 2020.
- ❖ This is the highest annual figure for 10 years.
- ❖ These were triggered globally by disasters and violence.
- ❖ 9.8 million displacements were due to conflict and violence.
- ❖ Weather-related events accounted for almost all of the 30.7 million disaster-led displacements last year.
- ❖ Storms and floods caused the majority of displacements.
- ❖ Cyclone Amphan, which made landfall in Eastern India and Bangladesh in May 2020, triggered around five million displacements across Bangladesh, India, Bhutan and Myanmar.



### **NGT upholds rights of pastoralists in Banni grasslands**

- ❖ The Maldhari community had filed a case against the rampant encroachment in the ecologically-sensitive Banni grassland in May, 2018.
- ❖ The National Green Tribunal (NGT) ordered all encroachments to be removed from Gujarat's Banni grasslands within six months.
- ❖ It also directed a joint committee to prepare an action plan in a month.
- ❖ The court also said the Maldharis will continue to hold the right to conserve the community forests in the area, granted to them as per the provisions in Section 3 of Forest Rights Act, 2006.
- ❖ Maldharis are a tribal herdsman community in Gujarat, India.
- ❖ Maldhari community breeds Banni Buffaloes.
- ❖ Banni Buffaloes are species endemic to the region.

### **Protected Planet Report 2020**

- ❖ The report, titled Protected Planet Report 2020, underlined the progress the world has made toward the ambitious goals agreed by countries in 2010 at the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.
- ❖ The reports are released by the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) with support from the National Geographic Society, a global non-profit.
- ❖ These are biennial landmark publications that assess the state of protected and conserved areas around the world.

### **Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update**

- ❖ It was released by United Kingdom's Met Office led by World Meteorological Organisation.
- ❖ According to the release, the world will temporarily breach 1.5-Celsius warming mark within 2021-2025.
- ❖ There is 40 percent chance of annual average global temperature will surpass 1.5C above pre-industrial temperatures.
- ❖ 1.5C is the warming limit of Paris climate accord.
- ❖ There is a 90 percent chance of one year in period of 2021-2025 being hottest on record.
- ❖ Annual average global temperature will be at least 1C warmer than pre-industrial levels between 2021-2025.

## STATES

### **E-Panchayat Puraskar 2021**

- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh government won the “E-Panchayat Puraskar 2021”.
- ❖ It was followed by Assam and Chhattisgarh at the second position.
- ❖ Odisha and Tamil Nadu stood third.
- ❖ Every year, the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj awards those states, which ensure maximum use of information technology for gram panchayats.

### **Bones of Sauropods dinosaur in Meghalaya**

- ❖ The researchers in the Geological Survey of India recently found fossil bone fragments of Sauropod dinosaurs.
- ❖ They were 100 million years old.
- ❖ These dinosaur bones were found in West Khasi hills in the district of Meghalaya.
- ❖ This is the first record of the Sauropods discovered in the region.



### **Earthquake in Assam**

- ❖ An unfamiliar lineament is the major factor behind frequent earthquakes in the Sonitpur area of Assam.
- ❖ According to Geological Survey of India (GSI), the earthquakes in the region are frequent due to the following reasons,

- East-West Trending Atherkhet Fault
- Northwest-Southeast Trending Kopili Fault
- North-south trending Lineament
- ❖ The GSI has said that the Lineament is the main reason for the recent earthquake in Assam.
- ❖ It is linear feature in a landscape (like a visible line or a long crack or a long visible dent).
- ❖ It is basically an expression of an underlying fault.
- ❖ Even ridges, troughs represent lineaments.

### Ban on Glyphosate – Telangana



- ❖ The Telangana Government recently imposed a total ban on Glyphosate.

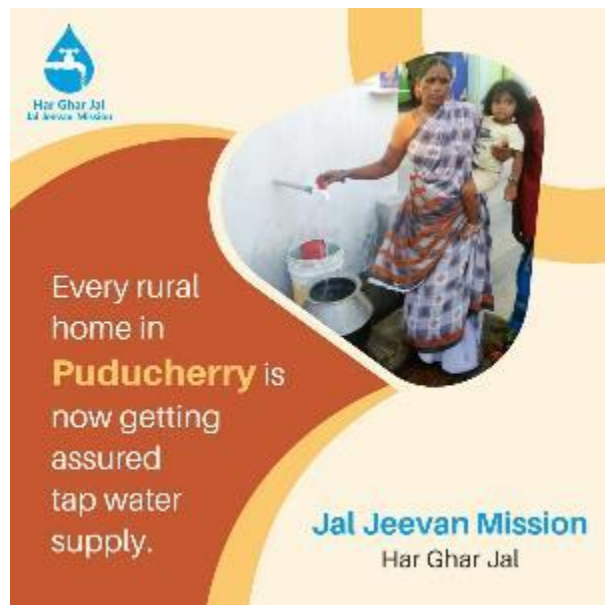


- ❖ The Glyphosate is a controversial herbicide usually use to kill weeds in cotton farms.
- ❖ The usage of Glyphosate is banned because it is carcinogenic.
- ❖ Also, it is being banned to control the illegal cultivation of HTBt cotton.
- ❖ Glyphosate is absorbed through foliage (plant leaves).
- ❖ It is minimally absorbed by roots.
- ❖ In 2015, World Health Organisation classified Glyphosate under Category 2A, that is, a “Probably Carcinogenic in Humans”.

### **Forest Ponds - Himachal Pradesh**

- ❖ Himachal Pradesh Government is building ‘Forest Ponds’.
- ❖ These are built to check the depletion of the groundwater and to harvest the rainwater.
- ❖ The state government under the Parvat Dhara Scheme has initiated the rejuvenation of the water resources and recharging aquifers through the Forest Department.
- ❖ The Parvat Dhara Scheme aims at enhancing the water level by retaining it for the maximum period of time.

### **Har Ghar Jal - Puducherry**



- ❖ Puducherry has become ‘Har Ghar Jal’ Union Territory by ensuring that every rural home has tap water connection.





- ❖ It has become the fourth state/ UT to provide assured tap water supply to every rural home after Goa, Telangana and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ Har Ghar Jal is a scheme under Jal Jeevan Mission.

### **Mission Hausla**

- ❖ The Uttarakhand Police has launched a drive called "Mission Hausla".
- ❖ This mission is to help people get oxygen, beds and plasma for COVID-19 patients.
- ❖ The police are also helping the public in getting ration, ambulance, cremation of bodies as part of the mission.

### **Monkey Census - Haryana**

- ❖ The Wildlife Institute of India recently conducted a "Monkey Census" in the state of Haryana.
- ❖ The "Monkey Census" was a part of the "Wildlife Census of Haryana-2021".
- ❖ The unique feature of the "Monkey Census" is that the Wildlife Institute of India invited the local people to participate in the census.
- ❖ Around 600 people spotted 6,000 monkeys in three days.
- ❖ The Census for the first time was conducted using a mobile application called "Wildlife Census Haryana".
- ❖ The mobile app was designed by Wildlife Institute of India.

### **Maharashtra Mission Oxygen**

- ❖ The State Government of Maharashtra has recently launched the "Maharashtra Mission Oxygen".
- ❖ Under the mission, the daily production of the state is to be increased to 3,000 tonnes.
- ❖ The State Government has allocated Rs 200 crores to the mission.
- ❖ It will provide special incentives to the private players who are willing to being oxygen generation units.
- ❖ A short-term goal of 2,300 metric tonnes per day is to be achieved in next six months.

### **COVAX facility - Punjab**

- ❖ The Punjab Government recently announced that it is to join COVAX facility in order to increase its COVID-19 supplies.
- ❖ The COVAX facility has so far been operating only at the level of nations.
- ❖ The facility works to prevent vaccine nationalism.
- ❖ It aims to make sure that COVID-19 vaccines reach both low-income level and high-income level countries.
- ❖ It is not even clear if a State can join the facility.

### **Black fungus - Haryana**

- ❖ Haryana Health Minister Anil Vij said that black fungus has been declared a notified disease in the state.
- ❖ If any cases of this disease are found, the doctors will have to report them to the concerned chief medical officer.
- ❖ Notified diseases are also called Notifiable diseases.
- ❖ It is any disease whose occurrence has to be reported to the Government by law.

#### **Black fungus**

- ❖ Covid-19 has triggered Mucormycosis or black fungus in some patients.
- ❖ Mucormycosis is a serious but rare fungal infection caused by a group of molds called mucoromycetes which exist in the environment.
- ❖ Early detection can prevent loss of eyesight, nose or jaw, and 50% mortality in cases where it affects the brain.
- ❖ It mainly affects people who have health problems or take medicines that lower the body's ability to fight germs and sickness.

### **First Agricultural Export Facilitation Centre**

- ❖ The Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture and NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) recently launched the first Agricultural Export Facilitation Centre in Pune.
- ❖ The Centre will aid in boosting the agricultural and food exports of the state of Maharashtra.
- ❖ The state is
  - one of the largest producers of onions.

