

JUNE 2021

# CNA -360<sup>0</sup>

current news analysis

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# PREFACE

*This is our special edition of Current Affairs Magazine for UPSC Civil Services Examination & Other Central & State Government Job Examinations, covering content from the month of June 2021.*

*The Magazine is divided into three sections:*

***Section 1: Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short .....Page 04 to Page 125***

*The first section is dedicated for Topic Wise 1 Liner Current Affairs to provide information about all major happenings in this month.*

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***Section 2: Detailed Analysis of important events .....Page 127 to Page 157***

*The Second Section is dedicated to Civil Services Aspirants and covers some major happenings in this month along with analysis. The Content part has been created as per the present shift in the examination pattern of the Civil Services Examination. The magazine will cover your syllabus of 'General Studies - II & General Studies - III'. The content has been covered from various online & offline sources including reputed newspapers like The Hindu, Indian Express etc. All the news topics have been explained keeping in mind their underlying issues. Every issue has been covered comprehensively. Some of the information provided may not be directly relevant for the examination. As the content is very wide, we have only covered a limited set of issues. You can utilize it smartly along with the Daily Study of News Papers as well as your other sources.*

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# SECTION 1

## Topic Wise Current Affairs in short

## 1: Important Days

### Global Day of Parents celebrated on 1st June



- Every year on June 1st, the United Nations commemorates Global Day of Parents to honour all parents throughout the world.
- The International Day of Parents honours the family's primary role in nurturing and protecting their children.
- As a result, the day honours all parents' altruistic commitment to their children, as well as their lifelong effort in fostering this relationship.
- The International Day of Parents highlights the importance of parents in child rearing. The United Nations General Assembly declared the day in 2012 to honour all parents around the world.
- Every year on June 1st, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization commemorates World Milk Day to emphasise the importance of milk as a global food and to honour the dairy industry.
- Its goal is to get people talking about the health benefits of dairy, such as nutrition, accessibility, and affordability.
- This year's topic will be dairy sustainability, with messages centred on the environment, nutrition, and socioeconomics. We will reintroduce dairy farming to the world in this way.
- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations founded World Milk Day in 2001 to commemorate the importance of milk as a global food and to celebrate the dairy industry.
- Since then, the benefits of milk and dairy products have been actively promoted over the world, especially how dairy helps one billion people survive.

### World Milk Day celebrated on 01st June



### World Bicycle Day celebrated on 3rd June



- Every year on June 3rd, the United Nations commemorates World Bicycle Day to promote the use of bicycles as a means of promoting sustainable development.
- The goal of the day is to improve education for children and young people, as well as to prevent disease, promote health, promote



tolerance, mutual understanding, and respect, and facilitate social inclusion and a culture of peace.

- In April 2018, the United Nations General Assembly declared the day. Every year, World Bicycle Day is commemorated to encourage member countries to prioritise bicycles in cross-cutting development strategies, improve road safety, and incorporate bicycles into sustainable mobility and transportation infrastructure planning and design. It also strives to raise bicycle awareness among all members of society.

## International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression: 04 June



- Every year on June 4th, the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression is commemorated around the world.
- The United Nations' commitment to protecting children's rights is reaffirmed on this day. This day honours the suffering of children around the world who have been subjected to physical, mental, and emotional abuse.
- The major goal of today's celebration is to raise awareness about the agony and suffering experienced by victims as youngsters.
- The UN General Assembly, appalled by the number of innocent Palestinian and Lebanese children victims of Israel's acts of aggression, decided to commemorate 4 June every year as the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression on August 19, 1982,

during an emergency session on the question of Palestine.

## World Environment Day: 5th June



- Every year on June 5th, the world celebrates World Environment Day. This day is commemorated to encourage environmental awareness and to remind people not to take nature for granted.
- The day gives an opportunity to increase the "base for informed opinion and responsible behaviour by individuals, businesses, and communities in protecting and benefiting the environment."
- This year's World Environment Day theme is "Reimagine. Recreate. Restore," in honour of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, which begins this year. This year, Pakistan is the worldwide host for the day, which emphasises the necessity of ecosystem restoration.

