

# TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM CURRENT AFFAIRS - SEPTEMBER 2021

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## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ The SpaceX launched shipments of ants, avocados, human-sized robotic arm toward the International Space Station.
  - It will be SpaceX's 23<sup>rd</sup> mission for NASA in a decade.
- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh government is planning to change the name of Lok Sabha MP Maneka Gandhi's constituency Sultanpur after the name of Lord Ram's son (Kush Bhavanpur).
- ❖ The International Day for People of African Descent is celebrated for the first time on 31 August 2021.
  - The United Nations aims to promote the extraordinary contributions of the African diaspora around the world and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against people of African descent.
- ❖ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dedicated to the nation the renovated complex of Jallianwala Bagh Smarak in Punjab's Amritsar.
  - This is to mark 102 years of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.
- ❖ Kendrapara district of Odisha has become the only district in India where all three species of crocodiles.
  - Salt-water, gharial and mugger are found here.
- ❖ Latham's Snipe is a shorebird that fly non-stop from Japan to Australia twice in a year.
  - The bird is also known as Japanese Snipe and is scientifically called as Gallinago hardwickii.
- ❖ The 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BRICS High Representatives Responsible for National Security was held recently.
  - The National Security Advisor of India Ajit Doval hosted the meeting since India is the chair for the 2021 BRICS summit.
- ❖ Sri Lanka declared a state of emergency over food shortages after private banks in the country ran out of foreign exchange to finance imports.
- ❖ At the ongoing Tokyo Paralympics 2020, Indian shooter Singhraj Adana has won the bronze medal in the P1 Men's 10m Air Pistol SH1 final.
  - Chao Yang and Huang Xing of China won the gold and silver medals respectively.
- ❖ Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri will lead an official and business delegation to Russia to participate in the 6th Eastern Economic Forum EEF Summit in Vladivostok.





- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually address the Plenary Session of the EEF Summit, in which President of Russia Vladimir Putin will be present.
- ❖ Sharad Kumar won a bronze in the men's high jump T63 event at Tokyo paralympics 2020.
  - Sharad Kumar was born in Muzaffarpur, Bihar.
- ❖ From September 1, 2021, Goa became the first state in India to supply water free of cost to its citizens for consumption up to 16,000 litres.
  - This was introduced under the 'Save Water to Get Free Water' scheme.
- ❖ India's top paddler G Sathiyar beat Yevhen Ryshchepa of Ukraine in the final of the Czech International table tennis tournament at Olomouc in Czech Republic.
  - This is his third ITTF Challenger title following triumphs in Belgium Open 2016 and Spanish Open 2017.
- ❖ Perseverance, the Mars rover of NASA has successfully collected the first rock sample for return to the Earth.
  - This search is believed to reveal about ancient life.
- ❖ Himachal Pradesh has become the first state to administer the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine to 100% of its adult population.
- ❖ Saudi Arabia's first-ever batch of women soldiers has graduated from the Armed Forces Women's Cadre Training Centre.
- ❖ The year 2022 marks the 30th anniversary of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) – India relation.
  - It is also designated as the ASEAN-India Friendship Year.
- ❖ India achieved a new milestone in its Covid vaccination drive by administering over 1 crore doses on August 27th 2021.
  - This is the highest single-day count so far.
- ❖ The Covid C.1.2 variant was first detected in South Africa.
  - According to a study, the C.1.2 variant could be more infectious and has shown signs of evading protection provided by vaccines.
- ❖ In Paralympics 2020, India's ace archer Harvinder Singh has won the bronze medal in the men's individual recurve open.
  - The 31-year old has become India's first-ever archer to win a medal in the Paralympics.
- ❖ India is all set to host a key conference as part of the International Climate Summit 2020-21.
  - This is to build a dialogue for India's transition to clean energy.
- ❖ Vartika Shukla took charge as the first woman Chairperson and Managing Director of public sector enterprise Engineers India Ltd.



- ❖ Chief Minister MK Stalin congratulated Balabharathi, who was chosen for Bal Sahitya Puraskar award given by Sahitya Academy.
  - He was chosen for his Tamil work Marapachi Sonna Rahasiyam.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has said that the Governments should take the approval of the respective High Court before withdrawing criminal cases filed against MLAs/MPs.
- ❖ India's rising pair of G Sathiyam and Manika Batra clinched the mixed doubles title at the recent World Table Tennis Tour Contender Budapest 2021.
- ❖ The Union government on the anti-dumping duty on viscose staple fibre originating in or exported from China and Indonesia.
  - The government revokes anti-dumping duty on viscose staple fibre, excluding bamboo fibre.
- ❖ The 28<sup>th</sup> edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) took place in the South China Sea.
- ❖ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$150 million loan for a sustainable housing project for the urban poor in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Western Railway runs the First 'Textile Parcel Train' from Gujarat's Surat to Bihar's Muzaffarpur.
- ❖ Mumbai became the first district to complete one crore vaccinations against Covid-19.
- ❖ Prime minister of Japan, Yoshihide Suga, will not run for re-election as the party leader for Liberal Democratic Party.
  - He had been appointed as Prime Minister in 2020 after the resignation of Shinzo Abe.
- ❖ The National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR) has recognised the Manda buffalo as the 19<sup>th</sup> unique breed of buffaloes found in India.
  - It is found in the Eastern Ghats and plateau of Koraput region of Odisha.
- ❖ The Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria attended a three-day-long Pacific Air Chiefs Symposium 2021 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii.
  - The event was themed "Enduring Cooperation towards Regional Stability".
- ❖ The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of AUSINDEX, a bilateral navy exercise between the Indian Navy and the Royal Australian Navy, has begun in Australia.
- ❖ El Salvador becomes world's first country to make Bitcoin an official currency or legal tender.
- ❖ Mumbai is the first South Asian city to work on climate action plan.
  - This has been done following Mumbai's commitment to C40 Cities climate leadership group.



- ❖ The Tamilnadu Chief Minister MK Stalin announced that the retiring age of cooks and cooking assistants of the nutritious meal centre would be increased to 60 from 58.
- ❖ 1200-year-old sculpture of Goddess Durga was recovered from river Jhelum at Pandrethan in Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ Uttarakhand Governor Baby Rani Maurya submitted her resignation to President Ram Nath Kovind.
- ❖ The Chief Minister Stalin said Karunanidhi's statue would be installed on Anna Salai, Chennai.
  - A statue of Karunanidhi, installed on Anna Salai was damaged following the demise of M G Ramachandran on December 24, 1987.
- ❖ The Supreme Court of Mexico has decriminalised abortion and ruled that criminal penalties on terminating pregnancies are unconstitutional.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has ruled that, Indian Railways must pay compensation to passengers if trains run late.
- ❖ The Assam government has unveiled an electric vehicle (EV) policy for phasing out vehicles running on fossil fuels by 2030.
- ❖ India's tallest air purification tower has been inaugurated in the Union Territory of Chandigarh.
  - This is the highest air purifier tower of the country.
- ❖ China endorses the Taliban government in Afghanistan and announces USD 31 million aid to Afghanistan.
- ❖ Former Indian skipper MS Dhoni, under whose captainship India had won the first T20 World Cup, will return to Team India as the team mentor for the upcoming T20 World Cup 2021.
- ❖ The Union approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Russian on cooperation in the field of Geosciences.
- ❖ The actress Tamannaah Bhatia launched her book 'Back to the Roots'.
  - She has co-authored the book with celebrity lifestyle coach Luke Coutinho.
- ❖ The Former Australia pacer Shaun Tait has been roped in as the bowling coach of the Puducherry cricket team.
  - He had recently been appointed bowling coach of the Afghanistan team for a period of five months.
- ❖ India's first indigenously designed High Ash Coal Gasification Based Methanol Production Plant at Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) Research and Development Centre, Hyderabad was inaugurated.



- It was funded by the Department of Science and Technology at the initiative of NITI Aayog, the Prime Minister Office of India and the Ministry of Coal.
- ❖ The Finance Ministry released the sixth monthly instalment of revenue deficit grant of Rs 9871 crores to 17 states under Article 275 of the Constitution.
  - These were released on the recommendations of 15th Finance Commission to 17 states for 2021-22.
- ❖ The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has suspended North Korea until the end of 2022 after it failed to send a delegation to the Tokyo Games.
  - The suspension by IOC means the North Korea will not be able to participate in the Beijing Winter Games.
- ❖ Vijay Rupani of BJP has resigned as the Chief Minister of Gujarat.
- ❖ India and Japan held their sixth Maritime Affairs Dialogue.
  - The First round was held in 2013 at New Delhi.
- ❖ The Author Susanna Clarke won the Women's Prize for Fiction 2021 for her novel 'Piranesi'.
- ❖ The Indian golfer Jeev Milkha Singh has become the first professional golfer in the world to receive the prestigious 10-year Dubai Golden Visa.
- ❖ The Former managing director of Mahindra & Mahindra Pawan Kumar Goenka has been appointed as the chairperson of the Indian National Space Promotion Authorization Centre (In-SPACe).
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh State University in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh.
  - Singh was the part of Balkan War in 1911 and is also known as "Aryan Peshwa".
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has elevated reservation for women in authorities' jobs from 30% to 40%.
- ❖ The Colexion, the largest licenced NFT (non-fungible tokens) platform, announced the formal public launch.
  - Colexion is a NFT platform for Sports, Entertainment & Art.
- ❖ The Swarnim Vijay Varsh Mashaal or victory flame arrived at Dahung in Arunachal Pradesh.
  - The Victory flame was moved throughout the country to the 50 years of victory over Pakistan during 1971 Indo-Pak War.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has recently ruled that, an employee cannot insist on transfer to a particular place and only employer can shift the staff after considering requirement.





- ❖ A Hyderabad-based Space technology start-up, Skyroot Aerospace has become the first private company to formally enter into an agreement with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
  - Skyroot Aerospace is building the Vikram series of rockets to carry small satellites into space.
- ❖ A book has titled 'Human Rights and Terrorism in India' authored by BJP MP Subramanian Swamy.
- ❖ Nuakhai Juhar, the agrarian festival, was celebrated at the Western Odisha.
  - It is a crop festival celebrated by people of Western Odisha and Southern Chhattisgarh, to welcome the new rice of the season.
- ❖ Zomato Co-Founder Gaurav Gupta steps down from his position in Zomato.
- ❖ Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) has enabled the country's first FASTag-based metro parking facility in partnership with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC).
  - Telangana has declared September 9 as "Telangana Language Day" on Kaloji Narayana Rao's 100th birth anniversary.
- ❖ The Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launched a scheme to provide a monthly incentive of ₹1,000 each to 12,959 archakas and Bhattacharyas of Oru Kaala puja temples (those where pujas are conducted only once a day).
- ❖ The Tamilnadu Mercantile Bank (TMB) celebrated its 100th year anniversary.
  - It was started as a Nadar bank in 1921 at Thoothukudi but changed its name to Tamilnadu Mercantile Bank in 1962.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has decided to allow 100% FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) through an automatic route in the telecom sector.
- ❖ The New Subject "Social Justice" will be introduced in the Madras University from the next academic year.
- ❖ A new short-term course "Annavin Tamiliyam" was introduced in the Tamilnadu Open University.
- ❖ The meeting on Heads of Tax Authorities of the BRICS countries was held under the Chairship of India.
  - It was held with the broad theme of "redefining business processes of tax administration amidst the challenges posed by COVID-19 and in the digital era".
- ❖ The Union Cabinet of India has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Italy on Cooperation in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management.
- ❖ MyGov India has launched the "Planetarium Innovation Challenge" for Indian start-ups and tech entrepreneurs.



- ❖ Two wildfires in California are burning through the Sequoia National Park.
  - The Sierra Nevada of USA is home to the world's largest tree.
- ❖ Nagaland's first and India's 61st Software Technology Park of India (STPI) centre was inaugurated at Kohima.
- ❖ Hungary has unveiled the statue of Bitcoin founder Satoshi Nakamoto in Budapest.
- ❖ NITI Aayog has partnered with BYJU'S to provide free access to education to students in 112 Aspirational Districts in India.
- ❖ Yahoo appointed Tinder's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jim Lanzone as yahoo's new CEO.
- ❖ Captain Amarinder Singh of Congress resigned as the Punjab chief minister.
- ❖ The 6<sup>th</sup> BRICS Young Scientist Forum was hosted by the Department of Science and Technology of India in collaboration with the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru.
- ❖ The Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited has decided to commission India's largest floating solar photovoltaic plant in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ India has set an ambitious target of 175 GW capacity of Renewable Energy by 2022 and 450 GW of Renewable Energy by 2030.
- ❖ Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) became the second Indian company to cross the \$200-billion market capitalisation mark.
  - In 2020, Reliance Industries (RIL) was the first Indian company to cross that milestone.
- ❖ DBS Bank has been named (4th Consecutive time) the world's best bank by the UK-based financial publication Euromoney.
  - The Singapore-headquartered DBS bank was also named the world's best digital bank.
- ❖ For the first time in government hospitals, automatic drug vending machines will be set up at Periyar Nagar Government Hospital and Rajiv Gandhi Government Hospital in Chennai.
- ❖ India's first automated drug vending machine was opened in Coimbatore.
- ❖ In the Tamilnadu Assembly, the Higher education minister Ponumdi informed that the Government Arts and Science college will be renamed as Kalaingar Government Arts college
- ❖ Prime Minister Modi lauded the Kanchirangal panchayat in Sivagangai district for producing and using electricity from vegetable waste.
- ❖ Iran was officially admitted as a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.



- The decision to admit Iran as a full member was declared in the 21st summit of the SCO leaders in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
- ❖ Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has won the third term to serve as the PM of the country.
  - Justin Trudeau is in power since 2015.
- ❖ India's D Gukesh won his second consecutive tournament of this month, the Norway Chess Open 2021 Masters section.
- ❖ The Indian cueist Pankaj Advani has grabbed his 24th World title at the IBSF 6-Red Snooker World Cup.
  - He had a victory over Pakistan's Babar Masih in the final.
- ❖ The official motto of the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 was revealed as "Together for a Shared Future".
- ❖ The word 'Batsman' has been amended to the gender-neutral term 'batter' by the MCC.
  - The full form of MCC is Marylebone Cricket Club.
- ❖ Odisha will host the Men's Hockey Junior World Cup at the Kalinga Stadium.
  - Lucknow had hosted the tournament's last edition in 2016 where India claimed the honours.
- ❖ Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has released the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)'s 3rd State Food Safety Index.
  - This is to measure the performance of States across five parameters of food safety.
- ❖ Finance Ministry has relaxed provisions of Income-tax Act, 1961.
  - This is related to tax deducted at source (TDS) on payment of interest by a scheduled bank to a member of a scheduled tribe (ST) community.
- ❖ The students seeking admissions in the colleges under Calicut University will now have to sign a declaration that they will not give, ask for or accept dowry during their marriage.
- ❖ Delta variant of COVID-19 is by far the world's most dominant variant.
  - It surpassed other variants of concern namely the alpha, beta and gamma.
- ❖ Fairouz Faizah Beether of Bangladesh has been chosen for the 2021 Changemaker Award by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
  - The award celebrates an individual who has inspired change using personal experience or from a position of leadership.
- ❖ The Hubble telescope of the National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) has discovered six massive dead galaxies.



- These galaxies had run out of cold hydrogen gas which is needed to make stars.
- ❖ Khadi and Village Industries Commission has started a historic initiative to set up first ever Tussar Silk Yarn Production Centre.
  - It is to be set up at Choudwar in Cuttack district in Odisha.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government will bear the tuition fees among others of students enrolling in professional courses in the State under the 7.5 per cent quota in professional courses.
  - Students who had studied from classes VI to XII in government schools will benefit from the new quota.
- ❖ The General Assembly commemorates 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.
  - This Day provides an occasion for the world community to reaffirm its commitment to global nuclear disarmament as a priority.
- ❖ Central bank of China has declared all the Cryptocurrency transactions illegal.
- ❖ The Supreme Court of India has approved an electronic system named FASTER (Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records).
  - The FASTER system will be used for transferring e-authenticated copies from courts to prisons.
- ❖ Several US states, including Texas, Florida, New Jersey, Ohio and Massachusetts, have proclaimed October as the Hindu Heritage Month.
  - They say that Hinduism has “contributed greatly” to America through its unique history and heritage.
- ❖ Women’s rights activist and noted author, Kamla Bhasin of Punjab, has passed away battling cancer.
  - The noted poet and author had authored several books, especially on gender theory and feminism.
- ❖ 99th Military Engineering Services (MES) Raising Day was observed on September 26, 2021.
  - MES provides rear line engineering support to the Armed Forces and other associated organizations of the Ministry of Defence.
- ❖ United Nations-designated International Day for Universal Access to Information is commemorated on September 28 every year.
  - The theme for this year is ‘The Right to Know – Building Back Better with Access to Information.’
- ❖ India’s Sania Mirza and her Chinese partner Zhang Shuai won the women’s doubles title in the women’s doubles final at the Ostrava Open.
  - It was held in Ostrava, Czech Republic.

- ❖ Veteran legislator Nimaben Acharya was unanimously elected the first woman Speaker of the Gujarat Assembly recently.
- ❖ Scientists have excavated the remains of an ancient eagle near Australia's Lake Pinpa, which is now deserted.
  - This majestic bird is believed to be 25 million years old.
- ❖ 29th September is observed as the National Coffee Day in India.
- ❖ Blasphemy Day, also known as International Blasphemy Day or International Blasphemy Rights Day is observed on 30th September.
  - It educates individuals and groups about blasphemy laws and defends freedom of expression.

## **TAMIL NADU**

### **Kavimani Award for Children's Writers**

- ❖ The 'Kavimani Award' will be given by Tamilnadu to the 3 best writers under the age of 18 to promote children's writing.
- ❖ This includes Rs 25,000 in cash, a certificate and a shield.

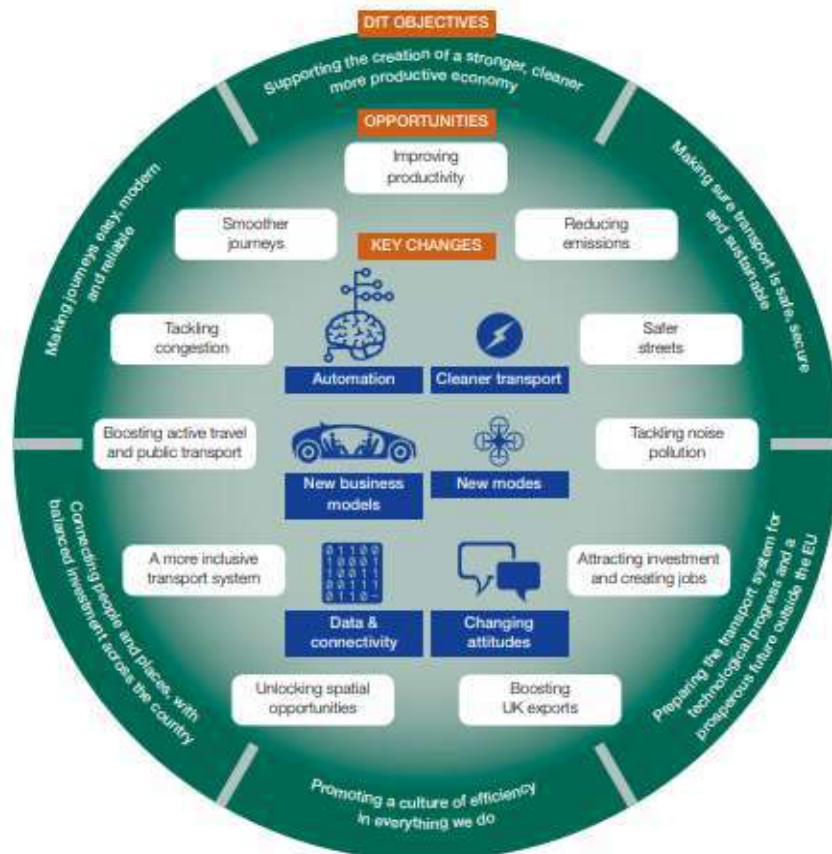
### **Mariappan Thangavelu – Silver Medal**





- ❖ Mariappan Thangavelu cleared a height of 1.86 metres in men's high jump Tokyo Paralympics 2020.
- ❖ He clinched the silver medal.
- ❖ Mariyappan was born in Periavadagampatti village, Salem district, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ At the Rio Paralympics of 2016, he won the gold medal in the men's high jump event.

### **Tamil Nadu announces parks for future mobility, apparels**



- ❖ An integrated apparel park in Virudhunagar district, a future mobility park in Krishnagiri district and a SIPCOT Industrial Park in Tiruvallur district were among the major announcements made by the Tamil Nadu government in the Assembly.
- ❖ Apparel Park to be opened at Kumaralingapuram in Virudhunagar district would boost the economic development in the southern districts.
- ❖ SIPCOT's initiative to open the future mobility park at Shoolagiri in Krishnagiri district is said to be the first of its kind in the country.





- ❖ The SIPCOT Industrial Park, proposed at Sengathakulam near Uthukottai in Tiruvallur, is expected to provide direct and indirect employment to about 3,000 persons.
- ❖ The government would set up a 'Ready Built Factory' at Nemili in Kancheepuram district.
- ❖ A state-of-the-art textile park would be opened in Karur district.

### **Valimai and Neidhal**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Cements Corporation Limited (TANCEM) will introduce a cement brand, 'Valimai', in addition to its existing Arasu brand.
- ❖ TANCEM is a State public sector unit.
- ❖ Likewise, Tamil Nadu Salt Corporation (TNSC) would introduce iodised crystal salt, refined free-flow iodised salt and double iron and iodine fortified salt under the brand 'Neidhal'.

### **Bill to repeal the Dr. J. Jayalalithaa University Act**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government introduced a Bill to repeal the Dr. J. Jayalalithaa University Act.
- ❖ Another Bill to amend the Annamalai University Act 2013 to convert it from a unitary institution into an affiliating type university was introduced.
- ❖ The government also tabled a Bill to amend the Bharathidasan University Act.
- ❖ Annamalai University is to be converted into affiliating type, by affiliating [arts and science] colleges in Villupuram, Cuddalore, Kallakurichi and Mayiladuthurai districts
- ❖ Consequently, Bharathidasan University would no longer be the affiliating university for arts and science colleges in Mayiladuthurai.

### **Youth Literary Project**

- ❖ The Youth Literature Project will be implemented to enhance children's creativity (speech, writing, painting, painting) and to teach moral education and to develop moral and social values.
- ❖ Under this project, the first phase of 100 children's literature books will be published by the Tamil Nadu Textbooks and Educational Works Corporation.



## **TNSCB renamed**



- ❖ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced that the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board (TNSCB) would now be called the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board.
- ❖ Mr. Stalin said the Slum Clearance Board was launched when M. Karunanidhi was the Chief Minister of the State in 1971.

## **V.O.C's 150th birth anniversary**



- ❖ The 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of V.O.C fell on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2021.

### **Important announcements**

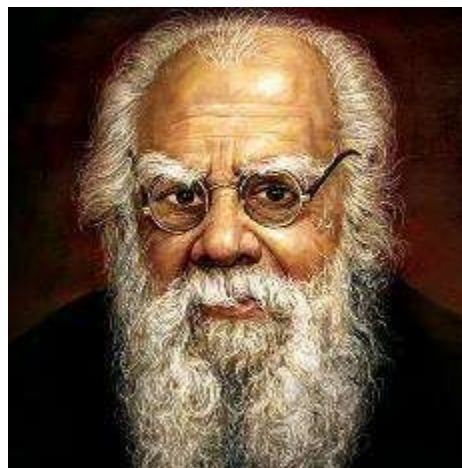
- ❖ A bust of V.O.C. would be unveiled at Gandhi Mandapam in Chennai.
- ❖ Mela Periya Cotton Salai, an arterial road in Thoothukudi city would be renamed V.O.C. Road.
- ❖ An annual Kappalottiya Thamizhan V.O.C. Award would be awarded to a Tamil, who has excelled in ship-building and related technology.
- ❖ V.O.C.'s death anniversary on November 18 would be observed as a 'Day of Sacrifice.'
- ❖ All government buildings to be constructed in Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli between September 5 this year and September 5 next year would be named after V.O.C.

## **Iyothee Thass Pandithar – Manimandapam**



- ❖ The State government would construct a manimandapam in north Chennai Iyothee Thass Pandithar.
- ❖ This is to mark the 175th birth anniversary of the social reformer from the 19th century.
- ❖ Iyothee Thass Pandithar found the Dravida Mahajana Sabha in 1891.
- ❖ He founded Oru Paisa Thamizhan and later ran it as Thamizhan.

## **Day of Social Justice**



- ❖ The birth anniversary of social reformer and Dravidar Kazhagam founder 'Periyar' E.V. Ramasamy's birthday would be observed as 'Day of Social Justice' in Tamil Nadu on September 17 every year.
- ❖ The first amendment to the Indian Constitution came about because of Periyar, who never went to the Parliament.



- ❖ On that day there will be a pledge to follow the principles of self-respect, rationalism, brotherhood, equality, humanitarianism and social justice.

### **New archaeological sites**

- ❖ The Tamilnadu State government will undertake archaeological excavations in three new places – Vembakkottai in Virudhunagar district, Thullukkarpatti in Tirunelveli district and Perumpalai in Dharmapuri district.
- ❖ It would be undertaken in addition to the ones under way in Keeladi, Sivagalai, Mayiladumparai and Gangaikondacholapuram.
- ❖ The government would also undertake scientific site inspections to locate Neolithic sites and those along the banks of Tamiraparani during 2021-22.
- ❖ The Institute of Archaeology would be restructured and renamed Tamil Nadu Institute of Archaeology and Museology.
- ❖ Sites where ancient inscriptions are found in Mudhalaikulam and Arittapatti in Madurai district, Poolankurichi in Sivaganga district, Thondur and Theganurpatti in Villupuram district would be declared protected monuments.
- ❖ Steps would be taken to bring back 'Leiden plates' from the Netherlands which throw light on the history of legendary Tamil king Rajaraja Chola and also Buddhist viharas in Nagapattinam district.
- ❖ The Efforts would be taken to locate the 'Anbil plates' which is featured in Epigraphia Indica, the official publication of Archaeological Survey of India.

### **Chair to workers in Tamilnadu**

- ❖ It is mandatory for shops and showrooms across the State to provide seating facilities to employees who works standing.
- ❖ This is a direct intervention of the State in the affairs of private sector
- ❖ The Bill was introduced by the Labour Welfare and Skill Development Minister CV Ganesan to amend the Tamil Nadu Shops and Establishments Act, 1947.
- ❖ It was started with Kerala.
- ❖ A State labour advisory board meeting unanimously approved the need to provide seating facilities for employees on September 4, 2019.

### **Education Ministry's announcements**

- ❖ The School Education Minister Anbil Mahes Poyyamozhi said the state government is planning to introduce spoken English classes for Standards VI to XII after their regular school hours.

- ❖ Renowned Tamil works will be translated into other Dravidian languages and vice versa (Ponniyin Selvan and Vaikom Struggle: Tamil to English; commentary for Tirukural by former Chief Minister M Karunanidhi (Tamil to Telugu); T Janakiraman short stories (Tamil to Kannada).
- ❖ Training will be given to students on traditional arts - Karakattam, Kummi, Silambattam, Oyilattam, Kavadiyattam, folk songs, wrestling etc.
- ❖ The Connemara public library in Chennai will be modernised.
- ❖ Child Abuse Prevention Week should be observed in all schools every year between November 15 and 22.
- ❖ In order to achieve universal Foundational Literacy and Numeracy by 2025, the 'Ennum Ezhuthum' mission will be launched when the schools reopen completely.
- ❖ Four more regional centres will be set up for the Tamil Nadu Open University at Salem, Tiruvannamalai, Mayiladuthurai and Sivagangai.
- ❖ PhD programmes would be offered in the arts and science colleges and diploma courses in civil and mechanical engineering would be launched in Tamil next year.

### **Sultan Ahmed Ismail committee**



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has constituted a seven-member committee to study the exploration of hydrocarbon projects.
- ❖ It will be headed by Sultan Ahmed Ismail, part-time member, State Development Policy Council.

### **New judges to Madras High Court**

- ❖ The Madras high court is set to get four new judges.
- ❖ It will take the sitting strength to 60 against the sanctioned strength of 75.

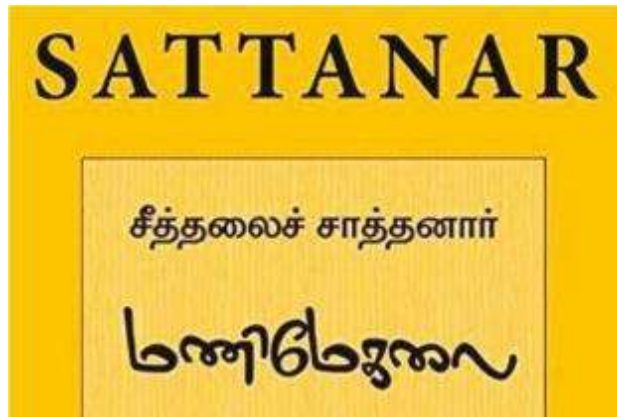




- ❖ With the induction of S Srimathi, the number of women judges in the court will go up to a record 14, highest in the country.
- ❖ D Bharatha Chakravarthy, R Vijayakumar and Mohammed Shaffiq are the other three advocates recommended for elevation by the Supreme Court collegium.

### **Translation of Manimekalai**

- ❖ Manimekalai, one of the five great epics of Tamil literature, has been translated into 18 eastern languages.
- ❖ It will be translated into Thai, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Burmese, Malay, Vietnamese, Singhalese, Cambodian, Indonesian and Mongolian.
- ❖ Manimekalai is written by Seethalai Sattanar 1,500 years ago.
- ❖ The Central Institute of Classical Tamil has undertaken responsibility to translate it.
- ❖ It also embodies ideologies of Buddhism and Jainism.



### **Pulamai Pithan**





- ❖ Lyricist and poet Pulamai pithan breathed his last at Chennai.
- ❖ He was born in Coimbatore in 1935
- ❖ Pulamaipithan served as the Deputy Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council.

## Porunai Excavation



- ❖ The Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced the setting up of a museum, the Porunai Museum in Tirunelveli at a cost of ₹15 crore.
- ❖ The rice with soil was found in a burial urn in Sivakalai in Tirunelveli district.
- ❖ The carbon dating analysis has yielded the date of 1155 BCE.
- ❖ The Beta Analytical Testing Laboratory in Miami, in the United States released the test report in this regard.
- ❖ The finding has established that the Porunai River (Ancient name of Thamirabarani) civilization dates back to 3,200 years.
- ❖ This is the oldest time period established from findings in the excavations carried out in Tamil Nadu.

- ❖ It is much older than the Vaigai River civilization, which is believed to be 2,600 years old.
- ❖ The excavation in Keeladi had also established that an urban civilization existed on the banks of River Vaigai that was contemporary to the Gangetic plain civilization.
- ❖ The latest finding has once again narrowed the gap between civilizations in the south of Vindhyas and the Indus Valley Civilization (IVC).
- ❖ Earlier it was believed that there was no city civilization in south India.
- ❖ The first urbanization in the sub-continent happened in the IVC.
- ❖ The second urbanisation happened on the banks of the Ganga at the end of the Mauryan period.
- ❖ Now it is found that even before the Mauryan period, there were silver coins found in Adichanallur.
- ❖ Adichanallur, Korkai and Sivakalai are all sites on the banks of the ancient Porunai (Thamirabarani river) presently in the Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu.



- ❖ Earlier, Adichanallur excavations established that a civilisation thrived even in the 980 BC.



- ❖ Adichanallur and Sivakalai have served as habitations, while Korkai was the port.
- ❖ Stalin said archaeological excavations would be carried out in other States and countries in search of Tamil roots there.
- ❖ In the first phase, studies would be undertaken at the ancient port of Musiri, now known as Pattanam in Kerala.
- ❖ Similar studies will be held at Vengi in Andhra Pradesh, Thalaikadu in Karnataka and Palur in Orissa.
- ❖ The State Archaeology Department would conduct research in Quseir al-Qadim and Pernica Anekke in Egypt.
- ❖ It was once part of the Roman empire as well as in Khor Rori in Oman.
- ❖ It is to establish Tamils' trade relations with these countries.
- ❖ Studies would also be conducted in South-East Asian countries such as Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam, where the Chola King Rajendra had established supremacy.

### **Resolution against CAA, 2019**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Assembly has adopted a resolution urging the Centre to repeal the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019.
- ❖ With this, Tamil Nadu has joined states like Kerala and West Bengal in passing resolutions against CAA.
- ❖ The objective of the CAA, 2019 is to grant Indian citizenship to persecuted minorities — Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi and Christian — from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.
- ❖ The Act does not apply to tribal areas of Tripura, Mizoram, Assam and Meghalaya because of being included in the 6th Schedule of the Constitution.
- ❖ Also, areas that fall under the Inner Line Permit notified under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873, will also be outside the Act's purview.

### **Energy Island in Gulf of Mannar**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu and Denmark have planned to create an energy island in Gulf of Mannar.
- ❖ It will be India's first offshore floating wind park.
- ❖ Gulf of Mannar lies between the west coast of Sri Lanka and south-eastern tip of India.



### **HRCE Announcements**

- ❖ The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) will start 10 more colleges at a cost of ₹150 crore at Kolathur, Kilpauk, Vilathikulam, Thoppampatti, Anaikattu, Kalasapakkam, Thirukattupalli, Lalgudi, Kadayam and Thiruchengode.
- ❖ Old-age home at a cost of ₹5 crore will be set up in Chennai, Palani and Tirunelveli.
- ❖ If the marriage is conducted in the marriage hall temple, they need to pay just maintenance charge.
- ❖ Tonsuring heads too would be free and the amount will be paid by the temple administration.
- ❖ Temple priests and workers will get new clothes for Pongal.
- ❖ It will soon introduce whole day 'annadhanam' at the famous Arulmigu Mariamman Temple in Samayapuram near Tiruchi.
- ❖ It will become the second major shrine in Tiruchi district to provide annadhanam for the whole day to devotees after Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple in Srirangam.
- ❖ Besides Samayapuram temple, the scheme is to be implemented at the Sri Subramanya Swamy temples at Tiruthani and Tiruchendur.
- ❖ Annadhanam was started at the Samayapuram Sri Mariamman temple in 2002.
- ❖ The Minister announced ₹150 crore for renovating Tiruchendur temple and ₹125 crore for improving infrastructure in Bhavani Amman temple in Periya palayam.



- ❖ Temples in Palani, Samayapuram, Tiruvannamalai, Tiruthani and Rameswaram will get ₹250 crore for creating amenities.
- ❖ The state government will melt into gold bars the tiny bits of jewellery offered by devotees at temples run by the Hindu religious and charitable endowments department and deposit them in banks to raise funds for development projects and welfare schemes at the temples.
- ❖ Big temples such as Tiruthani, Palani, Samayapuram and Tiruchendur would top in the stock of gold jewellery
- ❖ 2,000 kg of gold jewellery could get converted to gold bars.
- ❖ The department had been doing this exercise from 1978 till 2010.

### **IREDA and TANGEDCO**

- ❖ The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has entered into a pact with Tamil Nadu Generation & Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO).
- ❖ It is for providing technical expertise in developing of renewable energy projects and raising of funds.
- ❖ The Tangedco has planned to augment its renewable energy sources by 25,000 MW in the next 10 years.
- ❖ This includes 20000 MW solar energy, 3000 MW of hydro power and 2000 MW electricity generated by gas turbines.
- ❖ Its own generation from thermal power stations is only 4320 MW as against the average demand of 15,000 MW.



### **Information and Publicity announcements**

- ❖ The Minister for Information and Publicity M P Saminathan announced these measures in the Tamilnadu State Legislative Assembly.

- ❖ He announced setting up of a Journalists' Welfare Board.
- ❖ Kalaigiar Ezhudhukol Award will be awarded to journalists who contribute to the upliftment of the downtrodden
- ❖ Statues of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore and former President A P J Abdul Kalam will come up at the prestigious Queen Mary's College and Anna University in Chennai respectively.
- ❖ It is significant as Abdul kalam mentored students at the institute by staying in a hostel room before his ascension to Rashtrapati Bhavan in 2002.
- ❖ Statues of freedom fighters Veerapandia Kattabomban, and Marudhu Brothers will be installed in Gandhi Mandapam, Guindy at Chennai.
- ❖ The bust of Anjalai Ammal and Keezhapaluvur Chinnasamy will come up at Cuddalore and Ariyalur respectively.
- ❖ A statue will be erected at the Government Guest House in Chepauk in memory of Dravidian stalwart V R Nedunchezhiyan, who had served in the cabinets of C N Annadurai, M Karunanidhi, M G Ramachandran, and J Jayalalithaa.
- ❖ The Statues in memory of Dr Muthulakshmi Reddy, Moovalur Ramamirthan, and Dr Mu Varadarasanar will come up at Pudukkottai, Mayiladuthurai, and Ranipet districts.

### **Keeladi – Silver coin**



- ❖ A silver punch marked coin was recently excavated from Keezhadi.
- ❖ It bore the symbols of the sun, the moon, the taurine and other geometrical patterns.
- ❖ Studies on this found the coin to date back to the 4th century BC.
- ❖ It is before the time of the ancient Maurya empire.
- ❖ Keezhadi excavations show that there was extensive literacy in Tamil Nadu by at least 600 BCE.
- ❖ So, it is found that even 2,600 years ago common folk could read in Tamil Nadu.



### **Ford exits India**

- ❖ The US car firm Ford is to stop making cars in India.
- ❖ It is to shut down both of its plants in Gujarat (Sanad) and Tamilnadu (Maraimalai Nagar).
- ❖ In 2017, General Motors (GM) stopped making cars for the Indian market.
- ❖ In 2020, The USA bike firm Harley-Davidson stopped its manufacturing in India.



### **First generation graduate**

- ❖ The condition that one should be a 'first graduate' to avail oneself of the special scholarship granted to students of the Backward Classes, the Most Backward Classes and the Denotified Communities would be amended as the 'first generation graduate'
- ❖ By doing this many from the same family could benefit from the scheme.
- ❖ The Minister for Backward Classes Welfare S.S. Sivasankar announced this.
- ❖ The Minister also announced the setting up of 'Semmozhi Noolagam'.

### **National Awards for Excellence in Energy Management**

- ❖ The Golden Rock Railway Workshop (GOC), Tiruchchirappalli has bagged 22nd National Award for Excellence in Energy Management.
- ❖ It is instituted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- ❖ It is the only workshop of Indian Railways to have received the award this year.

### **Mahakavi Day**

- ❖ The death anniversary of firebrand poet and freedom fighter Subramania Bharathiyar would be commemorated as 'Mahakavi' Day on September 11.
- ❖ The Chief Minister MK Stalin announced this on the occasion of 100th death anniversary of Bharathi.

- ❖ A compilation of Bharati's poems and essays would be brought out in a book titled "Manathil Urithi Vendum" (Firmness in Mind).
- ❖ Events with the theme 'parengum Bharati' (Bharati everywhere), in collaboration with the World Tamil Associations would be organised.
- ❖ A separate wing 'Bharathiyal' would be set up to compile the books of Bharathiyar.
- ❖ The Women Livelihood Mission, implemented by the rural development department, will be named by Bharathiyar.
- ❖ "Bharati young poet Award" will be presented through a state-level poetry competition for school and college students.
- ❖ Financial assistance will be given to maintain the house at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh where Bharathi lived a century ago.
- ❖ PM Modi has announced that the Benares Hindu University in Varanasi would have a chair of Tamil Studies in memory of Bharathi.
- ❖ Modi also said, "India is proud to be home to the world's oldest language, Tamil."