- the leading producer in pulses.
- the second largest coarse cereals producer.
- the second largest producer of soya bean, sugarcane and cotton.
- the third largest producer of sunflower.

### **Legislative Council - West Bengal**

- ❖ The West Bengal government will set up Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad).
- ❖ For setting up the Council, a Bill has to be introduced in the Assembly and then a nod from the Governor is required.
- ❖ In West Bengal, the Upper House existed till 1969.
- ❖ Under Article 169 of the constitution, Parliament may by law create or abolish the second chamber in a state if the Legislative Assembly of that state passes a resolution to that effect by a special majority.

### **Karnataka ranks first in establishing Health & Wellness**

- ❖ Karnataka has emerged as the best state and is ranked number one in establishing health and wellness centres.
- ❖ This is done under the Ayushman Bharat Program, to provide comprehensive primary healthcare in rural areas.
- ❖ It said the union government had set a target of establishing 2,263 HWC sub-centres.
- ❖ The state has upgraded 3,300 centres till March 31.
- ❖ This is 146 per cent more than the set target.

### **Smart City Mission's schemes - Jharkhand**

- ❖ Jharkhand has clinched the first position in the progress of the implementation of the Smart City Mission's schemes.
- ❖ This is according to the recent ranking released by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- ❖ At the same time, Jharkhand's Capital Ranchi has risen to 12th position in terms of progress of the ongoing mission plans in 100 cities.



### **Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY Aarogyasri**

- ❖ The National Health Authority (NHA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the state government of Telangana to implement the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) with immediate effect.
- ❖ Telangana has integrated the Ayushman Bharat scheme with its state scheme 'Aarogyasri'.
- ❖ The new name for the converged scheme is Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY Aarogyasri.
- ❖ With Telangana now implementing the Ayushman Bharat Scheme, the programme now includes a total of 33 states and union territories.
- ❖ Under the scheme, the eligible beneficiaries will be entitled to avail free healthcare coverage of up to Rs 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation.
- ❖ Still West Bengal is not implementing this scheme as it has its own scheme.

### **Reimbursement of GST components of Covid-19 related medical supplies**

- ❖ Haryana and Gujarat have become the first few states to announce reimbursement of Goods and Services Tax (GST) components paid for Covid-19 related medical supplies.
- ❖ These medical supplies include oxygen concentrators, ventilators, medicines which would be donated free of cost to the state governments.
- ❖ Waiver from Haryana is till June 30, while that of Gujarat is valid till July 31.

### **Vatsalya Yojana**

- ❖ Uttarakhand Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat has announced the Chief Minister Vatsalya Yojana.
- ❖ This is for orphaned children who have lost their parents due to Covid-19.
- ❖ Under the scheme, the State Government will make arrangements for their maintenance, education and training for employment up to the age of 21 years.
- ❖ The Chief Minister said that such orphaned children of the state will be given a maintenance allowance of 3000 rupees per month.

### **African Violet plant in Mizoram**

- ❖ A new species of plant, called African violet, was discovered by Indian Institute of Science education and research (IISER), Bhopal.
- ❖ African violet is found in parts of Mizoram and adjoining areas in Myanmar.
- ❖ IISER Bhopal described new species as “*Didymocarpus Vickifunkiae*”.
- ❖ They are considered as an endangered species.



### **Blackbuck - Odisha**

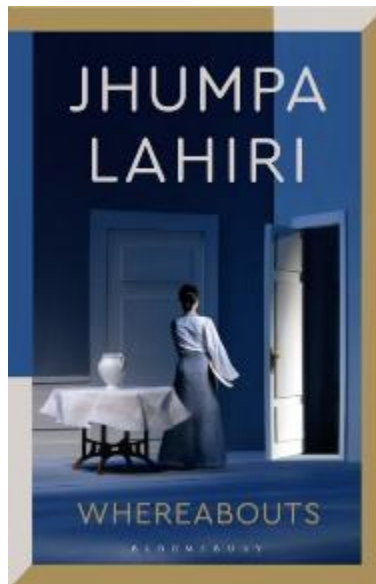
- ❖ Odisha's blackbuck population has doubled in the last six years.
- ❖ It was according to figures from the latest population census released recently by the chief conservator of forest (wildlife).
- ❖ Blackbucks are found only in the Ganjam district in the southern part of the Odisha state.
- ❖ Blackbuck is considered as 'Vulnerable' according to the Red Data Book.
- ❖ The blackbuck is known in Odisha and Ganjam as Krushnasara Mruga.



## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

### Whereabouts - Jhumpa Lahiri

- ❖ Renowned American author Jhumpa Lahiri has launched her new novel titled “Whereabouts”.
- ❖ The book is an English translation of the Italian novel ‘Ias Dove Mi Trovo’.
- ❖ That was written by the author Jhumpa Lahiri itself.
- ❖ It was published in 2018.



### Oscars 2021

- ❖ The 93rd Academy Awards were held on April 25.
- ❖ The ceremony was broadcast from two locations in Los Angeles, The Dolby Theatre and Union Station.
- ❖ Nomadland won big at the Oscars as it won the Best Picture, Best Director (Chloe Zhao, Nomadland - winner) and Best Actress (Frances McDormand) awards.
- ❖ Anthony Hopkins won the Best Actor for The Father.
- ❖ David Fincher's Mank took home awards for cinematography and production design.

### Michael Collins passes away

- ❖ The American astronaut, Michael Collins, who was the command module pilot for the Apollo 11 mission to the moon, has passed away.



- ❖ He died at the age of 90.
- ❖ During the three-man Apollo 11 crew mission in 1969, Collins kept the command module flying while the other two members, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans to walk on the moon.
- ❖ He stayed alone in the command module for twenty-one hours till his colleagues returned.
- ❖ The Autobiography written by Michael was “Carrying the Fire”.



### **Soli Jehangir Sorabjee passes away**

- ❖ Soli Jehangir Sorabjee, a veteran lawyer, former Attorney General of India passed away recently.
- ❖ He served as Attorney-General for India from 1989 to 1990, and again from 1998 to 2004.
- ❖ He was a Padma Vibhushan recipient (2002).
- ❖ He passed away at the age of 91.



### **Order of Rising Sun award**

- ❖ The Japanese Government recently awarded the “Order of Rising Sun” to a Bengaluru based Japanese teacher, Shyamala Ganesh.
- ❖ The award is presented to those who have made distinguished achievements in promotion of Japanese culture, achievements in international relations, advancements in their field and conservation of environment.
- ❖ It is the third highest award presented by the Japanese Government.

### **400<sup>th</sup> Prakash Purab of Guru Tegh Bahadur**

- ❖ On May 1, 2021, India celebrated the four hundredth Prakash Purab of Guru Tegh Bahadur.
- ❖ He was the ninth Sikh Guru.
- ❖ He was born in Amritsar, Punjab in 1621.
- ❖ He was the youngest son of Guru Hargobind Sahib.
- ❖ He wrote 115 hymns that were included in Guru Granth Sahib.



- ❖ Guru Tegh Bahadur was executed on the orders of Aurangzeb.
- ❖ The Gurudwara Sis Ganj Sahib marks the execution place of Guru Tegh Bahadur.
- ❖ The Gurudwara Rakab Ganj Sahib marks the cremation place of Guru tegh Bahadur.
- ❖ His martyrdom is commemorated as Shaheedi Divas of Guru Tegh Bahadur.
- ❖ It is commemorated on 24th November every year.

### **Justice Prafulla Chandra Pant**

- ❖ The National Human Rights Commission member, Justice (retired) Prafulla Chandra Pant had been appointed as the acting chairperson of the Commission with effect from April 25.

- ❖ A former Supreme Court judge, Justice Pant was appointed member of the NHRC on April 22, 2019.
- ❖ The post of a chairperson has been vacant since Justice H.L. Dattu.
- ❖ H.L. Dattu is a former Chief Justice of India who completed his tenure on December 2, 2020.

### **Chandro Tomar**

- ❖ Shooter Chandro Tomar, nicknamed 'Shooter Dadi', passed away at the age of 89.
- ❖ Tomar was 60-plus when she picked up the gun for the first time but went on to win many national competitions for veterans.
- ❖ The Award-winning Bollywood movie 'Saand ki Aankh' is based on the lives of sharpshooters Chandro Tomar and Prakashshi Tomar.



### **UNESCO World Press Freedom Prize 2021**

- ❖ Maria Ressa has been named as the 2021 laureate of the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.
- ❖ The \$25,000 prize "recognizes outstanding contributions to the defence or promotion of press freedom especially in the face of danger," according to UNESCO.
- ❖ The prize was named after Guillermo Cano Isaza, the Colombian journalist.