## International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing



- Every year on June 5th, the International Day for the Fight Against Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing is commemorated.
- Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing activities, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), result in the loss of 11–26 million tonnes of fish each year, with an estimated economic value of US\$10–23 billion.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Food and Agriculture Organization Head: Qu Dongyu
- Food and Agriculture Organization Headquarters: Rome, Italy.
- Food and Agriculture Organization Established: 16 October 1945.

### World Food Safety Day: 7th June



- On June 7th, the world commemorates World Food Safety Day. The goal of the day is to promote awareness about various foodborne dangers and preventative actions.
- “Safe food today for a healthy tomorrow” is the topic for this year.
- The United Nations General Assembly declared December 2018 to be the first-ever World Food Safety Day.
- “Food Safety, Everyone's Business” is the subject of the first-ever Food Safety Day 2019.
- In this regard, the World Health Organization (WHO), in partnership with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), has designated June 7th as the First Food Safety

Day, beginning in 2019.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Director-General of WHO: Tedros Adhanom; Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland;
- Food and Agriculture Organization headquarters: Rome, Italy;
- Food and Agriculture Organization Established: 16 October 1945;
- Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization: Dr QU Dongyu.

### UN Russian Language Day: 06 June



- Every year on June 6th, the United Nations celebrates Russian Language Day. It is one of the United Nations' six official languages used within the organisation.
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) created the day in 2010.
- The United Nations has designated June 6 as UN Russian Language Day because it falls on the birthday of Aleksandr Pushkin, a Russian poet widely regarded as the father of the modern Russian language.
- The UN's Department of Public Information designated a day of celebration for each of the six official languages in 2010 to honour multilingualism and cultural diversity while also encouraging equal use of all six official languages throughout the Organization.

## Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Russia President: Vladimir Putin.
- Russia Capital: Moscow.
- Russia Currency: Russian Ruble.

## World Pest Day: 06 June



- Every year on June 6th, World Pest Day (also known as World Pest Awareness Day) is commemorated.
- The day's main goal is to raise public, government, and media awareness of the critical role pest management organisations play in protecting public health, project the pest management industry's professional image, promote scientific and socially responsible pest management, and draw attention to the major threats posed by small pests.
- In 2017, the first World Pest Day was observed. The Federation of Asian and Oceania Pest Managers' Association (FAOPMA), the National Pest Management Association (NPMA), and the Confederation of European Pest Management Associations co-sponsored World Pest Day, which was started by the Chinese Pest Control Association (CEPA).

## World Oceans Day: 8 June



- Every year on June 8th, the world celebrates World Ocean Day. This day is commemorated to increase global awareness of the ocean's importance in our lives and the ways in which we can conserve it.
- The goal of the Day is to educate the general people about the impact of human actions on the ocean, to build a global citizen movement for the ocean, and to mobilise and unite the global population around a project for the long-term management of the oceans.
- The topic for World Oceans Day 2021 is "The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods," as well as a declaration of intentions to meet the Sustainable Development Goal 14, "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources," by 2030.

## World Accreditation Day 2021 celebrated on 9th June



- Every year on June 9th, World Accreditation Day (WAD) is observed to promote the importance of accreditation in trade and the economy.
- "Accreditation: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" is the theme for WAD 2021.
- WAD is a global movement to raise awareness of the relevance of accreditation, co-founded by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC).

## Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Chairman of Quality Council of India: Adil

Zainulbhai;

- Quality Council of India Founded: 1997;
- Quality Council of India Headquarters location: New Delhi.

## World Day Against Child Labour: 12 June



- Every year on June 12th, the world commemorates World Day Against Child Labor. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), there are around 152 million youngsters working in the world, with 72 million of them doing dangerous jobs.
- The focus of this year's World Day Against Child Labor is on preparations for the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labor in 2021.
- Act now: End child labour! is the subject of this year's World Day Against Child Labor. It is the first World Day since the ILO's Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour was universally ratified, and it comes at a time when the COVID-19 crisis threatens to undo years of progress in combating the problem.