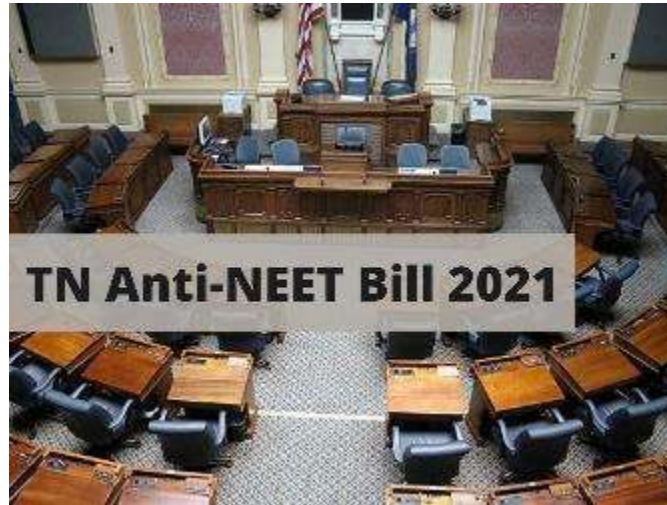


### **About Bharathi**

- ❖ Bharathi was also the first Asian poet to sing the glory of the 1917 Russian Revolution or Bolshevik revolution.
- ❖ Subramanya Bharati had to flee to Puducherry (a French colony then) in 1908 to avoid arrest by the British government.
- ❖ He worked as the assistant editor in Swadesa mitran newspaper.
- ❖ Bharathi passed away on September 11th in 1921 at Chennai.
- ❖ He delivered his last speech at Karungalpalayam Library in Erode.
- ❖ The last years of his life were spent in a house in Triplicane, Chennai.
- ❖ The Former CM CN Annadurai was the first to call Bharathiyar 'Makkal Kavi' (poet of the people).
- ❖ Va.Ra wrote a classic Tamil biography on the greatest poet of all time, "Mahakavi Bharathiyar".

### **Medical Exam – NEET**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Assembly today passed the Tamil Nadu Admission to Undergraduate Medical Degree Courses Bill.
- ❖ It seeks to stop medical admissions on the basis of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for students of the state.
- ❖ The Bill challenges a central law passed in the Concurrent list.
- ❖ It is to receive the Presidential assent.



### **Tamil Nadu State Commission for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs)**

- ❖ The Chief Minister Stalin tabled a bill (called The Tamil Nadu State Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act, 2021) to set up panel for SC/ST members.
- ❖ It will have the powers of a civil court trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.
- ❖ It will have a chairperson, a vice-chairperson and five other members.
- ❖ Three of them will be from SCs, two from STs and a woman member.
- ❖ The commission will inquire, Suo moto or on a petition presented to it by a victim or any person on his/her behalf.
- ❖ It will enquire the complaints of violation of any right provided under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.
- ❖ The National Commission for the SCs and STs will prevail over the yet to be set up state commission.



- ❖ The commission can recommend action against public servants who are negligent in preventing such violations.
- ❖ The commission is expected to investigate and monitor safeguards present in various legislations, in the interest of SC/STs and promote awareness of the same.
- ❖ The state government will consult the commission on policy matters related to the community.
- ❖ The commission will also carry out research work to avoid discrimination.

### **Welfare for Scheduled Castes**

- ❖ The Chief Minister Stalin said that ₹10 lakh reward as an incentive to panchayats following the practice of common crematoriums or graveyards.
- ❖ He announced setting up four new special courts in Salem, Krishnagiri, Madurai and Tirunelveli, since these places have more pending cases.
- ❖ He also said that schools run by the Adi Dravidar Welfare Department will be brought to the mainstream under the guidance of the School Education Department.

### **Jewel loan waiver**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin announced that jewel loans availed by economically backward people from cooperative institutions would be waived up to five sovereigns of gold jewellery.
- ❖ The state government would allocate Rs 6,000 crore for this purpose.

### **Local Body elections in Tamilnadu**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu State Election Commissioner V Palanikumar notified the dates for the rural local body polls in the nine newly constituted districts in the state.
- ❖ Elections are being held in Kanchipuram, Chengalpattu, Villupuram, Kallakurichi, Vellore, Ranipet, Tirupathur, Tirunelveli and Tenkasi districts.
- ❖ The polls will be held in two phases on October 6 and October 9 and the counting will take place on October 12.
- ❖ Indirect elections to posts like district panchayat and panchayat union chairpersons and vice-chairpersons will be held on October 22.



### **Announcement in Police Departments**

- ❖ The Chief Minister Stalin announced the release of 700 life convicts to mark the birth anniversary of former Chief Minister C N Annadurai on September 15.
- ❖ He also announced that Avadi and Tambaram will be upgraded as police Commissionerate.
- ❖ He also proposed to set up a police commission to reform the police force.
- ❖ He announced the setting up of State Cyber Crime Investigation Centre to provide training and crack cybercrimes.
- ❖ A total of 1,000 youths from fishing communities would be appointed to work along with the Coastal Security Group (CSG).
- ❖ The Boys and Girls Clubs would be set up to ensure that children from socially and economically backward situations do not get involved in anti-social and illegal activities.
- ❖ A weekly off would be granted to police personnel from Constable Grade II to Head Constable
- ❖ The receptionists would be appointed in each of the police stations.

### **Petrified wood**

- ❖ A 100-million-year-old Petrified wood has been found at Pudukkottai.
- ❖ The wood dates back to the Cretaceous period, which is about 100 million years ago.
- ❖ That is, it belongs to the genus Gymnosperm, which precedes the existing flowering plants, such as angiosperm.
- ❖ It is considered a rare archaeological object.
- ❖ A 1300-year-old Pallava period painting has been found on the Sanjeevi hills near the village of Pakkam near Gingee in Villupuram district.

### **Human Resource Management department announcements**

- ❖ The Government of Tamil Nadu has announced that the quota for women in the public employment through direct recruitment will be increased from 30% to 40%.
- ❖ Tamil language will be made compulsory in the qualifying examination in all competitive examinations.
- ❖ It has been announced that the age limit for direct appointment will be relaxed by 2 years due to delays in competitive exams for government jobs conducted by the Recruitment agencies such as TNPSC due to the Corona pandemic.

### **New statues**

- ❖ Two crore and sixty lakh rupees has been allocated for setting up of a statue of freedom fighter Tali Palayakkar Malayandi Venkidu Pathi Ethalappa Nayakkar in Tirupur district.
- ❖ A full-length statue of former Chief Minister of Chennai Province Dr. P. Subba Rayan will have a statue built in Chennai and a stadium in Namakkal.
- ❖ A statue of Uttama Tyagi Eeswaran, who was instrumental in the formation of the Lower Bhavani Irrigation Project, will be built in Erode district.
- ❖ A stadium with a statue of the late Minister Govindasamy will be set up in Villupuram district.

### **Tamil Nadu's first Genetic Analysis Laboratory**

- ❖ The Chief Minister M K Stalin inaugurated the Genetic Analysis Laboratory at DMS campus in Chennai.
- ❖ For the first time, a State has set up its own genetic laboratory in India.
- ❖ The lab will help authorities look for variants of SARS-CoV-2.
- ❖ The COVID-19 samples were sent to the Union Government-run genetic analysis laboratories in Karnataka and Telangana.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has sent all samples to the Bengaluru-based Instem as per recommendations from the Centre.
- ❖ Instem is part of INSACOG (a consortium of 10 labs that track the presence of variants in Covid samples).



### **Land grabbing a non-bailable offence**

- ❖ Tamilnadu has made the encroachment of properties of religious institutions a cognisable and non-bailable offence.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Assembly passed a Bill in this regard.



- ❖ It seeks to amend the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959.
- ❖ It empowers anyone, who is having interest in the affairs of religious institution matters, to file a complaint against encroachers and temple land encroachment.
- ❖ It considered that criminal complaint may be filed by any person who are interested in the affairs of the religious institution.
- ❖ Till the bill was passed, only the Commissioner of the Hindu religious and charitable endowments department were empowered to file complaint against encroachment of temple land.

### **Amarnath Ramakrishna**

- ❖ K. Amarnath Ramakrishna, the Superintending Archaeologist has been transferred back to the Archaeological Survey of India's Chennai Circle.
- ❖ He oversaw the first two phases of the Keeladi excavations.
- ❖ Currently, Mr. Ramakrishna is serving as Superintending Archaeologist in the Goa Circle.



### **Tamilnadu Legislations**

- ❖ The State Assembly of Tamilnadu passed a Bill (Tamil Nadu Payment of Salaries Act, 1951).
- ❖ It was to give effect to the announcements made by the erstwhile AIADMK regime last year.
- ❖ The Bill was introduced by Minister Duraimurugan (holding legislature portfolio) in the House
- ❖ On March 24 last year, the then Chief Minister Edappadi Palani Samy announced that the lump sum allowance payable to the family of an MLA would be enhanced from ₹2 lakh to ₹5 lakh.



- ❖ He announced that the pension payable to former MLAs and former MLCs would be enhanced from ₹20,000 to ₹25,000.
- ❖ The family pension payable to the legal heir of the deceased MLAs and MLCs would be enhanced from ₹10,000 to ₹12,500
- ❖ A Bill to repeal a law on contract farming enacted during the previous AIADMK regime was also introduced.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Repeal Bill was introduced.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu's contract farming and services legislation of 2019 was based on a model Bill then mooted by the Centre.

### **Tamilnadu Assembly Session**

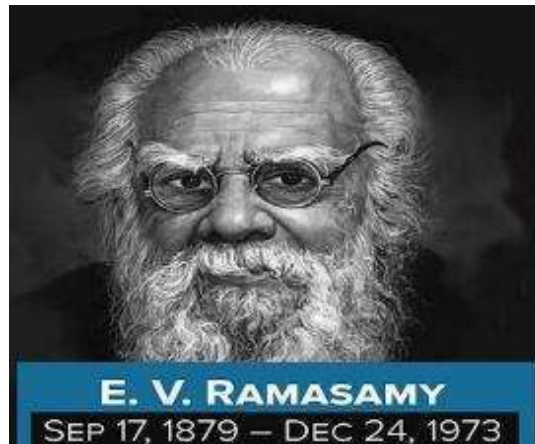
- ❖ The Tamilnadu Assembly's Budget session began on August 13.
- ❖ The House was later adjourned sine die on September 13th by the Speaker Appavu.
- ❖ This is also the first time since independence that the State Legislative Assembly would not have a nominated MLA from the Anglo-Indian community.
- ❖ A 104<sup>th</sup> Constitutional amendment in 2019 discontinued representation for Anglo-Indians both in the Lok Sabha as well as in all Legislative Assemblies across the country.

### **University Syndicate**

- ❖ The Speaker has nominated several MLAs to syndicate members in various universities.
- ❖ All the MLAs will hold the post for three years.
- ❖ If they cease to be a member of the Assembly during this period, their tenure in the Syndicate will also come to an end.

### **Social Justice Day**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Government celebrated the 143rd birthday of E.V. Ramasamy Periyar as Social Justice Day on 17<sup>th</sup> September.
- ❖ The Chief Minister M.K. Stalin administered the social justice pledge to Government staff at the Secretariat.



### **Ravi – Governor of Tamilnadu**



- ❖ The Chief Justice of the Madras High Court Justice Sanjib Banerjee administered the oath of office to RN Ravi.
- ❖ He is the 15<sup>th</sup> Governor of Tamilnadu since 1969.

### **Palmyra Development Mission**



- ❖ Chief minister Stalin launched this Mission.
- ❖ The Speaker Appavu donated one lakh palm seeds for promoting this
- ❖ Palmyra is the state tree of Tamilnadu.
- ❖ Under the scheme, 76 lakh palm seeds and one lakh palm saplings would be distributed to farmers with cent per cent subsidy by the Agriculture Department
- ❖ It will be planted on the bunds of lakes and ponds.
- ❖ As part of the mission, research on palm trees will be undertaken in govt agriculture college in Killukulam in Thoothukudi district.

### **Francis Kiruba**

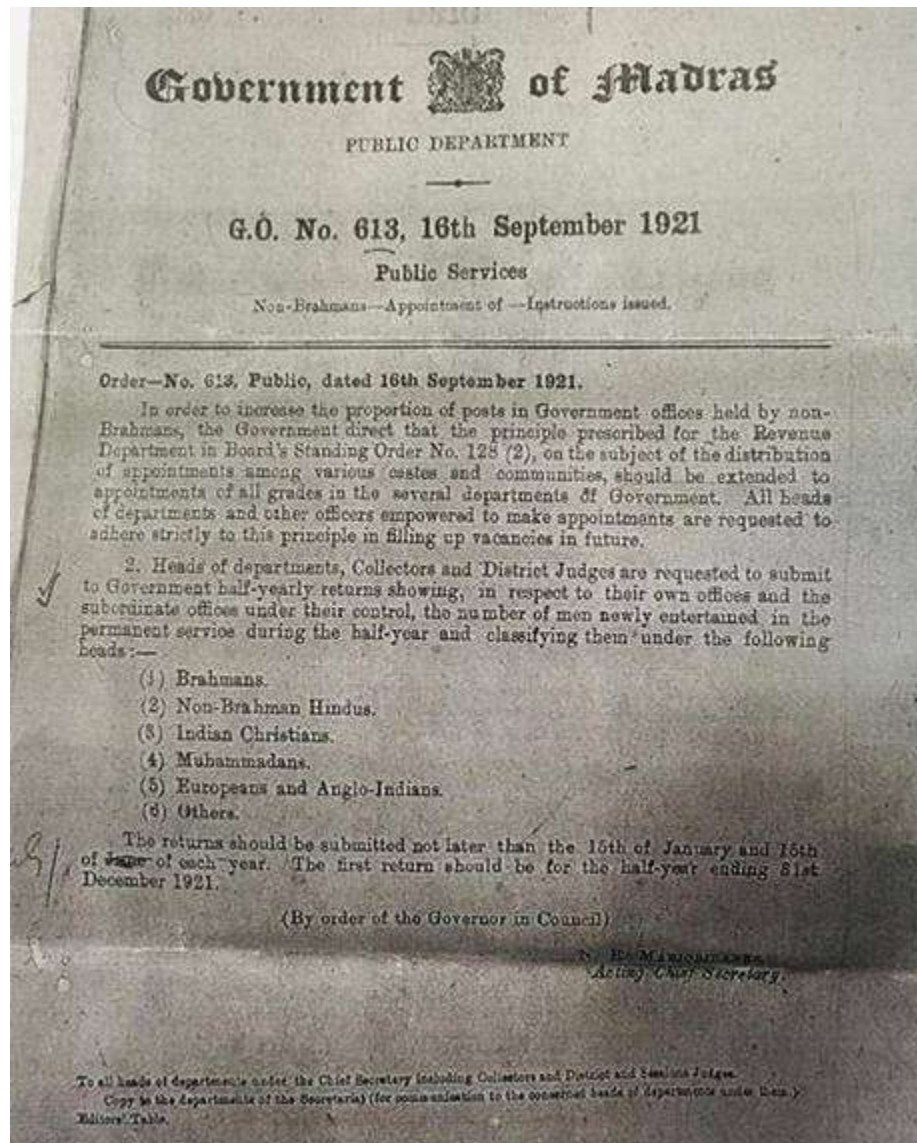


- ❖ Renowned writer and Tamil poet Francis Kiruba recently passed away in Chennai
- ❖ He hails from Pathiniparai village near Nanguneri in Tirunelveli district.
- ❖ He wrote the screenplay and script for the biopic of 'Kamaraj'.

### **Communal G.O – 1921**

- ❖ It was issued 100 years ago on this day (September 16th) by the Justice Party government.
- ❖ It sought “to increase the proportion of posts held by non-Brahmins,” which also encompassed Indian Christians, Muslims and Adi-Dravidar, in the Provincial Services.
- ❖ It aims to empower non-Brahmins and securing the space due to them in administration and politics.
- ❖ B.R. Ambedkar had sought Political reservation for Dalits before the Southborough Committee in 1919.
- ❖ In 1928, Muthiah Mudaliar, the then Education Minister under the Subba Rayan Government, introduced the Communal G. O. to implement the 1921 order.



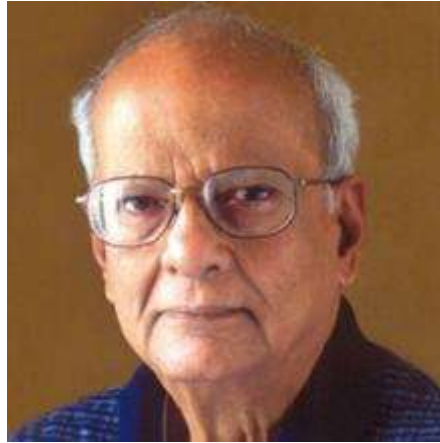


### **Indira Parthasarathy – Sahitya Academy**

- ❖ After a gap of 25 years, the Sahitya Academy has chosen a Tamil litterateur, Indira Parthasarathy for its highest honour of Fellowship.
- ❖ He is commonly known as Ee. Paa.
- ❖ In 1996, D. Jayakanthan, aged 62, was the youngest to become a Fellow of the Academy.
- ❖ Before him, only two from the Tamil literary world.
- ❖ They were Rajaji or C. Rajagopalachari (1969) and T.P. Meenakshisundaram (1975).



- ❖ Though V. Raghavan (1979) and K.R. Srinivasa Iyengar (1985), both Tamils, were also given the Fellowship, they were recognised for their contributions to Sanskrit and the Indian writing in English.
- ❖ Indira Parthasarathy is author of over 40 books, including 16 novels, 10 plays and six collections of short stories.
- ❖ Prof. Parthasarathy is noted for his works on political themes.
- ❖ He considers the play Ramanujar his magnum opus.
- ❖ His Kurithi Punal, written against the backdrop of the 1968 Keezh venmani massacre of 42 poor farmers, fetched him the Sahitya academy award in 1977.
- ❖ He went on to win several prestigious awards, including the Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad Award and the Saraswati Samman.
- ❖ He is the only Tamil writer to be given awards by both the Sahitya and Sangeet Natak Academies.



### **Sahitya Academy prize for translation**

- ❖ TES Raghavan and K Chellappan have been chosen for the Sahitya Academy prize for translation for the year 2020.
- ❖ TES Raghavan has been chosen for this prize for translating Tirukural into Hindi.
- ❖ K Chellappan has been chosen for translating Gora, a novel in Bengali, authored by Rabindranath Tagore into Tamil.

### **Silambam in 'Khelo India'**

- ❖ Silambam has been recognised under the 'Promotion of inclusiveness through sports' initiative of the 'Khelo India' programme of the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- ❖ Silambam an Indian martial art developed by Tamils.



### **Keezhadi excavation**

- ❖ The Excavations in the Keezhadi in Sivagangai district have uncovered dice made of ivory.
- ❖ This dice weighs 4 grams and has 5 cm cube with 1 point, (i.e) with 6 points marked on six sides.
- ❖ An ivory comb was found during the first excavation that had already taken place.
- ❖ Later, with the discovery of a 6th century silver coin, a gold earring was recently discovered during an excavation in the Agaram near the Keezhadi.
- ❖ The Pottery parts containing 13 letters (Tamil) have been found.
- ❖ The pot may have been written with thorns.
- ❖ Earlier, parts of pot with the names Aadan and Uthiran were found.
- ❖ With a maximum of parts of pottery containing 7 alphabetical letters found earlier, now this one with 13 letters is considered to be a testament to the fact that educated people lived here.
- ❖ Also at the bottom is a red grain container.
- ❖ Also, five more pots have been found in the pit where this pot was found.

### **Alternative Speakers of the legislature**

- ❖ The Speaker Appavu has announced that when there is no Speaker in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, there will be four alternative speakers to hold the Assembly.
- ❖ Anbazhagan, SR Raja, Udayasooriyan and DRP Raja will be the alternate leaders.

### **Thirukkural Translation**

- ❖ According to the Central Institute of Classical Tamil Studies, Thirukkural translations will be published in ten languages, including the Vakripoli language spoken by the Narikkurava people.



- ❖ The Central Ministry of Education has submitted to the Central Institute of Classical Tamil Studies a project to translate Thirukkural into 21 languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India.
- ❖ The Institute has already published Thirukkural translations in Punjabi (2012), Manipuri (2012), Telugu (2014), Kannada (2014) and Gujarati (2015).
- ❖ In the coming October, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Hindi, Nepali, Urdu, Arabic, Persian, Vakripoli (Narikkurava language), Paduku translations will be published in ten languages.
- ❖ In that respect, 20 books including U.V. Saminathaya Diary, U.V. Saminathaya Glossary and Sangam books Vocabulary, Natrinai (Kannada Translation), Tolkappiyam (Hindi Translation), Patiruppattu (Kannada Translation) will be published.

### **Ki.Ra. Award**

- ❖ The Coimbatore Vijaya Publishing house's Vijaya Reader Circle's 2021 has announced that the Ki.Ra. award will be given to famous writer Konangi.
- ❖ Writer Konangi who is a story teller of modern Tamil literature belongs to Kovilpatti.
- ❖ Every year Ki.Ra. award and a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh is awarded in the name of Writer K. Raja Narayanan, who is known as the father of Karisal literature.
- ❖ This K.R. The award is presented by Shakti Masala.
- ❖ For the past 5 years the Vijaya Readers Circle of Coimbatore Vijaya Publishing house has selected Jayakanthan Award for Best Author, Poet Meera Award, Innovator Award, Shakthi Vai Govindan Award for Best Government Librarian and Vanathi Thirunavukkarasu Award for Best Bookseller.

### **Fisheries and Agriculture Department Announcements**

- ❖ A weaving heritage park will be set up in Nagore in Nagai district at a cost of Rs 2 crores in 2021-2022.
- ❖ The Colour Fish Trade Centre at Kolathur, Chennai will be set up to international standards with Government and private participation.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is the 7<sup>th</sup> state to bring a resolution in the Assembly against the Agriculture Act.
- ❖ Seven states, including Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Punjab and Rajasthan, have already passed resolutions against agricultural laws.



- ❖ The four places, namely Melmalaiyanur, Vallam of the Villupuram District, Madhanur of Tirupathur District and Harur of Dharmapuri District will be set up with Agricultural Extension Centres.
- ❖ A new Seed Testing Station will be set up at Tirupur.
- ❖ A 'one day program with farmers' will be implemented to go to the villages and listen to the grievances of the farmers.
- ❖ 4 organic farmer manufacturing companies will be set up at Dharmapuri, Cuddalore, Ranipet and Thiruvarur.
- ❖ An animal feed factory will be set up in Thanjavur district.
- ❖ National Poultry Breeding Farm and Poultry Incubation Establishment will be established at Abikesampatti farm, Tirunelveli District.
- ❖ A multipurpose hospital and research centre for pets will be set up at Nandanam, Chennai.
- ❖ Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri-based Tirukkachiruppu Sheep's Research Centre will be set up on 800 acres in Dharmapuri.
- ❖ A resource centre for the conservation of poultry (Siruvidai kozhi) in Tamil Nadu will be set up at the Madhavaram Poultry Research Station.
- ❖ In Orathanadu Veterinary College and Research Institute (Thanjavur), Tamil Nadu's Pattanam Sheep and Goat Resource Centre will be established.
- ❖ 50 Special markets would be set up at a cost of ₹8 crore in Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchi and Salem to showcase the products of products of farmer-producer organisations
- ❖ An agri course in agriculture engineering would be started at the Agriculture Engineering College and Research Institute in Kumlur, Tiruchi.
- ❖ Three Government agriculture colleges will come up in Karur district, Kilvelur in Nagapattinam district and Chettinadu in Sivagangai district.

### **Public Welfare Department Announcements**

- ❖ A red blood cell freezing unit will be set up at the Rajiv Gandhi Hospital in Chennai.
- ❖ Awareness will be created to reduce the use of sugar, salt and oil under the 'Slightly Reduce' (சற்றே குறைப்போம்) scheme.
- ❖ For the first time in India, a Siddha Medical University will be established near Chennai.
- ❖ For the first time in Tamil Nadu, a 24-hour Nursing Monitoring Centre will be set up.

### **Tamil Development department Announcements**

- ❖ These were released by the Minister Thangam Tennarasu in the Legislative Assembly during the demand for grants on the Tamil official Language and Tamil Culture and Archaeology Department.
- ❖ The Books of Tamil scholars will be nationalized and a sum of money will be given.
- ❖ Accordingly, the books of Dr. T. Paramasivan, Silamboli Su.Sellappan, Puluvar Ilangumaranar, Murugesu Bhagavathar, Sankaravalli Nayakam and Pulavar Se. Rasu will be nationalized.
- ❖ In the temples, Tirukkural classes are conducted along with Thevaram, Thiruvagam and the Naalayira Divya Prabhandam.
- ❖ Tamil classes will be conducted through the media under the name 'Theerak Kadhal Thirukural'.
- ❖ Rs. 1 crore will be allocated to form the 'Tamil Campaign Association' (தமிழ் பரப்புரைக் கழகம்) in order to teach Tamils living abroad and in other states.
- ❖ In particular, the Minister stressed that when writing a name in Tamil, the initials should also be written in Tamil.

### **L Murugan - BJP's RS candidate**



**New Members**  
of Council of Ministers

**Dr. L. Murugan**

• Shri L Murugan has practiced as a Lawyer in Madras High Court for 15 years before joining full-time public life

• He was Vice Chairman of the National Commission of Scheduled Castes from 2017 to 2020

• He holds LLM and PhD in Law from Madras University

myGov  
GO WISE

- ❖ The BJP named Union minister of state L Murugan, as its candidate for the Madhya Pradesh Rajya Sabha seat vacated by Thawarchand Gehlot.



- ❖ Murugan headed BJP's Tamil Nadu unit till July.
- ❖ He was then inducted into the Union cabinet by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as MoS information and broadcasting, and fisheries, animal husbandry and dairying.
- ❖ This necessitated his election to Parliament in six months.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh's Rajya Sabha vacancy emerged after Gehlot was appointed the Karnataka Governor.

### **Trans Kitchen**



- ❖ Trans Kitchen, a hotel run by a group of transgender people, was inaugurated near Goripalayam junction, Madurai
- ❖ It is a first-of-its-kind initiative in the city.
- ❖ Swasti organization funded the initiative, in association with organizations like Aroghyam, Virutti, and Sri Lakshmi Pengal Munnetra Sangam.

### **Mass feeding scheme**

- ❖ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin virtually inaugurated the day-long annadhanam scheme.
- ❖ The scheme was launched at Subramanya Swamy temple in Tiruchendur, Mariamman temple in Samayapuram, and Subramanya Swami temple in Tiruttani.
- ❖ Devotees could have food anytime between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. under this scheme.
- ❖ Arulmigu Aranganathaswamy temple in Srirangam and Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani swamy temple in Palani are the other two temples under the department where the day-long annadhanam scheme is being implemented at present.



## AK Rajan Committee

Table 7.14.MBBS Admission for the Period 2010-11 to 2020-21: pre-NEET and post-NEET period

Academic Year	MBBS Seats (Govt&SF)	Board of Education			Medium of Instruction		Type of Management	
		State Board	CBSE	Others	Tamil	English	Govt.	Private
2010-2011	2349	2332	14	3	465	1884	-	-
2011-2012	2543	2533	2	8	459	2084	-	-
2012-2013	2707	2692	12	3	503	2204	-	-
2013-2014	3267	3251	4	12	570	2697	-	-
2014-2015	3147	3140	2	5	602	2545	38	3109
2015-2016	3015	2996	2	17	510	2500	36	2979
2016-2017	3608	3544	35	29	537	3071	34	3574
2017-2018	3517	2303	1113	101	56	3461	3	3514
2018-2019	3638	2626	894	118	119	3519	5	3633
2019-2020	4202	2762	1368	72	71	4131	6	4196
2020-2021 (92.5%)	4129	2453	1604	72	82	4047	11	4118
2020-2021 (7.5%)	336	336	0	0	217	119	336	0

- ❖ A 165-page Report was submitted by the retired Justice AK Rajan Committee on the impact of NEET.
- ❖ The Report stated that NEET should be eliminated immediately.
- ❖ It said that NEET would affect the healthcare infrastructure of Tamil Nadu, bringing a shortage of doctors' appointments in primary health centres and government hospitals.
- ❖ The report also stated that students from rural regions and poor backgrounds might lose access to medical education.
- ❖ The committee also pointed out that the admission to MBBS course before the NEET days for Tamil medium students was 14.44 per cent while it has fallen to a negligible 1.7 per cent in 2020-21.

## Pavithra Venkatesh

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Pavithra Venkatesh won gold in the women's pole vault event at the 60th National Open athletics meet.
- ❖ It was held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Warangal.
- ❖ The 19-year-old, who hails from Salem, cleared the bar at 3.90m.

## Gandhi Dhoti Centennial Celebrations



- ❖ The centennial year of the Mahatma 'changing his attire to dhoti' was celebrated on 22, September.
- ❖ An incident on September 22<sup>nd</sup> of 1921 at Madurai made Gandhi to wear dhoti.
- ❖ Commemorating this occasion, Ramraj Cotton organised a grand event 'Dhoti 100' at Tirupur.
- ❖ 100 martyrs and 100 weavers were honoured and 100 saplings were planted on the occasion.
- ❖ Dancers from Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, performed a traditional dance drama on 'Gandhiya Vazhiyal RamRaj'.

## \$1 trillion economy – TN

- ❖ The five-year strategy for economic growth was unveiled by Chief Minister MK Stalin as TN targets a \$1 trillion economy by quadrupling its exports in nine years.
- ❖ TN will adopt a two-pronged approach,
  - export promotion and
  - export diversification
- ❖ This is to achieve its aim of a \$1 trillion economy by 2030.
- ❖ The State is setting up an Export Promotion Council under the Chief Secretary to boost exports.
- ❖ TN is also looking at developing two economic employment enclaves, in Mannasellore and Thoothkudi, in one phase.



### **Fully Solar Powered Central Station**

- ❖ The Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G. Ramachandran Central or Chennai Central railway station has met the 100% day energy requirement target by solar panels installed on the platform shelters of the station.
- ❖ The Station comes under the Southern Railway.
- ❖ The station has installed solar power capacity of 1.5MW.
- ❖ The Southern Railway is the first on Indian Railways to come up with the concept of 'Energy Neutral' railway stations.



### **Jal Jeevan Mission – Tamilnadu**

- ❖ Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Prahlad Singh Patel lauded Tamil Nadu for the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission.
- ❖ Patel appreciated the provision of 100 per cent drinking water connections to State-run schools, anganwadi and Primary Healthcare Centres and government buildings.



## NATIONAL

### Universal Postal Union – India



- ❖ India has won the elections for membership of two key bodies of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), during the 27th UPU Congress in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.
- ❖ India got elected to the Council of Administration (CA).
- ❖ The country received the highest votes in CA elections from South Asia and the Oceania region.
- ❖ Apart from this, India has also been elected to the Postal Operations Council (POC).
- ❖ India will now work with all to strengthen cooperation in the Universal Postal Union.



### **Ashok and 7 other ITDC hotels**

- ❖ Under the government's target of monetising "under-utilized public sector assets", 'The Ashok' 5-star hotel will be leased out to private operators in four years.
- ❖ The Ashok and the Hotel Samrat are among eight India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) properties that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman listed in the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP).

#### ***The Ashok group of hotels***

- ❖ These are the flagship hotel chain under ITDC, having a brand value developed in last 40-50 years.
- ❖ These hotels been the centre stage for all government events that are organised by various ministries and public sector entities.

### **POSHAN Maah**



- ❖ The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development has planned to organise and celebrate Thematic POSHAN Maah in September 2021.
- ❖ Under the Poshan Abhiyaan, the month of September is observed as Poshan Maah i.e., Nutrition month every year, since 2018.
- ❖ POSHAN Maah is celebrated to ensure community mobilization and bolster people's participation.

### **Neeraj Chopra Stadium**

- ❖ The Union Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh visited the Army Sports Institute, Pune and named the Army Sports Institute stadium as "Neeraj Chopra Stadium".
- ❖ The focus of the Indian Army (in the field of sports) is to identify and train promising sportspersons in 11 disciplines.

- ❖ The Indian Army's "Mission Olympics" programme was launched in 2001.
- ❖ It was launched with the intent to deliver medal-winning performances in the Olympics and other international events.

**Note**

- ❖ The Athletics Federation of India has decided that javelin throw day will be on 7th August every year in honour of Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra.



**BH-series**

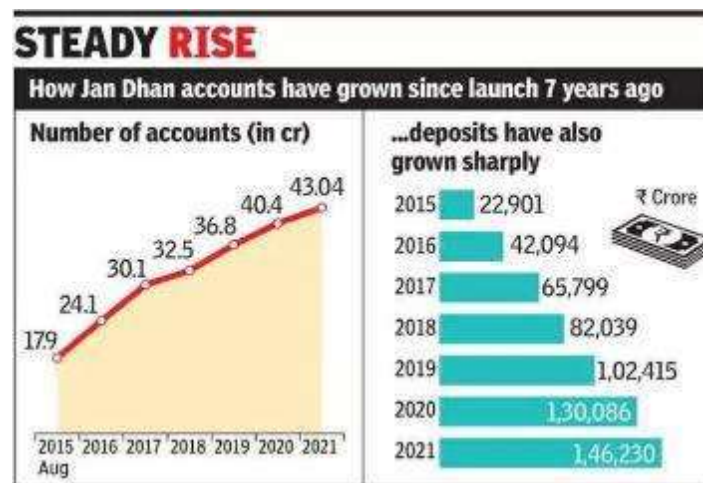
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways launched the BH-series to facilitate seamless transfer of vehicles.
- ❖ The Vehicle with this registration mark will not require assignment of any new registration mark when owner of the vehicle shifts from one state to other.
- ❖ The Vehicle registration facility under this series will be available on voluntary basis to Defense personnel, employees of Central or State Government, Central or State Public Sector Undertakings and private sector companies or organizations, having their offices across four or more States or Union territories.



- ❖ Section 47 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 provides that a person cannot keep the vehicle for more than 12 months in any state other than the state where vehicle is registered.
- ❖ Instead, a new registration can be made with the new state- registering authority within 12 months.
- ❖ Considering this difficulty, new BH-series were launched.

### Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana

- ❖ Under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) the number of bank accounts have increased to 43 crores with total deposits of Rs 1.46 lakh crore.
- ❖ The flagship financial inclusion scheme, PMJDY, has completed seven years of implementation.
- ❖ This scheme was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Independence Day address on August 15, 2014.
- ❖ It was launched on August 28 with the objective of bringing financial inclusion.
- ❖ It was launched to ensure that people have access to financial services, like banking, credit, insurance, remittance and pension in an affordable manner.



### Coast Guard Ship Vigraha

- ❖ The defence minister Rajnath Singh has dedicated to the nation, the indigenously built Coast Guard Ship 'Vigraha' in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ According to the defence ministry, the 98-meter vessel will be based in Andhra Pradesh's Visakhapatnam (Vizag).
- ❖ The ship has been designed and built indigenously by Larsen & Toubro Ship Building Limited.



### **Liberalized Drone Rules**

- ❖ The Union ministry of civil aviation (MoCA) notified the liberalized Drone Rules.
- ❖ These liberalized rules will replace the unmanned aircraft system (UAS) Rules 2021.
- ❖ A Digital sky platform will be developed as a user-friendly single-window system.

#### **Digital sky platform**

- ❖ It is an initiative by MoCA.
- ❖ It seeks to provide a secure and a scalable platform in order to support the drone technology frameworks like 'No permission, no take-off'.
- ❖ It has been designed to enable flight permission digitally and manage unmanned aircraft operations & traffic in an efficient manner.

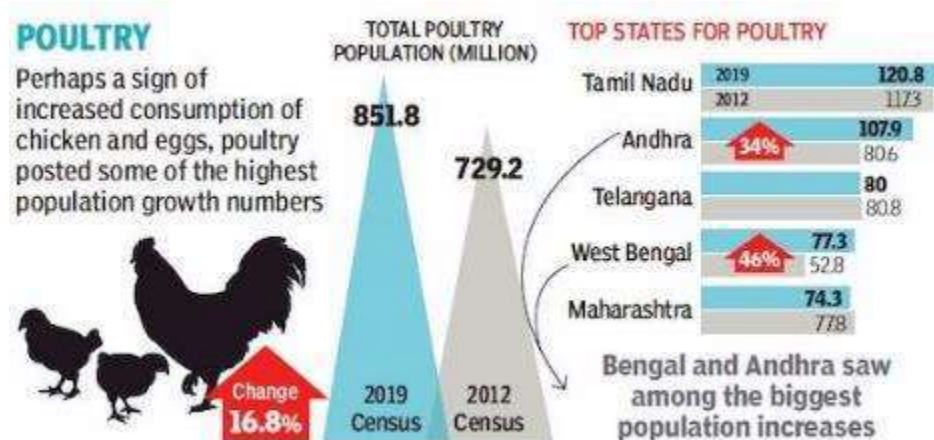


### **New Rules on Poultry Farms**

- ❖ The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries under the Union Ministry of Agriculture has released a set of new guidelines for poultry farms.
- ❖ It classifies poultry farmers based on the number of birds in the farm.



- Small - 5,000-25,000 birds
- Medium - 25,000 – 1 lakh birds
- Large – more than 1 lakh birds
- ❖ A farm should be set up
  - 500m away from a residential area,
  - 100m from rivers, lakes, canals and drinking water sources,
  - 100m from national highways and
  - 10-15m from village footpaths and rural roads.
- ❖ In the new guideline, a farmer of medium-sized poultry farm will have to obtain a certificate of Consent from State Pollution Control Board under the Water Act, 1974 and the Air Act, 1981.
- ❖ The permission will be valid for 15 years.
- ❖ The Animal Husbandry Department will be responsible for implementing the guidelines at the state and district level.



## Oath of office

- ❖ The Chief Justice of India (CJI), NV Ramana, administered oath of office to Nine new judges, including three women.
- ❖ Three out of these nine new judges namely, Justice Vikram Nath, Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice PS Narasimha, are in line to become the CJI.
- ❖ With the addition of 9 judges, total strength of the Supreme Court increases to 33 out of the sanctioned strength of 34, including the CJI.
- ❖ This is the highest number of women judges ever in the Supreme Court (4 judges).
- ❖ It was the first time as many as nine judges were sworn in to the Supreme Court in a single stroke.



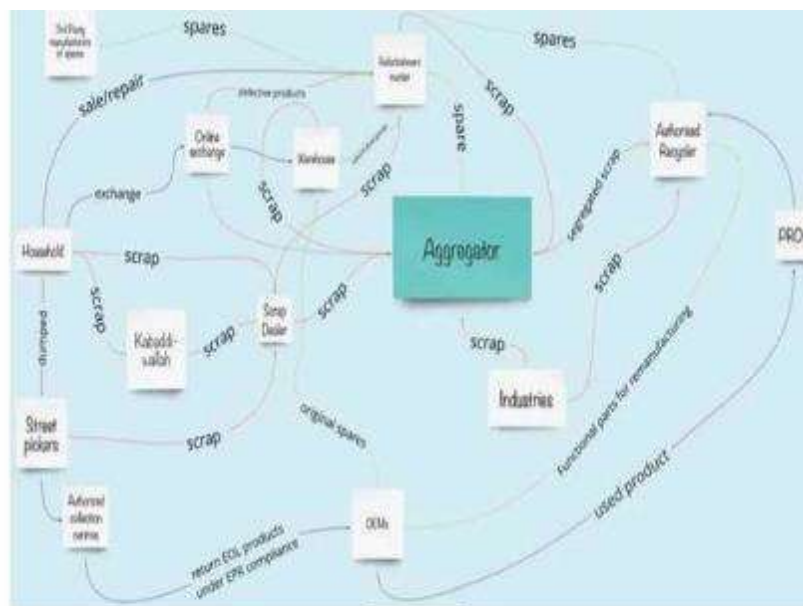
- ❖ Again, it was the first time the Supreme Court allowed a live telecast of the oath ceremony.

### Note

- ❖ In over 71 years, only eight women judges have been appointed till date.
- ❖ First women judge was M Fathima Beevi, appointed in 1989.
- ❖ Justice Indira Banerjee is the long serving woman judge in the supreme court.



### Online Marketplace e-Source



*The ecosystem being envisaged under the 'e-Source' initiative of IGCS, IIT Madras*

- ❖ IIT Madras is in process of developing an online platform called e-Source that will be used to tackle electronic wastes (e-waste).

- ❖ E-Source will be used to tackle e-waste by linking stakeholders of the formal and informal economy.
- ❖ E-Source will act as an exchange platform to serve as an online marketplace for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE).
- ❖ This initiative is being headed by Indo-German Centre for Sustainability (IGCS).

### **Navy Exercise - India and Algeria**



- ❖ The Indian and Algerian navies conducted their first ever naval exercise off the coast of Algeria.
- ❖ The exercise reflects increased maritime cooperation among two countries.
- ❖ Stealth ship INS Tabar represented India while Algeria was represented by its naval ship ANS Ezager.