### **V Kalyanam passed away**

- ❖ Mahatma Gandhi's former personal secretary V Kalyanam passed away.
- ❖ He was Gandhi's personal secretary from 1943 to 1948, when the Mahatma was assassinated.

- ❖ Kalyanam was preserving letters written by Gandhiji, a cheque bearing his sign and other literature associated with him.
- ❖ He was proficient in Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Tamil and English.
- ❖ He was a staunch follower of Mahatma Gandhi.
- ❖ He was also associated with Rajaji in the 1960s.



### **Arline Pacht Global Vision Award for 2021**

- ❖ Former Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir High Court, Justice Gita Mittal, has been declared as one of the two recipients of the Arline Pacht Global Vision Award for 2021.
- ❖ The Award was presented at IAWJ's Biennial Conference during the virtual opening ceremony held on May 7, 2021.
- ❖ She shares the honour with Margarita Luna Ramos from Mexico.
- ❖ International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) instituted this award in 2016.
- ❖ Justice Mittal would be the first Indian judge to receive the award.
- ❖ Award is presented to a sitting/retired woman judge to recognize her contribution to IAWJ.





### **Dr Philipose Mar Chrysostom passed away**

- ❖ Former head of the Kerala's Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church and the longest-serving bishop in India Dr Philipose Mar Chrysostom died recently.
- ❖ He was 103.
- ❖ Mar Chrysostom was awarded Padma Bhushan by President Ram Nath Kovind in 2018.
- ❖ He was a bishop for 68 years.



### **Kami Rita Sherpa**

- ❖ A 52-year-old Nepali Climber Kami Rita Sherpa climbed the world's highest peak, Mt Everest, for the 25th time.
- ❖ He breaks his own record for summiting the mountain most number of times.
- ❖ Kami had climbed Mt Everest for the 24th time in 2019.
- ❖ Kami had climbed Mt Everest for the first time in May 1994.



### **Anupam Kher - Best Actor award**

- ❖ Anupam Kher won the Best Actor award for his performance in the short film Happy Birthday at the New York City International Film Festival.
- ❖ The film has been directed by Prasad Kadam and produced by FNP Media.
- ❖ The film also won the Best Short Film award at the festival.

### **Manoj Das International Literary Award**

- ❖ Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced that the state government will present 'Manoj Das International Literary Award' in memory of eminent litterateur Manoj Das.
- ❖ The award will be conferred on litterateurs from Odisha for their creative contribution to English literature every year.
- ❖ High school students will be presented 'Manoj-Kishore Literary Talent Award' for their creative works in order to develop interest among youths in both Odia and English literature.
- ❖ Manoj Das was an eminent Indian author who wrote both in Odia and English language.
- ❖ He was recently passed away at the age of 87.

### **K R Gouri Amma passed away**

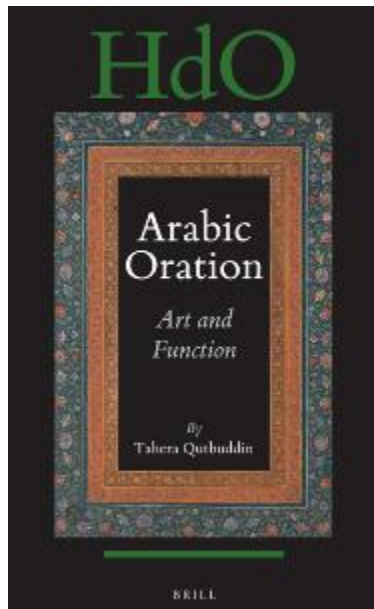
- ❖ A former minister and an old-time communist leader K R Gouri Amma passed away in Thiruvananthapuram.
- ❖ She was born on July 14, 1919 in Alappuzha district.
- ❖ In 1957, when the first election to Kerala Assembly was conducted, Gouri Amma became the first revenue minister of the state.
- ❖ She had contested 17 elections in her life, and had won 13 of them.
- ❖ She held ministerial posts in six governments.





### 15<sup>th</sup> Sheikh Zayed Book Award

- ❖ Mumbai born, Dr Tahera Qutbuddin is a professor of Arabic Literature at the University of Chicago.
- ❖ She became the first person of Indian-origin to win the 15th Sheikh Zayed Book Award.
- ❖ The award is considered to be the Nobel Prize of the Arab world.
- ❖ She won the award for her latest book, “Arabic Oration – Art and Function”
- ❖ It was published by Brill Academic Publishers of Leiden in 2019.



### 2021 World Food Prize

- ❖ Dr Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted, has won the prestigious 2021 World Food Prize.
- ❖ She is a global nutrition expert of Indian descent.
- ❖ She received this award for her ground breaking research in developing holistic, nutrition-sensitive approaches to aquaculture and food systems.
- ❖ World Food Prize is an award that aims to recognise achievements made in the field of food and agriculture.
- ❖ World Food Prize last year was also awarded to a person of Indian origin.
- ❖ In 2020, the World Food Prize was won by Dr. Rattan Lal who was born and brought up in India.
- ❖ He received the prize for his soil-centric approach to increase food production while conserving natural resources and tackling climate change.

- ❖ The World Food Prize was created by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Norman Borlaug in 1986.
- ❖ At present, it is given by the World Food Prize Foundation.



### **Nuklu Phom - Whitley Award**

- ❖ In 2021, the Whitley Award was won by Nuklu Phom of Nagaland.
- ❖ He is the only Indian to receive the award.
- ❖ Nuklu Phom is popularly known as the “Amur Falcon Man of Nagaland”.
- ❖ Whitley Awards are called “Green Oscar”.
- ❖ Whitley Awards are presented annually by the Whitley Fund for Nature.
- ❖ It is presented to recognise grass root level conservation leaders.



### **V. Chandrasekar passed away**

- ❖ Three-time National table tennis champion and former International paddler V. Chandrasekar passed away recently.
- ❖ He was the current president of Tamizhaga Table Tennis Association.

- ❖ He is a 1982 Arjuna Award winner.
- ❖ Chandrashekhar with the help of Seetha Srikanth, wrote his autobiography 'My fightback from Death's Door'.

### **Jacinda Ardern**

- ❖ New Zealand Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern has topped the World's 50 Greatest Leaders' list for 2021.
- ❖ The list was released by Fortune Magazine.
- ❖ The 'World's 50 Greatest Leaders' list for 2021 is the eighth edition of the annual list.
- ❖ This celebrates leaders, some well-known and others who aren't so familiar, who made a difference amid the "truly unprecedented times" of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ❖ Adar Poonawalla, the chief executive officer (CEO) of Serum Institute of India (SII) is the only Indian among the top 10 names.
- ❖ He is placed in the 10th spot.

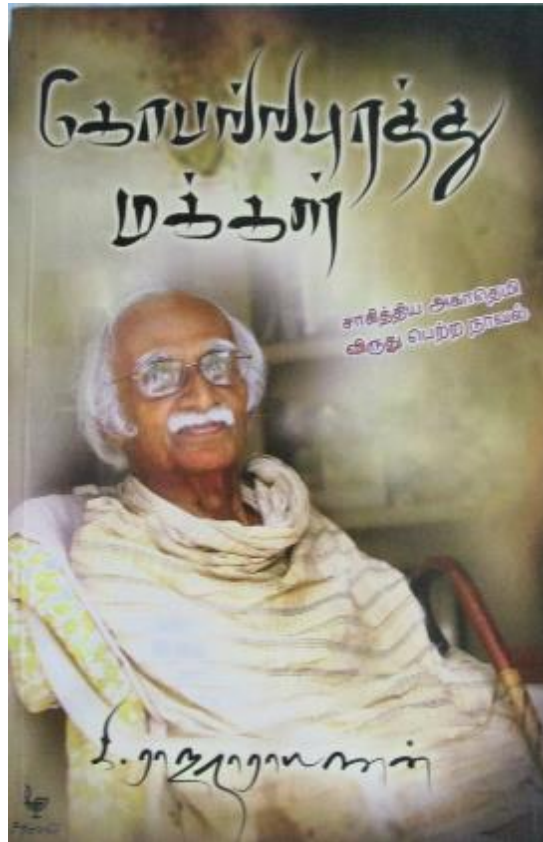


### **Mingma Tenji Sherpa**

- ❖ Nepali climber makes world record by scaling Mt Everest twice in shortest span of time in a season
- ❖ Mingma Tenji Sherpa, first reached the summit of the Everest in the evening of May 7.
- ❖ Then scaled the world's highest mountain again on the morning of May 11.