## International Albinism Awareness Day: 13 June



- On June 13, the International Albinism Awareness Day (IAAD) is commemorated to honour the human rights of people with albinism around the world.
- Every year, events are held to educate people about albinism and to honour those who continue to face human rights violations.
- The topic for this year's International Albinism Awareness Day is "Strength Beyond All Odds."

## World Blood Donor Day: 14th June



- Every year on June 14th, the world commemorates World Blood Donor Day. The goal is to raise global awareness of the need for healthy blood and blood products for transfusion, as well as the vital role that unpaid, volunteer blood donors play in national health systems.
- The day also serves as a call to action for governments and national health authorities to allocate sufficient resources and implement mechanisms and infrastructures to promote blood collection from unpaid, voluntary donors.
- "Give blood and keep the globe beating," will be the slogan for World Blood Donor Day in 2021. The city of Rome, Italy, will host World Blood Donor Day in 2021.

## World Elder Abuse Awareness Day: 15 June



- Every year on June 15th, the world commemorates World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. This day is commemorated in order to raise awareness about the plight of the elderly who are abused and victimised.
- The major goal of this day is to give communities all around the world an opportunity to develop a better understanding of elder abuse and neglect by raising awareness of the cultural, social, economic, and demographic factors that influence senior abuse and neglect.
- Following a proposal by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, the United Nations General Assembly acknowledged the day in December 2011, circumventing the UN's resolution 66/127. (INPEA).

**International Day of Family Remittances: 16 June**

**International Day  
of Family Remittances  
16 JUNE**



- The United Nations General Assembly has declared June 16 to be International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR).
- More than 200 million migrant workers, both men and women, send money home to over 800 million family members, according to the IDFR.
- This day also emphasises migrant workers'

remarkable perseverance in the face of economic insecurity, natural and climate-related tragedies, and a global pandemic. On June 16, 2015, the first International Day of Family Remittances was observed.

**Global Wind Day 2021: 15 June**



- Every year on June 15th, the world commemorates Global Wind Day to raise awareness about wind energy, its diverse applications, and the ways and possibilities in which wind energy may help transform the world.
- In 2007, the inaugural Global Wind Day was observed. In 2009, it was renamed Global Wind Day.
- WindEurope and the Global Wind Energy Council jointly conduct Global Wind Day (GWEC).
- Wind energy is one of the world's fastest-growing renewable energy sources, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). India plans to build 20 gigawatts of wind power between 2021 and 2025.
- Wind energy is a renewable and unlimited source of energy. India has has 38.789 GW of installed wind power capacity. India has the world's fourth highest installed wind power capacity.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Global Wind Energy Council Headquarters location: Brussels, Belgium;

- Global Wind Energy Council Founded: 2005.

## World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought: 17 June



- **World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought** is observed on **17th June** every year. The day is celebrated to raise awareness of the presence of desertification and drought, and highlight methods of preventing desertification and recovering from drought.
- **“Restoration. Land. Recovery. We build back better with healthy land”** is the theme for 2021 World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought.
- In **1994**, the United Nations General Assembly declared June 17 the **“World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought”** to market public awareness of the difficulty.
- The World Day to Combat Desertification may be a unique occasion to remind everybody that desertification is often effectively tackled, that solutions are possible, which key tools to the present aim lay in strengthened community participation and co-operation in the least levels.

## Sustainable Gastronomy Day: 18 June



- Sustainable Gastronomy Day is marked on June 18th around the world to draw attention to the importance of sustainable gastronomy in our lives. On December 21, 2016, the United Nations General Assembly declared the day.
- Gastronomy is the science or art of selecting, preparing, and enjoying delicious food. To put it another way, sustainable gastronomy considers where the foods come from, how they are cultivated, and how they get to our markets and, ultimately, our plates.
- The day serves as a reminder that all cultures and civilizations are important contributors and enablers of long-term progress.