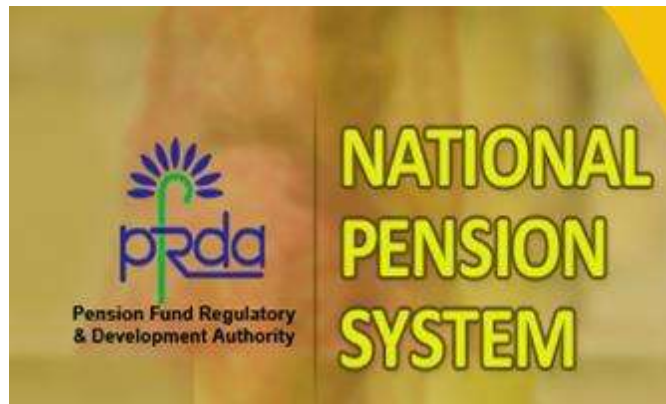
### **World's highest movie theatre**

- ❖ The world's highest movie theatre has recently been inaugurated in Ladakh.
- ❖ It got its first-ever mobile digital movie theatre in the Paldan area of Leh, at an altitude of 11,562 feet.
- ❖ The inflatable theatre can operate in -28 degrees Celsius.
- ❖ The initiative aims to bring cinema watching experience to the remotest areas of India.



### **Entry age increase in National Pension System**

- ❖ The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has increased the entry age for the National Pension System (NPS) from 65 years to 70 years.
- ❖ Earlier the eligible age to invest in NPS was 18-65 years.
- ❖ Now it is revised to 18-70 years.
- ❖ As per the revised norms, any Indian Citizen, resident or non-resident and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) between the age of 65-70 years can join NPS and continue or defer their NPS Account up to the age of 75 years.
- ❖ If a person joins NPS after 65 years, then the Normal Exit shall be after 3 years.



### **Rabobank's 2021 Global Top 20 Dairy Companies list**

- ❖ Amul, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation has ranked 18th in this list
- ❖ Amul was placed at 16<sup>th</sup> spot in 2020.
- ❖ French-based dairy company Lactalis has topped the list as the world's largest dairy company.



- ❖ It has unseated Switzerland-based global behemoth Nestle, which dominated the list for decades.
- ❖ Rabobank's Global Dairy Top 20 Report is released annually to rank the dairy industry upon their sales data and financial statements.

### **World's highest motorable way**

- ❖ A road connecting Leh to the Pangong Lake was inaugurated recently.
- ❖ The stretch passing through the Kela Pass at 18,600 feet is the world's highest motorable way.
- ❖ The road was constructed by 58 Engineer Regiment of the Indian Army.
- ❖ It will reduce the distance between Leh (Zingral to Tangtse) to Pangong Lake crossing the Kela Pass by 41 kms.

### **First meeting with Taliban - India**

- ❖ According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), its Ambassador to Qatar Deepak Mittal, met the head of the Taliban's political office, Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai
- ❖ With this meeting, the Government of India has softened its stance on the Taliban.
- ❖ India's only concern was that "Afghanistan's soil should not be used for any anti-Indian activities and terrorism".

### **NABARD and NABFOUNDATION's new initiative**

- ❖ In Tripura, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has inaugurated a project called 'My Pad, My Right' initiated by NABARD and NABFOUNDATION.
- ❖ It was inaugurated at Killa village in Gomati district.
- ❖ The project aims to bring livelihood and menstrual hygiene closer to rural women by way of grant, wage support and capital equipment.
- ❖ The Union Minister also flagged off the mobile ATM van of Tripura State Co-Operative Bank Limited.

### **Floating ATM at Dal Lake**

- ❖ State Bank of India has opened a floating ATM on a Houseboat at Dal Lake in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar.
- ❖ The floating ATM was inaugurated by SBI Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara.

- ❖ This is not the first time that SBI has launched a floating ATM as back in 2004, the bank took this initiative in Kerala.
- ❖ The SBI installed a floating ATM at Jhankar yacht, which operates between Ernakulum and Vaypeyan region.



### **Gaganyaan Service Module Propulsion System**

- ❖ Indian Space Research Organisation said it successfully conducted the first hot test of the System Demonstration Model of the Gaganyaan Service Module Propulsion System.
- ❖ It was done at the test facility of Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The test conducted for 450 seconds met the test objectives and matched the pre-test predictions.
- ❖ The Gaganyaan Service Module Propulsion System is a part of the Gaganyaan Orbital module of the Gaganyaan Mission, India's first human spaceflight mission.





### **Grenades made by private sector**

- ❖ The first batch of one lakh privately 'made in India' modern hand grenades were handed over to the Indian Army by Economic Explosives Ltd. (EEL).
- ❖ EEL a Nagpur based private company.
- ❖ This is the first instance of ammunition being manufactured by the private industry in India.



### **Saath initiative**

- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, launched the Rural Enterprises Acceleration Programme called 'Saath'.
- ❖ This initiative was launched with the aim of transforming the lives of rural women associated with SHGs.
- ❖ This initiative will help about 48000 SHGs in which about four lakh women are connected, in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ Saath initiative will focus on mentoring and market linkages of products that created by these women.
- ❖ Saath initiative was launched in line with the Umeed scheme that enabled women to start their own business.

### **Ladakh adopts State animal and bird**

- ❖ Ladakh adopted two endangered species, snow leopard and black-necked crane, as State animal and State bird
- ❖ Black-necked cranes are only found in Ladakh's Changthang region.
- ❖ The bird is classified as Near-Threatened, as per the IUCN classification.
- ❖ Snow leopard has been classified as 'vulnerable'.



### 200 Army personnel for Zapad exercise

- ❖ One of the contingents of the Indian armed forces is participating in Exercise Zapad
- ❖ ZAPAD 2021 is one of the theatre level exercises of Russian armed forces and will focus primarily on operations against terrorists.
- ❖ Multiple countries will be part of this exercise.
- ❖ Pakistan and china are part of this exercise as observer states.



### **New secretary general**

- ❖ The Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu has appointed Dr PPK Ramacharyulu as the secretary general.
- ❖ He is the secretary in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat since 2018.
- ❖ He succeeds Desh Dipak Verma.

### **Defence Expo 22**



- ❖ The next Defence Expo will be hosted by Gujarat in 2022.
- ❖ This was announced by chief minister Vijay Rupani.
- ❖ Defence Expo-2022 will be held in Gandhinagar.
- ❖ The aim of Defense Expo 2022 is to move from Make in India to make for the world.
- ❖ The Defence Expo-2022 will focus on making India a Defence manufacturing hub.

#### **Note**

- ❖ Def Expo was traditionally held in Delhi until 2014.
- ❖ After 2014 it has seen a string of new venues - Goa (2016), Chennai (2018) and Lucknow (2020).

### **125<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of ISKCON founder**

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually unveiled a special commemorative coin of Rs 125 to mark the 125th birth anniversary of ISKCON founder Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.
- ❖ In July 1966, Prabhupada founded the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) commonly known as the 'Hare Krishna movement'.

- ❖ The spiritual leader was born as Abhay Charan De on September 1 in Calcutta.
- ❖ Later he was to be known by the honorific A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.



## Royal Jelly

- ❖ The Indian Royal Jelly was found to surpass top-quality sellers; those are produced in Thailand and Taiwan.
- ❖ This is according to Pune-based researchers.
- ❖ Royal Jelly is known for being a good antioxidant.
- ❖ It helps women with fertility issues.
- ❖ The Indian Royal Jelly meets the ISO-prescribed standards prescribed by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in 2019.
- ❖ The Royal Jelly is a pearl white or pale yellow-coloured cohesive mixture of honey and secretions from hypopharyngeal & mandibular glands of worker honeybees.

HOW INDIAN ROYAL JELLY FARES AGAINST ISO STANDARDS		
Parameter (per cent by mass)	ISO permissible limit	Indian Royal Jelly
Moisture	62 to 68.5	64 to 66
10 HDA	1.4	2.02 to 2.31
Protein	11 to 18	11.56 to 12.97
Total sugar	7 to 18	10.02 to 10.39
Glucose	2 to 9	1.96 to 2.54
Total lipid	2 to 8	2.96 to 6.46

## Eat Right Station

- ❖ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India awarded a 5-star 'Eat Right Station' certification to the Chandigarh Railway Station.
- ❖ This certification was awarded for providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers.

- ❖ The 'Eat Right Station Certification' was the part of the 'Eat Right India' movement.
- ❖ Chandigarh Railway Station has become the fifth station in India to receive this certification.
- ❖ Other stations with this certification include,
  - Anand Vihar Terminal Railway Station in Delhi,
  - Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus in Mumbai,
  - Mumbai Central Railway Station in Mumbai and
  - Vadodara Railway Station in Vadodara.



### **Shikshak Parv-2021**

- ❖ The Shikshak Parv-2021 will be observed from September 5, 2021.
- ❖ This event will be celebrated to honour the contribution of teachers.
- ❖ On the occasion, PM will launch five initiatives:
  - Indian sign language dictionary of 10,000 words
  - Talking books (audio books for visually impaired)
  - School quality assessment and accreditation framework of CBSE
  - NISTHA teachers' training programme for NIPUN Bharat, and
  - Vidyanjali portal to facilitate education volunteers, donors and CSR contributors in development of school.
- ❖ Shikshak Parv-2021 will be celebrated by Ministry of Education from September 5 to 17, 2021.
- ❖ It will be organised to recognise the valuable contributions of teachers and to take National Education Policy 2020 ahead.



### **President's Color to Indian Naval Aviation**

- ❖ The President of India, will award the President's Colour to Indian Naval Aviation at the ceremonial parade to be held at INS Hansa, Goa.
- ❖ The President's Colour is the highest honour bestowed on a military unit in recognition of its exceptional service to the nation.
- ❖ The Indian Navy was the first amongst the Indian Armed Forces to be awarded the President's Colour.
- ❖ It was awarded on 27 May 1951 by Dr Rajendra Prasad, the then President of India.



### **Manthan 2021**

- ❖ The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), in coordination with the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), launched an online hackathon "Manthan 2021".



- ❖ It aims for the identification of innovative concepts and technology solutions to address the challenges faced by intelligence agencies.
- ❖ The BPR&D was established under the Ministry of Home Affairs in the 1970s.
- ❖ It was launched with the primary objective of modernisation of the Police Force.
- ❖ AICTE is a national-level apex advisory body to conduct a survey on the facilities available for technical education and to promote development in the country in a coordinated and integrated manner

### **Y Break app**

- ❖ The Union AYUSH Minister, Sarbananda Sonowal has launched 'Y Break' Yoga protocol mobile application in New Delhi.
- ❖ The app has been developed by Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga.
- ❖ The Y-Break (or the "Yoga Break") mobile application is a unique five-minute Yoga protocol app.
- ❖ It is designed especially for working professionals to de-stress, refresh and re-focus at their workplace.



### **Kisan Store**

- ❖ Amazon India announced the launch of Kisan Store.
- ❖ The store was launched by Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar.
- ❖ Kisan Store is an online platform that enable farmers of India to get access of more than 8,000 agriculture inputs like farm tools & accessories, seeds, plant protection, nutrition etc.
- ❖ These products are listed by small and medium businesses (SMBs).
- ❖ Products will be delivered at the doorstep of farmers.
- ❖ Kisan store will be available in languages like Hindi, Telugu, Kannada, Tamil, and Malayalam.

### **Tunnel at the Delhi Legislative Assembly**

- ❖ A mysterious tunnel has been discovered at the Delhi Legislative Assembly.
- ❖ The tunnel connects the legislative assembly to Red Fort.
- ❖ It was used by the Britishers to avoid reprisal while moving freedom fighters.



### **Karbi Peace Accord**

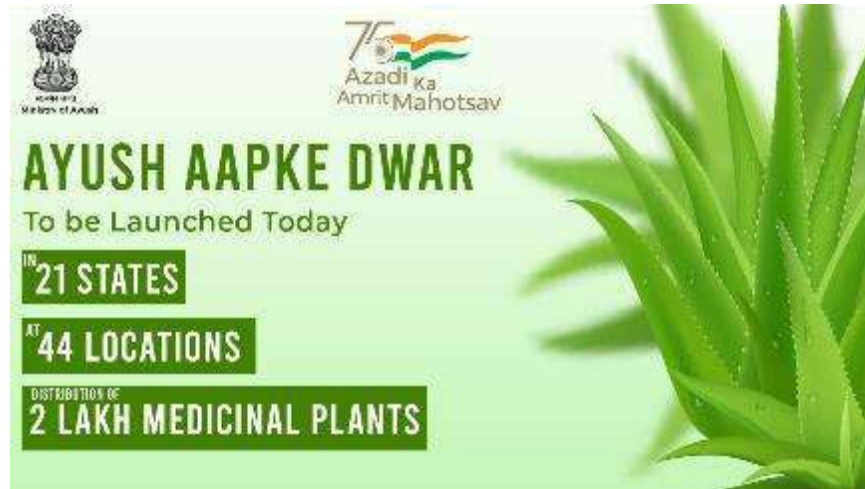


- ❖ The Centre signed a tripartite “Karbi Peace Accord”.
- ❖ This accord is significant because insurgency by Karbi group has a long history in Assam which is marked by killings, ethnic violence, abductions and taxations since 1980s.
- ❖ Karbi is a major ethnic community in Assam and are dotted by several factions and splinters.

### **AYUSH AAPKE DWAR**

- ❖ Ayush Ministry launched the campaign called “AYUSH AAPKE DWAR” from some 45 locations across India.

- ❖ Campaign was launched by Minister of State for Ayush from Ayush Bhawan by distributing medicinal plants to staff.
- ❖ AYUSH AAPKE DWAR campaign was launched with the aim of distributing medicinal plant saplings to 75 lakh households in India in one year.



### Integrated anti-Submarine warfare Defence Suits



- ❖ The Ministry of Defence signed a contract worth Rs. 1,349 Crores with Mahindra Defence Systems (MDS) Limited.
- ❖ This is in order to buy 14 Integrated Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Defence Suits (IADS) for the Indian Navy.





- ❖ Integrated Anti-Submarine Warfare Defence Suits is high-end underwater equipment that uses the latest technology.
- ❖ The system is designed to detect and protect warships from underwater threats.

### **Plastics pact**

- ❖ India has become the first Asian Country to launch a Plastics pact.
- ❖ This new platform was developed by World-Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF India) in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- ❖ It will help to promote a circular system for plastics.
- ❖ The Commitments under the pact are aimed at keeping plastic packaging in the economy and out of natural environment.



### **CORBEVAX**

- ❖ The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) gave approval to another indigenous COVID-19 vaccine candidate called CORBEVAX for two clinical trials.
- ❖ This vaccine is also called as BioE COVID-19 vaccine.
- ❖ This COVID-19 vaccine candidate has been developed by Indian biopharmaceutical firm Biological E. Limited (BioE) in collaboration with the Baylor College of Medicine, Houston in the United States and the American company Dynavax Technologies (DVAX).
- ❖ Vaccine is a protein subunit vaccine.
- ❖ Biological E received approval to conduct phase two and three clinical trials on children between five to eighteen years of age.
- ❖ The vaccine has also received financial assistance under Mission COVID Suraksha and a financial support under COVID-19 Research Consortia through National Biopharma Mission, BIRAC.





### **Court rules against EWS reservation**

- ❖ The Madras High Court ruled that the Centre ought not to have provided 10% reservation for economically weaker sections (EWS) of society in the All India Quota medical seats without obtaining the express approval of the Supreme Court.
- ❖ Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee and Justice P.D. Adikesavalu held that Centre's July 29 notification was permissible only with respect to
  - 15% reservation for Scheduled Castes,
  - 7.5% for Scheduled Tribes and
  - 27% reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

### **India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve**



- ❖ Tamil Nadu recently announced to set up India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve in the Palk Bay on the southeast coast.
- ❖ It will also construct a Dugong Marine Conservation Reserve in the Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay areas.

- ❖ Dugong or sea cow is an endangered marine mammal.
- ❖ It is the only living species of the order Sirenia.
- ❖ Dugong is found in Gulf of Mannar and at Palk Bay in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The IUCN has listed dugong as a “vulnerable to extinction species”.

### **24<sup>th</sup> meeting of FSDC**

- ❖ The union minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman has chaired the 24th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC).
- ❖ The finance minister is the chairperson of FSDC.
- ❖ It must be noted that FSDC Sub-Committee is chaired by the Governor, RBI.
- ❖ It is the apex level forum set up by the Government of India for strengthening and institutionalizing the mechanism for maintaining financial stability, enhancing inter-regulatory coordination and promoting financial sector development.

### **Financial Stability and Development Council**

*The FSDC, set up in 2010, is a body consisting all regulators and the Ministry of Finance. It is the highest forum in matters relating to financial stability. The Council is chaired by the Union Finance Minister*



### **India at Tokyo Paralympics**

- ❖ China topped the medal table in this version (207 – 96 golds, 60 silvers and 51 bronzes).
- ❖ It is the fifth time; China tops the medal table since Athens (2004).



- ❖ India won a total of 19 medals at Tokyo Paralympics 2020, including 5 gold, 8 silver and 6 bronze.
- ❖ The 19 medals were clinched by Indian para-athletes across five sporting disciplines including shooting, javelin throw, badminton, athletics and archery.
- ❖ India have finished at 24th position out of 162 nations in terms of overall medal tally.
- ❖ India made its first appearance at the Paralympics in 1968.
- ❖ India won only 12 medals from 1968 to 2016.
- ❖ It had won four medals at Rio 2016 and four at the 1984 Paralympics.
- ❖ This is the first time that badminton and taekwondo has been added to the Paralympics.
- ❖ Tokyo has been the first city to host two Paralympic Games since the city held the 1964 Paralympics.
- ❖ Avani was India's flag-bearer at the Tokyo Paralympics closing ceremony.
- ❖ The Indian gold medallists at Tokyo Paralympics include shooter Avani Lekhara, javelin thrower Sumit Antil, shooter Manish Narwal and shuttlers Pramod Bhagat and Krishna Nagar.
- ❖ Shooters Avani Lekhara, who won a gold and bronze, and Singh raj Adhana, who won a silver and bronze, were the top performers for India with two medals each.

### **Other Medallists**

- ❖ India's ace archer Harvinder Singh has won the bronze medal in the men's individual recurve open.
- ❖ He has become India's first-ever archer to win a medal in the Paralympics.
- ❖ Indian shooters Manish Narwal and Singh raj Adhana clinched the gold and silver medal respectively in the P4 – Mixed 50m Pistol SH1 final (Shooting).
- ❖ Suhas Yathi raj, current district magistrate of Noida, has become the first IAS officer to win Paralympics medal.
- ❖ He won the silver medal in in the men's singles at Badminton SL4 class final.
- ❖ Pramod Bhagat and Manoj Sarkar had won a gold and a bronze respectively in men's singles at Badminton SL3 category.
- ❖ Pramod claimed India's first badminton gold at the Paralympics.
- ❖ Krishna Nagar won the second Para-Badminton gold for India.
- ❖ He becomes the first-ever SH6 gold medallist in the history of the Indian Paralympics.



<b>Gold Medal Winners</b>
Avani Lekhara, Women's 10m Air Rifle Shooting Standing
Sumit Antil, Men's Javelin Throw F64
Manish Narwal, P4 Mixed 50m Pistol SH1
Pramod Bhagat, Badminton Men's Singles SL3
Krishna Nagar, Badminton Men's Singles SH6
<b>Silver Medal Winners</b>
Bhavina ben Patel, Women's Singles Table Tennis - Class 4
Nishad Kumar, Men's High Jump T47
Devendra Jhajharia, Men's Javelin Throw F46
Yogesh Kathuniya, Men's Discus Throw F56
Singh raj Adhana, P4 Mixed 50m Pistol SH1
Mariyappan Thangavelu, Men's High Jump T63
Praveen Kumar, Men's High Jump T64
Suhas L. Yathi raj, Badminton Men's Singles SL4
<b>Bronze Medal Winners</b>
Sundar Singh Gurjar, Men's Javelin Throw F46
Singh raj Adhana, Men's 10m Air Pistol Shooting SH1
Sharad Kumar, Men's High Jump T63
Avani Lekhara, Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions Shooting SH1
Harvinder Singh, Men's Individual Recurve Archery
Manoj Sarkar, Badminton Men's Singles SL3

### **Ashok Kumar Tandon committee**

- ❖ The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting constituted a committee to review the existing guidelines of Journalist Welfare Scheme.
- ❖ The committee will be headed by Prachar Bharati Board Member Ashok Kumar Tandon.

### **News Broadcasters Federations**

- ❖ The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has officially recognized the News Broadcasters Federations (NBF) self-regulatory body.
- ❖ Presently, it is the only body in the country that has successfully demonstrated compliance with national standards in the domain of news media.

### **Gambusia fish**

- ❖ The Firozabad district administration in Uttar Pradesh has released Gambusia fish (mosquitofish) that eat dengue-breeding mosquito larvae in ponds.

- ❖ This Insectivorous fish is known to check the spread of mosquito-borne diseases like malaria and dengue.
- ❖ Gambusia eats about 100 larvae daily.
- ❖ Besides Gambusia, guppy fish is used to check the spread of mosquito-borne diseases.



### **Prophylactic Medicines**

- ❖ The Ayush Ministry kickstarts campaign to distribute prophylactic medicines
- ❖ The kit of Ayurveda prophylactic medicines for Covid-19 contains Sanshamani Vati (also known as Guduchi or Giloy Ghan Vati) and Ashwagandha Ghan Vati.
- ❖ The kit and the guidelines have been prepared by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Medicines (CCRAS).
- ❖ Prophylactic means a preventive measure.

### **National Teachers' Award 2021**

- ❖ National Teachers' Award 2021 was awarded to 44 persons by the President Ram Nath Kovind.
- ❖ The award was also bestowed upon Pramod Kumar Shukla of Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS), Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ It is the second award in a row for an EMRS established under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.





### **Shikshak Parv - 2021**

- ❖ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Shikshak Parv - 2021.
- ❖ The theme is “Quality and Sustainable Schools: Learnings from Schools in India”.
- ❖ The event was organised by the Ministry of Education.
- ❖ The objective of the Shikshak Parv-2021 is to encourage innovative practices to ensure not only continuity of education at all levels but to improve quality, inclusive practices and sustainability in the schools across the country as well.



### **NIRF 2021**

- ❖ The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) has been released by the Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.
- ❖ It lists top universities and colleges in India.
- ❖ In 2021, the participated number of institutions in this ranking was 6000.
- ❖ It has been announced for eleven categories -- Overall, University, Management, College, Pharmacy, Medical, Engineering, Architecture, ARIIA (Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements), Law and Research Institutions.
- ❖ The ranking framework judges' institutions under five broad generic groups of parameters of Teaching, Learning and Resources (TLR), Research and Professional Practice (RP), Graduation Outcomes (GO), Outreach and Inclusivity (OI) and Perception (PR).

### **Key findings**

- ❖ IIT Madras remains the best institute in the overall category in the country.
- ❖ The IIT Madras has topped the list for the sixth consecutive year in the Engineering Category.
- ❖ The IIT Madras has bagged the second position in the newly introduced 'research' category.

- ❖ The IIM Ahmedabad has topped in the Management Category.
- ❖ IISc Bangalore has topped in the university category
- ❖ IISc Bengaluru is also the top-ranking institute in newly introduced category research.
- ❖ University of Delhi's Miranda House has been ranked first in the college category.
- ❖ The Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi tops in the Pharmacy category.
- ❖ All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi tops in the medical category
- ❖ Christian Medical College, Vellore ranks third in medical.



### **Tamilnadu**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has a total of 19 institutions in the top 100.
- ❖ Last year, Anna University ranked 20 in the overall category but this year its rank has dropped to 25.
- ❖ Similarly, University of Madras ranked 47 this year but ranked 41 last year.
- ❖ Bharathiar University of Coimbatore ranked 22 this year but ranked 21 last year.
- ❖ But NIT-Trichy improved from 24 last year to 23 this year.
- ❖ Chennai's Loyola College ranked third in this year from 6th in the last year.

### **New Governors in India**

- ❖ The President of India Ramnath Kovind appointed new governors of Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, and Nagaland.
- ❖ The former Nagaland governor R. N. Ravi is appointed as the Governor of Tamil Nadu.

- ❖ The present Governor of Tamil Nadu Banwarilal Purohit, who was holding additional charge of the Governor of Punjab, is appointed as regular Governor of Punjab.
- ❖ Jagdish Mukhi, Governor of Assam is appointed to discharge the functions of the Governor of Nagaland in addition.
- ❖ Gurmit Singh was appointed as Governor of Uttarakhand
- ❖ The President also accepted the resignation of Baby Rani Maurya as the Governor of Uttarakhand.



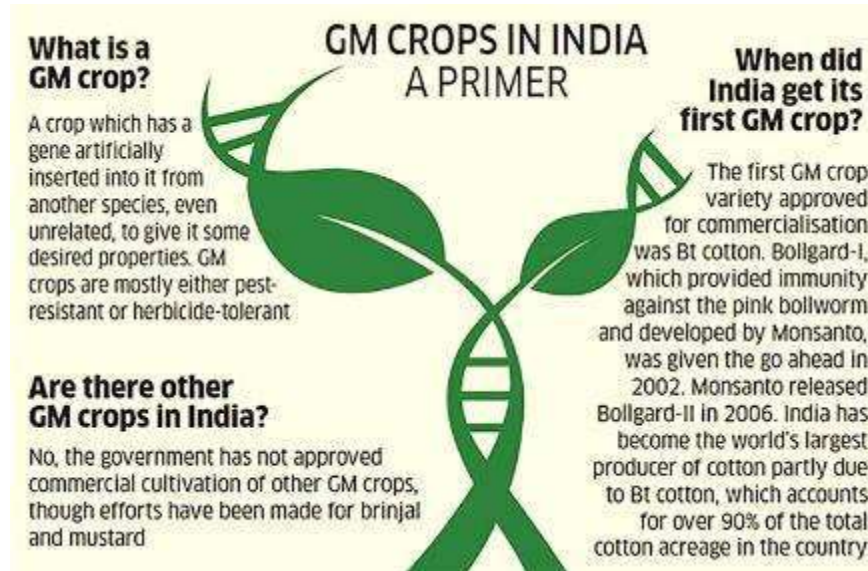
### **GM soy meal**

- ❖ India allowed imports of GM soy meal for the first time to help the poultry industry.
- ❖ Besides the Nhava Sheva Port in Mumbai, traders could now import soy meal via the Mumbai Sea Port, the Tuticorin Sea Port, and the Visakhapatnam Sea Port.
- ❖ The imports could take place from countries like Argentina, Europe and the US
- ❖ Soymeal is a protein-rich solid leftover raw material after extracting oil from soyabean seed.
- ❖ There are three types of GM foods, one with Genetically Modified Organism (GMO), second with Living Modified Organism (LMO) and third with Non-Living Modified Organism (NLMO).
- ❖ The soymeal is NLMO.

### **GM crops**

- ❖ A GM or transgenic crop is a plant that has a novel combination of genetic material obtained through the use of modern biotechnology.
- ❖ GM crop can contain a gene(s) that has been artificially inserted instead of the plant acquiring it through pollination.
- ❖ The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is the apex body that allows for commercial release of GM crops.

- ❖ Use of the unapproved GM variant is punishable under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
- ❖ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is the authorised body to regulate the imported crops in India.



## **Tocilizumab**



- ❖ The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved the generic version of Tocilizumab for emergency use for the treatment of Covid-19 among adult patients.
- ❖ It is produced by the Hyderabad-based pharmaceutical company Hetero.
- ❖ The medicine would be available under the brand name of Tocira.
- ❖ Hetero's Tocilizumab is the bio-similar version of Roche's Actemra/RoActemra.



## Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021



- ❖ It will be launched under the Swachh Bharat Mission Phase -2, as a part of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- ❖ The Survekshan 2021 aims to assist in the acceleration of ODF plus interventions and results in India.
- ❖ The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) had earlier commissioned Swachh Survekshan Grameen (SSG) in 2018 and 2019.

## PRANA portal



- ❖ The Union environment minister Bhupendra Yadav launched a portal called PRANA portal.
- ❖ It will be used to track the progress of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).
- ❖ It aims to comply with India's commitment to ensure clean air and blue skies to everybody.



- ❖ The Non-attainment cities are those cities that failed to meet the National air quality standards in a five-year period.
- ❖ The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) seeks to achieve 20-30 percent reduction in particulate matter (PM10 as well as PM2.5) concentrations in India by 2024.

### Deity is owner of land attached to temple

- ❖ According to supreme court bench, Deity is the owner of land attached to a temple.
- ❖ A priest cannot be treated as Bhumi swami (owner of land).
- ❖ The priest holds the land just for the management of property of the temple.
- ❖ Priest is only a grantee to manage the property of the deity.

### MSP for Rabi



- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the increase in the MSP for all mandated Rabi crops for the Rabi Marketing Season 2022-23.
- ❖ MSP is the rate at which the government buys grains from farmers.
- ❖ Currently, it fixes MSPs for 23 crops grown in both Kharif and Rabi seasons.
- ❖ It is based on a calculation of at least one-and-a-half times the cost of production incurred by the farmers.

- ❖ The Union Budget for 2018-19 had announced that MSP would be kept at levels of 1.5 the cost of production.
- ❖ The MSP is fixed twice a year on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

### **75% quota for locals**

- ❖ Jharkhand State aims to provide 75% reservation for locals in private sector jobs with a monthly salary of up to ₹40,000.
- ❖ Once notified, Jharkhand will become the third State, after Andhra Pradesh and Haryana, to pass such a law.

### **Best Tourism Villages**

- ❖ Meghalaya's Whistling village, Kongthong, has been nominated by the Ministry of Tourism for the UNWTO (World Tourism Organisation) 'Best Tourism Villages' award.
- ❖ The two other villages in India that have also been nominated for UNWTO 'Best Tourism Villages' award are - Ladhpura Khas in Madhya Pradesh and Pochampally in Telangana.



### **NSCN Agreement**

- ❖ A ceasefire agreement has been signed between the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) Imphal (K) led by Nikki Sumi for one year.
- ❖ The main objective of the organization is to establish a sovereign Naga State "Nagalim".

- ❖ It will consist of all the areas that have been inhabited by the Naga people in Northeast India as well as Northwest Myanmar.

### **Emergency Landing Facility**

- ❖ The Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the Emergency Landing Facility on the Satta-Gandhav stretch of National Highway (NH) 925A in Barmer in Rajasthan.
- ❖ For the first time, a National Highway will be used for the emergency landing of aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF).



### **100-day plan for Civil Aviation**

- ❖ The 100-day plan for boosting India's civil aviation sector will begin with the construction of 4 new airports across Kushi nagar, Agartala, Dehradun, and Jewar in the next 100 days.
- ❖ The first airport will be in Kushi nagar in Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Kushi nagar will become the focal point of the Buddhist circuit.

### **India's first bio-brick based building**

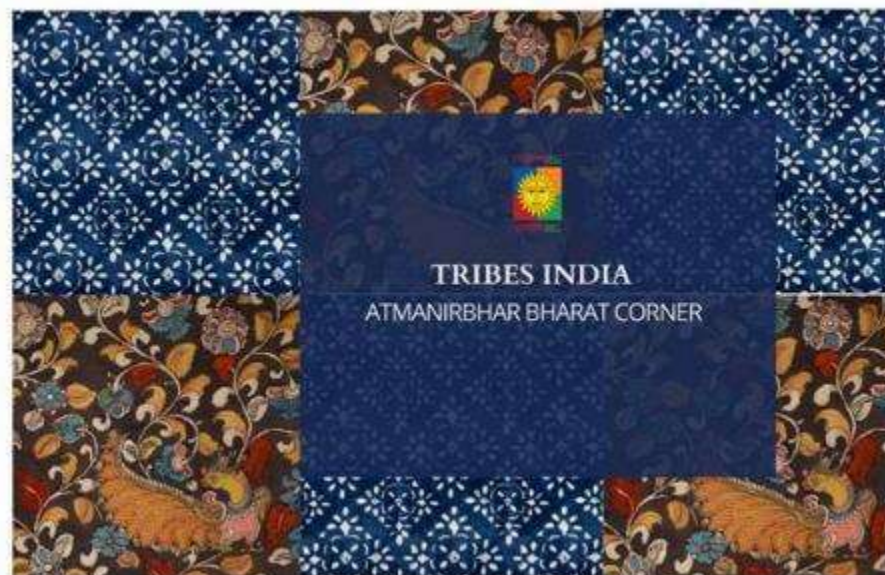
- ❖ India's first building made of bio-bricks from agro-waste has been inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad.
- ❖ The sample building is made up of bio-bricks supported by a metal framework.
- ❖ The roof is also made of bio-bricks over PVC sheets to reduce heat.
- ❖ It is part of the Bold Unique Idea Lead Development (BUILD) project to demonstrate the strength and versatility of the material.

### **5<sup>th</sup> World Conference of Speakers of Parliament**

- ❖ The 5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (5WCSP) and first global parliamentary summit on counter terrorism is organised at Vienna, Austria.
- ❖ Both the events in Vienna are being organised by the Inter- Parliamentary Union (IPU), Geneva, and the Parliament of Austria with the support of the United Nations.
- ❖ It will be the first physically attended global parliamentary event post Covid-19 pandemic.
- ❖ The Lok Sabha Om Birla and the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha attended these events.



### **Atma Nirbhar Bharat corners**





- ❖ Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs, is setting up an Atma Nirbhar Bharat corner in 75 Indian Missions/ Embassies across the world.
- ❖ The first such Atma Nirbhar Bharat corner was successfully inaugurated at Indian Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand.
- ❖ The 75 countries include Jamaica, Ireland, Turkey, Kenya, Mongolia, Israel, Finland, France, and Canada, Singapore, Russia, the US, Indonesia, Greece and Cyprus among others.

### **IROAF**

- ❖ The Indian Railways Organization of Alternate Fuel (IROAF) has been shut down by the Railways Ministry.
- ❖ IROAF was an organization that was formed to promote green energy across the Indian Railway Network.
- ❖ The work of IROAF will now be transferred to the Northern Railways and the Railway Board.

### **ADB in Jharkhand**

- ❖ Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India have signed a deal to develop water supply infrastructure in Jharkhand.
- ❖ It also aims to strengthen the capacities of urban local bodies (ULBs) for improved service delivery in four towns in the state of Jharkhand.
- ❖ This is the first project of ADB in the state of Jharkhand.

### **Eyes in Sky Project**



- ❖ The Government of India gave its final approval to build 6 AEW&C (Airborne Early Warning and Control) aircraft.



- ❖ It aims to bolster the surveillance capability of the Indian Air Force (IAF) along the borders with China and Pakistan.
- ❖ These aircrafts are regarded as powerful 'eyes in the sky' in modern warfare.
- ❖ The IAF currently operates 3 Israeli Phalcon AWACS mounted on Russian IL-76 transport aircraft.
- ❖ The IAF has 2 indigenous 'Netra' aircraft fitted on smaller Brazilian Embraer-145 jet.

## MRSAM

- ❖ A medium-range surface-to-air-missile (MRSAM) system has been successfully inducted in the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- ❖ The missile system is capable of knocking out aerial threats at a range of 70 km.
- ❖ The system has been jointly developed by DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries.
- ❖ The naval version of MRSAM has already been deployed on few Indian warships.



## National Minorities Commission

- ❖ The Former IPS officer Iqbal Singh Lalpura has been chosen as chairman of National Commission for Minorities.
- ❖ The last chairperson of the commission was Syed Ghayorul Hasan Rizvi.
- ❖ It has been setup under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.

- ❖ Six religious' communities, viz; Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains have been notified as minority communities in India.
- ❖ In 2014, Jains were the last to be notified as a minority community.



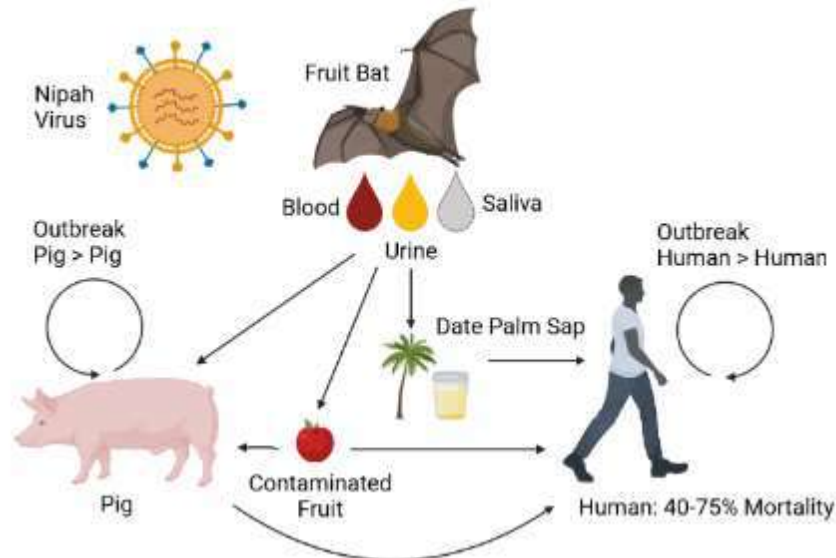
### **Digital Population Clock**

- ❖ It was inaugurated at the Institute for Economic Growth inside the University of Delhi.
- ❖ The Union Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Bharati Pravin Pawar, inaugurated this.
- ❖ It was launched in order to provide minute by minute estimate of India's population.
- ❖ It will also capture data on Total Fertility Rate, Infant Mortality Rate as well as Maternal Mortality Rate.

### **Nipah Virus**

- ❖ It is recently found in the Kozhikode district in Kerala.
- ❖ It is a zoonotic virus caused by the fruit bats.
- ❖ Human beings can get infected if they come in close contact with the infected animal — bats or other animals such as pigs — or its body fluids such as saliva or urine.
- ❖ The initial jump of the virus from animal to human is known as a 'spill over' event in an outbreak.
- ❖ Once the infection has moved to humans, person-to-person the spread of virus can occur.
- ❖ It can also be transmitted through contaminated food, or directly between people.
- ❖ In India, the outbreaks have so far been limited to West Bengal and Kerala.

### Nipah Virus Transmission and Mortality



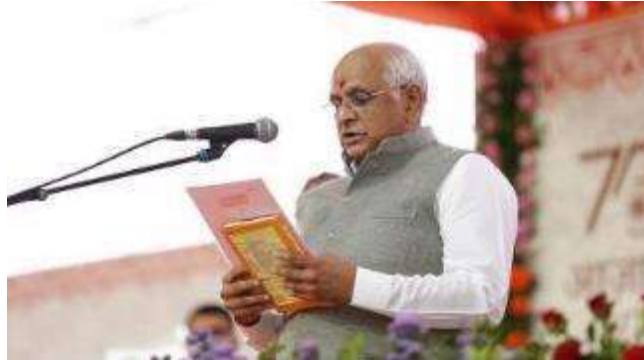
### Medicine from the Sky

- ❖ The Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launched the 'Medicine from the Sky' project in Vikarabad, Telangana.
- ❖ It is the first such project in India.
- ❖ The project will help deliver medicines and vaccines to remote areas with the help of drones.
- ❖ It is an initiative of the Telangana government in collaboration with the NITI Aayog, World Economic Forum and HealthNet Global.



### **Gujarat New Chief Minister**

- ❖ Senior BJP leader Bhupendra Patel will be the new Chief Minister of Gujarat.
- ❖ Vijay Rupani has become the fourth Chief Minister to resign this year.
- ❖ It is after Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yeddyurappa, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat and Assam Chief Minister Sarbanand Sonowal.



### **Resident Certificate**

- ❖ The Ladakh administration has decided to issue “Resident Certificate” only to the Permanent Resident Certificate holders of the region.
- ❖ In Jammu and Kashmir, new domicile laws allowed outsiders too to apply for jobs, land and other facilities.

### **100 percent vaccination**

- ❖ A total of 6 states and union territories (UTs) in India have achieved the milestone of administering the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine to 100 per cent of their eligible adult population.
- ❖ These 6 states and UTs are Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Ladakh, Sikkim, Lakshadweep, Daman & Diu, and Dadar and Nagar Haveli.
- ❖ Goa has become the second state in India to complete 100% covid vaccination of the first dose for all its eligible residents.
- ❖ Himachal Pradesh was the first state to achieve this feat.
- ❖ The Nilgiris became the first district in Tamil Nadu to achieve 100% coverage of the first dose.