### **Writer Ki. Rajanarayanan**

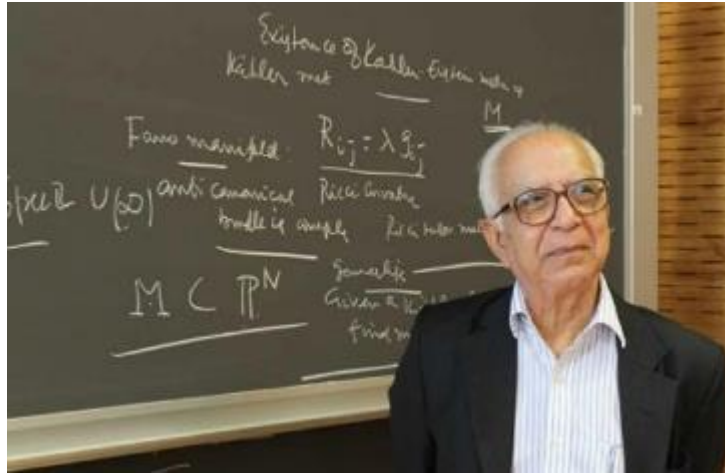
- ❖ Ki. Rajanarayanan the grand old man of modern Tamil literature and winner of Sahitya Akademi award in Tamil, died recently.
- ❖ He was 98.
- ❖ Born in Idaiseval near Kovilpatti, he was popularly known as Ki.Ra.
- ❖ His first short story 'Mayamaan' was published in 1959 in the magazine 'Saraswathi.'
- ❖ He won the Sahitya Akademi award in 1991 for his novel 'Gopallapurathu Makkal'.
- ❖ Ki.Ra's first novel was 'Gopallagramam'.
- ❖ His other works Karisal Kaatu Kaduthaasi and Andaman Naicker also demands mention.



### **Professor MS Narasimhan**

- ❖ Noted Indian mathematician, Professor MS Narasimhan has passed away.
- ❖ Professor Narasimhan, along with C. S. Seshadri, were known for their proof of the Narasimhan-Seshadri theorem.

- ❖ He is the only Indian to receive the King Faisal International Prize in the field of science.



### **International Invincible Gold Medal**

- ❖ International Invincible Gold Medal of this year has been conferred on Union Education Minister Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank.
- ❖ He has been recognised for his extraordinary commitment and outstanding service to humanity through his writings, social and illustrious public life.
- ❖ This honour will be given by the worldwide Maharishi Organization & its universities.

### **First Indian Women to scale Mount Pumori**

- ❖ Baljeet Kaur and Gunbala Sharma have become The First Indian Women Mountaineers to Summit Mount Pumori in Nepal.
- ❖ The two women are also the first ones to scale a mountain that is a part of the Everest Massif.
- ❖ Everest Massif is formed by four peaks- Mount Pumori (7,161m), Mount Nuptse (7,862 m), Mount Lhotse (8,516m) and Mount Everest (8,848.86m) together.
- ❖ Mount Pumori and Mount Nuptse are considered to be the toughest mountains to summit in the world.

### **World Choreography Award 2020**

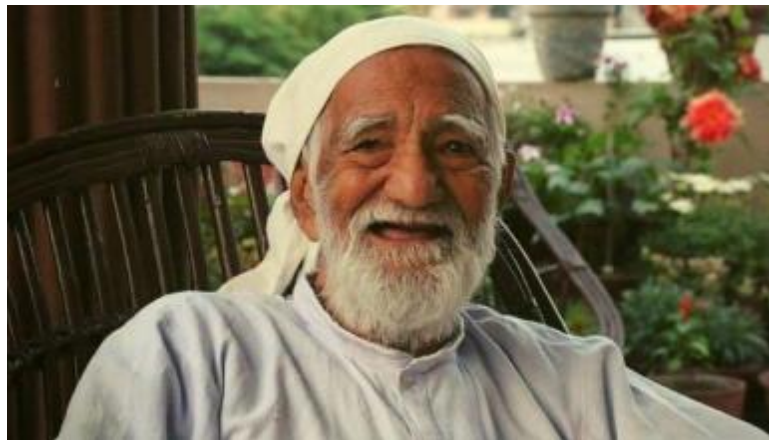
- ❖ The Emmy Award-nominated Indian choreographer Suresh Mukund, has won the 10th Annual 'World Choreography Award 2020', (also known as Choreo Awards).



- ❖ He becomes the first Indian to win the prestigious honour.
- ❖ He won the award in the 'TV REALITY SHOW/COMPETITION' category, for his work on the hit American TV reality show 'World of Dance'.
- ❖ Mukund is the director and choreographer of the Indian dance crew 'The Kings', which won the 2019 season of World of Dance.
- ❖ The World Choreography Awards, famously known as the "Oscars of Dance", takes place every year, in Los Angeles.

### **Sunderlal Bahuguna passes away**

- ❖ Noted environmentalist and Padma Vibhushan Sunderlal Bahuguna, died recently.
- ❖ Sunderlal Bahuguna, was one among leaders leading the chipko movement.
- ❖ Sunderlal Bahuguna was a life-long environmentalist and was credited for founding the Chipko movement.
- ❖ Chipko movement was a grassroots movement that swept through the Garhwal region in the 1970s with villagers hugging trees to stop them from being axed.
- ❖ Later in 1990s, he spearheaded the Anti-Tehri Dam movement and even went to jail for it in 1995.



### **2021 Templeton Prize**

- ❖ The John Templeton Foundation has awarded the 2021 Templeton Prize to world-renowned ethologist and conservationist Jane Goodall.
- ❖ She is the first ethologist and the fourth woman to receive the prize since its inception in 1972.
- ❖ She receives this award for her ground breaking discoveries that have changed humanity's understanding of its role in the natural world.





### **Etienne Glichitch Award**

- ❖ Hockey India has won the prestigious Etienne Glichitch Award.
- ❖ It is given in recognition of its contribution to the growth and development of the sport in the country.
- ❖ The awards were announced by the game's governing body FIH during the Hockey Invites virtual conference.
- ❖ It was part of its 47th FIH Congress which concluded with the FIH Honorary Awards.

### **Narinder Batra**

- ❖ Narinder Batra has been re-elected as the President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) for the second consecutive term.
- ❖ He was elected during the virtual 47th Congress of FIH.
- ❖ He will hold the office till 2024 as FIH has reduced the term from 4 to 3 years.
- ❖ He is also the President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and a Member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

### **India Biodiversity Awards 2021**

- ❖ India Biodiversity Awards 2021 were presented on the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity on May 22.
- ❖ Krishi Avam Paristhitiki Vikas Sansthan (KRAPAVIS) won the award under the category 'Sustainable Use of Biological Resources.'
- ❖ Shaji N.M., who is also called as 'Tuber Man' of Kerala has won in individual category of 'Conservation of domesticated species.'

- ❖ Khonoma Nature Conservation & Tragopan Sanctuary (KNCTS) in Nagaland won the award under ‘Sustainable Use of Biological Resources’ category.
- ❖ The India Biodiversity Awards initiative was started jointly by ministry of environment, forest & climate change; National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2012.

### **Yuan Longping**



- ❖ Yuan Longping, a Chinese agricultural scientist died at age of 91.
- ❖ Yuan is celebrated in China as the “father of hybrid rice” for his contributions to agriculture.
- ❖ In 1970s, he developed “the first hybrid rice combination called Nan-you No.2
- ❖ In 2004, he was honoured with the World Food Prize.
- ❖ The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation honoured him with a prize in 2001.

### **Olympic sprinter Lee Evans passes away**



- ❖ Lee Evans was the record-setting sprinter
- ❖ He wore a black beret in a sign of protest at the 1968 Olympics.
- ❖ He went onto a life of humanitarian work in support of social justice.
- ❖ Evans became the first man to crack 44 seconds in the 400 meters, winning the gold medal at the Mexico City Games in 43.86.

### **SpiceHealth wins Gold Stevie Award 2021**

- ❖ SpiceHealth has won the Gold Award at the 2021 Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards.
- ❖ SpiceHealth is a healthcare company founded by the promoters of SpiceJet.
- ❖ It has won the award for 'Most Valuable Medical Innovation' under Covid19.



### **ONV award - Vairamuthu.**

- ❖ ONV award for this year was conferred on Tamil poet and lyricist Vairamuthu.
- ❖ ONV award is instituted by ONV cultural academy in memory of late poet ONV Kurup
- ❖ It is given to litterateurs from Malayalam and other Indian languages.
- ❖ This is for the first time a non-Keralite writer has been chosen for ONV award.

### **First woman flight test engineer**



- ❖ Squadron Leader, Aashritha V Olety is the first and only woman in the IAF qualified for the role, and as a flight test engineer.
- ❖ She will be responsible for evaluating aircraft and airborne systems before their induction into the armed forces.
- ❖ Aashritha V Olety, a native of Karnataka, has graduated as part of the 43rd Flight Test Course.

## **SPORTS**

### **World Snooker Champion**



- ❖ In Snooker, English professional player Mark Selby has become the World Snooker Champion for the fourth time.
- ❖ He won the Championship title after defeating fellow mate Shaun Murphy at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, England.
- ❖ Prior to this, Selby won the Championship title in 2014, 2016, 2017.