## Autistic Pride Day: 18 June



- Every year on June 18th, the world celebrates Autistic Pride Day to raise awareness about autism and to recognise the value of pride for autistic individuals and its role in bringing about positive changes in society.
- The day is symbolised with a rainbow infinity symbol, which represents autistic people's limitless possibilities. On the idea of an organisation called Aspies for Freedom, the first Autistic Pride Day was held in Brazil in 2005.

## International Day of Yoga: 21 June

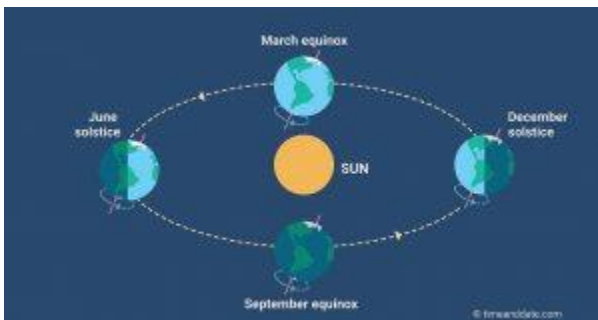


- Every year on June 21st, the United Nations commemorates International Day of Yoga to increase awareness of the many advantages of yoga practise around the world.
- Yoga is an Indian physical, mental, and spiritual discipline that dates back thousands of years. Yoga is a Sanskrit word that meaning "to connect" or "to unite," and it represents the integration of body and mind.
- Recognizing the importance of Yoga, this year's International Day of Yoga observance focuses on "Yoga for Well-Being" — how the practise of Yoga can help people achieve holistic health.
- The draught resolution establishing the International Day of Yoga was proposed by India, and it was endorsed by a record 175 member states. Recognizing its international appeal, the United Nations declared June 21st as the International Day of Yoga by Resolution 69/131 on December 11, 2014.



- Every year on June 21st, the world celebrates World Music Day. This holiday honours both amateur and professional musicians.
- Over 120 nations mark World Music Day by holding free public concerts in parks, streets, train stations, museums, and other public spaces. The goal of Globe Music Day is to provide free music to everyone while also encouraging amateur artists to share their work with the rest of the world.
- On the day of the summer solstice in Paris in 1982, France's Minister of Culture, Jack Lang, and Maurice Fleuret, a French composer, music journalist, radio producer, arts administrator, and festival organiser, launched World Music Day.

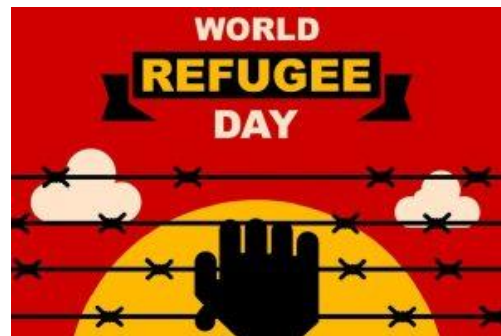
**International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice**



- The International Day of Solstice Celebration is celebrated on June 21st all across the world. This day raises awareness of the importance of solstices and equinoxes in various religions and ethnic traditions.
- The United Nations General Assembly declared the 20th of June 2019 as the International Day of Solstice Celebrations in Resolution A/RES/73/300.

**World Music Day: 21st June**

**World Refugee Day celebrated on 20 June**

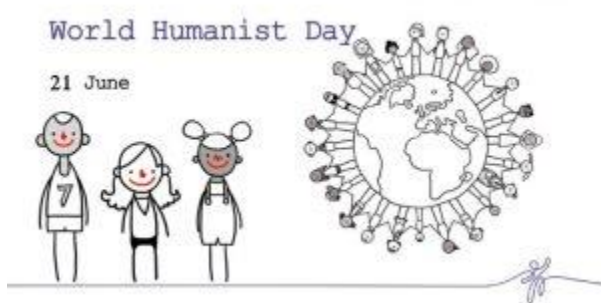


- Every year on June 20th, World Refugee Day is commemorated to honour and respect the heroism and tenacity of refugees all around the world.
- This day is commemorated by the United Nations to honour refugees who have been

forced to flee their homes. The goal of the day is to foster understanding and empathy for refugees who are starting over in new nations.