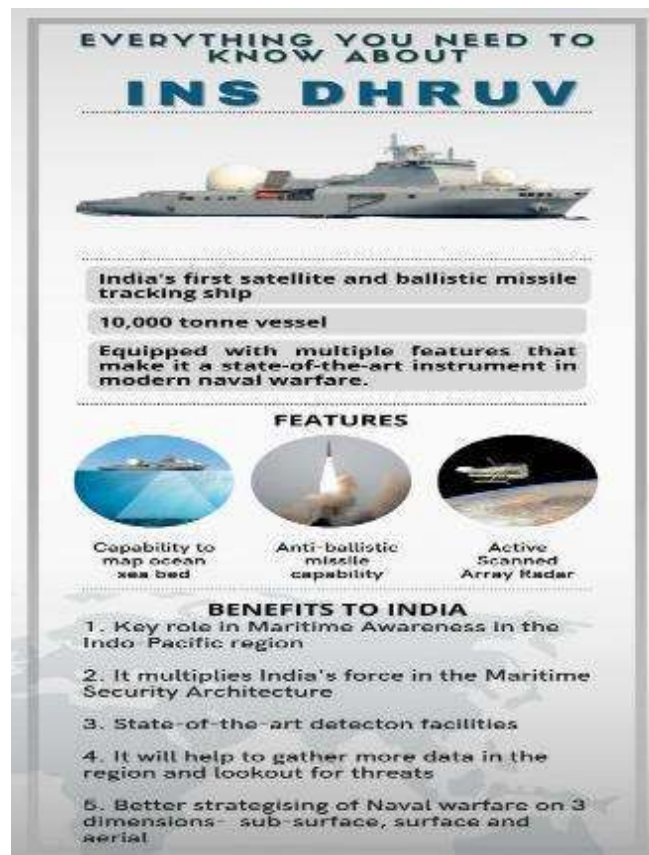
### **Renewable energy in India**

- ❖ India recently crossed the 100-gigawatt (GW) milestone of installed renewable energy capacity.



- ❖ India has a total installed power generation capacity of 383.73 GW.
- ❖ The Indian renewable energy sector is the fourth most attractive renewable energy market in the world.
- ❖ India was ranked fifth in wind power, fifth in solar power and fourth in renewable power installed capacity, as of 2019.
- ❖ The installed solar energy capacity stands at 41.09 GW.
- ❖ India is running the world's largest clean energy programme.
- ❖ India has also enhanced its ambition to install 450 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030.
- ❖ If large hydro is included the installed Renewable Energy capacity increases to 146 GW.
- ❖ It contributes to about 37% of the country's total capacity
- ❖ India's per capita emission is one-third of the world average.

## INS Dhruv



- ❖ India's first nuclear-missile tracking ship, named INS Dhruv, has been commissioned from Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.



- ❖ The 10,00 tonnes satellite and ballistic missile tracking ship has been built by the Hindustan Shipyard Limited in collaboration with the DRDO and National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO).
- ❖ India now joins an elite list of countries consisting of France, the US, the UK, Russia, and China.

### **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)**



- ❖ Justice M. Venugopal has been named as the new Acting Chairperson of this Tribunal.
- ❖ The NCLAT was constituted under the Companies Act, 2013 for hearing appeals against the orders of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).
- ❖ It is also an appellate tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by NCLT under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), and by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
- ❖ It is also the appellate tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

### **PM Adarsh Gram Yojna**

- ❖ Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda informed recently this.
- ❖ This ministry will start Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojna covering 36 thousand villages across the country.
- ❖ The villages with 50 percent tribal population will be given priority under the rural development programme.
- ❖ Under this Yojna, roughly 1,700 tribal villages in Assam will be converted into model villages.
- ❖ Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) is a rural development programme.

- ❖ It was launched by the central government in fiscal year 2009–10 for the development of villages that have a higher ratio (over 50%) of people belonging to the scheduled castes.



### **Jayant Opencast Coal Project**

- ❖ It is in Singrauli District of Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ It is one of the largest projects of Coal India Limited under the Ministry of Coal
- ❖ It is working towards a mission of land restoration and enhancing green cover each passing day along with coal mining activity.
- ❖ The Project is one of many greenfield projects that aim at simultaneous backfilling of land after opencast coal mining operations and dense plantation to maintain environmental balance.

### **Project Udaan**

- ❖ IIT-Bombay launched its "Project Udaan" on the occasion of Hindi Diwas.
- ❖ It was launched with the aim of breaking the language barrier that many students face while joining the institutes of higher education.
- ❖ It enables the translation of textbooks and other study material of the engineering and other streams from English to Hindi & other Indian Languages.
- ❖ It is a donation based and Artificial Intelligence-based translation ecosystem.



### **Speed limit for Vehicles**

- ❖ The Madras High Court (HC) has set aside the 2018 notification of Central government.
- ❖ That had fixed a speed of 120 km/hour as the limit on highways and expressways.
- ❖ The order of HC was given on an appeal arising under the Motor Vehicles Act.
- ❖ Over speeding is the main killer and responsible for most of the accidents.
- ❖ Citing this, the notification was quashed.

### **Geeta Samota**



- ❖ She became the "fastest Indian" to summit two peaks located in Africa and Russia.
- ❖ She successfully climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa.
- ❖ Africa's Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest single free-standing mountain in the world which has three volcanic cones on its summit.
- ❖ She became the youngest Asian girl to climb Kilimanjaro.
- ❖ Geeta scaled another highest peak situated in Europe, Mount Elbrus, in Russia.
- ❖ She is a Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) officer.
- ❖ CISF is a central paramilitary force working under the command of the Union home ministry.



### **Sansad television**

- ❖ The Vice President of India M Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla jointly launched Sansad TV.
- ❖ In February 2021, the decision to merge Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV was taken.
- ❖ When the Parliament is in session, Sansad TV will have two channels so that the proceedings of both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha can be aired simultaneously
- ❖ Sansad TV programming will primarily be in four categories - functioning of Parliament and democratic institutions, governance and implementation of schemes/policies, history and culture of India and issues/interests/concerns of contemporary nature.
- ❖ The Lok Sabha TV (LSTV) was founded in July 2006.
- ❖ It was the brainchild of former Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee.
- ❖ The Rajya Sabha TV was formed in 2011.



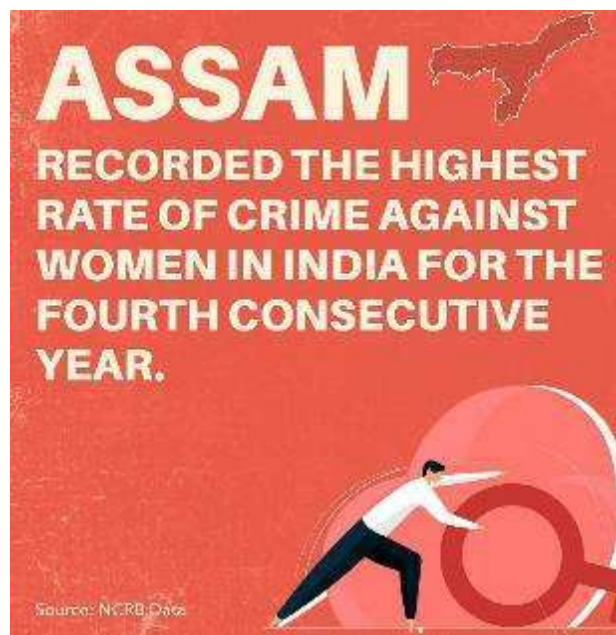
### **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report**



- ❖ There was a 28% increase in the registration of cases in 2020 compared to 2019.
- ❖ It is primarily owing to the violations of COVID-19 norms across the country.

- ❖ Crimes against Scheduled Castes showed an increase of 9.4%.
- ❖ There was 8.30% decline in cases of crime against women.
- ❖ The States reporting high charge-sheeting rate under IPC crimes were Gujarat (97.1%), Kerala (94.9%) and Tamil Nadu (91.7%).
- ❖ The cases of sedition declined from 93 in 2019 to 73 last year, with Manipur reporting 15 cases, Assam 12, Karnataka eight, Uttar Pradesh seven, Haryana six, Delhi five and Kashmir two cases.

### **The Crimes rates in India**



- ❖ It was revealed by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- ❖ Amongst the 19 Metropolitan Cities, cities reporting highest charge-sheeting rate under Indian Penal Code (IPC) Crimes are Surat (96.7%), Coimbatore (96.6%) and Ahmedabad (96.3%).
- ❖ Assam recorded the highest rate of crime against women in the country for the fourth consecutive year.
- ❖ The rate is calculated as the number of crimes recorded per 100,000 population.
- ❖ Odisha came at the second place.
- ❖ Delhi came at the third place.
- ❖ West Bengal and Odisha registering the highest increase.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh registered the biggest drop
- ❖ Lucknow of Uttar Pradesh occupies the first place in crimes against women in the category of Metro cities at the rate of highest level.



- ❖ In the category of low rate of crime against women, Coimbatore occupies 1st place, Chennai 2nd place and Kerala's Kochi occupies third place.
- ❖ Rajasthan recorded the highest number of rape cases followed by Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Assam.
- ❖ Among all crimes against women, the highest number of cases was recorded under "cruelty by husband or relatives" in 2020.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh (31) and Madhya Pradesh (27) recorded the instances of rape-cum-murder/gang rape.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh topped in the crime rate for dowry deaths.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar recorded the highest rate of crimes against the SCs.
- ❖ Among cities, Kanpur and Jaipur registered the highest rate.
- ❖ Kerala, Rajasthan and Telangana recorded the highest rate of crimes against the STs.

### **Sputnik Light**



- ❖ The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) gave its approval to conduct Phase-3 trials of the Sputnik Light COVID-19 vaccine on the Indian population.
- ❖ Sputnik Light is the single-dose COVID-19 vaccine version of Sputnik V.
- ❖ Russia had launched the single-dose Sputnik Light.

### **Global Buddhist Conference**

- ❖ India is set to host the first-ever Global Buddhist Conference in November, 2021 at in Nalanda, Bihar.
- ❖ The academic conference will be organised by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

- ❖ Four regional conferences in India (Telangana, Sarnath, Gangtok and Dharamshala) and abroad (Japan, South Korea, Thailand and Cambodia) will be organised, in the run-up to the conference.

### **Shoonya campaign**



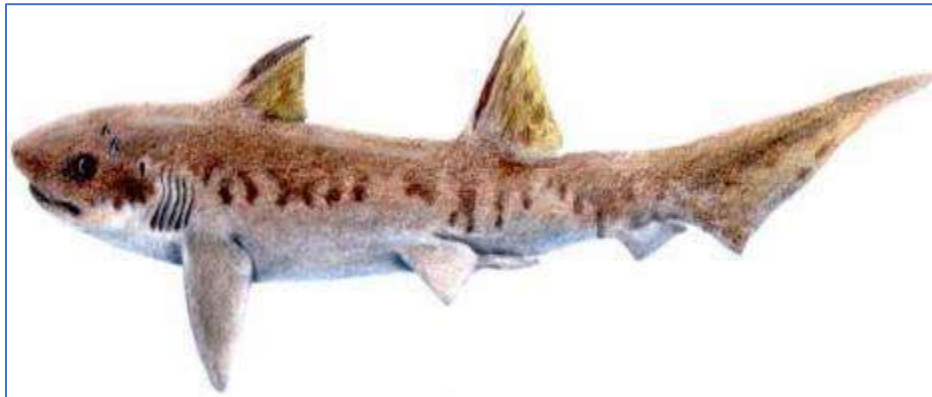
- ❖ The NITI Aayog, in association with the RMI and RMI India, launched this campaign.
- ❖ The main purpose of the campaign is to eliminate pollution from urban freight sector.
- ❖ It was launched with the aim of accelerating the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in urban delivery segment.

### **iRASTE**

- ❖ Union Minister for Road Transport, Nitin Gadkari launched 'iRASTE'.
- ❖ It is an Artificial Intelligence-powered project.
- ❖ The project aims to help reduce road accidents, understand the factors responsible for these events and come up with solutions to mitigate them.
- ❖ iRASTE stands for Intelligent Solutions for Road Safety through Technology and Engineering.
- ❖ It has been launched on a pilot basis in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- ❖ It is launched jointly by the Centre, Intel, INAI, IIIT-Hyderabad, CSIR-CRRI (Central Road Research Institute), Mahindra & Mahindra and Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC).



## Hybodont sharks



- ❖ These have been reported for the first time from the Jurassic rocks.
- ❖ The Jurassic period refers approximately, between 160 and 168 million-years-old.
- ❖ It is found at the Jaisalmer region of Rajasthan by a team of the Geological Survey of India (GSI).
- ❖ Hybodonts, an extinct group of sharks, was a dominant group of fishes in both marine and fluvial environments during the Triassic and early Jurassic time.
- ❖ They finally became extinct at the end of the Cretaceous time 65 million years ago.
- ❖ With this discovery, the genus *Strophodus* is discovered for the first time in the Indian subcontinent.
- ❖ It is only third such discovery from Asia after Japan and Thailand.

- ❖ The Geological Survey of India (GSI) was set up in 1851 primarily to find coal deposits for the Railways.
- ❖ Headquartered in Kolkata, GSI is an attached office to the Ministry of Mines.

### **Surya Kiran**

- ❖ Exercise Surya Kiran between Indian Army and Nepali Army is commenced at Pithoragarh of Uttarakhand.
- ❖ It is 15th Edition of Indo – Nepal Joint Military Training.



### **World's largest expressway**

- ❖ The Delhi-Mumbai Expressway will be the world's largest expressway in India.
- ❖ It will be 1,380-km long and 8-lane wide.
- ❖ It will run through Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana, and Delhi.
- ❖ It will be the first expressway that will have wildlife corridors (5 corridors).





### Justice delivery at doorstep

- ❖ The Ministry of Law and Justice has launched a Pan-India Special Campaign called “Ek Pahal Drive” for Justice Delivery at doorstep.
- ❖ It was launched by Department of Justice and National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).
- ❖ It is to encourage mass registration under Tele-Law.

### Gupta Period Inscriptions

- ❖ The Archaeological Survey of India discovered remains of an ancient temple dating back to the Gupta period in a village in Uttar Pradesh’s Etah district.
- ❖ The discovery becomes significant since only 2 other structural temples from the Gupta age have been found so far.
- ❖ They are Dashavatara Temple (Deogarh) and Bhitargaon Temple (Kanpur Dehat).
- ❖ The Guptas were the first to build structural temples, distinctly different from the ancient rock-cut temples.

### Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity

- ❖ The NITI Aayog launched a report on measures to ramp up urban planning capacity in India.
- ❖ India is home to 11% of the total global urban population.
- ❖ By 2027, India will surpass China as the most populous country in the world.
- ❖ The report recommends a Central Sector Scheme ‘500 Healthy Cities Programme’, for a period of 5 years.
- ❖ Under this priority cities and towns would be selected jointly by the states and local bodies.





## **NCC Committee**

- ❖ The Ministry of Defence has constituted a High-Level Expert Committee, for a comprehensive review of the National Cadet Corps (NCC).
- ❖ Baijayant Panda will be the Chairperson of the Committee.
- ❖ It will also include Cricketer MS Dhoni and Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra as members.
- ❖ The NCC is the largest uniformed organisation.
- ❖ It aims at developing character, discipline, a secular outlook and ideals of selfless service amongst young citizens.



## **Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana**

- ❖ It has been launched by the Central Government under the aegis of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.
- ❖ Under the programme, entry-level training will be provided to the youth in industry-relevant skills through Railway Training Institutes.
- ❖ Skill training will be provided to 50,000 candidates over a period of three years.



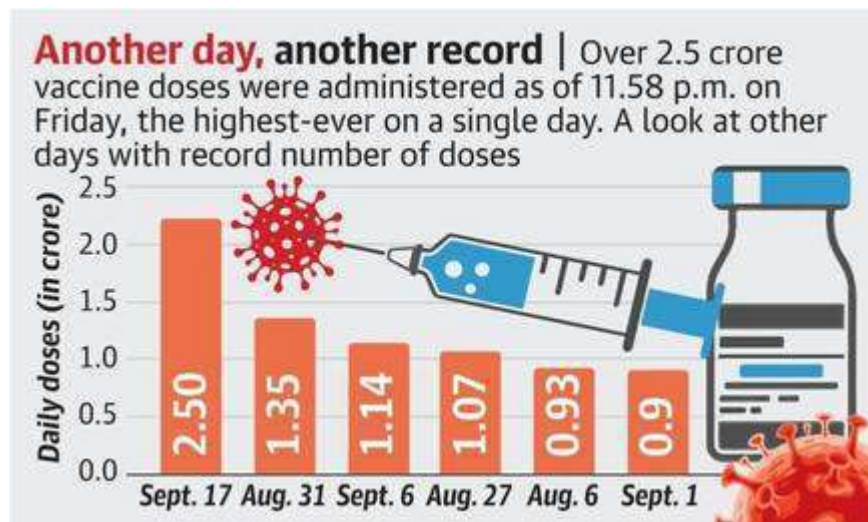
## NIELIT



- ❖ The union minister of state for electronics & information technology, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, inaugurated three National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) centres of northeast states.
- ❖ These were inaugurated in Churachandpur district of Manipur, Kokrajhar and Tezpur districts of Assam.

## 2.50 cores COVID-19 vaccine doses

- ❖ India on September 17, 2021, administered a record number of over 2.50 cores COVID-19 vaccine doses on the occasion of PM Modi's 71 birthday.
- ❖ Karnataka with over 26.9 lakh doses administered the highest number.
- ❖ It was followed by Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat.



## Cordelia Cruises - IRCTC

- ❖ The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has joined hands and signed the agreement with Cordelia Cruises.
- ❖ Cordelia Cruises is being operated by M/s Waterways Leisure Tourism Pvt. Ltd.

- ❖ This is for promotion and marketing of the first indigenous luxury cruise in India.
- ❖ This is another incredible luxury travel offering under IRCTC's umbrella of tourism services to the public.
- ❖ The luxury travel offering in the form of the indigenous cruise will take guests on-boards to some of the most popular Indian and international tourist destinations – such as Goa, Diu, Kochi, the Lakshadweep islands, and Sri Lanka.



### **SPIN Scheme**

- ❖ The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched the Strengthening the Potential of India (SPIN) Scheme and set up a pottery cluster under SFURTI Scheme in Varanasi to empower the marginalized potters.
- ❖ SPIN Scheme is a specially-designed no-subsidy program that enables to make potters self-sustainable.
- ❖ It enables the registered potters to get easy direct loans from the banks under Pradhan Mantri Shishu Mudra Yojana.
- ❖ Under the SPIN Scheme, KVIC is acting as a facilitator for financial aid to potters through RBL bank and also providing training to the artisans.
- ❖ There will be no financial burden on the exchequer and the loan will be repaid by the potter in easy instalments.

### **Shining Sikh Youth of India book**

- ❖ The Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has released a book titled 'Shining Sikh Youth of India' in New Delhi.
- ❖ He released this as a part of the commemoration of the 400th birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Guru of Sikhs.
- ❖ The book has been authored by Dr Prabhleen Singh, administrative officer at the Punjabi University, Patiala.

- ❖ It covers 100 inspirational and motivational success stories of Sikh youth in India.



### **National Snakebite Awareness Summit**

- ❖ It was recently organised in virtual mode.
- ❖ It was organised by the Integrated Health and Wellbeing Council, New Delhi.
- ❖ The summit was held on the eve of the International Snakebite Awareness Day, observed on 19 September every year.

### **Snakebite cases in India**

- ❖ In the 20-year period from 2000 to 2019, the country recorded 1.2 million snakebite deaths with an average of 58,000 deaths every year.
- ❖ As much as 97 per cent of these deaths happened in villages and more than half of the dead were men in their most productive years.

### **Blue Flag certification**

- ❖ Two more beaches in India have been awarded “Blue Flag” certification.
- ❖ With the addition of two beaches, the total number of such beaches in India have reached to 10.
- ❖ “Blue Flag” certification is an international eco-level tag.
- ❖ The two beaches to receive the certification this year are Kovalam in Tamil Nadu and Eden in Puducherry.
- ❖ The Foundation for Environment Education (FEE), Denmark, accords the Blue Flag certification.
- ❖ The other eight beaches got the Blue Flag certification in 2020.
- ❖ Beaches with Blue Flag certification are considered as the cleanest beaches across the world.





### **IAS & IPS officers – gifts from Foreign Dignitaries**

- ❖ As per the existing rules, these officers were allowed to accept gifts from their near relatives or from personal friends having no official dealings with them, on the occasions like weddings, funerals, anniversaries, and religious functions.
- ❖ However, they are required to make a report to the government if the value of such gift is more than Rs 25,000.

#### **Amended rule**

- ❖ A new subsection has been added to the All-India Service (Conduct) Rules, 1968.
- ❖ According to it, a member of the service may receive and retain gifts from foreign dignitaries as per the provisions of the Foreign Contribution (Acceptance or Retention of Gifts or Presentations) Rules, 2012.

### **R N Ravi resigns as Centre's interlocutor for Naga Peace Talks**





- ❖ R N Ravi resigned from the post of the Centre's interlocutor for Naga peace talks after serving for the post since 2014.
- ❖ During his tenure as the interlocutor, Ravi negotiated key insurgent groups for signing the Naga Peace Accord.
- ❖ The Central government had deputed Ravi as Tamil Nadu Governor due to increased disapproval of his ways to handle the Naga Peace process.

## Trans fat-free India – 2022

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# ELIMINATE TRANS FATS

## WHAT ARE TRANS FATS?

Industrially produced trans fat are harmful fats formed when liquid oils are converted into solid fats by a chemical process called hydrogenation. Trans fat leads to blockage of arteries, resulting in heart attack and other cardiovascular diseases.

## WHERE ARE TRANS FATS FOUND?

- **Fats/oils:** Vanaspati, Margarine, Bakery shortenings.
- **Bakery products:** Biscuit, fan, rusk, cake etc.
- **Fried foods:** Bhatura, poori, pakora, bhujia, fried savoury mixtures (namkeens), jalebi, imarti, boondi laddu, etc.
- **Re-heated oils:** Some trans fats are also formed when the same cooking oil is used for repeated frying.



## WHY ARE TRANS FATS BAD?

- 1 Industrial trans fats are worst fats and estimated to cause more than 540,000 death worldwide each year.
- 2 Industrial trans fats have no health benefits.
- 3 Consumption of Industrial trans fats leads to cardiovascular diseases and other related disorders.



- ❖ India is all set and is on the right track to become industrial trans fat-free by 2022.
- ❖ This is as per Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) study.

### **Trans fat**

- ❖ Trans fat is considered as the worst type of fat.
- ❖ Unlike other dietary fats, trans fat or trans-fatty acids increases bad cholesterol and lowers the good cholesterol.
- ❖ A diet comprising of trans fat increases the risk of heart disease.

### **SC dismissed Centre's plea to postpone Women's entry into NDA**

- ❖ The Supreme Court has rejected a plea by Central Government to postpone the entry of women into National Defence Academy (NDA) till May 2022.
- ❖ It refused to modify August 18 interim order, that allowed women candidates to appear in the NDA and the Naval Academy Examinations and to train at the NDA.

### **Centre's view**

- ❖ The Centre had told the supreme court that women cadets' entry into the NDA is not possible in the year 2021 because several facilities had to be developed for them before they are allowed into the academy.

### **Plant Discoveries 2020**

- ❖ The Botanical Survey of India, in its new publication Plant Discoveries 2020 has added 267 new taxa/ species to the country's flora.
- ❖ The 267 new discoveries include 119 angiosperms; 3 pteridophytes; 5 bryophytes, 44 lichens; 57 fungi, 21 algae and 18 microbes.
- ❖ There are 14 new macro and 31 new micro fungi species recorded from various parts of India.
- ❖ 22% of the discoveries were made from the Western Ghats followed by the Western Himalayas (15%), the Eastern Himalayas (14%) and the Northeast ranges (12%).

### **Fortified Rice Kernels**

- ❖ Centre government, for the first time issued uniform specifications for Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK) for grade A & Common Rice.
- ❖ The specifications have been issued by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

- ❖ The fortified rice is to be distributed under various government schemes, including the public distribution system (PDS) and midday meals in schools, by 2024.

### ***Need for Rice fortification***

- ❖ According to the Food Ministry, every second woman in the country is anaemic and every third child is stunted.
- ❖ India ranks 94 out of 107 countries and is in the 'serious hunger' category on the Global Hunger Index (GHI).

### ***Note***

- ❖ Food fortification is defined as the practice of adding vitamins and minerals to commonly consumed foods during processing to increase their nutritional value.

### **Mobile Music Bus**

- ❖ Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi Manish Sisodia launched a mobile music classroom and recording studio which aims to assist children of Delhi government schools.
- ❖ This helps in pursuing their passion in music.
- ❖ The Delhi government claimed that it is India's first 'Mobile Music Bus'.



### **3<sup>rd</sup> Samudra Shakti**

- ❖ Samudra Shakti is a bilateral exercise between the navies of India and Indonesia that was conceived in 2018.
- ❖ It is conducted at sunda strait.
- ❖ The exercise aims to strengthen the bilateral relationship, enhance mutual understanding and interoperability in maritime operations between the two navies.



### **External auditor of the International Atomic Energy Agency**

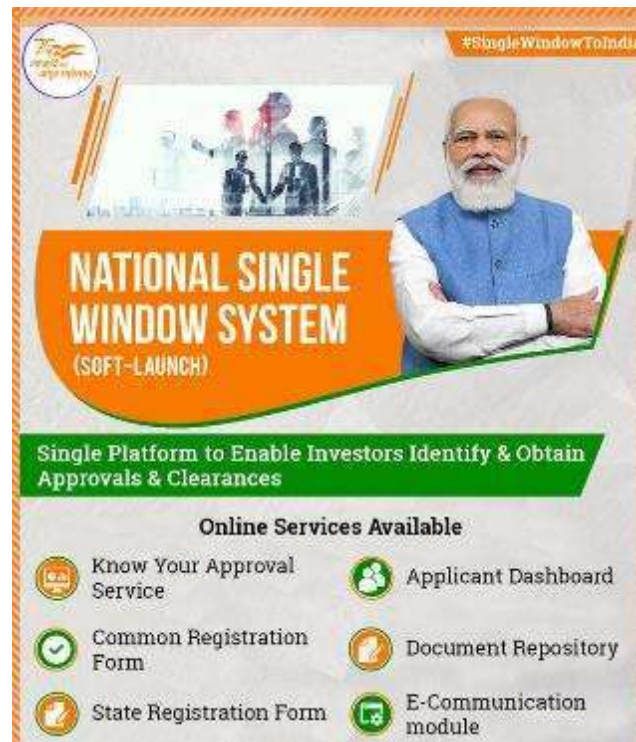


- ❖ India's Comptroller and Auditor General, GC Murmu was selected as the external auditor of the International Atomic Energy Agency.
- ❖ International Atomic Energy Agency is a prestigious institution that promotes the peaceful use of nuclear energy.
- ❖ His tenure will be for six years, from 2022 to 2027.

### **National Single Window System**

- ❖ The union minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal has launched the 'National Single Window System (NSWS)'.
- ❖ This was launched for investors and businesses.
- ❖ NSWS is a single-window portal that will act as a one-stop-shop for investors or entrepreneurs, to get approvals and clearances needed from Government.
- ❖ The portal has been developed jointly by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade along with Invest India.





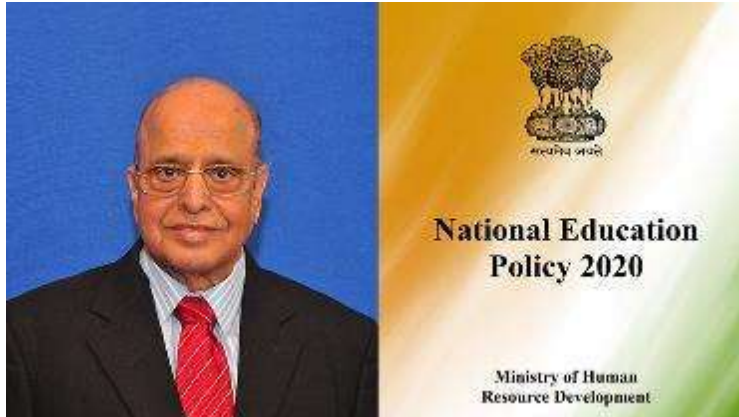
### **Arjun tank procurement**

- ❖ The Ministry of Defence has placed an order to procure 118 Main Battle Tanks (MBTs) Arjun for the Indian Army.
- ❖ The Defence ministry placed this order with Heavy Vehicles Factory (HVF), Chennai to supply the 118 Arjun Mk-1A tanks.
- ❖ Arjun tank has been designed and developed by the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO).





### **Education ministry's panel head - K Kasturirangan**



- ❖ The Union education ministry has formed a 12-member committee to develop new curriculums for school, early childhood, teacher and adult education.
- ❖ The panel tasked with developing four national curriculum frameworks (NCFs) will be headed by National Education Policy-2020 (NEP-2020) drafting committee chairperson K Kasturirangan.

### **12-digit unique IDs for farmers**

- ❖ The central government has started generating 12-digit unique IDs for farmers.
- ❖ This is done as a part of the government's Digital Agriculture Mission to create a unified Farmers Service Interface.
- ❖ The unique ID will help in availing all-farm-related services of various agricultural schemes and credit facilities seamlessly.
- ❖ The IDs will also help the central and state government to plan better.

### **World's highest EV charging station**

- ❖ The world's highest electric vehicle charging station has been inaugurated in Kaza.
- ❖ Kaza is in the Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Kaza, situated at an elevation of 3650 m above sea level, is the largest township and commercial centre of the Spiti valley.




### **Rs.50,000 for each COVID-19 death**

- ❖ The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) issued guidelines on ex-gratia for COVID-19 deaths out of state disaster relief funds.

- ❖ It recommended that Rs 50,000 should be paid to the kin of those who died of COVID-19.

### Relief measure

A look at how the ex gratia of ₹50,000 will be paid as per the NDMA recommendation

 <b>The funds:</b> The States will provide the ex gratia relief from States Disaster Response Fund. The District Disaster Management Authorities will make the disbursement	 <b>The procedure:</b> After documents proving a COVID-19 death are submitted, the claim will be settled within 30 days. The amount will be deposited in Aadhaar-linked bank accounts
	 <b>Addressing grievances:</b> District-level committees will deal with grievances regarding certification of death and issue amended documents

### "Vaccine Maitri" programme

- ❖ India will resume export of surplus COVID-19 vaccines in the fourth quarter of 2021 under the "Vaccine Maitri" programme.
- ❖ This is to meet its commitment to the COVAX global pool.
- ❖ India stopped the export of COVID-19 vaccines after the second wave of the pandemic hit the country in April this year.
- ❖ COVAX is a worldwide initiative aimed at equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.

### India's clean energy commitments at UN summit

- ❖ India has made commitments to increase the renewable energy installed capacity to 450 GW by 2030.
- ❖ India has also committed to develop and implement a National Hydrogen Energy Mission.
- ❖ This is in order to boost the annual green hydrogen production to 1 MT by 2030.
- ❖ It also announced to start a Production Linked Incentive Scheme which will help in adding 10 GW solar PV manufacturing capacity by 2025.
- ❖ India also announced to establish a 15 MMT production capacity of compressed biogas by 2024.
- ❖ It also announced to achieve 20 percent ethanol blending in petrol by the year 2025-26.

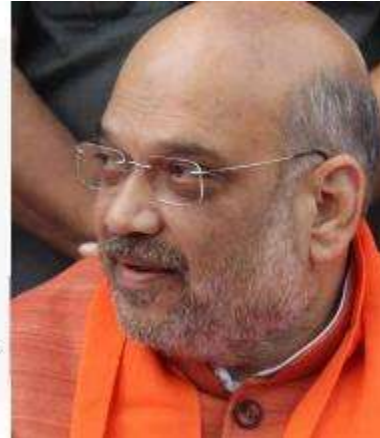


### MSP for Oilseeds

- ❖ The Union government announced very high Minimum Support Price (MSP) for rabi crops such as oilseeds and pulses to boost their production.
- ❖ The 50% rise in price of edible oils is mainly due to labour shortages and crop failures in major edible oil-producing nations - Indonesia, Malaysia, Argentina, etc.
- ❖ So, the government increased MSP for oilseeds to,
  - Cut down India's dependence on foreign oil imports by boosting domestic production, and
  - Protect Indian consumers from price shocks due to global factors.

### National Cooperative Conference

- ❖ Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah has inaugurated and addressed the first-ever National Cooperative Conference (Sehkarita Sammelan).
- ❖ It was inaugurated at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi.
- ❖ This conference was India's first such cooperative conference, to provide a platform for accelerating and strengthening Indian cooperatives on the global stage.
- ❖ The conference was organised jointly by the IFFCO, National Cooperative Federation of India, Amul, Sahakar Bharti, NAFED, KRIBHCO and all cooperatives together.



### **Right to Government Aid, not a Fundamental Right**

- ❖ The Supreme Court said that the right to receive Government Aid of an institution (whether a majority or minority institution) is not a fundamental right, but only a matter of policy.
- ❖ The Supreme Court also said that the grant of aid brings with it conditions that the institution receiving it is bound to comply with.
- ❖ If an institution does not want to accept the conditions, it can decline the grant but cannot say that the grant must be on its own terms.
- ❖ It said if the government made a policy call to withdraw aid, an institution cannot question the decision as a “matter of right”.
- ❖ As per Article 30 (2), the state shall not, in granting aid to educational institutions, discriminate against any educational institution on the ground that it is under the management of a minority, whether based on religion or language.

### **ICMR Report on cancer cases**





- ❖ The Indian Council of medical research (ICMR) recently released its report titled “Clinicopathological Profile of Cancers in India: A Report of Hospital Based Cancer Registries, 2021”.
- ❖ The report provides data on cancer cases in India.
- ❖ It was prepared by ICMR- National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research, Bengaluru.
- ❖ As per report, total of 6.10 lakh cancers have been reported in India in between 2012 to 2019.
- ❖ Out of these, 52.4 percent cases were reported among males while 47.6 percent cases were reported among females.

### Cyclone Gulab



- ❖ The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a red alert for Odisha and Andhra Pradesh after the ‘Cyclone Gulab’ made landfall over Northwest and adjoining West-central Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ The Cyclone Gulab was named by Pakistan.
- ❖ The word “Gulab” refers to Rose in English.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Indo-US Health Dialogue

- ❖ The Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar has led the Indian delegation at the 4th Indo-US Health Dialogue.
- ❖ It was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The US delegation for the dialogue is led by Ms Loyce Pace.



- ❖ The two-day Dialogue is a platform to deliberate upon multiple ongoing collaborations in the health sector between the two countries.

### **Akash Prime**

- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has tested a new version of Akash Missile called 'Akash Prime'.
- ❖ It was launched from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) of Chandipur, Odisha.
- ❖ Akash Missile is a medium-range mobile surface-to-air missile (SAM) system.
- ❖ Akash Prime is based on the existing Akash SAM.
- ❖ It is equipped with an improved active radio-frequency (RF) seeker.



### **Swachh Survekshan**

- ❖ The Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched the seventh consecutive edition of Swachh Survekshan in New Delhi.
- ❖ Swachh Survekshan is the largest urban cleanliness survey of the world.
- ❖ It is conducted by Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban.
- ❖ This programme is designed with "People First" as its driving philosophy.
- ❖ Swachh Survekshan 2022 was launched with the objective of capturing initiatives of cities for welfare and well-being of frontline sanitation workers.

## INTERNATIONAL

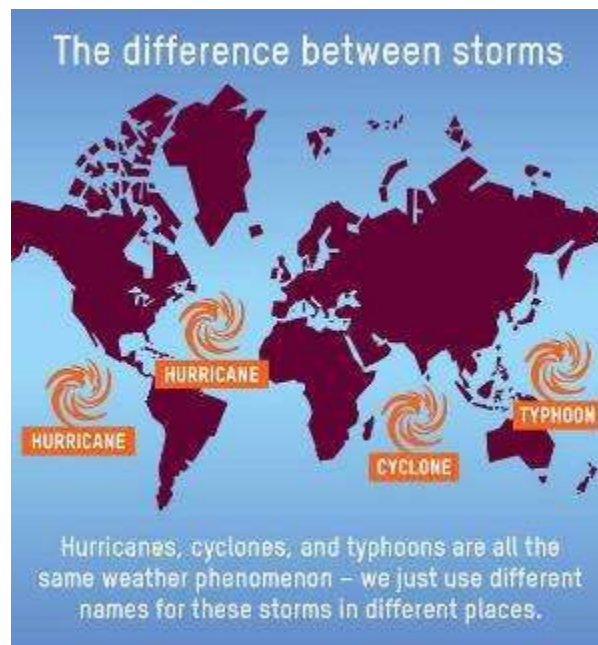
### Talibans against co-education

- ❖ Taliban has banned co-education in Afghanistan by their first fatwa.
- ❖ Men are not allowed to teach girls.
- ❖ They call co-education as the root of all evil in society.

### G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment

- ❖ The First-ever G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment was held at Santa Margherita Ligure, Italy.
- ❖ It was held in mixed format i.e., people participated in physical form and via video conference also.
- ❖ The Union Minister of Women & Child Development, Smriti Irani addressed the meet on behalf of India.

### Hurricane Ida



- ❖ Hurricane Ida made landfall in Louisiana recently.
- ❖ It is the Category 4 storm that has hit on the same date as the Hurricane Katrina that ravaged Louisiana and Mississippi of America in 2005.
- ❖ Hurricane Ida will most definitely be stronger than Katrina, the costliest storm in American history.

### Note

- ❖ Hurricanes are categorized on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale.
- ❖ It rates them on a scale of 1 to 5 based on wind speed.
- ❖ Hurricanes that reach category three or higher are called 'major hurricanes'.

### UNSC adopts resolution (1267) on Afghanistan



- ❖ The United Nations Security Council, under the Presidency of India, adopted a resolution on the situation in Afghanistan.
- ❖ The resolution demanded that Afghanistan is not be used to threaten or attack any nation or shelter terrorists.
- ❖ The Resolution was put forward by the US, UK and France.
- ❖ It was adopted with the votes of 13 Council members in favour.
- ❖ The Permanent members Russia and China abstained from the voting.

### FDA Approves First COVID-19 Vaccine



- ❖ U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the first COVID-19 vaccine.
- ❖ The vaccine has been known as the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine.
- ❖ It will now be marketed as Comirnaty, for the prevention of COVID-19 disease in individuals 16 years of age and older.

### **8th Meeting of Agricultural Experts of BIMSTEC Countries**

- ❖ India hosted the 8th Meeting of Agriculture Experts of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).
- ❖ The meeting was chaired by Dr Trilochan Mohapatra.
- ❖ He is the Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research & Education & Director General of ICAR.
- ❖ During this meet, Chairman highlighted the UN Food System Summit 2021 and transformational aspects that are happening across agriculture and food systems globally.
- ❖ BIMSTEC comprise of seven Member States including,
  - Five from South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka), and
  - Two from Southeast Asia, including Myanmar and Thailand.
- ❖ BIMSTEC was formed in 1997.
- ❖ It earlier included six sectors.
- ❖ Sectors were later expanded to 14 (technology, trade, energy, agriculture etc.).