### Arzan Nagwaswalla

- ❖ Arzan Nagwaswalla has been picked as a reserve player in the Indian Test squad named for the World Test Championship final against New Zealand in Southampton.
- ❖ He is a 23-year-old left-arm seamer from Gujarat.
- ❖ Arzan Rohinton Nagwaswalla is hailing from a Parsi community in a village near the Maharashtra border.
- ❖ He becomes the first Parsi cricketer to break into the national team since 1975.



### 2021 Laureus World Sports Awards

#### 2021 Laureus World Sports Awards

Sportsman of the Year Award: Rafael Nadal  
Sportswoman of the Year Award: Naomi Osaka  
Team of the Year Award: Bayern Munich  
Breakthrough of the Year Award: Patrick Mahomes  
The comeback of the Year Award: Max Parrot  
Sport for Good Award: KICKFORMORE by KICKFAIR  
Lifetime Achievement Award: Billie Jean King  
Athlete Advocate of the Year Award: Lewis Hamilton  
Sporting Inspiration Award: Mohamed Salah  
Sporting Moment of the Year Award: Chris Nikic

- ❖ Naomi Osaka of Japan has been named “Sportswoman of the Year” at the 2021 Laureus World Sports Awards.
- ❖ This is Osaka’s second Laureus Sports Awards.
- ❖ In 2019, she won the “Breakthrough of the Year” award.



- ❖ In the men's category, Rafael Nadal of Spain won the 2021 "Laureus Sportsman of the Year" title.
- ❖ This is the second title for Nadal, who also claimed the prestigious award in 2011.

### **National task force to allocate medical oxygen**

- ❖ The Supreme Court of India constituted a 12-member national task force that would assist with formulating a methodology for the allocation of medical oxygen to states and union territories during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ The tenure of the task force has been set six months initially.
- ❖ The Centre has been asked to nominate two nodal officers.
- ❖ The nodal officers will be responsible for logistics, communication, and arrangement of virtual meetings of the task force.

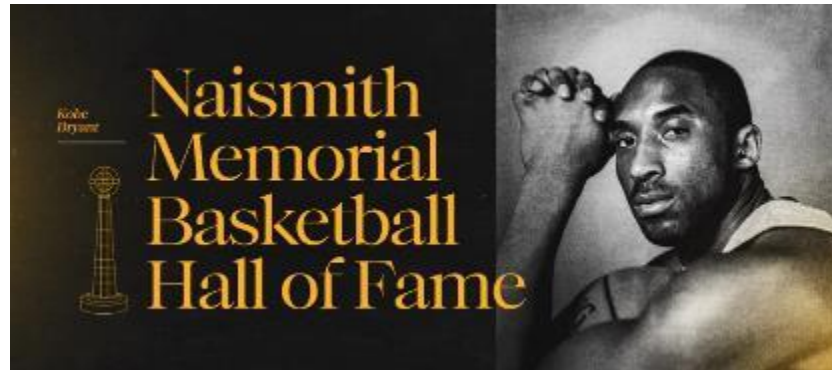
### **Italian Open 2021**

- ❖ Italian Open 2021 was won by Rafael Nadal.
- ❖ This is his tenth title of the Rome Masters.
- ❖ The Finals was held between Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic.
- ❖ It is also known as Rome Masters.
- ❖ Italian Open is a clay tennis tournament.
- ❖ Rafael Nadal is a Spanish Tennis player.
- ❖ He has won twenty Grand Slams, thirteen French Open titles so far.
- ❖ His record of winning has been maximum in clay courts.





### **Kobe Bryant - Hall of Fame**



- ❖ Los Angeles Lakers legend, Kobe Bryant has been posthumously inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.
- ❖ Bryant retired in 2016.
- ❖ The five-time NBA champion died, aged 41, in a helicopter crash in January 2020.

### **2022 FIFA under-17 Women's World Cup**

- ❖ India is all set to host "2022 FIFA under-17 Women's World Cup" from October 11 to 30, 2022.
- ❖ It will be the second FIFA tournament to be hosted by India.
- ❖ Earlier, India had to organise 2021 Under-17 Women's World Cup but it was cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic.
- ❖ India had also hosted FIFA under-17 World Cup in 2017.

### **The Target Olympic Podium Scheme**



- ❖ The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India reported that five athletes have been included in the core group of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS).

- ❖ They are,
  - Tennis player Ankita Raina,
  - Wrestlers Sumit Malik & Seema Bisla, and
  - Rowers Arvind Singh & Arjun Lal Jat.
- ❖ The Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) was launched in 2014 under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS), Government of India.
- ❖ It is used to aid India's top athletes with financial assistance to win medals at the 2016 Rio and 2020 Tokyo Olympics and international sport events.

### **2021 PGA Championship**

- ❖ American professional golfer, Phil Mickelson has created history by winning the 2021 PGA Championship, at the age of 50.
- ❖ With this victory, Mickelson became the oldest player to win a major title in the history of the PGA Tour.
- ❖ This is his sixth major title.



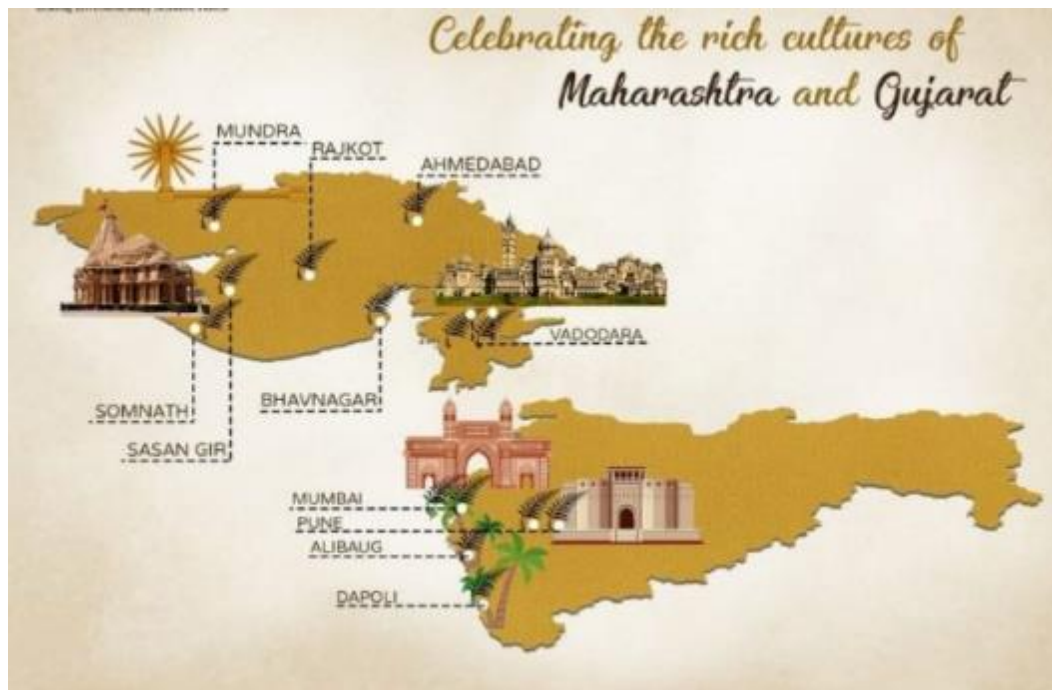
### **Tsang Yin-hung**

- ❖ Hong Kong mountaineer, Tsang Yin-hung, recorded “world’s fastest ascent of Everest by a woman” in just 26 hours.
- ❖ Tsang climbed 8,848.86-metre mountain in a record time of 25 hours and 50 minutes in her third attempt.
- ❖ Earlier in 2017, Tsang became first Hong Kong woman to climb the top.
- ❖ She broke the earlier record of Nepali woman Phunjo Jhangmu Lama completed the climb in 39 hours 6 minutes.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### **Maharashtra and Gujarat Day - May 01**





- ❖ May 1 is celebrated as ‘Maharashtra Day’ and ‘Gujarat Day’.
- ❖ In 1960, the Bombay Reorganization Act was passed by India’s Parliament to divide the multilingual state of Bombay into Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- ❖ The legislation came into effect on May 1, 1960.
- ❖ The state of Bombay formerly comprised of speakers of different languages such as Marathi, Gujarati, Konkani, and Kutchi.
- ❖ During the mid-1950s, a movement known as the Samyukta Maharashtra Andolan started demanding a separate Marathi-speaking state.
- ❖ While Mahagujarat Movement aimed at the formation of a state for Gujarati-speaking people.
- ❖ The movements ended with the creation of the Bombay Reorganization Act.