- This year's World Refugee Day theme is "Together, we heal, learn, and shine." According to the United Nations, the coronavirus illness (Covid-19) pandemic has demonstrated that we can only succeed by working together. The United Nations has asked for more refugees to be included in healthcare systems around the world.

**World Humanist Day: 21 June**



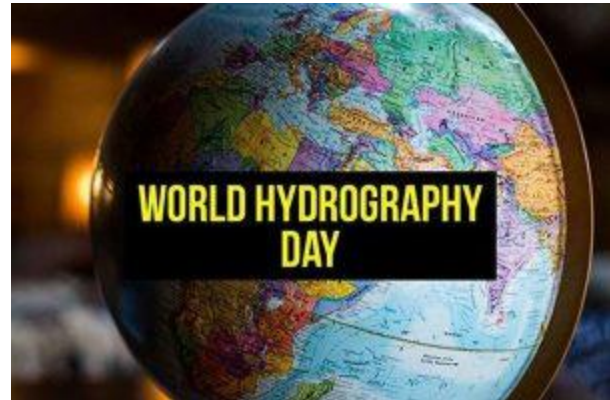
- Every year on the June solstice, which normally falls on June 21, World Humanist Day is commemorated all across the world. The goal of the day is to raise awareness of Humanism as a philosophical life philosophy and a tool for social change.
- Since 1980, the International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU) has hosted the event. The International Humanist, Atheist, Rationalist, Ethical Culture, Secularist, and Other Freethought Organizations (IHEU) is a global federation of Humanist, Atheist, Rationalist, Ethical Culture, Secularist, and other Freethought Organizations.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- International Humanist and Ethical Union President: Andrew Copson;
- International Humanist and Ethical Union Founded: 1952;

- International Humanist and Ethical Union Headquarters: London, United Kingdom.

**World Hydrography Day: 21 June**



- Every year on June 21st, World Hydrography Day is commemorated to raise public awareness of hydrography and the vital role it plays in everyone's lives.
- The primary goal of the day is to draw attention to the IHO's international activity. It is also commemorated to encourage governments to collaborate in order to safeguard the marine environment and promote secure international navigation.
- The subject for the 2021 World Hydrographic Congress is "One Hundred Years of International Hydrographic Cooperation."
- In 2005, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution designating June 21 as World Hydrography Day.
- Since 2006, the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) has celebrated World Hydrographic Day to raise awareness of hydrographers' work and the relevance of hydrography.

**takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- International Hydrographic Organization Headquarters: Monte Carlo, Monaco;
- International Hydrographic Organization



Secretary-General: Dr Mathias Jonas;

- International Hydrographic Organization  
Founded: 21 June 1921.

## United Nations Public Service Day: 23 June



- Every year on June 23rd, the United Nations Public Service Day is commemorated around the world. The purpose of this day is to recognise the importance of public service in the development process and to recognise the value of public service to the community.
- Various public service organisations and departments around the world celebrate this day by hosting a variety of events to recognise the importance of public employees in community development and improvement.
- The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs' Division of Public Institutions and Digital Government will host a virtual event on the theme of "Innovating the Future Public Service: New Government Models for a New Era to Reach the SDGs," in collaboration with the government of the United Arab Emirates.

## International Olympic Day: 23 June



# OLYMPIC DAY

- Every year on June 23, the International

Olympic Day is commemorated. The day is observed to encourage more people to attend the Olympic Games, to raise knowledge about the event, and to promote the Olympic Movement.

- The National Olympic Committees are deploying sports, cultural, and educational events based on the three pillars – “move,” “learn,” and “discover” – to encourage participation regardless of age, gender, social background, or sporting skill.
- “Stay healthy, stay strong, stay active with the #OlympicDay workout on June 23,” is the theme for Olympic Day 2021.

## Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- International Olympic Committee  
Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland.
- International Olympic Committee  
President: Thomas Bach.
- International Olympic Committee Founded: 23 June 1894 (Paris, France).

## International Widows Day: 23 June



- Every year on June 23rd, the world commemorates International Widows Day. The day is well-known for bringing attention to widows' voices and experiences, as well as mobilising the particular assistance they get.
- Following the death of their life partner, many women around the world endure obstacles and engage in long-term struggles for basic needs, human rights, and dignity. In 2005, the Loomba Foundation established the International Widow's Day.

- According to Loomba, after their husband dies, women in numerous countries face considerable suffering. NGO's ignore them,

**Day of the Seafarer: 25 June**



- Every year on June 25, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) commemorates the annual Day of the Seafarer (DoS) to honour seafarers and sailors who keep the globe running by undertaking sea transit.
- DoS will celebrate its 11th anniversary in 2021. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, sailors found themselves on the front lines of the global response while also dealing with tough working conditions involving port access, re-supply, crew changeovers, repatriation, and other issues.
- The campaign's theme for 2021 is "Seafarers: at the heart of shipping's future."
- The International Maritime Organization (IMO) proposed the day in 2010 to honour the contribution of seafarers to the global economy and civil society. Since 2011, this particular day has been observed.

**World Vitiligo Day: 25 June**



governments ignore them, and societies curse them. It was finally recognised by the United Nations General Assembly on June 23, 2010.

- On June 25, World Vitiligo Day is held to raise global awareness about vitiligo. Vitiligo is a skin disorder that causes loss of pigment in the skin, resulting in a variety of patterns on the skin.
- Vitiligo is sometimes referred to as an illness rather than a problem, which can have a substantial social and psychological impact on individuals. On June 25, 2011, the first World Vitiligo Day was marked.

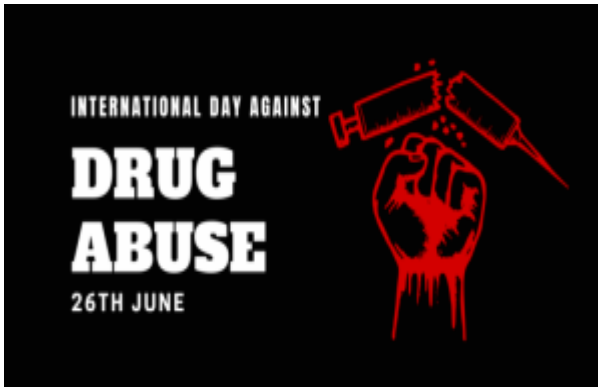
**International Day in Support of Victims of Torture**



- Every year on June 26th, the International Day in Support of Torture Victims is commemorated. The United Nations commemorates this day to promote public awareness about human torture, which is not only unacceptably cruel but also illegal.
- The United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution 52/149 on December 12, 1997, designating June 26 as the United Nations International Day in Support of Torture Victims, with the goal of eradicating torture and thus ensuring the effective functioning of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
- It's important to keep in mind that pain or suffering induced by a lawful consequence isn't deemed torture. The first International Day in

Support of Torture Victims was held on June 26, 1998.

## International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking



- Every year on June 26th, the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is commemorated around the world.
- The United Nations commemorates the day to show its commitment to increasing action and cooperation in order to attain the objective of a drug-free international society.
- “Share Drug Facts, Save Lives” is the topic of the 2021 International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.
- By voting Resolution 42/112, the United Nations General Assembly declared June 26 as the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, expressing its intention to intensify action and cooperation in order to attain the objective of a drug-free international community.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Headquarters: Vienna, Austria.
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Founded: 1997.

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



- Since 2017, the United Nations Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day has been celebrated on June 27 to honour MSME's contributions to local and global economies, as well as their support to sustainable development.
- The day also honours these industries' contributions to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- “MSME 2021: Key to an Inclusive and Sustainable Recovery” is the theme for 2021. That is why the United Nations will conduct a series of seminars to examine how MSMEs – the backbone of our economies – can be equipped to ensure a fair and long-term recovery following COVID-19.