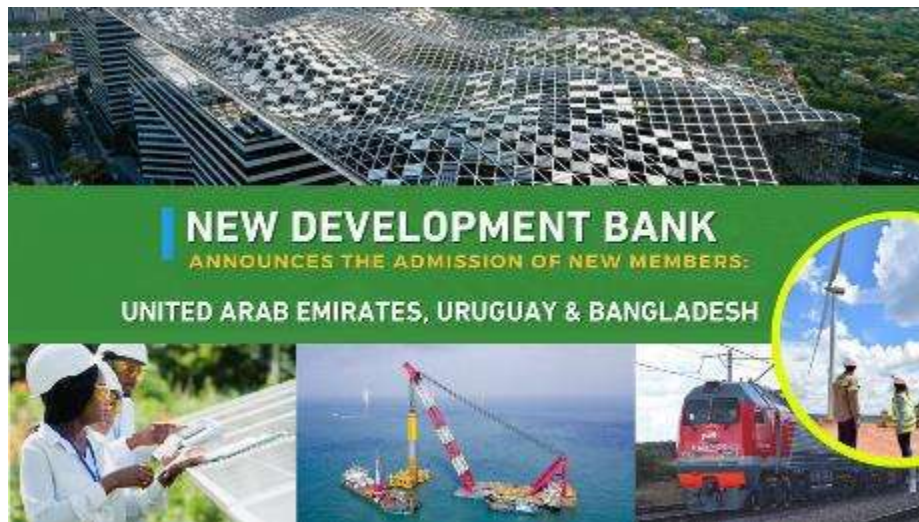


### **Mu Variant**

- ❖ Mu Variant of the coronavirus was first identified in Colombia.
- ❖ Now, the World Health Organization (WHO) is monitoring this variant.
- ❖ Mu variant is scientifically known as B.1.621 and has been classified as a “variant of interest”.
- ❖ According to WHO, variant has constellation of mutations indicating a risk of resistance to vaccines.



### **New Development Bank - new members**



- ❖ New Development Bank by BRICS group of nations has added United Arab Emirates, Uruguay and Bangladesh as its new members.
- ❖ New Development Bank was launched in 2015.
- ❖ It was launched by the BRICS Members (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).
- ❖ It was formerly referred as “BRICS development bank”.



- ❖ It is headquartered in Shanghai.
- ❖ The first regional office of the NDB was set up in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- ❖ The second regional office was established in 2019 in Brazil, followed by in Russia.
- ❖ The bank mobilises resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in the member countries as well as in other developing nations.

### **Protected Areas in Central Africa 2020**

- ❖ This report was produced under the Central Africa Forest Observatory which is a specialised unit of Central African Forests Commission.
- ❖ According to the report, Central Africa can develop itself sustainably if the resources are shared equitably and its environment is protected.



### **First road-rail transport link to Indian Ocean**



- ❖ The first shipments on a newly-launched railway line from the Myanmar border to the key commercial hub of Chengdu in western China was made recently.
- ❖ This project provides China a new road-rail transportation channel to the Indian Ocean
- ❖ The transport corridor involves a sea-road-rail link.
- ❖ This passage connects the logistics lines of Singapore, Myanmar and China.
- ❖ It is currently the most convenient land and sea channel linking the Indian Ocean with southwest China.

### **Russia to remain part of ISS**

- ❖ NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said that Russia will remain a part of the International Space Station through the end of the decade.
- ❖ The International Space Station (ISS) is a modular space station in low Earth orbit.
- ❖ It is a multinational collaborative project involving five participating space agencies:
  - NASA (US),
  - Roscosmos (Russia),
  - ESA (Europe),
  - CSA (Canada) and
  - JAXA (Japan).



### Note

- ❖ Russian space agency, Roscosmos, had announced in February 2015 that it would remain a part of the ISS till 2024.

### World Social Protection Report 2020 - 22

- ❖ This report was released by International Labour Organisation (ILO).
- ❖ As per report, more than half of the world population is not getting any form of social protection.
- ❖ People in Europe and Central Asia are among the best covered population.
- ❖ Just one in four children in the world gets a social protection benefit.



### Global Leader Approval Tracker Morning Consult

- ❖ According to this US-based consult, approval rating of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the highest among thirteen world leaders who were surveyed.
- ❖ He is ahead of President of Mexico Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, Prime Minister of Italy Mario Draghi, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, President of USA Joe Biden, Prime Minister of Australian Scott Morrison, Prime minister of Canada Justin Trudeau, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Prime Minister of Brazil Jair Bolsonaro.

## Panjshir Valley

### Afghanistan: Panjshir, stronghold of Taliban resistance



- ❖ Panjshir Valley is located to the north of Kabul in Afghanistan.
- ❖ The valley is home for Afghanistan's largest concentration of ethnic Tajiks.
- ❖ Taliban claims to have captured the control of the Panjshir Valley.
- ❖ The fall of Panjshir marks the success of the Taliban and the Pakistan military, and is a setback for India.
- ❖ Iran became the first country to protest against the Taliban blockading the valley.

## Rashid Rover



- ❖ 'Lake of Dreams,' also known as Lacus Somniorum, is the main site chosen by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Lunar Mission's team for the landing of the 'Rashid Rover' on the moon's surface.
- ❖ It will be launched between August and November 2022



- ❖ The UAE is the first in the Arab world and the fourth worldwide in lunar exploration.

### **UAE's Green Visa**



- ❖ The United Arab Emirates has announced a new class of visas.
- ❖ Under the green visa, foreigners will be allowed to work in the UAE without being sponsored by an employer.
- ❖ The program will also allow the holder a grace period of up to three months to look for a new job if they lose their old one.
- ❖ It is intended to ease the restrictions faced by foreigners in pursuing employment opportunities in the country.
- ❖ In 2019, the UAE launched the 10-year “golden visa”, aimed at welcoming rich residents and highly skilled workers into the country.
- ❖ Besides UAE, Saudi Arabia and Qatar have recently opened up their countries to wealthy investors.

### **Inspiration4**

- ❖ SpaceX is going to launch ‘Inspiration4’, the world’s 1st all-civilian, non-governmental spaceflight soon.
- ❖ This mission will take 4 private citizens into space in the Crew Dragon spacecraft, which will be privately operated by SpaceX.
- ❖ This mission involves circling the Earth for 3 days at the height of 575km (low Earth orbit), and then splashing down into the Atlantic Ocean.
- ❖ This will be the farthest distance travelled by a crewed mission since 2009, when astronauts went to repair the Hubble telescope (547km).



- ❖ The journey will present an opportunity for collecting many health data.



## India's Sherpa for G20

### G20 OVERVIEW | GROUPS AND TROIKA



The Troika is a three-member group of the past, present and future G20 Presidents that ensures agenda continuity.



- ❖ Piyush Goyal, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Textiles has been appointed as India's Sherpa for the G20.
- ❖ Piyush Goyal has replaced Suresh Prabhu as India's Sherpa.
- ❖ The next G20 Summit (2021) will be held in October under the Italian presidency.
- ❖ India will hold the G20 presidency from December 1, 2022, and convene the G20 Leaders' Summit in 2023 for the first time.
- ❖ India will be a part of the G20 Troika (preceding, current, and incoming G20 presidencies) from December 2021, till November 2024.
- ❖ In 2022, Indonesia and in 2024 Brazil will head the G20.



### Agreement between India and Portugal

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of an agreement between India and Portugal.
- ❖ It will open doors for Indian migrant workers in a European Union member nation Portugal.

### New Cabinet of Afghanistan



- ❖ Taliban in Afghanistan has announced the formation of the new cabinet.
- ❖ It is an all-male cabinet.
- ❖ The government will be led by Mullah Hasan Akhund as the 'acting' Prime Minister.

## **Abdala and Soberana**



- ❖ Cuba has become the first country in the world to vaccinate children as young as two years old.
- ❖ However, the jabs given to the children are homegrown which has not been recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ❖ Cuba completed clinical trials on minors with its Abdala and Soberana vaccines.
- ❖ The Cuban vaccines, the first developed in Latin America, have not undergone international and scientific peer review.
- ❖ They are based on recombinant protein technology — the same used by the United States' Novavax and France's Sanofi.
- ❖ Novavax and Sanofi are also awaiting the WHO approval.
- ❖ Unlike many other shots in use, recombinant vaccines do not require extreme refrigeration.

## **13<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit**

- ❖ The Prime Minister of India chaired the 13th BRICS Summit virtually.
- ❖ The Indian Chair of BRICS in 2021 also coincides with the 15th anniversary of BRICS.
- ❖ The theme for the 13th BRICS Summit 2021 will be 'BRICS@15: Intra BRICS cooperation for continuity, consolidation, and consensus'.
- ❖ The leaders of the five nations will deliberate on significant regional and global issues, including Afghanistan.
- ❖ This will also be the second time that Prime Minister Modi chairs the BRICS summit after in 2016 Goa Summit.
- ❖ BRICS is the grouping of five major emerging economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa.



- ❖ In BRICS, originally the first four were grouped as BRIC before South Africa was inducted in 2010.

## Key Takeaways

<b>Reforming Multilateral System</b> Leaders endorsed the joint statement on strengthening and reforming the multilateral system adopted by five foreign ministers, and agreed on the principles of strengthening and reforming the multilateral system	<b>UNSC Reforms</b> Summit called for reforms of the principal organs of the United Nations, including instilling new life in the discussions on reforming the UN Security Council	<b>Space &amp; Climate Cooperation</b> Agreement on space agencies and remote sensing will help enhance research capabilities in global climate change, disaster management, environment protection, prevention of food and water scarcity. Leaders expressed commitment to fully implement UNFCCC, its Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement	<b>Agriculture Cooperation</b> Agricultural Research Platform launched; Action Plan 2021-2024 for Agricultural Cooperation adopted	<b>Green Tourism</b> Green tourism to promote measures which can shape a more resilient, sustainable and inclusive tourism sector
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13th BRICS SUMMIT

<b>Focus Areas</b>	
<b>Intra-Brics</b> trade to boost cooperation among customs departments	New Development Bank's progress in Expanding membership: Bangladesh, UAE and Uruguay

## 2021PJ1

- ❖ The Jet Propulsion Laboratory of NASA has marked the 1,000th Near-Earth Asteroid named '2021 PJ1' as it passed Earth.
- ❖ The asteroid was not a threat to Earth but it was a historic event.
- ❖ The Near-Earth Asteroids and comets are collectively referred to Near-Earth Objects (NEOs).
- ❖ The first radar observation of the asteroid '1566 Icarus' was conducted in 1968.

## Naval exercise with Morocco

- ❖ India which has been at the forefront in developing a Maritime Domain Awareness network in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) recently conducted bilateral naval exercises with Morocco and Algerian navies.
- ❖ According to the Indian Navy, INS Tabar made a port call at Casablanca in Morocco.
- ❖ Morocco is strategically located in the Maghreb region and is the largest country of Africa.
- ❖ INS Tabar (F44) is the third of the Talwar-class frigate of the Indian Navy.



### **Qeqertaq Avannarleq**

- ❖ It is a tiny, uninhabited and previously unknown island discovered recently off the coast of Greenland.
- ❖ It has now become the new northernmost piece of land on Earth.
- ❖ Before this, Oodaaq was marked as the Earth's northernmost terrain.





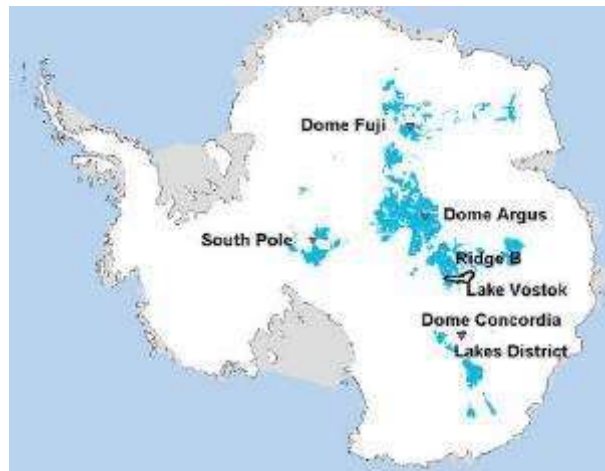
### 2021 International Young Eco-Hero award

- ❖ Ayaan Shankta (12) from Mumbai, India, has been named as a 2021 International Young Eco-Hero award winner
- ❖ It is given by the Action For Nature (AFN), a US-based non-profit organization.
- ❖ Ayaan won 3rd place in the 8 to 14 years age group category for his project 'Conservation and Rehabilitation of Powai Lake'.
- ❖ In an attempt to save the lake, Ayaan began the project 'Conservation and Rehabilitation of Powai Lake'.



### Antarctica's oldest ice

- ❖ The Centre for Oldest Ice Exploration (COLDEX) will be set up to bring together experts from across the United States.
- ❖ It will work to generate knowledge about earth's climate system.
- ❖ The Oregon State University will lead an exploration to discover Antarctica's oldest ice.
- ❖ The oldest record of the Antarctic ice currently dates back to about 800,000 years.



**ASOSAI**

- ❖ The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, GC Murmu was elected as the chairman of the assembly of the Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) for a period of three years from 2024 to 2027.
- ❖ India will host the 16th assembly of ASOSAI in 2024.
- ❖ The ASOSAI is one of the regional groups of the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI).



## Orca – Iceland

- ❖ The world's largest plant designed to capture carbon dioxide out of the air began its operations in Iceland.
- ❖ The plant is named Orca.
- ❖ It will suck out up to 4,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.
- ❖ The carbon dioxide captured directly from the air will be deposited underground at a depth of 1,000 metres, where it would be turned into rock.



## Gaofen-5 02

- ❖ China successfully launched this new Earth observation satellite.
- ❖ It was launched from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in north China's Shanxi Province.
- ❖ It is to monitor environmental protection efforts and boost its natural resources surveillance.

## 13<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit

- ❖ Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi has chaired this summit.
- ❖ PM Modi called for enhanced BRICS cooperation under the motto of 'Build-back Resiliently, Innovatively, Credibly and Sustainably'.
- ❖ The Summit concluded with the adoption of the 'New Delhi Declaration'.
- ❖ This was the third time that India hosted the BRICS Summit.
- ❖ Prior to this India held the Presidency of the BRICS in 2012 and 2016.
- ❖ This is the second time that Prime Minister Modi has chaired the BRICS Summit.
- ❖ He had previously chaired the Goa Summit in 2016.



## 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue

- ❖ The first-ever 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue between India and Australia started in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Afghanistan crisis will be on the top of the agenda.
- ❖ It is the Ministerial Dialogue between the Foreign and Defence minister of Australia and India.



### **Tejaus Chauhan**

- ❖ He was appointed Regional Director for South Asia in the International Court of Arbitration (ICA) of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) based in Singapore.
- ❖ Chauhan will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Indian to be appointed for the regional director post.
- ❖ The ICC has three regional centres in North Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East.
- ❖ The ICA is the world's leading arbitral institution established in 1923.



### **England – Electric Vehicle Chargers**

- ❖ All the newly built homes and offices will require to feature electric vehicle chargers in England.
- ❖ England is the first country in the world in this regard.

### **WHO SEARO**

- ❖ The Seventy Fourth Regional Committee Session of WHO South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO) was hosted by Nepal.
- ❖ The session focussed on the elimination of measles and rubella by 2023.

## Africa Food Prize 2021



- ❖ The ICRISAT got the award for the Tropical Legumes Project that has improved food security across 13 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.
- ❖ The award was given away at the Africa Forum for Green Revolution (AGRF) 2021 Summit in Nairobi.
- ❖ The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) is based on Hyderabad.

## CAFMD

### Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD)

**Mobilize finance and speed  
clean energy deployment**

**Demonstrate and scale innovative clean  
technologies needed to decarbonize  
sectors including industry, transportation,  
power, and buildings**

**Build capacity to measure, manage, and  
adapt to the risks of climate-related impacts**







- ❖ India and the United States jointly launched the Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD) of Agenda 2030 Partnership.
- ❖ The US-India Agenda 2030 Partnership was announced by President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Leaders' Summit on Climate in April 2021.

### **Dosan Ahn Chang**

- ❖ The South Korea successfully test-fired its own submarine-launched missile.
- ❖ It is the locally developed 3,000-tonne class submarine ballistic missile.
- ❖ By launching this South Korea become 8th country.
- ❖ It joined with USA, Russia, China, United Kingdom, France and India.



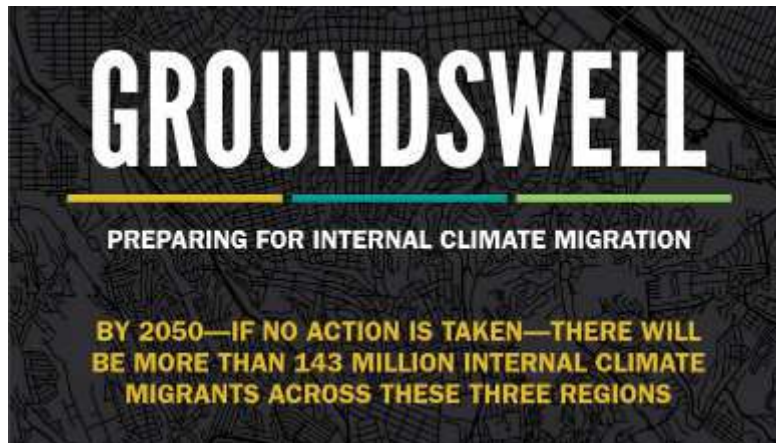
### **Iran and IAEA**

- ❖ Iran agreed to allow nuclear surveillance by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).



- ❖ Iran has allowed the international inspectors to install new memory cards into surveillance cameras across its sensitive nuclear sites.
- ❖ Iran is now enriching small amounts of uranium to its closest levels to weapons-grade purity because its stockpile continues to increase.

### **Groundswell report on climate change**



- ❖ It was recently released by the World Bank.
- ❖ It examined how the impacts of slow-onset climate change, such as water scarcity, decreasing crop productivity and rising sea levels.
- ❖ These could lead to millions of what it describes as “climate migrants” by 2050.

### **Third Dose on Covid**

- ❖ According to a report published in the Lancet, vaccine efficacy against severe Covid-19 is so high.
- ❖ The booster doses for the general population are “not appropriate” at this stage of the pandemic.
- ❖ The review was provided by the scientists from World Health Organization (WHO) and US Food & Drug Administration (FDA).
- ❖ Countries like Israel, Italy, France and Russia have already rolled out the third dose of Covid-19 vaccines.

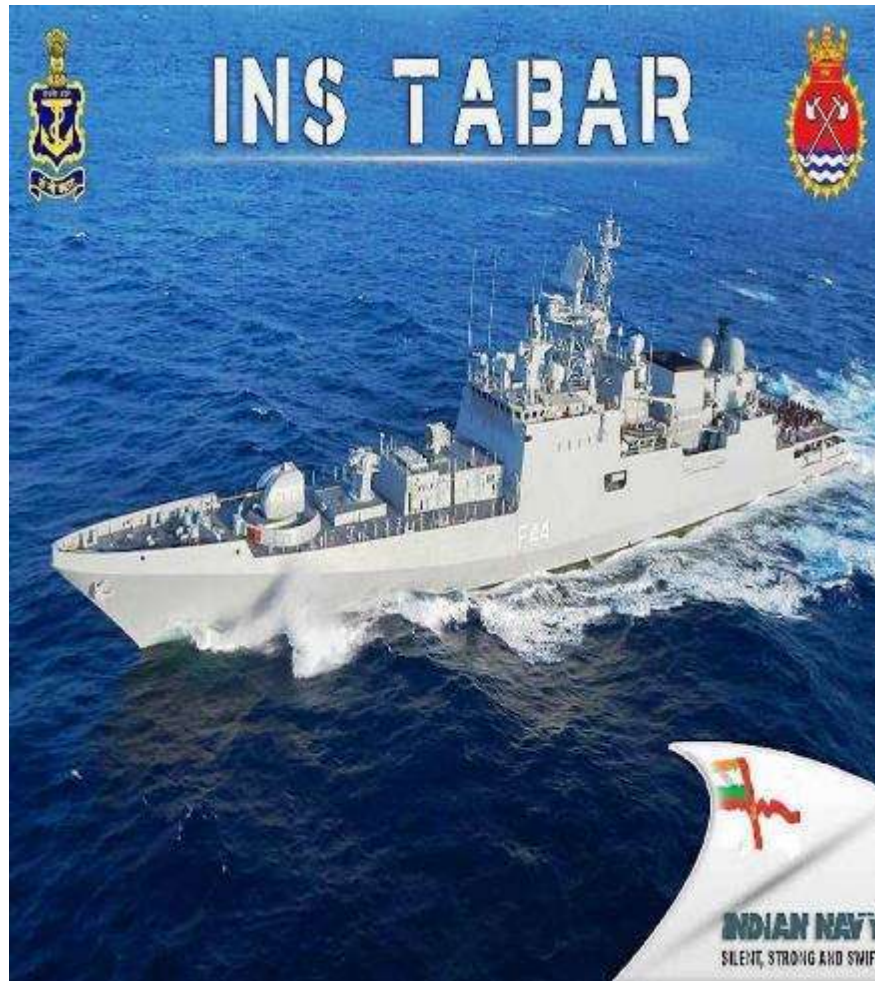
### **Bangladesh – sea level by 2050**

- ❖ 17 per cent of Bangladesh could be submerged by the rising sea level by 2050.
- ❖ The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet quoted a report of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in her address to the 48th session of the Human Rights Council.

- ❖ As per the WEF report, Bangladesh has the 3rd largest number of more than 4 million people who got displaced from their homes during disasters in 2019.
- ❖ Other countries that witnessed disaster displacement in 2019 include India, China, Philippines.

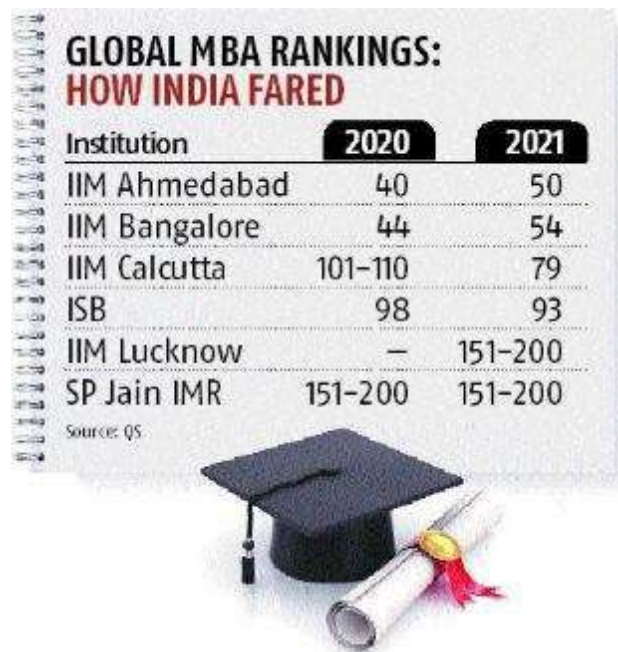
### **Naval exercise with Sudan**

- ❖ The Indian Navy and Sudanese Navy carried out a bilateral maritime exercise in the Red Sea off the Sudanese coast.
- ❖ It was the first time that Indian and Sudanese navies conducted such an exercise.
- ❖ From the Indian side, INS Tabar participated in the exercise.
- ❖ Apart from Sudan, it has also conducted naval exercises with the Egyptian navy in the Mediterranean Sea.



### QS Global Full Time MBA Rankings


- ❖ QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) is one of the leading global business school analysts.
- ❖ It is composing the world's 286 strongest global MBA colleges.
- ❖ Globally, Stanford Graduate School of Business was named the world's number-one MBA program for the second consecutive year
- ❖ The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore and IIM Ahmedabad are in the top-50 list.
- ❖ IIM Calcutta and the Indian School of Business (ISB) of Hyderabad are in the top 100 list.



**GLOBAL MBA RANKINGS:  
HOW INDIA FARED**

Institution	2020	2021
IIM Ahmedabad	40	50
IIM Bangalore	44	54
IIM Calcutta	101-110	79
ISB	98	93
IIM Lucknow	—	151-200
SP Jain IMR	151-200	151-200

Source: QS

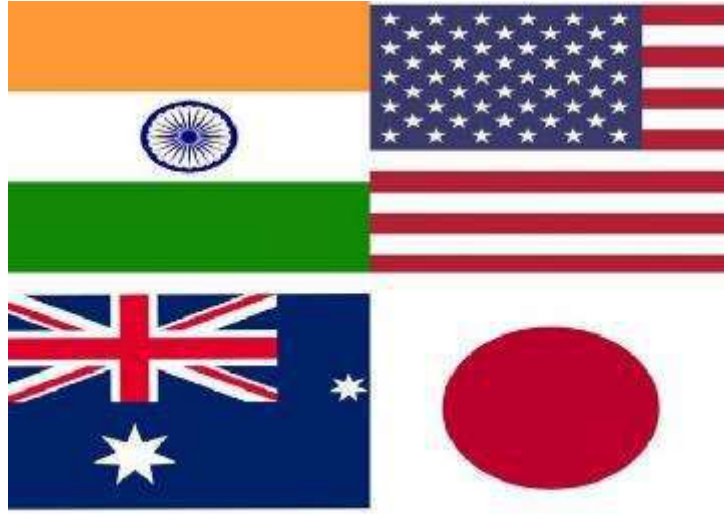


### QUAD Meeting

- ❖ The US President Joe Biden will be hosting the first in-person meeting of the Quad countries in at the White House, in Washington of USA.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Australian PM Scott Morrison and Japanese PM Yoshihide Suga will be present at the meeting.
- ❖ The quadrilateral security dialogue includes Japan, India, United States and Australia.
- ❖ It met for the first time in 2007 on the sidelines of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- ❖ All four nations find a common ground of being the democratic nations and common interests of unhindered maritime trade and security.



- ❖ China had branded it an emerging “Asian NATO”.



### **India-Africa Defence Dialogue**

- ❖ The Government of India has proposed to institutionalise the India-Africa Defence Dialogue, as a regular event, to be held on the sidelines of the biennial DefExpo military exhibition.
- ❖ The first India-Africa Defence Ministers Conclave (IADMC) was held at DefExpo in February 2020 in Lucknow.
- ❖ The second India – Africa Defence Dialogue will be held on the sidelines of the DefExpo, scheduled to be held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat in March 2022.
- ❖ The theme of the 2nd India Africa Defence Dialogue will be ‘India – Africa: Adopting Strategy for Synergizing and Strengthening Defence and Security Cooperation.





## SCO Summit



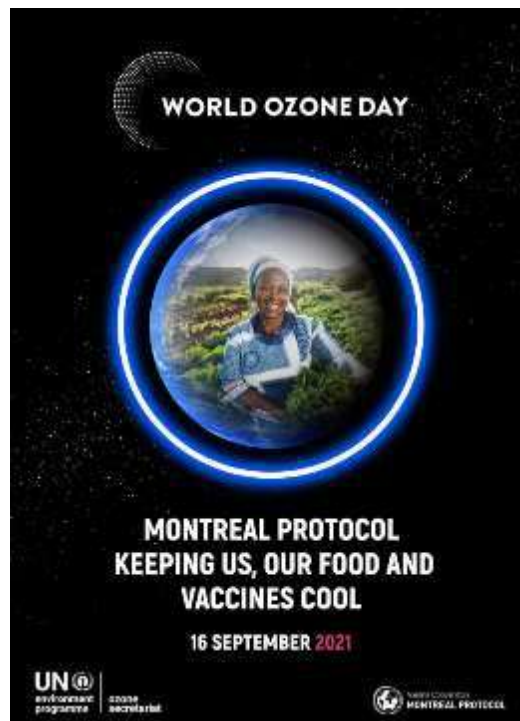
- ❖ The 21st meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of State will be held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in a hybrid format.
- ❖ The President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon will chair the SCO Summit.
- ❖ This will be the first SCO Summit that will be conducted in a hybrid mode.
- ❖ This is the 4th Summit that India will participate as a full-fledged member of the SCO.
- ❖ The Summits of the SCO Council of Heads of State is held annually at alternating venues.
- ❖ The SCO Summit 2020 was chaired by Russia.

## ‘Peaceful Mission’ 2021 – 6th version

- ❖ The Indian military contingent is participating in the Exercise PEACEFUL MISSION -2021.
- ❖ It is a Joint Counter Terrorism Exercise between Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states.
- ❖ It is being hosted by Russia.
- ❖ It is the 6th edition of the biennial multilateral Exercise.



## World Ozone Day Theme (16 September)



- ❖ It is the reminder of the Spring of 1975 when the scientists in Antarctica had detected an appalling drop in the Ozone concentration.
- ❖ The Montreal Protocol theme has been selected for the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer 2021
- ❖ The theme for World Ozone Day 2021 is 'Montreal Protocol- Keeping us, our food, and vaccines cool'.
- ❖ The Montreal Protocol was the first to be ratified by all the 197 countries of the United Nations.

### **First women head – UNCTAD**



- ❖ Rebecca Grynspan will serve as the Secretary-General of UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) for the period of four years from 2021.
- ❖ She became the first woman and Central American to hold such post.
- ❖ She is the former Vice-President of Costa Rica.
- ❖ She succeeded Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi.
- ❖ Kituyi was also the first Kenyan to head the UN trade agency from 2013 to 2021.

### **First all-tourist crew - “Earth circling trip”**

- ❖ The SpaceX rocket blasted off from NASA’s Kennedy Space Centre.
- ❖ This crew included Chris Sembroski, Sian Proctor, Jared Isaacman and Hayley Arceneaux.



- ❖ The crew of the Inspiration4 is now officially in orbit, according to SpaceX.
- ❖ It is the first-ever orbital flight crewed entirely by tourists.
- ❖ The passengers will now spend three days aboard their 13-foot-wide Crew Dragon capsule in orbit at a 350-mile altitude.
- ❖ Dragon capsule is aimed for an altitude of 575 km, beyond the Hubble Space Telescope.



## TIME's 100 Most Influential People list



- ❖ TIME magazine has unveiled its annual list.
- ❖ The list is divided into six categories – Icons, Pioneers, Titans, Artists, Leaders and Innovators.



- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla have been named among the list.
- ❖ Taliban Deputy PM Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar also included into this listed.
- ❖ According to Time, India has had three pivotal leaders namely Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Modi.

## **AUKUS**

- ❖ United States, United Kingdom and Australia have announced this new partnership.
- ❖ It is a new trilateral security partnership for the Indo-Pacific region.
- ❖ The first project of AUKUS will be to help Australia acquire a nuclear-powered conventionally-armed submarine fleet.



## **CPTPP – China**

- ❖ China has applied to join the Asia-Pacific Free Trade grouping or Comprehensive & Progress Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).
- ❖ CPTPP was originally the Trans-Pacific Partnership promoted by the former American President Barack Obama.
- ❖ Donald Trump had pulled out the group in 2017.
- ❖ The current President of US Joe Biden has not yet re-joined the group.

- ❖ China was not included in the initial group.
- ❖ CPTPP is a trade agreement among 11 countries namely, Australia, Brunei, Chile, Canada, Japan, Mexico, Malaysia, Peru, New Zealand, Singapore, and Vietnam.



## Kailash Satyarthi



SDG Advocates @SDGAdvocates · Sep 18

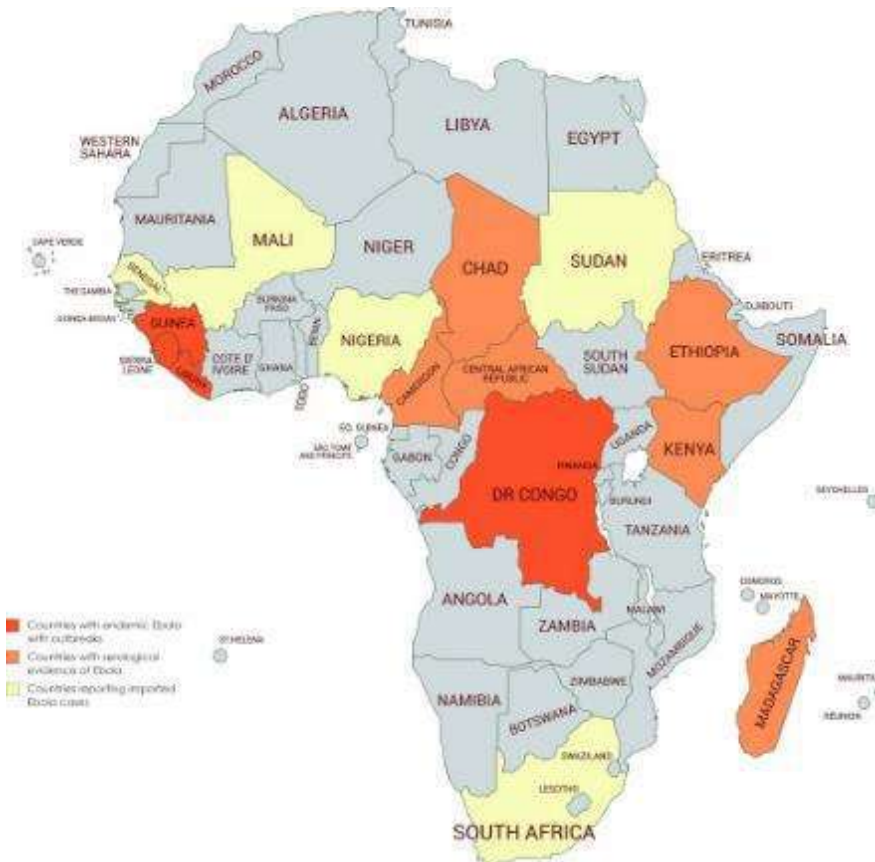
Our new SDG Advocate, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate @k\_satyarthi is a tireless advocate of children's rights, working to end child labour and ensuring that no child is left behind. [unsdgadvocates.org](https://unsdgadvocates.org)



- ❖ The Indian Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi was appointed as Sustainable Development Goals Advocate by the United Nations
- ❖ Microsoft President Brad Smith, STEM activist Valentina Munoz Rabanal and K-pop superstars BLACKPINK has also been appointed as new SDG advocates.
- ❖ They will be integral to advancing the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

## **Ebola**

- ❖ Jean-Jacques Muyembe held that Ebola has been defeated.
- ❖ He is the Congolese epidemiologist who discovered the Ebola virus in 1976
- ❖ It was discovered at Yambuku in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- ❖ It was named Ebola after a river close to Yambuku.



## **A Multi-Billion-Dollar Opportunity: Repurposing agricultural support to transform food systems**

- ❖ This report was launched by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).
- ❖ It estimates that 87 percent of growing producer supports are harmful to 2030 agenda.



## A MULTI-BILLION-DOLLAR OPPORTUNITY

Repurposing agricultural support to transform food systems



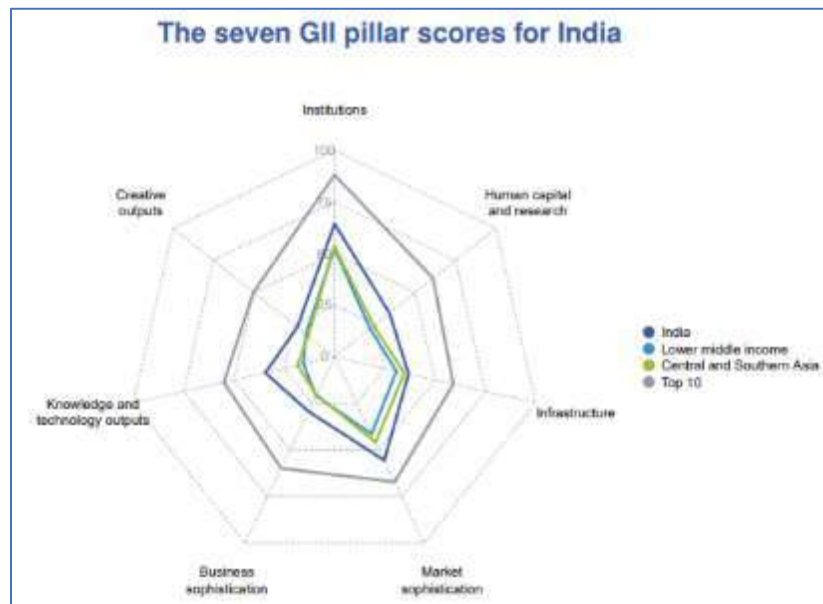
### ICAO

- ❖ Shefali Juneja from India has become the first woman Chairperson of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Aviation Security Committee.
- ❖ India has taken up the responsibility of the Aviation Security Committee after a gap of 12 years.
- ❖ Juneja is the first woman to lead this strategic committee.
- ❖ ICAO is a specialized United Nations agency headquartered at in Quebec, Canada.
- ❖ It is funded by 193 countries.





## Global Innovation Index 2021 rankings



- ❖ Recently, India has climbed two spots and has been ranked 46th in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2021 rankings.
- ❖ The GII is launched by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).
- ❖ WIPO is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
- ❖ The GII aims to capture the multi-dimensional facets of innovation ranking and rich analysis referencing around 132 economies.
- ❖ Switzerland, Sweden, U.S., and U.K. continue to lead the innovation ranking, and have all ranked in the top 5 in the past three years.

- ❖ The Republic of Korea joins the top 5 of the GII for the first time in 2021.

### **India's Performance**

- ❖ India performs better in innovation outputs than innovation inputs in 2021.
- ❖ This year India ranks 57th in innovation inputs.
- ❖ As for innovation outputs, India ranks 45th.
- ❖ India ranks 2nd among the 34 lower middle-income group economies.
- ❖ India ranks 1st among the 10 economies in Central and Southern Asia.

### **France recalls ambassadors - AUKUS security pact**

- ❖ France is recalling its ambassadors from the United States and Australia over the recent trilateral security pact between US, UK and Australia that involves the building of nuclear-powered submarines.
- ❖ The AUKUS military agreement was signed to counter the military threats in the Indo-Pacific region and it involves the delivery of a nuclear-powered submarine fleet to Australia.
- ❖ The submarines will be built in Australia with the support from UK and the US.

### **Oldest living identical twins**



- ❖ Guinness World Records has certified two Japanese sisters as the “oldest living identical twins” of the world.
- ❖ Twin sisters that have set the Guinness World Records are Umeno Sumiyama and Koume Kodama.
- ❖ Both the sisters are at 107.

### Food grain production - India

- ❖ India's food grain production is expected to touch a record of 150.50 million tonne in the Kharif season of 2021 with a better rice output.
- ❖ This is according to the Agriculture Ministry.
- ❖ Record production is expected in rice, sugarcane and cotton.

### Charger for electric vehicles

- ❖ The Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) has developed its indigenous charger for electric vehicles.
- ❖ ARAI has developed indigenous technology for EV charger called AC001.
- ❖ It has been taken up for manufacturing and promotion by the Bharat Electronics.
- ❖ ARAI is also setting up its new centre in Takwe, at Maharashtra.



### India - 3rd largest importer by 2050

#### Upward trajectory

India is ranked eighth among largest importing nations with a 2.8% global import share and is set to become the fourth largest importer by 2030.

Rank	2019	2030	2050
1	United States	China	China
2	China	United States	United States
3	Germany	Germany	<b>India</b>
4	France	<b>India</b>	Germany
5	UK	UK	UK
6	Japan	Japan	France
7	Netherlands	France	Netherlands
8	<b>India</b>	Netherlands	Japan
9	Hong Kong	Hong Kong	Hong Kong
10	South Korea	Canada	Vietnam



- ❖ India could become the world's third-largest importer by 2050.
- ❖ This is according to a report released by the UK's Department of International Trade.
- ❖ With a 5.9 per cent share of global imports by 2050, the country will become the third-largest importer.
- ❖ It will follow China and the United States.
- ❖ At present, India occupies the eighth spot on the list of the largest importing countries with a 2.8 per cent share.
- ❖ As per the Global Trade Outlook report, the country's position on the list will jump to the fourth position by 2030 with a 3.9 per cent share.

### WHO's new Air Quality Norms

Pollutant	Averaging time	2005 AQGs	2021 AQGs
PM <sub>2.5</sub> , µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Annual	10	5
	24-hour <sup>a</sup>	25	15
PM <sub>10</sub> , µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Annual	20	15
	24-hour <sup>a</sup>	50	45
O <sub>3</sub> , µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Peak season <sup>b</sup>	-	60
	8-hour <sup>a</sup>	100	100
NO <sub>2</sub> , µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Annual	40	10
	24-hour <sup>a</sup>	-	25
SO <sub>2</sub> , µg/m <sup>3</sup>	24-hour <sup>a</sup>	20	40
CO, mg/m <sup>3</sup>	24-hour <sup>a</sup>	-	4

- ❖ The World Health Organization set the new standards in the first update of its air quality guidelines since 2005.
- ❖ PM 2.5 norms for 24 hours average has been changed to 15 micro-g/m<sup>3</sup> against 25 micro-g/m<sup>3</sup> in 2005.
- ❖ While the PM 2.5 norms for annual average has been changed to 5 micro-g/m<sup>3</sup> against the 10 micro-g/m<sup>3</sup> in 2005.
- ❖ The revised guidelines for air quality released by the World Health Organisation means that nearly entire India will be considered a polluted Zone for most of the year.