### **International Labour Day – May 01**

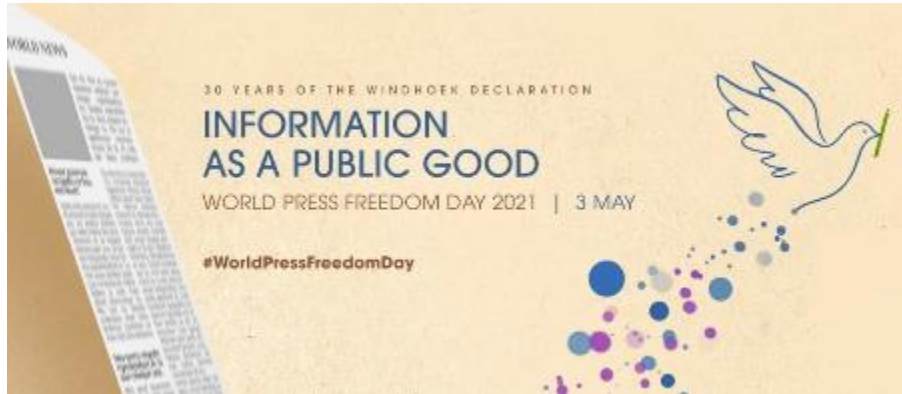
- ❖ May Day is also called International Workers’ Day or Labour Day.
- ❖ The day celebrates the struggle, dedication and commitment of the working class and is an annual public holiday in several countries.
- ❖ On 1 May 1886, Chicago and a few other cities of USA were the sites of a major union demonstration in support of the eight-hour workday demand.
- ❖ In 1889, the International Socialist Conference declared that in commemoration of the Haymarket affair, 1 May would be an international holiday for the labour force (International Workers’ Day).
- ❖ The first Labour Day in India was hosted by the Labour Kisan Party, started by Singaravelu Chettiar, in Madras in 1923.
- ❖ It was initiated from the Labour Union Movement.

### **World Laughter Day - May 02**

- ❖ World Laughter Day is celebrated on the first Sunday of May every year.
- ❖ It is a day to raise awareness about laughter and its many healing benefits.
- ❖ In 2021, the day falls on 02 May 2021.
- ❖ World Laughter Day was first celebrated on May 10, 1998, in Mumbai upon the initiation of Dr Madan Kataria, founder of the worldwide Laughter Yoga movement.

### **World Press Freedom Day - May 03**

- ❖ World Press Freedom Day is also known as World Press Day.
- ❖ The day also pays tribute to journalists who have lost their lives.
- ❖ This year's World Press Freedom Day theme "Information as a Public Good".



- ❖ The General Assembly in the United Nations established World Freedom Day in 1993 to promote the independence of the Africa Press.
- ❖ This was followed by the Windhoek Declaration that was established to maintain the free press.
- ❖ As the declaration was made on the 3rd of May, hence the special day is observed each year on 3rd May.

### **The International Firefighters' Day - May 04**

- ❖ The International Firefighters' Day is observed every year since 1999.
- ❖ The day is celebrated to recognise and honour the sacrifices that firefighters make to ensure that their communities and environment are as safe as possible.
- ❖ The day was instituted, after the deaths of five firefighters in tragic circumstances in a bushfire in Australia on 2 December 1998.

### **World Asthma Day - May 04**

- ❖ World Asthma Day is observed every year on the 1st Tuesday of May.
- ❖ This year, World Asthma Day is observed on May 4, 2021.
- ❖ The day spread awareness about asthma disease and care around the world.
- ❖ The theme for 2021 World Asthma Day is "Uncovering Asthma Misconceptions".
- ❖ World Asthma Day is annually organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA).



- ❖ In 1998, the first World Asthma Day was celebrated in more than 35 countries in conjunction with the first World Asthma Meeting in Barcelona, Spain.



### **World Hand Hygiene Day - May 05**



- ❖ The day is organised by the World Health Organization.
- ❖ The day is observed to raise awareness among people across the globe about the importance of hand hygiene in warding off many serious infections.
- ❖ The theme for 2021 is 'Seconds Save Lives: Clean Your Hands'.

### **International Midwives day - May 05**

- ❖ International Day of the Midwife is observed globally every year since 1992.
- ❖ This day is celebrated to recognise the work of midwives and raise awareness about the status of midwives for the essential care they provide to mothers and their newborns.
- ❖ The theme for 2021 International Day of the Midwife is "Follow the Data: Invest in Midwives."
- ❖ The idea of having a day to recognize and honour midwives came out of the 1987 International Confederation of Midwives conference in the Netherlands.





### **International No Diet Day - May 06**

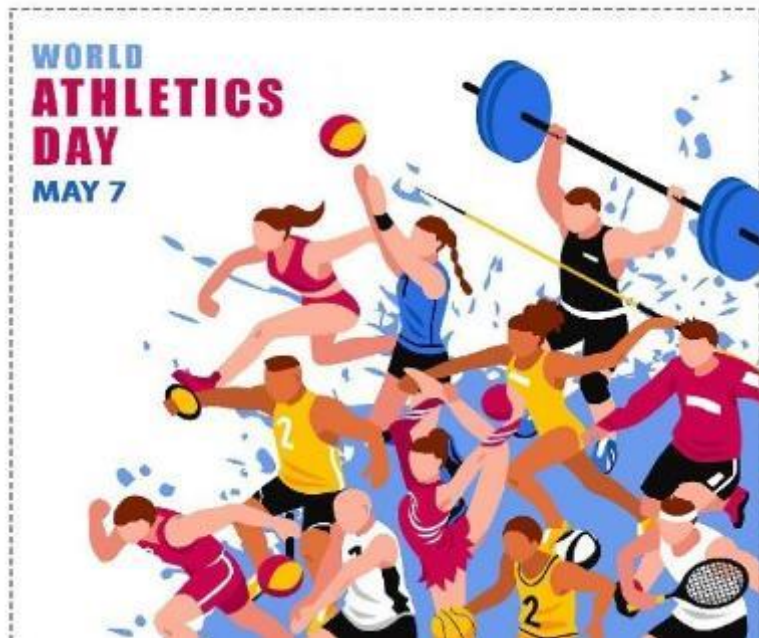
- ❖ The symbol of International No Diet Day is a light blue ribbon.
- ❖ It is an annual celebration of body acceptance, including fat acceptance and body shape diversity.
- ❖ The day is dedicated to promoting a healthy lifestyle with a focus on health at any size and in raising awareness of the potential dangers of dieting and the unlikelihood of success.

### **World Portuguese Language Day - May 05**

- ❖ This day (May 05) was officially established in 2009 as "World Portuguese Language Day" by the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries.
- ❖ CPLP is an intergovernmental organization that has been in official partnership with UNESCO since 2000.
- ❖ In 2019, the 40<sup>th</sup> session of UNESCO's General Conference decided to proclaim 5<sup>th</sup> May of each year as "World Portuguese Language Day".

### **World Athletics Day - May 07**

- ❖ The World Athletics Day-2021 is observed on the 7<sup>th</sup> May.
- ❖ The date is subject to adjustment.
- ❖ The date of World Athletics Day is decided by the IAAF.
- ❖ However, the month stays the same as May.
- ❖ The first World Athletics Day was observed in 1996.
- ❖ The basic objective is to boost the participation of youths in athletics.



### **BRO 61<sup>st</sup> raising day - May 07**

- ❖ The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) was formed on 7 May 1960.
- ❖ It was formed with the primary goal of securing India's borders and developing infrastructure in remote areas of India's north and north eastern states.
- ❖ On 7 May 2021 BRO celebrated its 61st Raising Day (foundation day).

#### **BRO**

- ❖ It is a leading road construction agency under the Ministry of Defence.
- ❖ Its primary role is to provide road connectivity in India's border areas.
- ❖ It also creates upgrades and maintains infrastructure along borders to meet India's overall tactical and strategic goals.

### **World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day - May 08**

- ❖ The World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is observed every year to celebrate the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
- ❖ It is observed to reduce the suffering of people and enabling them to lead a dignified life with independence, humanity, impartiality, universality, unity and neutrality.
- ❖ Theme 2021 World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day: 'Unstoppable'
- ❖ The day also marks the anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant (8 May 1828).

- ❖ Henry Dunant was the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
- ❖ He was the recipient of the first Nobel Peace Prize.
- ❖ The Headquarters of ICRC is in Geneva, Switzerland.



### **World Thalassaemia Day - May 08**



- ❖ World Thalassaemia Day is celebrated every year to commemorate Thalassaemia victims and to encourage those who struggle to live with the disease.
- ❖ The theme for 2021 World Thalassaemia Day is “Addressing Health Inequalities Across the Global Thalassaemia Community”.
- ❖ Thalassaemia is an inherited blood disorder that is characterised by less haemoglobin and lesser than normal blood cells.

### **International Day of Argania - May 10**

- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed this day in 2021.
- ❖ The resolution, submitted by Morocco, was co-sponsored by 113 member states of the United Nations and adopted by consensus.
- ❖ The argan tree (*Argania Spinosa*) is a native species of the sub-Saharan region of Morocco, in the southwest of the country, which grows in arid and semiarid areas.
- ❖ The argan tree is typically a multipurpose tree that supports income generation, increases resilience and improves climate adaptation.
- ❖ It plays a very important role in achieving the three dimensions of sustainable development at the local level (economic, social and environmental).