### WHO Director-General

- ❖ France and Germany along with other European Union nations have nominated WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus of Ethiopia for a second term at the post.
- ❖ This is the first that a candidate has not been nominated by the home country for the top post at the UN Health Agency.

### Agreement on Food Security

- ❖ The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) have signed an agreement on Food security.
- ❖ Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on programmes and research in order to improve food, nutrition security and livelihoods across India.
- ❖ ICRISAT is headquartered in Patancheru, Hyderabad.
- ❖ WFP is founded in 1961, with headquarter in Rome.

### International start-up hubs ranking 2021

- ❖ This ranking was recently compiled and published by Start-up Genome for its annual Global Start-up Ecosystem Report 2021.
- ❖ As per this London, Mumbai and Bangalore have been featured among the world's top start-up hubs.

- ❖ Bangalore has also been ranked at 23rd position.
- ❖ Delhi was ranked at 36th.
- ❖ Mumbai has been ranked at first position in the Emerging Ecosystems ranking, outperforming the fast-growing ecosystems in areas of performance, funding, talent and market research.
- ❖ Karnataka is also the 4th largest technology and innovation cluster in the world.

### **World Giving Index 2021**

- ❖ Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) published the report recently.
- ❖ India has been ranked at the 14th spot.
- ❖ CAF report notes that, India is one of the fastest climbers on the Index.
- ❖ According to the report,
  - 61% Indians have helped a stranger during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.
  - 36% of Indians donated money.
  - 34% Indians volunteered for social causes in India.
  - The most generous country across the world is Indonesia.



### **Lunar Crater - Matthew Henson**

- ❖ The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has named a Lunar crater at the south pole of the moon after the Arctic explorer Matthew Henson.

- ❖ Matthew Henson was a Black man who was one of the first people who stand at the very top of the world, in 1909.



### **Oldest human footprints**



- ❖ The Footprints dating back 23,000 years have been discovered in the United States.
- ❖ This suggests that humans settled North America long before the end of the last Ice Age.
- ❖ The footprints were left in mud on the banks of a long-since dried-up lake, which is now part of a New Mexico desert.



## **QUAD Leaders' Summit 2021**



- ❖ The first in-person meeting of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) of India, Australia, the United States, and Japan, was held in Washington.
- ❖ The meeting was participated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with leaders of the US, Japan, and Australia.
- ❖ US President Joe Biden is hosting all of them at the White House.
- ❖ PM Modi added that the “Quad vaccine initiative” will help Indo-Pacific nations.

## **UNGA - PM Modi**

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 76<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.
- ❖ PM Modi is the first world leader who addressed the UN General Assembly.
- ❖ The theme for General Debate for the year 2021 is “Building Resilience through hope to recover from Covid-19, rebuild sustainably, respond to the needs of the planet, respect the rights of people, and revitalize the United Nations”.

## **WHO Ambassador for Global Health Financing**





- ❖ The WHO announced the appointment of Gordon Brown as WHO Ambassador for Global Health Financing.
- ❖ He is the former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.
- ❖ He is widely credited with preventing a second Great Depression through his stewardship of the 2009 London G20 summit.

### **U.S. rules out adding India, Japan to AUKUS**

- ❖ U.S. President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson jointly announced the formation of the trilateral security alliance AUKUS.
- ❖ Under this Australia would get a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines for the first time.
- ❖ The United States has ruled out adding India or Japan to the new trilateral security partnership with Australia and Britain to meet the challenges of the 21st century in the strategic Indo-Pacific region.

### **Same-sex marriage - Switzerland**

- ❖ The Voters in Switzerland decided to legalize same-sex marriage.
- ❖ It makes Switzerland one of the last countries in Western Europe to do so.
- ❖ Under the amended law, same-sex couples will be able to have a civil wedding.
- ❖ They will be granted the same institutional and legal rights as heterosexual couples.



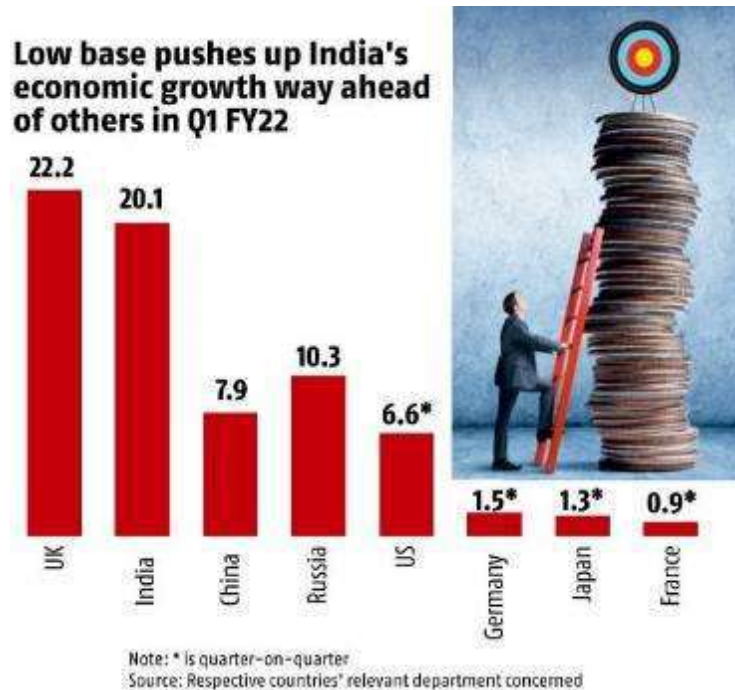
## ECONOMY

### Direct Insurance Broker – PhonePe

- ❖ PhonePe has got an Insurance Broking license issued from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India.
- ❖ It will now serve as Direct Insurance Broker.
- ❖ PhonePe entered the Insurtech sector in the year 2020 with a limited insurance 'corporate agent' license.



### India's GDP growth in Q1 FY22



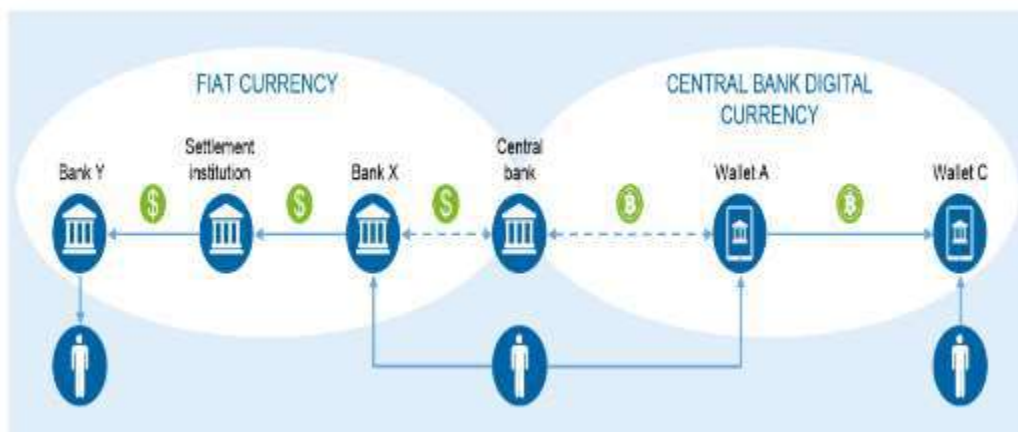
- ❖ According to the data of Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, economic growth of India accelerated to a record high in the quarter through June 2021.
- ❖ As per data, the Gross domestic product has increased to 20.1% in the three-month period as compared to contraction of 24.4% in the same quarter in 2020.
- ❖ This is India's fastest growth since the quarterly data started being released.
- ❖ This growth is bit lower than the projection of Reserve Bank of India (21.4%).

### **PayU to acquire BillDesk**

- ❖ Netherlands-based Prosus NV has announced to acquire the Indian digital payments provider BillDesk and merge it with its own fintech service business PayU.
- ❖ The size of the deal is \$4.7 billion.
- ❖ This acquisition will make the combined entity of PayU and BillDesk as the leading online payment providers globally and in India by total payment volume.



### **CBDC Scheme**



- ❖ Central banks in Australia, Singapore, Malaysia and South Africa launched a Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDC) Scheme recently.

- ❖ CBDC scheme is a cross border payments trial that uses different central bank digital currencies (CBDC) in order to assess if this allows transactions to be settled in a cheap and easy manner.
- ❖ CBDCs are digital forms of existing currencies.

### **Committee on NUE licenses**

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India will set up a committee to scrutinize applications and give recommendations on New Umbrella Entity (NUE) licenses.
- ❖ The 5-member committee will be headed by P. Vasudevan.
- ❖ The committee will be responsible for looking into several aspects of NUE, from the macroeconomic impact of such a step to the security risks.

#### **Note**

- ❖ The New umbrella entities will be set up for profit entities that will manage payments in the retail space.
- ❖ The RBI invited companies to create a new Umbrella Entities network that would rival the National Payments Council of India.



### **Special Drawing Rights - India's quota**

- ❖ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has made an allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDR) 12.57 billion to India. (approx. USD 17.86 billion).
- ❖ With this, the total SDR holding of India has gone up to SDR 13.66 billion (equivalent to around USD 19.41 billion).
- ❖ SDR is one of the components of the Foreign Exchange Reserves (FER) of India.
- ❖ Hence the Foreign Exchange Reserves (FER) has also increased now.



## History of SDRs

- Special drawing rights were created by the IMF in 1969 and were intended to be an asset held in foreign exchange reserves under the Bretton Woods system of fixed exchange rates.
- After the collapse of Bretton Woods system in the early 1970s the SDR has taken on a far less important role. Acting as the unit of account for the IMF has been its primary purpose since 1972.
- SDRs were created to the Fund Articles of Agreement in 1969.

## Alternate Investment Fund

### TYPES OF ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUNDS IN INDIA



#### Category 1

- Infrastructure Fund
- Venture Capital Fund
- Angel Fund
- Social Venture Fund



#### Category 2

- Private Equity Fund
- Real Estate Fund
- Debt Fund
- Fund of Funds



#### Category 3

- Hedge Fund
- PIPE Fund

- ❖ ASK Investment Managers (ASK IM), registered with SEBI, is one of the largest Portfolio Management Service providers in India.
- ❖ It has launched India's First Digital Alternate Investment Fund (AIF).
- ❖ An alternative investment is a financial asset that does not fall into one of the conventional investment categories.
- ❖ Alternative investments include private equity or venture capital, hedge funds, managed futures, art and antiques, commodities, and derivatives contracts.



### **Digital Payment Scorecard**

- ❖ The Bank of Baroda tops in the MeitY (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) Digital Payment Scorecard for the month of February and March 2021.
- ❖ The scorecard ranks 44 banks (Public Sector Banks, Private Banks, Foreign Banks, Payments Banks, Small Finance Banks) on various parameters on the digital business.

### **PM-KUSUM scheme**

- ❖ Haryana becomes the first state in the country to install solar pumps.
- ❖ Under the scheme, the solar pumps are being installed in the state with 75% subsidy.
- ❖ The pumps can be installed by farmers for irrigation purpose only.

### **Millet Mission**

- ❖ Chhattisgarh launches 'Millet Mission' for farmers.
- ❖ The Chief Minister Baghel signed MoUs with the Indian Institute of Millet Research (IIMR), Hyderabad in this regard.
- ❖ This initiative will help the state become India's millet hub.
- ❖ The year 2023 will be celebrated as the International Year of Millet.

### **PMGDISHA**

- ❖ The Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) drive for 100% Digital Literacy of all digital villages has been launched under PMGDISHA scheme
- ❖ It is a flagship Digital Literacy scheme of the Government for rural areas.
- ❖ It envisages to make six crore persons in rural areas digitally literate in 2020.
- ❖ It aims to cover one member from every household where there is no digitally literate person
- ❖ Under the campaign, a three-day certification drive for rural citizens especially women and disadvantaged communities will be conducted.
- ❖ The Common Service Centre (CSC) is also proposed to make all the Digital Villages 100 percent Digital Literate.



### **UPI and PayNow**



- ❖ India and Singapore have announced the linking of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and PayNow.
- ❖ It aims to enable users to make instant, low-cost fund transfers.

### **States borrowing**

- ❖ The Central government has allowed 11 states to borrow an additional fund of Rs 15,721 crore from the market.
- ❖ They achieved the capital expenditure target that finance ministry had set for June quarter the fiscal year 2021-22.
- ❖ Additional open market borrowing permission equivalent to 0.25% of their Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) was granted.
- ❖ Out of total net borrowing ceiling of 4% of GSDP, about 0.50% of GSDP has been kept for incremental capital expenditure to be incurred by states during FY22.
- ❖ These states are Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.

### **Subsidy on stubble burning**

- ❖ The Central Government has released the amount for four states - Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Punjab, and Haryana to subsidize the machinery for the issue of stubble burning.



- ❖ It is required for in-situ management of the crop residue during 2021-22.
- ❖ It aims to address the problem of air pollution in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR).
- ❖ It is because of stubble burning in the adjoining states of Haryana, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh.

### **Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP)**

- ❖ It is a Central Sector scheme by the Department of Land Resources.
- ❖ According to union government, land records have been integrated with the e-portal of central government, by most states except three.
- ❖ Three states that have not integrated their digital land records with the nodal procurement agency, Food Corporation of India (FCI) include Assam, Uttarakhand and Jammu & Kashmir.
- ❖ Cross-checking land records before procurement will help in ensuring that the MSP reaches to the farmers and not traders.
- ❖ Crop cultivated by farmers, either in their own land or rented property, will be procured by the government.

#### **Objective of Program (DILRMP)**

- To develop a modern, comprehensive and transparent Land Records Management System in the country
- Conclusive land titling system with title guarantee
- Minimize scope of land/property dispute, enhance transparency in the land records maintenance system
- Effective and Efficient on line service deliveries to citizen
- Delivery of RoR and Cadastral maps
- Registered document

### **Cohort under Regulatory Sandbox**

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has announced the theme for the Third Cohort under the Regulatory Sandbox (RS) as 'MSME Lending'.
- ❖ Regulatory Sandbox (RS) refers to live testing of new products or services in a controlled/test regulatory environment for which regulators may (or may not) permit certain regulatory relaxations for the limited purpose of the testing.



- ❖ First Cohort - Retail Payments in December 2020.
- ❖ Second Cohort - Cross Border Payments in December 2020.

### **Army Chief's conclave**

- ❖ The 8th edition of the Indian Army Chief's Conclave was organised at New Delhi.
- ❖ It is a gathering of serving and former Chiefs of Army Staff of the Indian Army.
- ❖ The invitation was extended to former Chiefs of the Nepali Army, who were also Chiefs of the Indian Army.



### **Notified Airport**

- ❖ The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has declared Kushi nagar Airport as a Customs notified airport.
- ❖ This would also facilitate international passenger movements including that of Buddhist pilgrims.
- ❖ The Kushi nagar airport is an international airport in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

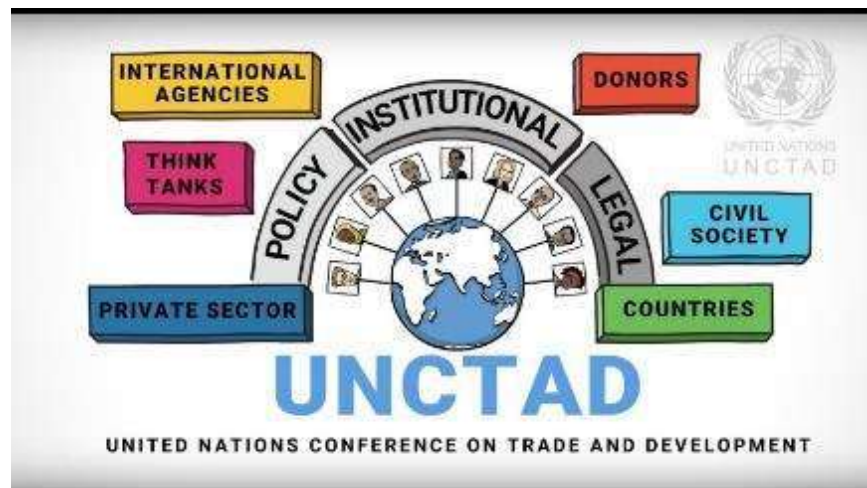
### **Equinox**

Infosys  
equinox

- ❖ Infosys launched Infosys Equinox to help the enterprises.
- ❖ It aims to securely deliver hyper-segmented, personalized omnichannel commerce experiences for B2B and B2C buyers.

### **Trade and Development report 2021**

- ❖ The UNCTAD report has noted that India's GDP growth rate is expected to grow at 7.2% in 2021.
- ❖ With this growth rate, India will be the fastest growing economy after China
- ❖ In 2022, even with a slower growth rate of 6.7%, the country will still be the fastest-growing major economy.



### **Food delivery under GST**



- ❖ E-commerce operators Swiggy & Zomato will come under GST regime.
- ❖ They are now required to pay GST on restaurant service supplied through by them.
- ❖ It is because tax is charged at point of delivery.
- ❖ Earlier, restaurants used to pay the tax.

### **‘Doing Business’ rankings**

- ❖ The World Bank Group has decided to discontinue the publication of its ‘Doing Business’ rankings of country business climates.
- ❖ In August 2020, the World Bank found a number of irregularities were reported regarding changes to the data.
- ❖ The irregularities in Doing Business reports had affected four countries.
- ❖ They are China; Saudi Arabia; United Arab Emirates; and Azerbaijan.



### **‘Bad bank’ setup**

- ❖ The government has set up two new entities to acquire stressed assets from banks and then sell them in the market.
- ❖ To make it work, the government has okayed the use of Rs 30,600 crore to be used as a guarantee.
- ❖ The NARCL-IDRCL structure is the new bad bank.
- ❖ The “National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited” (NARCL) has already been incorporated under the Companies Act.
- ❖ It will acquire stressed assets worth about Rs 2 lakh crore from various commercial banks in different phases.
- ❖ Another entity is India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL).
- ❖ Bad Bank are set up to resolve the problem of bad loans which are impacting the public sector banks.



Central Government  
guarantee to back  
Security Receipts  
issued by  
National Asset  
Reconstruction  
Company Limited  
(NARCL) for acquiring  
of stressed loan assets



MINISTRY OF  
FINANCE



**DFS**

Department of  
Financial Services

### India's 1st Euro Green Bond

- ❖ Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) has issued its first Euro 300 million 7-year Euro Bond.
- ❖ It is the leading Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) in power sector of India.
- ❖ It is the first ever Euro denominated green bond issuance from India.
- ❖ It is the first ever Euro issuance by an Indian NBFC.
- ❖ It is also the first Euro bond issuance from India since 2017.
- ❖ Green bond is a fixed-income instrument designed specifically to support specific climate-related or environmental projects.



### 45<sup>th</sup> GST council meeting

- ❖ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the 45th Meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council.
- ❖ This is the first time that a GST Council meeting took place in Lucknow, capital of Uttar Pradesh.



- ❖ It is also the first physical meeting of the GST Council following the outbreak of COVID-19.
- ❖ The GST Council members made it clear that they do not want petroleum products to be included under GST.
- ❖ It has decided to exempt the following life-saving drugs from the GST taxation
- ❖ They are Zolngelsma and Viltepsa (cost around Rs 16 Cr), Drugs to treat muscular atrophy.
- ❖ Transport of export goods by vessels and air is also exempted from GST.

**What's in store |** The 45th GST Council meeting was chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Lucknow on Friday. Among the key decisions are:

■ Concessional tax rates on COVID-19 essential medicines like Tocilizumab extended till December 31	■ Tax on fortified rice kernels for ICDS scheme reduced from 18% to 5%
■ Muscular atrophy drugs like Zolgensma and Viltepsa that cost around ₹16 crore exempted from GST	■ GST on cancer drugs like Keytruda cut from 12% to 5%
■ Import of leased aircraft exempted from I-GST	
■ 5% GST to be levied on food delivery apps	

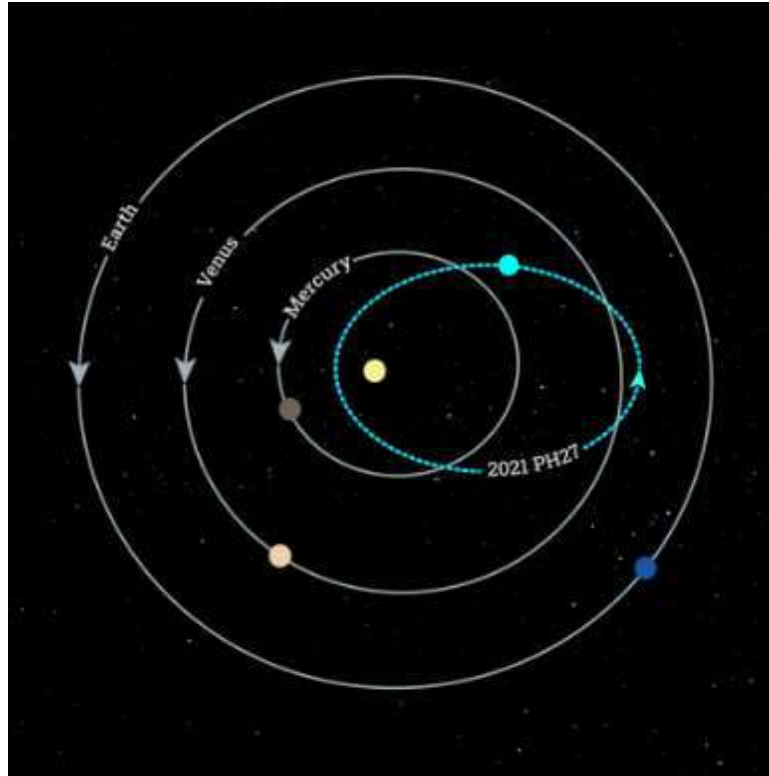


### **Asiamoney 2021 Poll**

- ❖ HDFC Bank has been awarded the 'Overall Most Outstanding Company in India'.
- ❖ This is in addition to the bank being voted 'Most Outstanding Company in India – Banking Sector,' for the 4th consecutive year.
- ❖ The poll aims to identify and recognize publicly.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

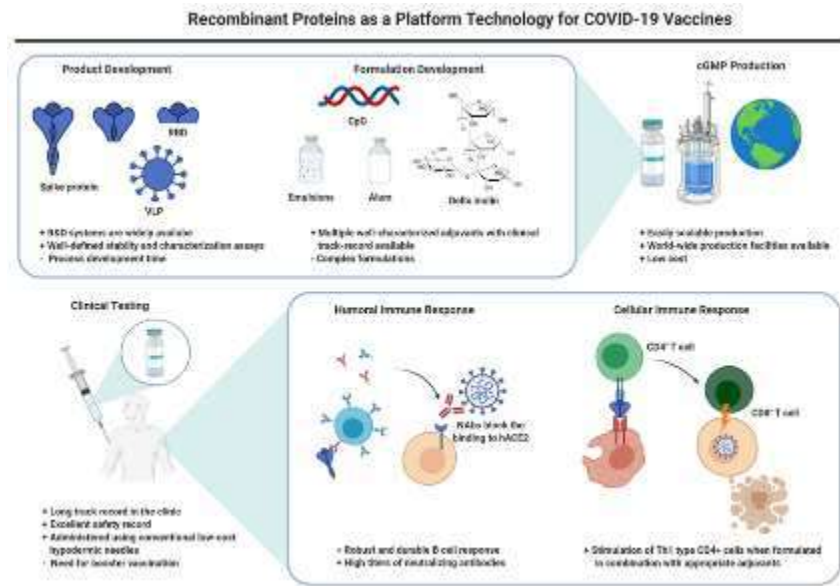
### Fastest orbiting asteroid



- ❖ The Astronomers at the Carnegie Institution of Science (CIS) of USA announced that they have discovered the fastest orbiting asteroid ever spotted in the solar system.
- ❖ The fastest orbiting asteroid, 2021 PH27, was detected using the Dark Energy Camera (DEC).
- ❖ It is 1 kilometer in diameter and completes its orbit in just 113 Earth days.

### Recombinant protein-based COVID-19 vaccine

- ❖ The Reliance Life Sciences (RLS) will be conducting the trials of its recombinant protein-based COVID-19 vaccine candidate.
- ❖ The recombinant protein COVID-19 vaccine uses the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2 as the antigen.
- ❖ This helps the human body to recognize and develop a strong booster response to fight off the COVID-19 infection.



### World's first 'Plant based' Smart Air-Purifier "Ubreathe Life"

- ❖ This product is being developed by Urban Air Laboratory which is a start-up company of IIT Ropar.
- ❖ Product is being claimed as world's first, state-of-the-art 'Smart Bio-Filter', which can make breathing fresh.
- ❖ Technology used in this product is called as 'Urban Munnar Effect' and patent-pending "Breathing Roots".
- ❖ IIT Ropar is a designated iHub – AWaDH (Agriculture and Water Technology Development Hub) by the Department of Science and Technology of government.



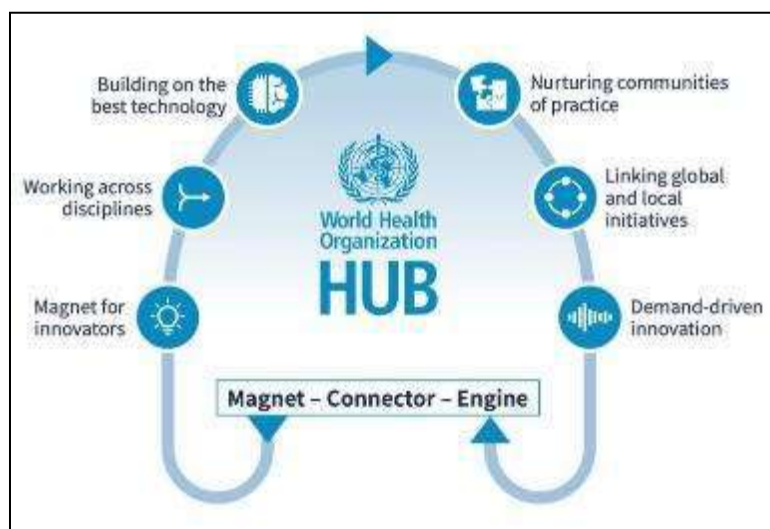
### **Largest scientific collaboration**

- ❖ A worldwide COVID-19 study led by the experts of the UK and conducted at Indian hospitals among others around the world has been awarded the 'Guinness World Records' title for the world's largest scientific collaboration.
- ❖ The study involved over 1,40,000 patients in 116 countries.
- ❖ The record for 'Most authors on a single peer-reviewed academic paper' is now held by the Birmingham and Edinburgh University.
- ❖ This record was awarded after 15,025 scientists around the globe contributed to the major research into the impact of Coronavirus on surgical patients.

### **IISc and ISRO - Microbial experiments**

- ❖ Researchers from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have developed device to conduct microbial experiments in outer space.
- ❖ This modular, self-contained device can be used to cultivate microorganisms.
- ❖ This in turn will enable scientists to carry out biological experiments even in outer space.
- ❖ This study was published in Acta Astronautica.
- ❖ Researchers showed how this device can be used to activate and track the growth of a bacterium called *Sporosarcina pasteurii*.

### **Hub for pandemic and epidemic intelligence**



- ❖ The World Health Organization opened a center in Berlin.

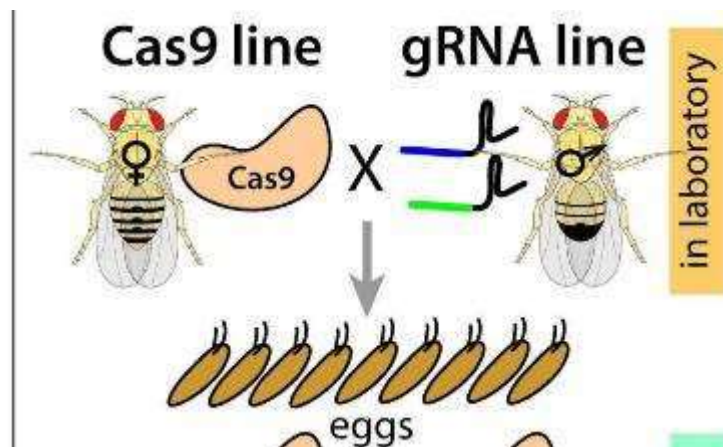


- ❖ Here the information can be shared to help prepare the world for the next global health crisis.
- ❖ The center is known as the Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence.
- ❖ The initiative aims to track, collect, analyse, and use data from outbreaks, epidemics, and pandemics to better prepare for, predict, and manage them.

## Chandrayaan-2

- ❖ Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft has completed 9,000 orbits around the moon.
- ❖ It has detected minor elements of manganese and chromium through remote sensing for the first time from the surface of the moon.
- ❖ The discovery was clearly a surprise as these elements are less than one weight percentage on the moon.
- ❖ The two elements, Chromium and Manganese, were detected at few places during the intense solar flare events.
- ❖ So far, the presence of these elements on the lunar surface was only known through soil samples which were collected during the earlier missions.
- ❖ ISRO Chief K Sivan, also the Secretary of the Department of Space, released the science and the data product documents from the mission.

## pgSIT



- ❖ The Researchers from California have developed CRISPR-based system to safely restrain mosquito vectors via sterilization.
- ❖ pgSIT is a new scalable genetic control system that uses a CRISPR-based approach to engineer deployable mosquitoes that can suppress populations.
- ❖ It alters genes linked to male fertility — creating sterile offspring — and female flight in *Aedes aegypti*.

- ❖ *Aedes aegypti*, the mosquito species, is responsible for spreading wide-ranging diseases including dengue fever, chikungunya, and Zika.
- ❖ CRISPR technology is basically a gene-editing technology that can be used for the purpose of altering genetic expression or changing the genome of an organism.

### **Asia's First Hybrid flying car**

- ❖ Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia reviewed the concept model of Asia's First Hybrid flying car.
- ❖ The Minister said that the flying cars will be used for transporting people and cargo and for medical emergencies as well.
- ❖ It will be a fully autonomous hybrid-electric VTOL vehicle capable of accommodating two passengers.
- ❖ It is being built by Chennai-based Vinata Aero mobility.



### **Dark energy**

- ❖ Recently, an international team of researchers made the first direct detection of dark energy.
- ❖ They noticed certain unexpected results in the XENON1T experiment and write that dark energy may be responsible for it.
- ❖ Dark Energy is a hypothetical form of energy that exerts a negative, repulsive pressure, behaving like the opposite of gravity.
- ❖ XENON1T is the world's most sensitive dark matter experiment.

- ❖ It was operated deep underground at the INFN Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso in Italy.

Dark Matter	Dark Energy
Dark matter is a hypothetical form of matter thought to account for approximately 85% of the matter in the universe.	Dark energy is an unknown form of energy that is hypothesized to permeate all of space, tending to accelerate the expansion of the universe.
27% of the universe is dark matter	68% of the universe is dark energy
Dark matter works like an attractive force that holds our universe together.	Dark energy is a repulsive force that causes the expansion of our universe.

### Centre on Quantum Technologies

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has set up a 'Centre of Excellence (CoE) on Quantum Technologies'.
- ❖ This CoE will bring synergy and coherence in the activities that are being carried out at IIT Delhi.
- ❖ It will also support the principal investigators to pitch in for several significant projects from the DST and other agencies.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Leaded petrol eradicated

- ❖ The use of leaded petrol has been eradicated from the globe as per the observation made by UNEP
- ❖ Achieving of this milestone will prevent more than 1.2 million premature deaths.
- ❖ It will also save world economies over \$2.4 trillion annually.
- ❖ Algeria was the last country to use the fuel.
- ❖ India banned leaded petrol in March 2000.

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## After nearly a century, the end of leaded petrol

First introduced in 1922, Algeria was the last country to stop using the toxic additive in July 2021.

**Countries still using leaded petrol in 2002**



**Countries still using leaded petrol in 2012**



## Air Quality Life Index report

- ❖ India is the most polluted country in the world with about 40% of its population living in the Indo-Gangetic plains in the north India.
- ❖ The pollution levels have regularly exceeded there than those found anywhere else in the world.
- ❖ This was stated in the Air Quality Life Index report by the University of Chicago.
- ❖ The report says that the people living in Northern India are on track to lose more than 9 years of life expectancy.
- ❖ It also says that the pollution has now increased so in the states of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.



- ❖ For example, an average person in these states is losing an additional 2.5 to 2.9 years of life expectancy, relative to early 2000.



### Red-Eared Slider Turtle

- ❖ The Red-Eared Slider Turtle has recently been found accidentally from the Malankara dam in Idukki.
- ❖ It is a native of the southern U.S. (Mississippi river) and northern Mexico.
- ❖ It is identified as exotic and enlisted in the 100 most invasive species in the world.
- ❖ It is also known to be a carrier of human-infected bacteria such as salmonella.



### **Erosion of India's coastline**

- ❖ As much as 32 per cent of India's coastline underwent sea erosion and 27 per cent of it expanded between 1990 and 2018.
- ❖ This is according to a report published by the National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) under the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- ❖ The West Bengal coastline has been particularly vulnerable with 60 per cent of the coastline erosion.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu underwent 41 per cent erosion.
- ❖ Odisha coast expanded by 51 per cent.
- ❖ In Tamil Nadu it is 22 per cent.

### **Atlas of Mortality and Economic Losses from Weather, Climate and Water Extremes (1970-2019)**



- ❖ It was released by the UN's world meteorological organization.
- ❖ The developed nations incurred the bulk of \$3.6 trillion in economic losses because of severe weather events in past five decades.
- ❖ The High death tolls in poorer countries have been partly reduced by better evacuation.
- ❖ Three out of 10 world's costliest disasters occurred in 2017 alone namely - hurricanes Harvey (\$96.9bn), Maria (\$69.4bn) and Irma (\$58.2bn).

### **Sand and Dust Storms Risk Assessment in Asia and the Pacific**

- ❖ The findings were published in the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) report.
- ❖ APDIM is a regional institution of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

- ❖ The report identified 'east and northeast Asia', 'south and southwest Asia', 'central Asia' and the 'Pacific' as the four main sand and dust storm corridors of Asia-Pacific.
- ❖ The region is the second-largest emitter of mineral dust.
- ❖ Sand and dust storms contribute significantly to poor air quality in Karachi, Lahore and Delhi in 'southwest Asia'.
- ❖ Sand and dust storms are a transboundary meteorological hazard.
- ❖ Much of this dust is characterized by high salt content, making it toxic for plants.
- ❖ It reduces yield, posing a significant threat to the production of irrigated cotton and other crops.
- ❖ More than 500 million people in India and more than 80 per cent of the entire populations of Turkmenistan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran are exposed to medium and high levels of poor air quality due to sand and dust storms.
- ❖ Very high dust deposition also occurs in the Himalaya-Hindu Kush Mountain range and the Tibetan Plateau.
- ❖ This plateau is called 'third pole' that are the sources for fresh water for more than 1.3 billion people in Asia.



### **CII National Energy Leader**

- ❖ GMR led Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) has won the prestigious awards of CII 'National Energy Leader' and 'Excellent Energy Efficient Unit'.
- ❖ GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL) also clinched the CII 'National Energy Leader' and 'Excellent Energy Efficient Unit'.
- ❖ It was at the 22nd National Award ceremony for 'Excellence in Energy Management'.
- ❖ It was organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) - Green Business Centre (GBC) during the 22nd edition of 'Energy Efficiency Summit'.
- ❖ The objective of these awards is to recognize the companies engaged in energy-efficiency initiatives that adopt best practices and technological advancement in their daily operations.
- ❖ DIAL is Asia Pacific's first Level 4+ (transition) accredited airport under Airport Council International's Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) programme.
- ❖ Hyderabad International Airport is also a carbon neutral airport having Level 3 + "Neutrality" accreditation.

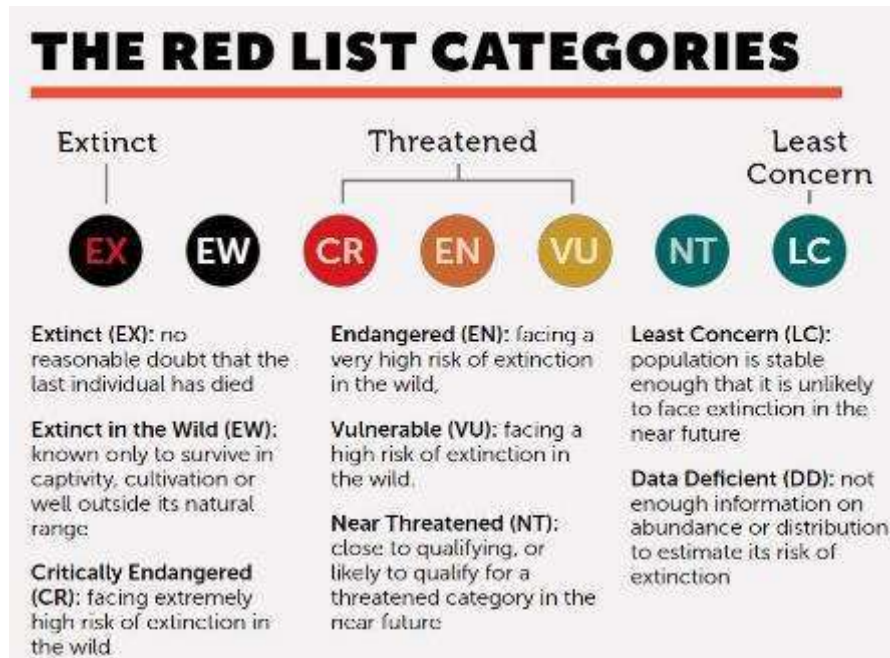


### **Latest Red List of Threatened Species**

- ❖ The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has released this report.
- ❖ Some 902 species are officially extinct according to the latest Red List
- ❖ The Red List also shows that 30 per cent of the species (38,543) that it assessed (138,374) face the threat of extinction.



- ❖ Some 80 species are extinct in the wild, 8,404 are critically endangered, 14,647 are endangered, 15,492 are vulnerable and 8,127 are near threatened.
- ❖ The Atlantic bluefin tuna moved from endangered to least concern.
- ❖ The Southern bluefin tuna moved from critically endangered to endangered.
- ❖ The world's largest living lizard, the Komodo dragon has been moved from vulnerable to endangered.
- ❖ The species is endemic to Indonesia and occurs only in the World Heritage-listed Komodo National Park.



### Pollen Calendar

- ❖ Chandigarh gets its first pollen calendar.
- ❖ Pollen calendars are graphical representations of the time dynamics of airborne pollen taxa in a certain geographic area.
- ❖ Pollens are considered major outdoor airborne allergens responsible for allergic rhinitis, asthma and atopic dermatitis in humans.

### Sharks' status

- ❖ According to a new red list by IUCN, world's sharks and rays have been witnessing declines in their populations since 2014.
- ❖ Sharks are now threatened with extinction.

- ❖ About 37% of sharks and rays across the world are considered endangered as of 2021.

### **Slender Gecko in Goa**



- ❖ A tiny slender gecko, *Hemiphyllodactylus goaensis*, has been described by researchers as a new species from Goa and the northern Western Ghat region.
- ❖ It was published in Zootaxa “A new species of the genus *Hemiphyllodactylus* Bleeker, 1860,” a zoological journal.
- ❖ The Goan slender gecko is one of the smallest of the species in India.
- ❖ It is hardly 32mm in size that can sit on the human thumb.
- ❖ *Hemiphyllodactylus goaensis* is only the eight Indian species of the genus and 44th globally.
- ❖ This is also the first species of animal described from Goa University.

### **Largest Open-Air Fernery**

- ❖ India’s largest open-air fernery has been inaugurated in Ranikhet of Uttarakhand.
- ❖ It is the country’s first open-air fernery in natural surroundings which is not under any poly-house/ shade house.
- ❖ The fernery has the largest collection of fern species, second to only Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanical Garden and Research Institute (TBGRI), Thiruvananthapuram.
- ❖ It has been developed under Central Government’s Compensatory Afforestation Management Funds Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) scheme.



## India's first plant to capture CO<sub>2</sub>



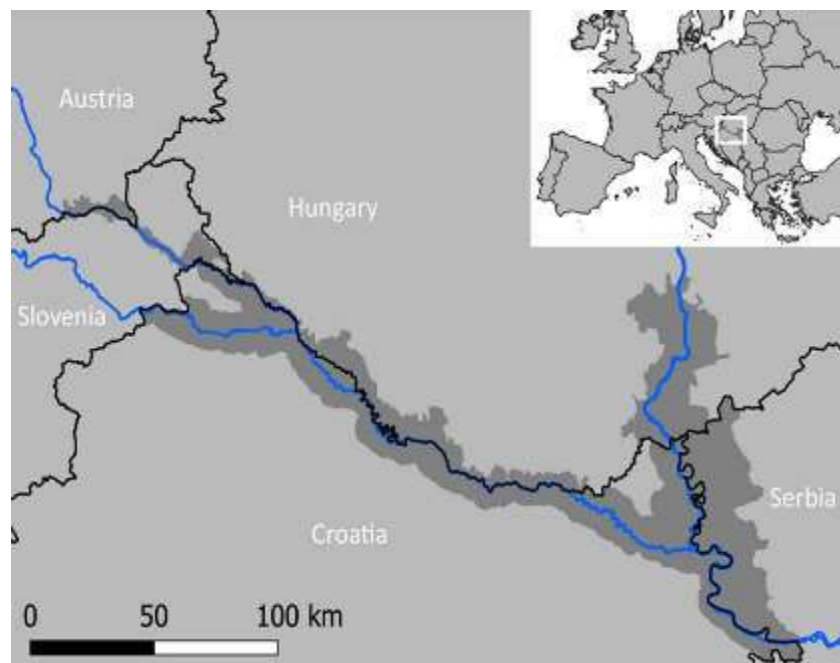
- ❖ Tata Steel has commissioned India's first carbon capture plant.
- ❖ It extracts CO<sub>2</sub> directly from the blast furnace gas, at its Jamshedpur Works.
- ❖ With this achievement, Tata Steel has become the country's first steel company to adopt such a carbon capture technology.
- ❖ The plant can capture 5 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per day (5 tonne per day - TPD).
- ❖ This project has been executed with technological support from Carbon Clean, a global leader in low-cost CO<sub>2</sub> capture technology.

### **Mura-Drava-Danube**

- ❖ Recently, Mura-Drava-Danube (MDD) was declared as the world's first 'five-country biosphere reserve' by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
- ❖ The biosphere reserve covers 700 kilometres of the Mura, Drava and Danube rivers.
- ❖ It stretches across Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and Serbia.

### **Biosphere Reserves in India**

- ❖ Presently, there are 18 Biosphere Reserves in India.
- ❖ 12 Biosphere reserves in India find their place in UNESCO's List of Man & Biosphere Reserves Programme.
- ❖ The latest included under the MAB was 'Panna Biosphere Reserve' (Madhya Pradesh).



### **Black Carbon emission – IMO**

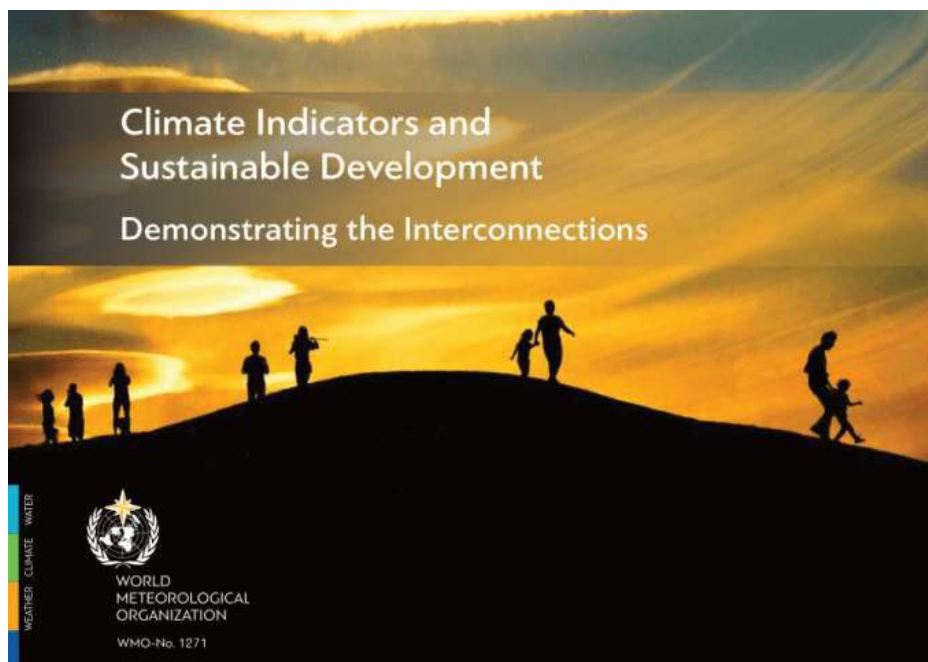
- ❖ With Arctic summer ice reaching its 12th lowest ever extent, the Clean Arctic Alliance has called for urgent cuts to black carbon emissions from shipping.
- ❖ This is planned ahead of the 77th Marine Environment Protection Committee meeting (MEPC 77) at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in November.





### **Climate Indicators and Sustainable Development Report**

- ❖ The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has published a new report.
- ❖ It is titled “Climate Indicators and Sustainable Development: Demonstrating the Interconnections”.
- ❖ WMO published its report with the aim of demonstrating the connections between global climate and SDGs.
- ❖ It also seeks to limit global warming to less than 2 °C or even 1.5 °C by the end of the current century.



### **UNESCO 33rd session**

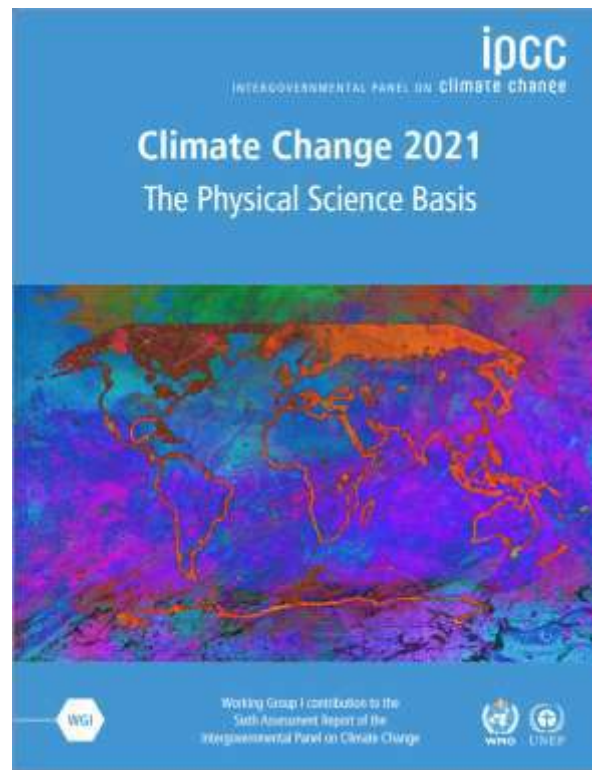
- ❖ The 33rd session of the International Co-ordinating Council of the UNESCO's MAB (Man and the Biosphere) Programme was held in a hybrid format in Abuja, Nigeria.
- ❖ This was the first time that it was held in the African continent.
- ❖ 20 new sites in 21 countries were added to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (BRs).
- ❖ This made Biosphere Reserves reach a total number of 727 Biosphere in 131 countries.
- ❖ The sites from Lesotho (Matseng BR), Libya (Ashaafean BR), and Saudi Arabia (Juzur Farasan BR) are designated for the first time.
- ❖ UNESCO's BRs now cover more than 5% of the Earth's landmass.



### **Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis report**

- ❖ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recently published this report
- ❖ The report calls for clear climate action.
- ❖ It illustrated the following scenarios,
  - Very low and low GHG emissions - Here, emissions decline to net zero around the middle of the century. Beyond this, emissions are net negative.

- Intermediate GHG emissions - Emissions are double the current level by 2100.
- High and very high emissions - Here, emissions are double the current levels by 2050.
- ❖ The average global temperature is currently 1.09°C higher than pre-industrial levels.
- ❖ The CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the atmosphere is 410 ppm as compared to 285 ppm in 1850.



## Ocean State Report 5

Oceans/ Seas	Sea level rise
Baltic Sea	4.5 mm per year
Iberian Biscay Ireland Seas	3.6 mm per year
Pacific Islands (Total Area)	3.4 mm per year
North West Shelf	2.9 mm per year
Mediterranean Sea	2.5 mm per year
Black Sea	1.7 mm per year

- ❖ The Copernicus Marine Environmental Monitoring Service has released the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Ocean State Report (OSR 5).
- ❖ The report has said that the global ocean is undergoing severe changes from natural variations, over-exploitation and anthropogenic influences.
- ❖ These changes caused the sea level to rise by 3.1 millimeters each year on an average between January 1993 and May 2020.
- ❖ The report showed that the sea ice is steadily decreasing in the Arctic.

### United in Science 2021 - WMO

- ❖ Recently, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) released a report named United in Science 2021.
- ❖ It is a multi-organization high-level compilation of the latest climate science information.
- ❖ The report is coordinated by the WMO.
- ❖ It had got inputs from the United Nations Environment Programme, World Health Organization, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Global Carbon Project, World Climate Research Programme and the Met Office (UK).





## STATES

### Airforce Heritage Centre

- ❖ The Chandigarh Administration and Indian Air Force on Friday signed an Agreed in Principle (AIP) for setting up of "Airforce Heritage Centre" at Chandigarh.
- ❖ This is the first such Air force Heritage Centre in the country.
- ❖ The Air Force Heritage Centre will bring awareness in the region particularly among the students about the role and contribution of the Indian Air Force in national security and defence.



### World class science city – Maharashtra

- ❖ The Maharashtra Government has decided to set up a world-class science city at Pimpri-Chinchwad near Pune.
- ❖ This is to develop a scientific outlook among the students and prepare them to become students in future.
- ❖ This is to be named as 'Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi Science Innovation City'.

### United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress

- ❖ Recently, it was announced that the second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) will be held in Telangana, Hyderabad in 2022.

- ❖ The event would show a glimpse of India's evolving geospatial ecosystem.
- ❖ It is organised by United Nation Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM).
- ❖ It is conducted every four years.
- ❖ The first UNWGIC was organized by China in October 2018.
- ❖ Theme of Second UNWGIC is 'Geo-enabling the Global Village'.



### **Most Linguistically Diverse**



- ❖ Bengaluru is the top district in India where the greatest number of languages are spoken.



- ❖ With 107 languages, Bengaluru has a diverse set of languages spoken in the district including 22 scheduled and 84 non-scheduled languages.
- ❖ In Bengaluru, 44.5 per cent of people speak Kannada, 15 per cent Tamil, 14 per cent Telugu, 12 per cent Urdu, 6 per cent Hindi and 3 per cent Malayalam.
- ❖ The other districts where more than 100 languages are spoken is Dimapur in Nagaland with 103 languages and Sonitpur in Assam with 101 languages.
- ❖ The least diverse districts included Yanam in Puducherry, Kaimur in Bihar, Kaushambi and Kanpur Dehat in Uttar Pradesh and Ariyalur in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ In these districts, less than 20 languages were spoken.
- ❖ The data did not include dialects, but only scheduled and non-scheduled languages.

### **Online Game in Karnataka**

- ❖ The Karnataka Cabinet decided to ban online gambling or betting in the state by amending the Karnataka Police Act, 1963.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Kerala have already banned online rummy game.
- ❖ But the Madras High Court in august 2021 struck down a recent amendment (2020) made to the Tamil Nadu Gaming Act of 1930.

### **Karbi Anglong Peace Accord**

- ❖ It was signed between the government of India, government of Assam and six factions of the Karbi.
- ❖ As per the accord, the armed groups shall shun their path of violence within one month of the date of signing of this Accord.
- ❖ The Government of Assam will consider favorably a proposal of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) to notify Karbi as official language of KAAC.
- ❖ English, Hindi and Assamese will continue to be used as official languages.

### **Vatan prem Yohana**

- ❖ It is a repackaged version of Madar-e-Vatan scheme by the government of Gujarat.
- ❖ Madar-e-Vatan has been renamed due to association of the title with Persian language.
- ❖ It is the biggest campaign for public participation in developmental works.

- ❖ Under the scheme, Non-Resident Gujaratis (NRGs) and NRIs can contribute 60 percent of the cost of a village-level project.

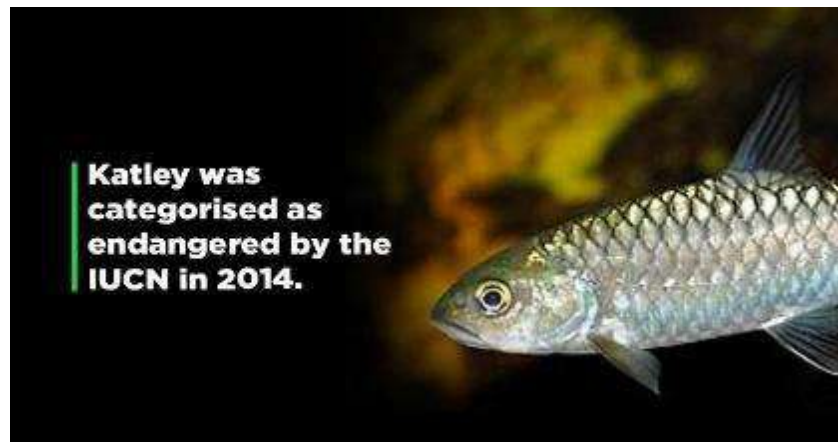
### **Chhattisgarh domicile certificate**

- ❖ Chhattisgarh has decided to issue the domicile certificate.
- ❖ It is an official document issued by the State Government of Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ It serves as proof of a person residing in a particular state.
- ❖ It will be issued to the students studying outside the state.

### **Model Tenancy Act**

- ❖ Assam has become the first state to adopt this Act.
- ❖ With this Assam Urban Areas Rent Control Act, 1972 gets repealed.

### **State fish - Sikkim**



- ❖ The Government of Sikkim has declared 'Cooper Mahseer' locally named as 'Katley' as the state fish.
- ❖ *Neolissochilus hexagonolepis* is the scientific name of the Cooper Mahseer.
- ❖ The decision has been taken to highlight the importance of the Katley fish and to give emphasis to its conservation measures.
- ❖ The fish has high market value and is highly preferred by the public in the State.
- ❖ The Sikkim government has also declared the reservoirs of the State to be open for fishing activities.
- ❖ The reservoirs are in Chungthang in North Sikkim, Legshep in West Sikkim along with Dikchu and Rorathang in East Sikkim.



### **Hathei chilli and Tamenglong mandarin orange**

- ❖ Two famous products of Manipur, Hathei chilli, which is found in Manipur's Ukhrul district and is known for its unique flavour, and Tamenglong mandarin orange have been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ❖ The Hathei chilli works as a good anti-oxidant and possesses high calcium and Vitamin C levels.
- ❖ It has an extremely high American Spice Trade Association (ASTA) colour value of 164.
- ❖ The extractable colour of chilli is usually expressed using ASTA values.
- ❖ The Tamenglong mandarin orange is bigger in size.
- ❖ It is a unique sweet and sour flavour.
- ❖ It has high juice content (around 45 per cent) and is rich in ascorbic acid (48.12 mg/100ml).



### **The new Punjab Chief Minister**



- ❖ Charanjit Singh Channi is appointed as the new Punjab Chief Minister.
- ❖ The Minister of Technical Educational & industrial Training in the Punjab government is now appointed as the new Punjab Chief Minister.
- ❖ He was appointed as the Chief minister after Captain Amarinder Singh resigned from the post.
- ❖ This is the first time ever that Punjab has got a chief minister from a scheduled caste community.

### **United Democratic Alliance government - Nagaland**

- ❖ All the ruling and opposition political parties in Nagaland finalized the formation of an opposition-less government.
- ❖ That will be called the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) government.
- ❖ This is the second time that Nagaland will have an all-party government (opposition-less govt).
- ❖ In 2015, Congress MLAs merged with the ruling NPF-led Democratic Alliance of Nagaland (DAN).
- ❖ However, in 2021, the UDA government has been formed as a coalition without any merging.

### **Rajasthan Compulsory Registration of Marriages (Amendment) Bill, 2021**

COMPLYING WITH SC ORDER: RAJ MIN

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ UDH minister Shanti Dhariwal said Bill brought to comply with orders of Supreme Court</li> <li>➤ Clarifies registration of a minor's marriage does not make it legal</li> <li>➤ Officials can initiate action against violators</li> <li>➤ Section 8 of the Act provides that if parties to the marriage have not</li> </ul>	<p>completed the age of marriage, the parents or guardians shall be responsible for submitting the application application within a period of 30 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Provides for appointment of additional marriage registration officer and block marriage registration officer</li> </ul>
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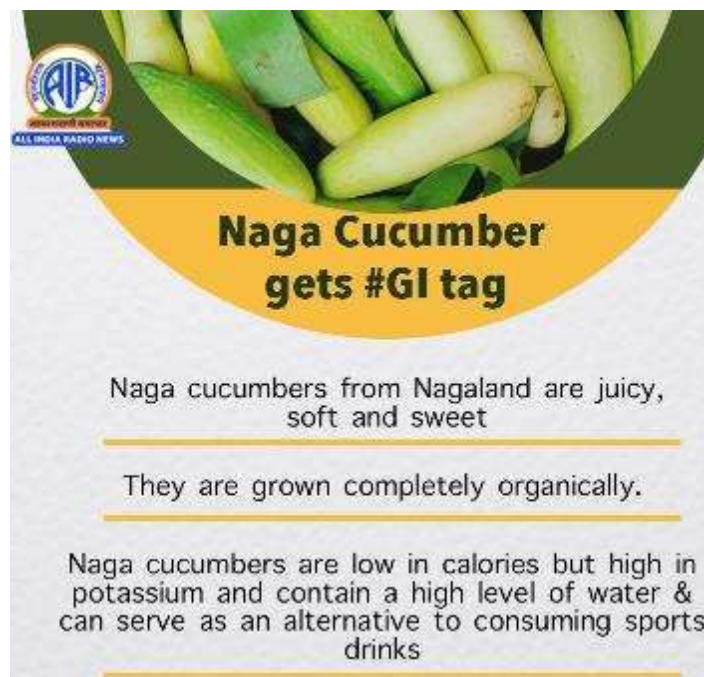
- ❖ CM Ashok Gehlot's government passed the Rajasthan Compulsory Registration of Marriages (Amendment) Bill, 2021 by voice vote to amend a 2009 Act.
- ❖ Rajasthan's new marriage bill says that the bride and groom can apply for registration of marriage to the marriage registration officer of the place where they have been residing for more than 30 days.

- ❖ The marriage between the bridegroom who has not completed 21 years and the bride who has not completed 18 years of age could be registered by the parents or guardians within the 30 days of the marriage.

### **Bill banning online games – Karnataka**

- ❖ Karnataka Assembly has passed an amendment to the Karnataka Police Act, 1963.
- ❖ This seeks to ban online gaming and curtail online gambling.
- ❖ The proposal is not valid for online games that strictly comply with "game of skills".
- ❖ It bans only the 'games of chance'.

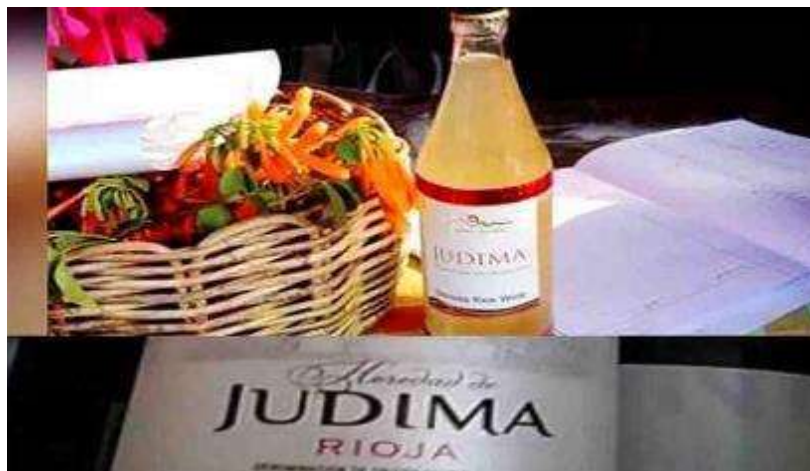
### **Nagaland's sweet cucumber**



- ❖ Nagaland's "sweet cucumber" was awarded a geographical identification (GI) tag.
- ❖ The tag is awarded under the provisions of The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.
- ❖ Nagaland has the fifth-highest cultivation of this fruit area-wise and ranks third in production.
- ❖ With respect to the state, regional variants of tree tomato (tamarillo) and the famed Naga king chilli are also GI tagged.

### **GI tag for Assam's Rice Wine Judima**

- ❖ Judima has become the first beverage from the north-eastern region to earn the geographical indication (GI) tag.
- ❖ Judima is a rice wine made from sticky rice, which is steamed and mixed with traditional herbs.
- ❖ The wine is brewed by the Dimasa tribal community in Assam.
- ❖ It is traditionally made by women.
- ❖ The wine has a distinct sweet taste.
- ❖ It takes around one week to prepare and it can be stored for years.



## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS**

### **Dr Basant Kumar Misra**

- ❖ Odisha-born neurosurgeon Dr Basant Kumar Misra has been conferred the prestigious American Association of Neurological Surgeons' 'International Lifetime Achievement Award in Neurosurgery'.
- ❖ Misra is the first Indian physician to receive the AANS honor.
- ❖ He was the world's first surgeon to perform Computer-Guided Aneurysm surgery.
- ❖ He is also the recipient of the most prestigious Dr BC Roy National Award in the category of 'Eminent Medical Person' (Highest Medical Award in India) in 2018.





### **Ramon Magsaysay Award**

- ❖ Ramon Magsaysay Award 2021 awardees have been announced
- ❖ The winners will be formally awarded the Magsaysay Award at the Ramon Magsaysay Centre in Manila.
- ❖ Awardees are,
  - Vaccine pioneer Dr Firdousi Qadri of Bangladesh,
  - Muhammad Amjad Saqib of Pakistan,
  - Philippine fisheries and community environmentalist Roberto Ballon,
  - American citizen Steven Munsu and
  - Indonesian WatchDoc for investigative journalism.
- ❖ Ramon Magsaysay Award is the highest honour in Asia.
- ❖ It was established in April 1957.
- ❖ It is widely regarded as the equivalent of the Nobel Prize in Asia.
- ❖ The award is presented to individuals who have made extraordinary contributions in eradication of poverty and development of the society in Asia.





### **Dorje Angchuk**

- ❖ Dorje Angchuk has been admitted as an Honorary Member of the International Astronomical Union.
- ❖ He is an Engineer in charge at the Indian Astronomical Observatory of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics at Hanle in the Ladakh region.
- ❖ Angchuk is the first and only Indian to bag the position in the prestigious body.



### **Global award for turtle conservation**

- ❖ The Indian biologist Shailendra Singh has been awarded the Behler Turtle Conservation Award.
- ❖ This award was given for bringing three critically endangered turtle conservation species back from the brink of extinction.



- ❖ The species are,
  - Red-crowned Roofed Turtle (Batagur kachuga),
  - Northern River Terrapin (Batagur baska), and
  - Black Softshell Turtle (Nilssonia nigricans)
- ❖ There are 29 species of freshwater turtles and tortoises in the country.

### **Bird Photographer of the Year**



- ❖ The Mexican photographer Alejandro Prieto has emerged as the winner of the Bird Photographer of the Year 2021.
- ❖ He has won for capturing a photograph of a greater roadrunner staring up at the barbed-wire-clad border wall between the USA and Mexico.
- ❖ The image has been given the title as 'Blocked'.

### **Association for Talent Development 2021 BEST Award**

- ❖ Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) has been awarded the coveted "Association for Talent Development 2021 BEST Award".
- ❖ POWERGRID is a Maharatna CPSU under Ministry of Power, Government of India.
- ❖ POWERGRID secured 8th rank among the 71 organizations from around the globe.
- ❖ It became the only PSU to win this award and one of the only two companies of India in the Top 20.



### Energy Leader award - 2021

- ❖ National Thermal Power Corporation-Ramagundam received the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Energy Leader award-2021.
- ❖ This is consecutively for third year that NTPC-Ramagundam has received the coveted award.
- ❖ The Energy leader award is being conferred on exemplary performance and contribution in the area of Energy Efficiency and Environment Protection and Implementation of Energy Management System as per ISO 50001 standards.



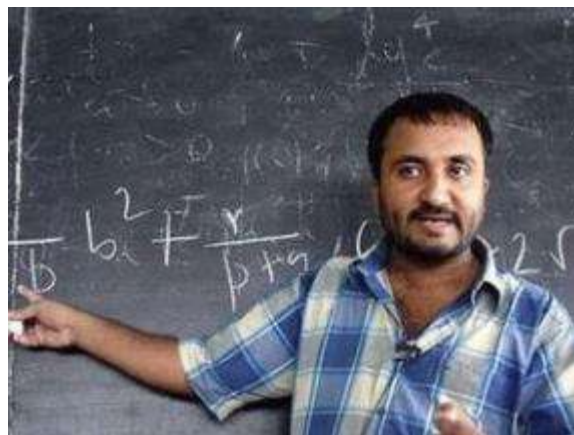


### **Yamin Hazarika Woman of Substance Award**

- ❖ Writer Namita Gokhale has been chosen as the recipient of the seventh Yamin Hazarika Woman of Substance Award.
- ❖ She is a co-founder and co-director of the Jaipur Literature Festival.
- ❖ The award was organised by a collective of women professionals from the year 2015.
- ❖ The annual award honours Yamin Hazarika, the first woman from Northeast India to be selected for DANIPS.
- ❖ DANIPS is a federal police service that administered Delhi and the Union Territories in 1977.



### **Swami Brahmanand Award 2021**



- ❖ Mathematician Anand Kumar was conferred with the Swami Brahmanand Award 2021.
- ❖ It was given for his contribution in the field of education through his 'Super 30' initiative.



- ❖ It prepares underprivileged students for the IIT entrance exam.
- ❖ 'Super 30' is a coaching programme of Kumar's Patna-based Ramanujan School of Mathematics.
- ❖ It hunts for 30 meritorious students from among economically backward sections of the society and shapes them to clear the test to get into the prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT).

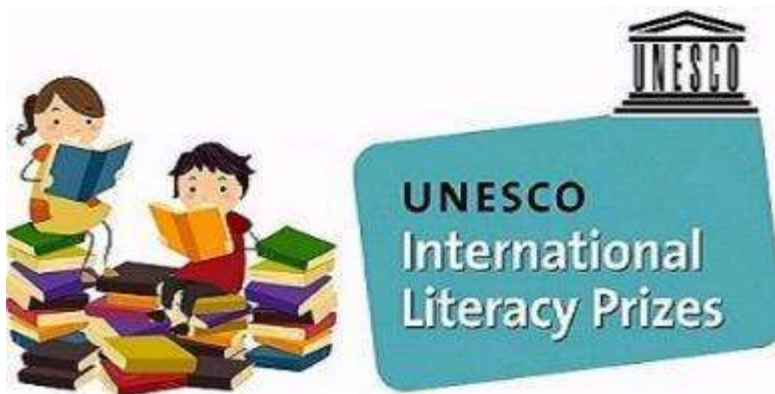
### **National Florence Nightingale Award 2021**

- ❖ It will be given to a nurse, Bhanumati Gheewala, from Sir Sayajirao General Hospital, Gujarat.
- ❖ The Florence Nightingale Award is given by the Indian Nursing Council.
- ❖ This is a statutory agency under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to recognise the contributions of healthcare workers.



### **UNESCO Literacy Prize**

- ❖ The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), run by the education ministry, has bagged this global recognition.



- ❖ The recognition is for educating differently-abled people through technology-enabled inclusive learning material.
- ❖ The NIOS move has a specific focus on Indian sign language-based content.

### **Rajbhasha Keerthi Puraskar**

- ❖ The most prestigious 'Rajbhasha Keerthi Puraskar' award was given to Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant (first prize).
- ❖ The award is presented to recognize the efforts towards the implementation of Hindi as the official language
- ❖ The NMDC got the 3rd prize in the category of Undertakings.
- ❖ National Mineral Development Ltd. (NMDC) is working under the Ministry of Steel.
- ❖ NMDC has been winning this award for the past three years in a row.



### **Prof. S.K. Joshi Laboratory Excellence Award**

- ❖ It was launched recently by the Quality Council of India.
- ❖ This is country's first-of-its-kind Laboratory Excellence Award.

### **The Earthshot Prize**

- ❖ Two Indian Projects out of 5 finalists across the world have been selected to this prize.
- ❖ One is Solar Powered Ironing Cart project that has been designed by Vinisha Umashankar of Tamil Nadu.

- ❖ Second is Agricultural Waste Recycling Concept developed by Takachar and co-founded by Vidyut Mohan from Delhi.
- ❖ It is the first-ever Environment Prize launched by Britain's Prince William (Duke of Cambridge) and David Attenborough in 2020.
- ❖ It is given by the Royal Foundation, England.



### **Brigadier SV Sarasvati**



- ❖ Brigadier SV Sarasvati, the Deputy Director-General of Military Nursing Service has been bestowed with the National Florence Nightingale Award 2020.
- ❖ She has been honoured with a prestigious Nightingale Award for her immense contribution to the Military Nursing Service as a Nurse Administrator.
- ❖ Brigadier Sarasvati hails from the Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The National Florence Nightingale Award is the highest distinction in India that a nurse can achieve for selfless devotion and exceptional professionalism.



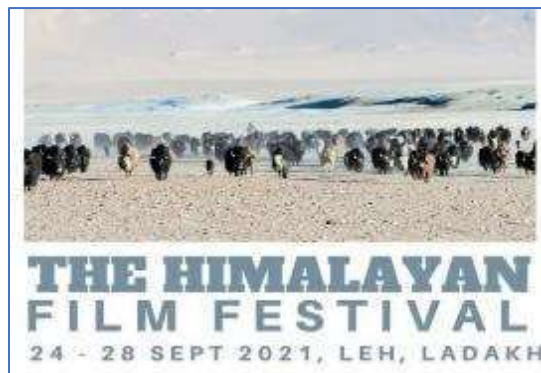


### 73<sup>rd</sup> Emmy award 2021

- ❖ The 73rd Primetime Emmy Awards ceremony was held in Los Angeles, California.
- ❖ The award honoured the best in U.S. prime time television programming as chosen by the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.
- ❖ An Emmy Award, or simply Emmy, is an American award that recognizes excellence in the television industry.

**Outstanding Drama Series:** The Crown  
**Outstanding Comedy Series:** Ted Lasso  
**Outstanding Variety Talk Show:** Last Week Tonight with John Oliver  
**Outstanding Limited Series:** The Queen's Gambit  
**Outstanding Actor-Comedy:** Jason Sudeikis (Ted Lasso)  
**Outstanding Actor-Drama:** Josh O'Connor  
**Outstanding Actor-Limited Series or Movie:** Ewan McGregor (Hobbit)  
**Outstanding Actress-Comedy:** Jean Smart (Hacks)  
**Outstanding Actress-Drama:** Olivia Colman (The Crown)  
**Outstanding Actress-Limited Series or Movie:** Kate Winslet (Mare of Easttown)  
**Outstanding Supporting Actor-Comedy:** Brett Goldstein (Ted Lasso)  
**Outstanding Supporting Actor-Drama:** Tobias Menzies (The Crown)  
**Outstanding Supporting Actor-Limited Series or Movie:** Evan Peters (Mare of Easttown)  
**Outstanding Supporting Actress-Comedy:** Hannah Waddingham (Ted Lasso)  
**Outstanding Supporting Actress-Drama:** Gillian Anderson (The Crown)  
**Outstanding Supporting Actress-Limited Series or Movie:** Julianne Nicholson (Mare of Easttown)  
**Outstanding Director-Comedy:** Lucia Aniello (Hacks)  
**Outstanding Director-Drama:** Jessica Hobbs (The Crown)  
**Outstanding Director-Limited Series, Movie or Dramatic Special:** Scott Frank (The Queen's Gambit)  
**Outstanding Writing-Comedy:** Lucia Aniello, Paul W Downs and Jen Statsky (Hacks)  
**Outstanding Writing-Drama:** Peter Morgan (The Crown)  
**Outstanding Writing-Limited Series, Movie Or Dramatic Special:** Michaela Coel (I May Destroy You)

### The Himalayan Film Festival 2021



- ❖ The first edition of 'The Himalayan Film Festival-2021' (THFF) is from 24 to 28 September at Leh, Ladakh.
- ❖ The film festival is being organised by the Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh.
- ❖ It is done in collaboration with the Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.

### **SDG Progress Award**



- ❖ Bangladesh Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, has been conferred with the “SDG Progress Award”.
- ❖ Award was conferred by the UN-sponsored Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).
- ❖ She was awarded for Bangladesh’s steady course in responding to the universal call of action to end poverty, protect the planet as well as ensure peace & prosperity for all.

#### **Note**

- ❖ Ninth Annual International Conference on Sustainable Development was held on September 20.
- ❖ On this occasion, Sheikh Hasina was introduced as jewel in the crown of the day.

### **Chief of Air Staff - Vivek Ram Chaudhari**

- ❖ Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force Air Marshal, Vivek Ram Chaudhari has been appointed the next Chief of Air Staff.

- ❖ The current Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria is set to retire on September 30.
- ❖ Chaudhari had taken over as the vice chief on July 1 this year, after Air Marshal HS Arora retired.
- ❖ He is a recipient of the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and the Vayu Sena Medals.



### **Global Goals Awards 2021**

- ❖ The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced its annual Goalkeepers 'Global Goals Awards' 2021.
- ❖ Goalkeepers is the foundation's campaign to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (Global Goals).
- ❖ Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka of South Africa has been honoured with the 2021 Global Goalkeeper Award.
- ❖ Jenifer Colpas from Colombia has been honoured with the 2021 Progress Award.
- ❖ Satta Sheriff of Liberia has been honoured with the 2021 Campaign Award.



### **Best legislator of the year 2020-21**



- ❖ Karnataka Legislative Assembly has named former state chief minister BS Yeddyurappa as the best legislator of the year 2020-21.
- ❖ Yeddyurappa was the first BJP chief minister in South India.
- ❖ He had served as the 19th Chief Minister of Karnataka.

### **CSIR innovation award**

- ❖ The Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu presented the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) innovation award.
- ❖ These Awards were presented to two Class 10 students from Udupi district in a virtual ceremony.
- ❖ Those students are Anusha and Rakshitha Naik from Charamakki Narayana Shetty Memorial Government High School in Ardi Village.
- ❖ They received the award for their project named “Gas Saving Kit”.
- ❖ Among 14 schools, Charamakki Narayana Shetty Memorial Government High School is the only government school to get this award.







## **Hunarbaaz Awards**



- ❖ The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad under the auspices of the Ministry of Rural Development presented Hunarbaaz Awards to 75 differently-abled candidates from 15 states.
- ❖ The award ceremony was organized to commemorate Antyodaya Diwas.

## **SPORTS**

### **Noisiel International Open 2021 Chess Tournament**

- ❖ Indian Grandmaster P Iniyam won the Noisiel International Open 2021 Chess Tournament.
- ❖ Iniyam finished half a point ahead of higher rated GM Yuri Solodovnichenko of Ukraine who secured 7.5 points.
- ❖ French International Master Kambrath Yannick took 3rd place.



### **Tokyo Paralympics 2020 updates**

- ❖ The Wrestler-turned-javelin thrower Sumit Antil scripted history by winning the gold.
- ❖ He won the gold with a world record effort of 68.55m in F64.
- ❖ Shooter Avani Lekhara also created history as she became the first Indian woman to win a gold medal at the Paralympics.
- ❖ She won gold in R-2 women's 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1 event.
- ❖ She finished with a world record equalling total of 249.6, which is also a new Paralympic record.
- ❖ Discus thrower Yogesh Kathuniya clinched a silver medal in the men's F56 event.
- ❖ Devendra Jhaharia won silver as Sundar Singh Gurjar bagged bronze in the Men's Javelin Throw F46 Final.



### **Nishad Kumar – silver**

- ❖ India's Nishad Kumar has clinched a silver medal in the men's high jump T47 event at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020.
- ❖ This is the second medal for India at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics.
- ❖ The 23-year-old Nishad made a jump of 2.06m, and in doing so created an Asian record.
- ❖ He also equalled his jump with USA's Dallas Wise, who also took home silver.



**First Indian woman to win two medals at the Paralympics**



- ❖ Avani Lekhara won the bronze medal in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions SH1 event.
- ❖ She became the first Indian woman to win two medals at the Paralympics.
- ❖ Lekhara had also won gold in the 10m air rifle standing SH1 event.



### **Praveen Kumar - Asian record**

- ❖ Praveen Kumar won the silver with an Asian record jump of 2.07m.
- ❖ He finished behind Great Britain's Jonathan Broom-Edwards, who managed to jump 2.10 m.
- ❖ Praveen is India's fourth medallist in men's high jump at Tokyo Games after Nishad Kumar, Mariyappan Thangavelu, and Sharad Kumar.



### **50m Mixed Pistol - Tokyo Paralympics**



- ❖ Indian shooters Manish Narwal and Singh raj Adhana clinched the gold and silver medal respectively in the P4 – Mixed 50m Pistol SH1 final at Asaka Shooting Range.
- ❖ The 19-year-old Manish created the Paralympic record as he amassed 218.2 points to clinch the gold.
- ❖ Singh raj grabbed his second medal of the Tokyo Paralympics.



## Asian boxing championship 2021 - Junior & Youth Category

### (YOUTH EVENT)

**(MEN): GOLD:** Bishwamitra Chongtham (51kg), Vishal (80kg); **SILVER:** Vishvanath Suresh (48kg), Vanshaj (64kg) and Jaydeep Rawat (71kg); **BRONZE:** Daksh (67kg), Deepak (75kg), Abhimanyu (92kg) and Aman Singh Bisht (92+kg).

**(WOMEN): GOLD:** Neha (54kg), Preeti Dahiya (60kg), Sneha Kumari (66kg) and Khushi (75kg); **SILVER:** Nivedita Karki (48kg), Tamanna (50kg), Simran Verma (52kg), Preeti (57kg), Khushi (63kg) and Tanishbir Kaur Sandhu (81kg); **BRONZE:** Lashu Yadav (70kg).

### (JUNIOR EVENT)

**(BOYS): GOLD:** Rohit Chamoli (48kg) and Bharat Joon (+81kg); **SILVER:** Gaurav Saini (70kg); **BRONZE:** Ashish (54kg), Anshul (57kg) and Ankush (66kg).

**(GIRLS): GOLD:** Vishu Rathee (48kg), Tanu (52kg), Nikita Chand (60kg), Mahi Raghav (63kg), Pranjal Yadav (75kg) and Kirti (+81kg); **SILVER:** Muskan (46kg), Aanchal Saini (57kg), Rudrika (70kg) and Sanjana (81kg); **BRONZE:** Devika Ghorpade (50kg), Aarzoo (54kg) and Supriya Rawat (66kg).

- ❖ India concluded its successful campaign with 39 medals, including 14 gold, in Dubai.
- ❖ India had already won 19 medals, including eight gold, five silver and six bronze medals, in the junior event played earlier.
- ❖ The youth boxers added 20 more (six gold, nine silver and five bronze) to India's tally.

## Durand Cup



- ❖ The 130th edition of the Durand Cup kicked off at the Vivekananda Yuba bharti Krirangan in Kolkata.
- ❖ This is the oldest club football tournament in Asia.
- ❖ It was first held in 1888, at Dagshai in Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ This tournament has been named after Mortimer Durand.
- ❖ He was the then Foreign Secretary in charge of India.

### **Guinness World Records – Ronaldo**

- ❖ Portuguese captain Cristiano Ronaldo has broken the world record for most goals scored in men's international football.
- ❖ Ronaldo surpassed Iranian striker Ali Daei's long-held record of 109 international goals.



### **US Open Tennis 2021**



- ❖ In the men's category, Daniil Medvedev of Russia has lifted his first Grand Slam trophy after defeating Novak Djokovic of Serbia.
- ❖ In the women's category, Great Britain's tennis player Emma Raducanu defeated Canada's Leylah Annie Fernandez.