### **National Technology Day - May 11**

- ❖ Every year, Ministry of Science and Technology organises several events across the country to celebrate this day.
- ❖ Theme for this year is 'Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future'.
- ❖ The National Technology Day is celebrated in India for two reasons namely:
  - To mark the anniversary of Pokhran Nuclear tests that were conducted in 1998 and
  - To highlight the importance of technological advancements for the country.



### **International Nurses Day - May 12**

- ❖ International Nurses Day is observed every year to honour nurses.
- ❖ The celebration of International Nurses Day started in 1965 by the International Council of Nurses (ICN).
- ❖ This day is the birth anniversary of the famous Florence Nightingale.
- ❖ She was an English nurse, social reformer, and statistician.

- ❖ The theme for this year is 'A Voice to Lead-A Vision for Future Healthcare'.



### **International Day of Families - May 15**

- ❖ The International Day of Families is observed every year to reflect the importance that the international community attaches to families.
- ❖ This day provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase the knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting families.
- ❖ The theme of 2021 is “Families and New Technologies”.
- ❖ In 1993, the UN General Assembly decided in a resolution that 15 May of every year should be observed as The International Day of Families.



### **World Agri-Tourism Day - May 16**

- ❖ This year, on the fourteenth World Agri-Tourism Day, Government of Maharashtra, Agri-Tourism Development Corporation is to organise International Conference on Agri-Tourism.
- ❖ The theme for 2021 is 'Rural Women Sustainable Entrepreneurship Opportunities through Agri Tourism'.

#### ***Maharashtra in Agri-Tourism***

- ❖ Maharashtra is the pioneer state to develop and promote Agri-tourism in the country.
- ❖ In September 2020, Maharashtra passed Agro-Tourism policy.



- ❖ This aims to provide the tourists the pleasure of farming and also help increase farmer income.

### **Agri-Tourism**

- ❖ In Agri-Tourism the urban tourists stay in farmers home.
- ❖ During their stay they engage in farming activities, tractor ride, bullock cart ride.
- ❖ They buy fresh farm produce.
- ❖ This acts as an additional income for the farmers.



### **Sikkim Statehood Day - May 16**

- ❖ Sikkim joined the Union of India on May 16, 1975.
- ❖ Since then, every year the Sikkim Statehood Day is celebrated on May 16.
- ❖ In 1950, the Indo-Sikkimese treaty was signed.
- ❖ With this, Sikkim became a protectorate of India.
- ❖ The Namgyal dynasty ruled Sikkim till 1975.
- ❖ The Indian Parliament laid down conditions in its 35th amendment that made Sikkim an "Associate State".
- ❖ Sikkim is the only state to get this designation.
- ❖ The 36th amendment repealed the 35th amendment and made Sikkim a full state.

### **National Dengue Day - May 16**

- ❖ In India, the National Dengue Day is observed to raise awareness about dengue and its preventive measures.
- ❖ The day is an initiative by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.



- ❖ Dengue is spread through the bite of the female mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*).



### **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day - May 17**

- ❖ The day marks the anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention and the establishment of the International Telecommunication Union.
- ❖ The day is celebrated to raise awareness about the importance of communication and focuses on increasing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- ❖ The day also focuses on how information travels across the world.
- ❖ The theme for 2021 is "Accelerating digital transformation in challenging times."



### **World Hypertension Day - May 17**

- ❖ It is celebrated by World Hypertension League annually.
- ❖ It is observed to spread awareness about hypertension disease, its prevention, detection, and control.
- ❖ The main risk factor to develop cardiovascular disease is high blood pressure.

- ❖ WHD was first inaugurated in May 2005.
- ❖ Hypertension is also known as a silent killer.
- ❖ The theme of World Hypertension Day 2021 is "Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer."

**Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately,  
Control It, Live Longer!**

To mark **World Hypertension Day 2021**, let us celebrate the successes of HEARTS

### **UN Global Traffic Safety Week (May 17 - 23)**



- ❖ The 6th UN Global Traffic Safety Week calls for 30 km/h (20 mph) speed limits to be the norm for cities, towns and villages worldwide.
- ❖ UN Global Road Safety Week is a biennial global road safety campaign hosted by WHO.
- ❖ The theme for the 6th UNGRSW is Streets for Life.
- ❖ The tagline is #Love30.
- ❖ This safety week programme aims to raise awareness of road safety and make changes that will reduce the number of road deaths.

### **International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia - May 17**

- ❖ The day aims to increase awareness against discrimination, violence and repression of LGBT communities worldwide.
- ❖ Homophobia is dislike against gay people.

- ❖ Transphobia is the dislike against the transgender people.
- ❖ Biphobia is the dislike against the bisexual people.
- ❖ Louis-Georges Tin is the founder of International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia.

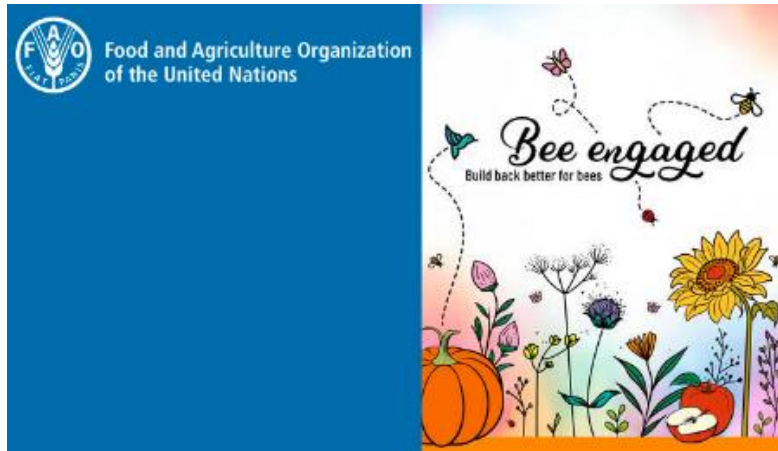


### **International Museum Day - May 18**

- ❖ International Museum Day is observed on May 18 every year to raise awareness among people about the museums.
- ❖ Museums are an important means of cultural exchange and the development of mutual understanding, cooperation, and peace among people.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2021 is “The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine.”



## **World Bee Day - May 20**



- ❖ On this date, 20 May, the pioneer of beekeeping Anton Janša was born in 1734 in Slovenia.
- ❖ The purpose of the bee day is to acknowledge the role of bees and other pollinators in the ecosystem.
- ❖ About 33% of the world's food production depends on bees thus they are vital for the preservation of biodiversity, ecological balance in nature and helpful in reducing pollution.
- ❖ The theme of World Bee Day 2021 is "Bee engaged: Build Back Better for Bees".

## **International Tea Day - May 21**

- ❖ International Tea Day is observed globally on May 21 the recommendation of India.
- ❖ The purpose of International Tea Day is to try to improve the condition of tea producers and tea workers.
- ❖ The United Nations recognised International Tea Day by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness of the deep cultural and economic significance of tea around the world and promote its importance in fighting hunger and poverty.

## **World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development - May 21**

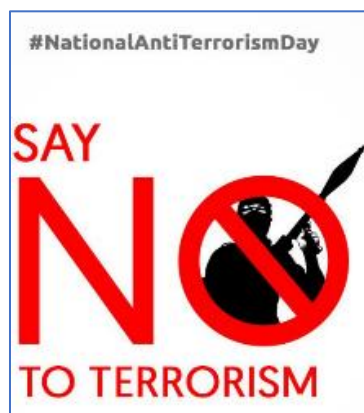
- ❖ World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is observed globally every year.
- ❖ The day aims to celebrate the richness of the world's cultures and highlight the significance of its diversity as an agent of inclusion and positive change for achieving peace and sustainable development.

- ❖ In the year 2001, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) adopted the 'Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity' as a result of the destruction of the Buddha statues of Bamiyan in Afghanistan in 2001.
- ❖ Then in December 2002, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in its resolution 57/249, declared 21 May to be World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development.



### **National Anti-Terrorism Day - May 21**

- ❖ In India, the National Anti-Terrorism Day is observed to commemorate the death anniversary of former Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi.
- ❖ The day is also observed to spread the message of peace, harmony, and humankind and to promote unity among the people.
- ❖ Rajiv Gandhi was India's youngest Prime Minister.
- ❖ He was appointed as the sixth Prime Minister of the country and served the nation from 1984 to 1989.
- ❖ He was assassinated on May 21, 1991, by a human bomb.
- ❖ Under the V.P. Singh government, the centre has decided to observe 21st May as Anti-Terrorism Day.