### **Jaskaran Malhotra**

- ❖ The Chandigarh-born Jaskaran Malhotra of USA hits six sixes in an over against Papua New Guinea.
- ❖ He also became the first cricketer from USA to score an international century.

- ❖ Malhotra's record saw him join the likes of Herschelle Gibbs (South Africa), Yuvraj Singh (India), and Kieron Pollard (West Indies).
- ❖ They also hold the record of smashing six-sixes in international cricket.



## Asian Games 2022



- ❖ The 2022 Asian Games is set to be held in Hangzhou, China.
- ❖ It will feature 8 esports titles as medal events.
- ❖ The eight esports titles included in the 2022 Asian Games are Arena of Valour, Dota 2, Dream Three Kingdoms 2, EA Sports FIFA, Hearthstone, League of Legends, PUBG Mobile, and Street Fighter V.
- ❖ This will mark the first year the Asian Games will recognize esports as medal events.

## Virat Kohli



- ❖ Indian skipper Virat Kohli will step down as the T20 captain of the Indian cricket team after the men's T20 World Cup in Dubai in October 2021.
- ❖ He will remain the captain for the ODI and Test formats.

## 70<sup>th</sup> Grandmaster - R Raja Rithvik

- ❖ India's R Raja Rithvik became chess Grandmaster after he crossed the ELO Rating of 2500.
- ❖ The 17-year-old achieved this GM title in Vezerkepzo Grandmaster Chess Tournament at Budapest, Hungary.
- ❖ He thus became the 70th Grandmaster from the country.
- ❖ A native of Warangal, Rithvik has been undergoing advanced coaching under reputed coach N.V.S. Rama Raju.





### **Women's 1500m race - National record**

- ❖ Harmilan Kaur Bains of Punjab has created a new national record in the women's 1500m race.
- ❖ She clocked 4:05.39 to bag the gold at the 60th National Open Athletics Championships in the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Hanamkonda in Telangana.
- ❖ With this achievement, the 23-year-old athlete has erased the 19-year-old record held by Sunita Rani in 1500m at the 2002 Asian Games in Busan by clocking 4:06.03.



### **Asian Snooker Championship 2021**

- ❖ India's Pankaj Advani won the Asian Snooker Championship 2021 by defeating Amir Sarkhosh.
- ❖ He has won this title for a second consecutive time.
- ❖ He is the winner of the last Asian Snooker Championship held in 2019.
- ❖ In 2019, Pankaj also became the only player who won the titles in all forms of billiards, snooker, 6Reds, and 10Reds competitions.
- ❖ Yasin Merchant (1989, 2001), Alok Kumar (2004), Aditya Mehta (2012) were the other Indians who won the championship.



### **Prime Volleyball League**

- ❖ The Prime Volleyball League championship, sponsored by fantasy game leaders A23 was launched Hyderabad recently.
- ❖ It featured six teams.
- ❖ The teams are Calicut Heroes, Kochi Blue Spiders, Ahmedabad Defenders, Hyderabad Black Hawks, defending champions Chennai Blitz and the new addition Bengaluru Torpedoes.



### **Praveen Chithravel**

- ❖ Praveen Chithravel of Tamilnadu clinched the gold in triple jump event at the National Open Athletics Championships.
- ❖ He produced a massive jump of 16.88m.
- ❖ This made him the third-best Indian ever after Renjith Maheswary (17.30) and Arpinder Singh (17.17).



### **Russian Grand Prix 2021**

- ❖ Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain), has won the F1 Russian Grand Prix 2021.
- ❖ This is his 100th Grand Prix win.
- ❖ It was Hamilton's fifth win of the season and his first since the British Grand Prix in July.



### **2021 World Archery Championships**

- ❖ The team India archers settled for three silver medals at the 2021 World Archery Championships.
- ❖ It was held in Yankton, South Dakota, United States.
- ❖ The three silver medals were won in Women's Compound Individual, Women's Compound Team and Compound Mixed Team competitions.
- ❖ Besides this, Vennam Jyothi Surekha of Vijayawada became the first Indian woman archer to win three silver medals at a world championship.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Coconut Day – September 02

- ❖ The day is observed every year since 2009.
- ❖ It is observed for promoting this tropical fruit and bringing awareness regarding its health benefits.
- ❖ The theme of World Coconut Day 2021 is 'Building a Safe Inclusive Resilient and Sustainable Coconut Community Amid COVID-19 Pandemic & Beyond'.

### National Nutrition Week 2021 - September 1 to 7

- ❖ The purpose behind celebrating is to spread awareness about good nutrition, and health.
- ❖ The theme for National Nutrition Week 2021 is "Feeding smart right from start".



### International Vulture Awareness Day 2021 - September 04

- ❖ The day falls on the first Saturday in September every year.
- ❖ The aim of is to highlight vulture conservation and awareness.
- ❖ The initiative is run jointly by the Birds of Prey Programme of the Endangered Wildlife Trust in South Africa and the Hawk Conservancy Trust in England.

### International Day of Charity – September 05

- ❖ It was chosen to celebrate the day because it is Mother Teresa's death anniversary.



- ❖ Mother Teresa died (87) on September 5th 1997.
- ❖ She received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.
- ❖ It was declared by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2012.
- ❖ It was first celebrated by the Hungarian civil society with the support of government of Hungary.



### **Teachers' Day - September 05**

- ❖ It is annually celebrated as Teachers' Day to pay tribute to Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and all teachers in the country since 1962.
- ❖ He was also the first Vice President of India (1952–1962) and second President of the country (1962-67).
- ❖ India's Teacher's Day Celebration is one month ahead of World Teachers' Day, which is on October 5.



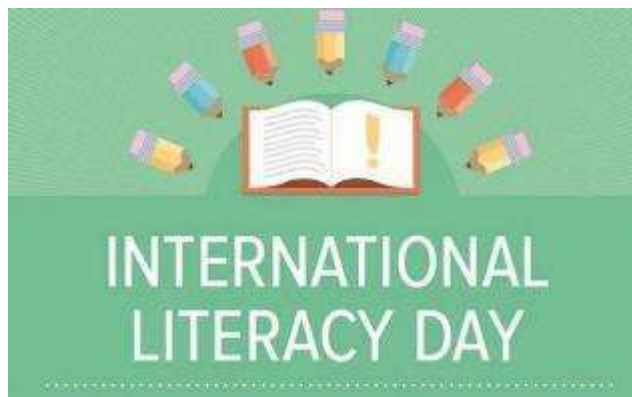


### **International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies – September 07**

- ❖ 'Healthy Air, Healthy Planet' is the theme for this year.
- ❖ 2020 marked the first international observance of the Day.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution in this regard in 2019.

### **International Literacy Day – September 8**

- ❖ In the year 1966, UNESCO proclaimed 8th September as International Literacy Day.
- ❖ The theme of the day this year is 'Literacy for a human-centered recovery, Narrowing the digital divide.'
- ❖ The issue of literacy is a key component of the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 4 and the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



### **Food Processing Week – September 6 to 12**



- ❖ To commemorate 75 years of India's independence, the Government of India is celebrating the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.'
- ❖ As a part of the celebration, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries observed this 'Food Processing Week'.

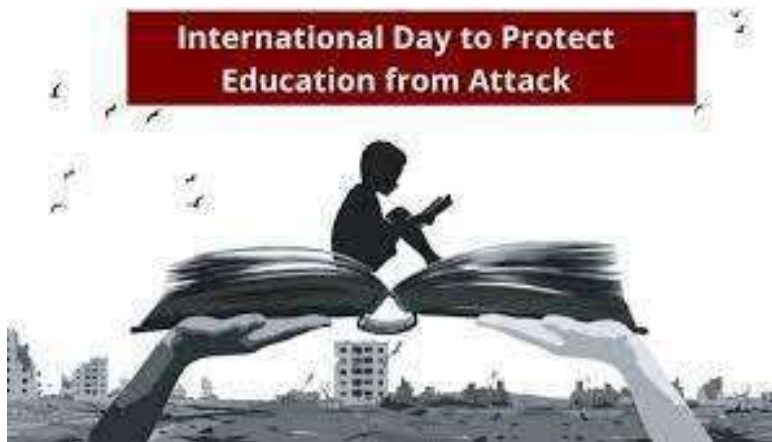
### **World Physical Therapy Day – September 8**



- ❖ It is commemorated to provide a chance for physical therapists from all across the world.
- ❖ It also aims to promote awareness about the profession's critical role in enhancing people's well-being and health.
- ❖ Designated in 1996, this Day is promoted by the World Physiotherapy.
- ❖ This year's theme will be the same theme of last year (Rehabilitation and Long Covid-19).

### **International Day to Protect Education from Attack – 9 September**

- ❖ It is an international observance established by a unanimous decision of the United Nations General Assembly in 2020.
- ❖ The resolution proclaiming the Day was presented by Qatar.
- ❖ UNESCO and UNICEF will facilitate the annual observance of the Day in close collaboration with partners within and outside the UN system.



### **World Suicide Prevention Day – 10 September**

- ❖ In 2003 at Stockholm of Sweden, the International Association for Suicide Prevention teamed up with the World Health Organization (WHO) to create a for this.
- ❖ For 2021, the theme for this day is "creating hope through action."

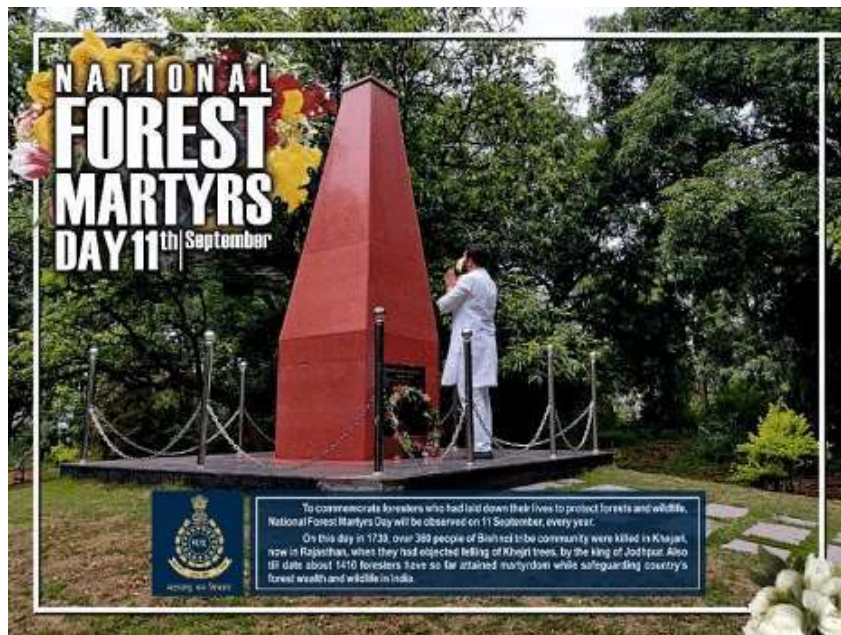


### **National Forest Martyrs Day – 11 September**

- ❖ It is observed to commemorate the Khejarli massacre, which took place on September 11 in 1730.
- ❖ Over 360 Bishnoi tribe members led by Amrita Devi protested the destruction of trees.
- ❖ During the reign of Maharaja Abhay Singh in Rajasthan, it was ordered to cut down the Khejarli trees.
- ❖ In 2013, the Ministry of Environment and Forest announced officially announced the observation of this day.



- ❖ Moreover, the Chipko Movement was also inspired by this brave act of the people of Bishnoi community.
- ❖ The Chipko movement originated in the Himalayan region of Uttarakhand (then part of Uttar Pradesh) in 1973.
- ❖ The Gandhian social activist Chandi Prasad Bhatt led the first Chipko movement at Mandal village.
- ❖ Later this Movement gained traction under Sunder Lal Bahuguna, an eco-activist.
- ❖ Bahuguna is best remembered for the slogan “ecology is the permanent economy”.



### **International Day for South-South Cooperation – September 12**

- ❖ The day celebrates the economic, social and political developments made in recent years by regions and countries in the south.
- ❖ The history of the South-South cooperation begins in 1949 with the establishment of the UN technical aid programme by the Economic and Social Council and the creation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1969.

### **International Programmers’ Day – September 13**

- ❖ It celebrates the positive changes that programmers make to improve our everyday lives.



- ❖ It is celebrated on the 256th day of each year on September 13, or on September 12 in leap years.
- ❖ 256 is also the highest power of two (28) that is less than 365.

### **Himalaya Day – 9 September**

- ❖ It is celebrated every year in the state of Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The National Mission for Clean Ganga organised Himalaya Diwas in collaboration with Naula Foundation, as a part of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- ❖ It was observed under the theme 'Contribution of Himalayas and our responsibilities'.

### **World Electric Vehicle Day – 9 September**

- ❖ The day marks the celebration of e-mobility.
- ❖ It was an initiative created by the sustainability media company Green TV.
- ❖ The first World EV day was observed in 2020.
- ❖ China is the largest EV market in the world.
- ❖ Japan based Suzuki also declared to launch its first EV in India.
- ❖ Currently, the automotive industry of India is the fifth largest worldwide and is set to become third largest by 2030.

### **World First Aid Day – 11 September**

- ❖ It is observed on the second Saturday of September.
- ❖ It is observed by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).
- ❖ The theme of this year is "First aid and road safety".

### **Hindi Day – 14 September**

- ❖ It is celebrated every year marking the declaration of Hindi language in Devanagari script as one of the two official language of Union government of India.
- ❖ Hindi, along with English, are the official languages of India under Article 343 of the Constitution.
- ❖ The first Hindi Diwas was celebrated in 1953.
- ❖ World Hindi Day is celebrated on January 10.



- ❖ On 14 September 1949, Hindi was adapted as official language in India.
- ❖ The 14th September 1949 was the 50th birthday of Beohar Rajendra Simha.
- ❖ Beohar Rajendra Simha, along with Hazari Prasad Dwivedi, Kaka Kalelkar, Maithili Sharan Gupta and Seth Govind Das, debated tirelessly in the Constituent Assembly and worked hard towards making Hindi the official language of India.
- ❖ Hindi belongs to the Indo-Aryan branch of the Indo-European family of languages.
- ❖ The word "Hindi" is Persian in origin.
- ❖ The first ever 'Hindi' poem was written by the eminent Persian poet Amir Khusro.
- ❖ In 1977, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the first External Affairs minister addressed the United Nations General Assembly for the first time in Hindi.
- ❖ In 1918, Mahatma Gandhi for the first time talked about making Hindi as the national language of India.

### **International Day of Democracy – 15 September**

- ❖ In 2007, the United Nations passed a resolution in this regard.
- ❖ Qatar led efforts to promote an International Day of Democracy
- ❖ The Universal Declaration on Democracy was adopted on September 15, 1997 by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).
- ❖ It is an international organisation of national parliaments.
- ❖ In 2021, United Nations has called for strengthening democratic resilience in the face of a future crisis.

### **Engineers Day – 15 September**

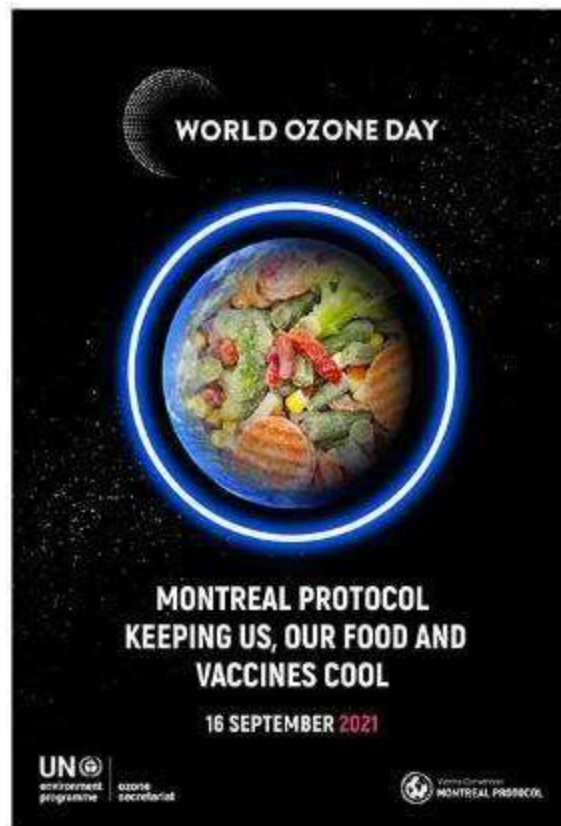
- ❖ It is celebrated to pay tribute to India's finest engineer Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya.
- ❖ Visvesvaraya was the Chief Engineer of Krishna Raja Sagara dam in the Mysuru city.
- ❖ He has also served as one of the Chief Engineers of the flood protection system for the city of Hyderabad.
- ❖ In 1903, he designed the automatic barrier water floodgates at Khadakvasla reservoir in Pune.
- ❖ The theme for this day is 'Engineering for A Healthy Planet- Celebrating the UNESCO Engineering Report'.



- ❖ In 1968, the Indian government declared Visvesvaraya's birth anniversary as Engineers' Day.
- ❖ He was regarded as the "Father of Modern Mysore".
- ❖ Visvesvaraya has also authored various books, such as 'Planned Economy of India' and 'Reconstructing India'.



### **International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer – 16 September**







- ❖ It was designated by the United Nations General Assembly in 1994.
- ❖ It is in commemoration of the date in 1987 on which nations signed the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.
- ❖ The closure of the hole in the ozone layer was observed 30 years after the protocol was signed

### **World Patient Safety Day – 17 September**

- ❖ It aims to raise global awareness about patient safety and call for solidarity and united action by all countries and international partners to reduce patient harm.
- ❖ This year's campaign slogan by the World Health Organization is "Act now for safe and respectful childbirth!".
- ❖ The theme for this year is "Safe maternal and new born care".
- ❖ It was established in 2019 when the 72nd World Health Assembly adopted resolution.

### **World Lymphoma Awareness Day - 15 September**

- ❖ The day is dedicated to raising awareness about lymphoma.
- ❖ It was initiated in 2002 by the Lymphoma Coalition.

### **International Equal Pay Day – 18 September**

- ❖ Under an initiative of the United Nations, it is observed
- ❖ The world observed its first-ever International Equal Pay Day in 2020.
- ❖ It aims to highlight the importance of ending sexual discrimination in relation to gender pay gap.
- ❖ It refers to the difference in earnings between men and women in paid employment.
- ❖ At the current pace, it could take 257 years to achieve economic gender parity.

### **World Water Monitoring Day – 18 September**

- ❖ It is an international effort aimed to increase public awareness and involvement in water monitoring and protecting water resources around the world.
- ❖ Water Monitoring Day was created by America's Clean Water Foundation in 2003.

### **International Red Panda Day – 18 September**

- ❖ It is celebrated on third Saturday of September every year.
- ❖ The day was launched by the Red Panda Network in 2010.
- ❖ Almost 50% of the red panda's habitat is in the Eastern Himalayas.
- ❖ It is native to the eastern Himalayas and southwestern China.
- ❖ It is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.
- ❖ These animals spend most of their lives in trees and even sleep aloft.
- ❖ The loss of nesting trees and bamboo is causing a decline in red panda populations.

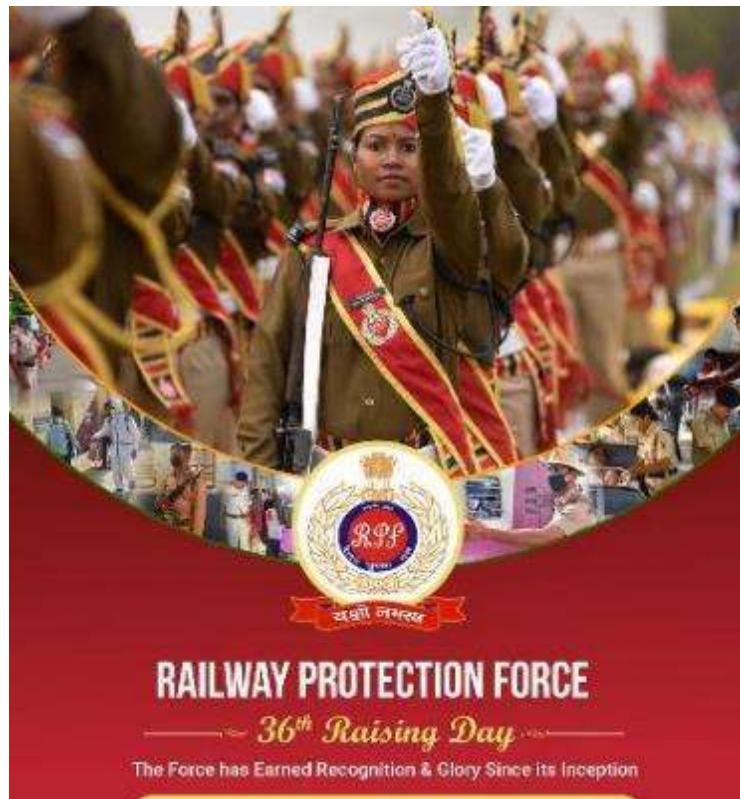


### **International Day of University Sport – 20 September**

- ❖ The International University Sports Federation (FISU) proposed to UNESCO to internationally recognize a day dedicated to university sport in 2015.
- ❖ This date coincides in most countries around the world with the beginning of the academic year.
- ❖ It is also the date of the first Student World Championships in 1924.



### **Railway Protection Force (RPF) Day – 20 September**



- ❖ It was celebrated to commemorate the conferring of the Armed Force status to RPF.
- ❖ It is on par with the other paramilitary forces of the Union of India on September 20, 1985.
- ❖ It is a security force, established by the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957.
- ❖ It is under the authority of Ministry of Railways.

### **57<sup>th</sup> Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) day – 15 September**

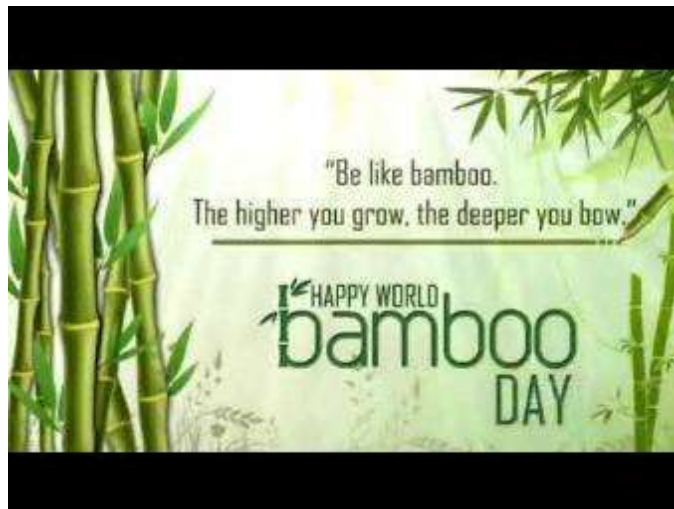
- ❖ It was established in 1964 by the External Affairs Ministry
- ❖ It is to offer the benefit of India's development experience and appropriate technologies to the developing countries.



### **36<sup>th</sup> International Coastal Clean Up Day – 18 September**

- ❖ It is traditionally held on the third Saturday in September since 1986.
- ❖ The theme in 2021 is "Keep trash in the bin and not in the ocean".
- ❖ It was established by the Ocean Conservancy.

### **World Bamboo Day – 18 September**



- ❖ The theme in 2021 is '#PlantBamboo: It Is Time To Plant Bamboo'.
- ❖ Bamboo is a tall, tree-like grass of the family Poaceae.
- ❖ It was declared by the World Bamboo Organization in 2009.





### **International Day of Peace – 21 September**

- ❖ It is a United Nations-sanctioned holiday.
- ❖ It was first celebrated in 1981.
- ❖ To inaugurate the day, the United Nations Peace Bell is rung at UN Headquarters (in New York City)
- ❖ 2021 Theme is 'Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world'.

### **World Alzheimer's Day – 21 September**

- ❖ Alzheimer's Disease is the most common type of Dementia.
- ❖ There is no cure for Alzheimer's disease.
- ❖ The theme for 2021 is 'Know dementia, know Alzheimer'.
- ❖ It will launch the World Alzheimer Report entitled the 'Journey through the diagnosis of dementia'.

### **Zero Emissions Day – 21 September**

- ❖ It is to help reduce carbon emissions from the atmosphere.
- ❖ It is to move towards renewable energies instead of fossil ones.
- ❖ The theme for 2021 is "Giving our planet a day off a year".

### **International Snakebite Awareness Day - September 19**

- ❖ It is observed the fourth International Snakebite Awareness Day this year.
- ❖ Snakebite, a major public health issue but a hugely neglected problem continues to affect millions of people with death and disability worldwide.
- ❖ In 2018, the first ever International Snakebite Awareness Day was celebrated on September 19.
- ❖ This is to emphasize on awareness and actions needed to tackle the burden of snakebite.

### **International Week of Deaf People 2021 - September 20 to 26**

- ❖ Every year, the full week ending on the last Sunday of September is observed as the International Week of the Deaf (IWD).
- ❖ The last Sunday of the month of September is celebrated as the World Day of Deaf or International Day of the Deaf (September 26, 2021).

- ❖ The theme of 2021 IWD is “Celebrating Thriving Deaf Communities”.

**Note**

- ❖ It is an initiative of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD).
- ❖ It was first launched in 1958 in Rome, Italy to commemorate the month when the first World Congress of the WFD was held.



**World Rose Day – 22 September**

- ❖ World Rose Day is observed in the memory of 12-year-old Melinda Rose from Canada who was diagnosed with Askin's Tumour, a rare form of blood cancer.
- ❖ World Rose Day is annually celebrated on September 22 in dedication to the welfare of cancer patients.
- ❖ World Cancer Day is observed on February 4.

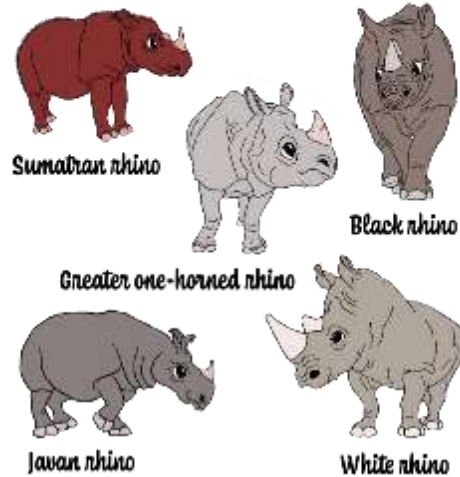
**World Rhino Day – 22 September**

- ❖ This day is celebrated to raise awareness of the need to protect all the five existing species of Rhinoceros.
- ❖ They are
  - Black Rhino,
  - White Rhino,
  - Greater one-horned Rhino,
  - Sumatran Rhino and
  - Javan Rhinos.
- ❖ World Rhino Day was first announced by World Wildlife Fund-South Africa in 2010.
- ❖ It is being observed internationally since 2011.



# WORLD RHINO DAY

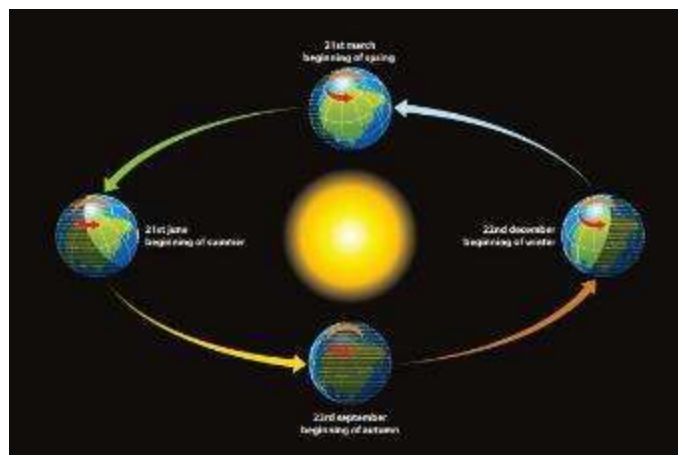
22 September  
*Celebrating*  
the FIVE species of rhinoceros



## World Car-Free Day – 22 September

- ❖ World Car-Free Day is an opportunity to highlight the benefits of going car-free.
- ❖ The day is celebrated every year on 22 September around the globe to encourage motorists to give up their cars for a day.
- ❖ The event highlights the numerous benefits of going car-free to citizen including reduced air pollution and the promotion of walking and cycling in a safer environment.

## Autumn Equinox 2021 – September 23

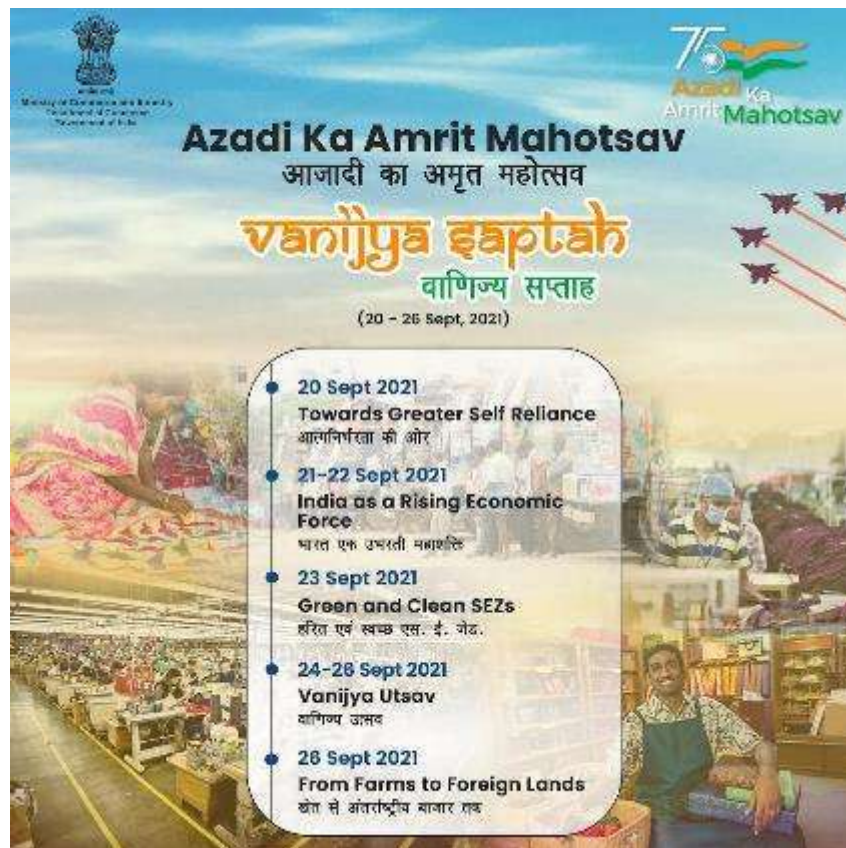


- ❖ The Autumn Equinox can occur any time between September 21 and September 24.
- ❖ This year, it occurred on September 23.
- ❖ Equinox is an astronomical event caused by Earth's tilt on its axis as it revolves around the Sun.
- ❖ On this day, Earth's axis is tilted 23.5 degrees from the plane of its orbit.

### **International Day of Sign Languages - September 23**

- ❖ The day is celebrated annually across the world.
- ❖ This day is celebrated to raise awareness of sign languages and strengthen the status of sign languages
- ❖ The theme for the 2021 International Day of Sign Languages is “We Sign For Human Rights”.

### **Vanijya Saptah - September 20 to 26**



- ❖ The Commerce Ministry has decided to celebrate ‘Vanijya Saptah’ from 20 to 26 September.





- ❖ In this Saptah, many programmes and events will be organized to showcase India's rising economic force across the country.
- ❖ Five national seminars will be organized by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) in five regions of the country.

### **NSS Day – 24 September**



- ❖ The National Service Scheme is a public service program conducted by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- ❖ It aims to provide hands-on experience to young students in delivering community service.
- ❖ The National Service Scheme was launched in 1969, the birth centenary year of Mahatma Gandhi.
- ❖ NSS is a central sector scheme of the government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.

### **World Pharmacist Day – September 25**

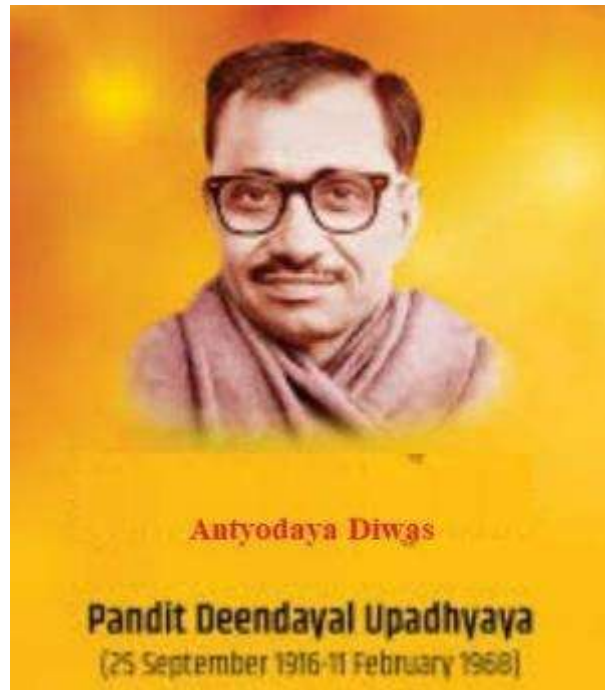
- ❖ This day is celebrated to create awareness about the role of a pharmacist in improving health.
- ❖ The day was an initiative of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) along with the council of this organization.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Pharmacy: Always trusted for your health".
- ❖ The day was designated in 2009.

### **Antyodaya Diwas – September 25**

- ❖ This day is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.



- ❖ The day was declared by the Modi Government on September 25, 2014.
- ❖ Antyodaya means uplifting the poorest of the poor.



### **The European Day of Languages – September 26**

- ❖ It is a well-established, annual opportunity to raise awareness around language learning and linguistic diversity.
- ❖ It started in 2001, organized jointly by the European Union and the Council of Europe.



### **World Rivers Day 2021 – 26 September**

- ❖ The day is celebrated every year on the “Fourth Sunday of September” since 2005.
- ❖ It is observed to raise global awareness of the need to support, protect and preserve the rivers around the world.
- ❖ In 2021, World Rivers Day is being celebrated on 26 September.
- ❖ The theme for World Rivers Day 2021 is “Waterways in our communities”.

### **World Environmental Health Day – 26 September**



- ❖ The International Federation of Environmental Health declared to observe World Environmental Health Day on 26 September every year.
- ❖ This day is celebrated to shed the light on important work of environmental health around the world.
- ❖ The theme for the 2021 World Environmental Health Day: Prioritizing Environmental Health for healthier communities in the global recovery.

### **World Contraception Day – 26 September**

- ❖ This day has been designated to bring focus to the rights of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children.
- ❖ The day was first observed in 2007.
- ❖ Contraception is a birth control method required to prevent unwanted pregnancies.



### **80<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of CSIR – 26 September**

- ❖ CSIR observed its 80th foundation day this year.
- ❖ The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) is a contemporary R&D organization.
- ❖ CSIR has put in place CSIR@80: Vision & Strategy 2022 – New CSIR for New India.
- ❖ CSIR is ranked 37th among 1587 government institutions worldwide.
- ❖ It is the only Indian organization among the top 100 global government institutions, according to the Scimago Institutions Ranking World Report 2021.
- ❖ CSIR holds the 7th rank in Asia and leads the country at the first position.

### **World Tourism Day – 27 September**

- ❖ The purpose of this day is to raise awareness of the role of tourism within the international community.
- ❖ The theme for World Tourism Day 2021 is “Tourism for Inclusive Growth”.
- ❖ The day is observed since 1980.



### **World Rabies Day – 28 September**

- ❖ This day is observed to raise awareness about the impact of the viral disease and how to prevent it.
- ❖ This day is also observed globally to mark the death anniversary of Louis Pasteur, who developed the first rabies vaccine.
- ❖ This year, the theme for World Rabies day is ‘Rabies: Facts, not Fear’.





### **The International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste – 29 September**

- ❖ The UN General Assembly designated this day.
- ❖ The day strives towards meeting SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production).
- ❖ The day is co-convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme.



### **World Heart Day – 29 September**

- ❖ It is organized by World Heart Federation.
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about cardiovascular disease (CVD).
- ❖ This year, the theme for World Heart Day is 'Use Heart To Connect'.



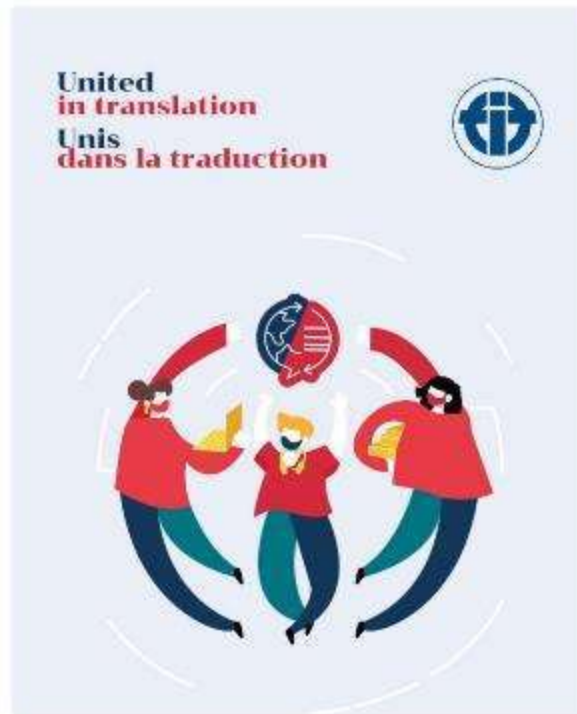
### **World Maritime Day – 30 September**

- ❖ It aims to spread awareness about the importance of shipping safety, maritime security, and the marine environment.
- ❖ The first time World Maritime Day was held on March, 1978 to mark the date of the IMO Convention's entry into force in 1958.
- ❖ The theme of World Maritime Day 2021 is "Seafarers: at the core of shipping's future".
- ❖ In India, the National Maritime Day is celebrated on April 5 every year.



### **International Translation Day – 30 September**

- ❖ This special day was created to pay tribute to language professionals such as translators and interpreters.
- ❖ The theme for 2021 is 'United in Translation'.
- ❖ This date is chosen to celebrate the feast of St. Jerome, the Bible translator.
- ❖ He is also considered the patron saint of translators.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### World University Rankings 2022

- ❖ The Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2022 has been announced.
- ❖ The University of Oxford is at the top of the list.
- ❖ It is followed by the California Institute of Technology and Harvard University at the second and third positions, respectively.
- ❖ The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, is placed between the 301-350 position.
- ❖ It is also the only university in the top 350 rankings.
- ❖ The ranking is based on 13 balanced performance indicators.

#### Note

- ❖ IISc Bangalore – 301-350 bracket



- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar – 351-400 bracket.
- ❖ IIT Indore – 401-500 bracket.

<b>INDIAN INSTITUTES IN THE'S WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2021</b>		
<b>Institute</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
IISc	301-350	301-350
IIT Ropar	301-350	351-400
IIT Indore	351-400	401-500
Banaras Hindu University	601-800	601-800
ICT, Mumbai	501-600	601-800

Full results at [https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/2021/world-ranking#!/page/0/length/25/sort\\_by/rank/sort\\_order/asc/cols/stats](https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/2021/world-ranking#!/page/0/length/25/sort_by/rank/sort_order/asc/cols/stats)  
NR = Not Ranked  
Source: Times Higher Education

## **Hurun India Future Unicorn List 2021**





- ❖ Hurun Research Institute has released this recently.
- ❖ As per this, India is the third-largest Unicorn/startup ecosystem in the world.
- ❖ The USA is on top followed by China on second.
- ❖ India has 51 unicorns according to the list.
- ❖ Zilingo is the top unicorn in the ranking in India.
- ❖ The headquarters of Zilingo is in Singapore.
- ❖ Bengaluru is the top Indian city in terms of the number of Unicorns headquartered in a city.
- ❖ Bengaluru has 31 unicorns followed by Mumbai which has 12 unicorns.

### **ZEEL and SPNI**

- ❖ Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEEL) announced a merger with Sony Pictures Networks India (SPNI).
- ❖ The merger was approved by ZEEL board.
- ❖ Puneet Goenka will remain the Managing Director and CEO of the merged entity.
- ❖ Puneet Goenka is the Chief Executive Officer of Zee Entertainment Enterprises.