### **National Endangered Species Day 2021 - May 21**

- ❖ The National Endangered Species Day is celebrated on the third Friday of May every year.
- ❖ This year, National Endangered Species Day will be observed today, May 21, 2021.
- ❖ The day helps us review how many animal species are under the threat of extinction and how the drastic effects of climate change are disturbing the once peaceful ecosystem.



### **World Turtle Day - May 23**

- ❖ World Turtle Day is observed to raise awareness among people about turtle & tortoise and their habitats.
- ❖ Celebration of the day is sponsored by a non-profit organisation “American Tortoise Rescue (ATR)” since 2000.
- ❖ Theme for 2021 is ‘Turtle Rocks!’.
- ❖ “World Turtle Day” term was trademarked by Susan Tellem.

### **International Day to End Obstetric Fistula - May 23**

- ❖ United Nations International Day to End Obstetric Fistula is marked since 2013.
- ❖ It aims to promote action towards treating and preventing obstetric fistula.
- ❖ Obstetric fistula is a condition that affects many girls and women during childbirth in developing countries.
- ❖ The theme for 2021 is “Women’s rights are human rights! End fistula now!”





### **International Missing Children's Day - May 25**

- ❖ International Missing Children's Day is observed globally for
  - missing children who have found their way home,
  - remembering those that are victims of crime,
  - Continuing efforts to seek out those that are still missing.
- ❖ 25 May is now widely referred to as Missing Children's Day, with the forget-me-not flower as its emblem.
- ❖ The day was proclaimed in 1983, by U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

### **World Thyroid Day - May 25**

- ❖ World Thyroid Day is observed to create awareness of the importance of Thyroid and the prevention and treatment of thyroid diseases.
- ❖ This day is established in 2008.
- ❖ The thyroid is a butterfly-shaped gland in the throat that produces T3 (Thyroxine) and T4 (Triiodothyronine).
- ❖ It is maintained by the Thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH).

### **Vesak Day - May 26**

- ❖ Vesak Day 2021 is observed globally on 26 May.
- ❖ Vesak, the Day of Full Moon is the most sacred day to Buddhists all over the world.
- ❖ On this day, Lord Gautham Buddha attained enlightenment.
- ❖ The Day is commemorated by the United Nations every year since 2000.

### **International Day of Action for Women's Health - May 28**

- ❖ International Day of Action for Women's Health is observed globally every year since 1987.
- ❖ The main purpose of this day is to promote the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of all women all over the world.
- ❖ International Day of Action for Women's Health is being coordinated by the Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR).

### **World Menstrual Hygiene Day - May 28**

- ❖ The main idea behind marking this day is to change the social stigma associated with menstruation.
- ❖ The date May 28 was chosen to observe the day because on an average the menstrual cycle for most women is 28 days and the menstruation period for most women is for five days.
- ❖ Hence, the date was kept as 28/5.
- ❖ The theme for this year is: “Action and Investment in Menstrual Hygiene and Health.”

### **World Hunger Day - May 28**

- ❖ World Hunger Day is annually observed across the globe to create awareness about the 815 million people across the globe who are living in chronic hunger.
- ❖ The day also aims to celebrate the sustainable solution to hunger and poverty.
- ❖ The World Hunger Day was the initiative started by The Hunger Project in 2011.
- ❖ The theme of World Hunger Day 2021 is “Access Ends Hunger”.



### **International Everest Day – May 29**

- ❖ International Everest Day is being observed on this day remembering Nepalese Tenzing Norgay and New Zealand's Edmund Hillary who had climbed Mt. Everest.
- ❖ It was on this day in 1953, the humans first achieved this feat.
- ❖ Nepal decided to observe the day as International Everest Day in 2008 when the legendary climber Hillary passed away.

### **Goa Statehood Day - May 30<sup>th</sup>**

- ❖ It was on this day in 1987 Goa became the 25<sup>th</sup> state of the Indian Union.
- ❖ Before this, Goa, along with Daman and Diu, was a union territory.
- ❖ On 19 December 1961, the Indian Army invaded with Operation Vijay on Portuguese resulting in the annexation of Goa, and of Daman and Diu islands into the Indian union.



## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Project DANTAK**

- ❖ The Project completes 60 years in Bhutan.
- ❖ Project DANTAK was established in 1961 under the leadership of the Third King of Bhutan and then Indian Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru.
- ❖ It was established with the objective of developing roads, telecommunication networks and other such landmark infrastructure-related projects in Bhutan.
- ❖ Its nodal agency is Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

### **Ct Value**

- ❖ The Ct Value in a RT-PCR test is cycle Threshold value.
- ❖ This value determines if a patient is COVID-19 positive or not.
- ❖ The ICMR recently announced that the right Ct value for a person to become COVID-19 positive is 35.

- ❖ If the Ct value of a person is less than 35, he is COVID-19 positive.
- ❖ And if it is greater than 35 then he is COVID1-19 negative.

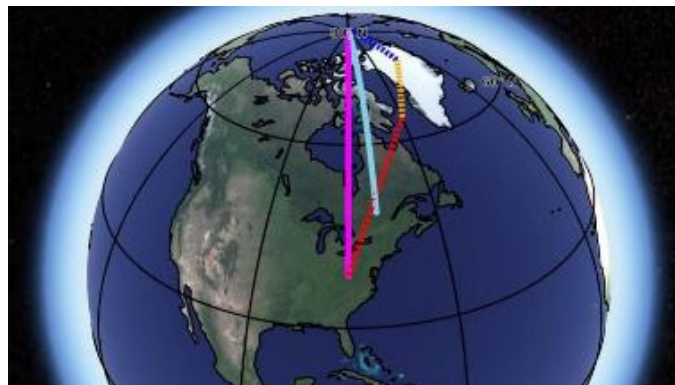
### **Embalmed pregnant woman**

- ❖ The researchers of Poland recently discovered the first embalmed pregnant woman.
- ❖ This is the first time in the history scientists have found a foetus in a mummy.
- ❖ This Mummy was found at the Royal Tombs in Thebes.
- ❖ Thebes is an ancient Egyptian city along the Nile River.
- ❖ It was first brought to Warsaw in 1826.



### **Shift in the Earth's Axis increases**

- ❖ A recent study conducted by the American Geophysical Union has found that the melting glaciers have been increasing the shift of earth axis.
- ❖ According to the new study, climate change has increased the glacial melting and this in turn has caused the earth's poles to move in new directions.



- ❖ NASA says that the spin axis drifted about ten centimetres per year.
- ❖ The shift of the north pole towards the east is mainly because of the changes in the hydrosphere.

### **The SUTRA Model**

- ❖ Scientists from the IITs of Kanpur and Hyderabad have applied the ‘Susceptible, Undetected, Tested (positive), and Removed Approach’ (SUTRA) model to predict the COVID graph in India.
- ❖ The model uses three main parameters to predict the course of the pandemic.
- ❖ The first is called beta, or contact rate, which measures how many people an infected person infects per day.
- ❖ It is related to the R0 value, which is the number of people an infected person spreads the virus to over the course of their infection.
- ❖ The second parameter is ‘reach’ which is a measure of the exposure level of the population to the pandemic.
- ❖ The third is ‘epsilon’ which is the ratio of detected and undetected cases.

### **Snow Leopard habitats**



- ❖ The World Wildlife Fund recently claimed that more than 70% of snow Leopard habitats are unexplored.
- ❖ This was according to its report “A spatially explicit review of the state of knowledge in the snow leopard range”.
- ❖ Most of the snow leopard researches have been conducted by Nepal, India and China followed by Mongolia and Pakistan.
- ❖ There could be only four thousand snow leopards left in the world.
- ❖ They are facing continuous threats due to increased habitat loss and degradation, conflict with communities and poaching.

- ❖ In India, snow leopards are found in Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ Government is running Project Snow Leopard since 2009.

### **White fungus**

- ❖ An infection called white fungus has been found to affect some people.
- ❖ It is more dangerous than black fungus.
- ❖ White fungus infection can be caused due to low immunity, or if people come in contact with things that contain these moulds.
- ❖ Diabetes patients, cancer patients, and those who are taking steroids for a long period of time are more at risk of getting infected.
- ❖ White Fungus is affecting those coronavirus patients who are on oxygen support.
- ❖ It is directly affecting the lungs of these patients.
- ❖ Patients of white fungus show Covid-like symptoms but test negative; the infection can be diagnosed through CT-Scan or X-ray.
- ❖ White fungus can affect the lungs, nails, skin, stomach, kidney, brain, private parts and mouth of the infected person.
- ❖ White Fungus infection can be prevented by sanitising the surroundings.
- ❖ And the oxygen or ventilator must be sanitised properly.

### **Yellow fungus**

- ❖ After black and white fungus, the recent case of yellow fungus has become a cause for concern.
- ❖ Yellow fungus initially develops by the presence of moulds (a type of fungi) in the environment.
- ❖ It may be present with unnecessary fatigue, rashes, burning sensation on skin etc.
- ❖ It invades internal organs of the body and affects the entire functioning.