## International Day of the Tropics: 29 June



- The International Day of the Tropics is celebrated by the United Nations on June 29. The International Day of the Tropics honours the tropics' incredible diversity while also highlighting the specific difficulties and possibilities that governments in the region

confront.

- It provides an opportunity to assess progress in the tropics, share tropical tales and expertise, and recognise the region's diversity and potential.
- On June 29, 2014, the first State of the Tropics Report was released as the result of a partnership between twelve renowned tropical research institutions. The research provides a distinct viewpoint on this rapidly growing region.

#### National Statistics day celebrated on 29th June



- On the 29th of June, the Indian government commemorated National Statistics Day, which

commemorates the birth anniversary of Prof. P C Mahalanobis.

- The purpose of the day is to raise youth awareness of the use of statistics in socioeconomic planning and policy making. The purpose of the day is to popularise the use of statistics in everyday life and to raise public awareness about how statistics can assist shape and frame policy.
- The topic of this year's National Statistics Day is "End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition, and Promote Sustainable Agriculture" (Sustainable Development Goal or SDG 2 of the United Nations).
- The first National Statistics Day was held on June 29, 2007. The Government of India has chosen to commemorate Late Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis' exceptional contribution to economic planning and statistical development by declaring his birthday as "National Statistics Day."

## 2: Agreements

### SCO Agreement On Mass Media Cooperation Gets India's Retrospective Nod



- Ex post facto consent was given by the Cabinet for the signature and ratification of an agreement on mass media cooperation between all Shanghai Cooperation Organisation member states (SCO).
- The agreement intends to foster equal and mutually beneficial cooperation among mass media associations. The agreement, which was signed in June 2019, would allow member governments to share best practises and new developments in the sphere of mass media.
- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation whose establishment was announced in Shanghai on June 15, 2001.
- India, Kazakhstan, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan make up the SCO.

### IPPB ties up with Mahindra Rural Housing Finance for cash management solution



- Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Limited

(MRHFL), a subsidiary of Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Ltd, has formed a strategic alliance with India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) to provide a cash management solution.

- IPPB will supply MRHFL with cash management and collection services through its access points and postal service providers as part of the agreement.
- According to a statement from Mahindra Rural Housing Finance, consumers will be able to pay their monthly or quarterly loan instalments at approximately 1.36 lakh post offices utilising the cash management service.
- With cash management being the lifeblood of business operations, IPPB's extensive network and technology platform can assist businesses in safely, securely, and effortlessly managing their receivables.

#### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- MD and CEO of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB): J Venkatramu.
- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) Headquarters: New Delhi.

### Bharti AXA Life in bancassurance pact with Shivalik Small Finance Bank



- Bharti AXA Life Insurance, a private life insurer, has formed a bancassurance agreement with

Shivalik Small Finance Bank to distribute its life insurance products through the bank's pan-India branch network.

- This partnership is one of the bank's many initiatives aimed at increasing financial inclusion and accelerating wealth generation for its customers.
- Bharti AXA Life Insurance will provide Shivalik Small Finance Bank customers a suite of life insurance products, including protection, health, savings, and investment plans, through its 31 branches and digital network across the country.
- This partnership will allow Shivalik Bank's 4.5 lakh customers to take advantage of the company's wide variety of financial security products.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- MD and CEO of Bharti AXA Life Insurance: Parag Raja;
- Bharti AXA Life Insurance Founded: 2005.

**ADB and India signed an agreement for road up-gradation project in Sikkim**



- The Asian Development Bank and the Indian government have agreed to fund a road improvement project in Sikkim.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide a \$2.5 million project readiness financing (PRF) credit to Sikkim to support projects relating to the upgradation of main district highways. It will

improve connection while also boosting the state's economic activity.

- The project readiness financing (PRF) would aid in the connectivity of key district and other highways to the national and state highway networks.
- To increase road connectivity in Sikkim, the ADB-funded North Eastern State Roads Investment Program was established in 2011.
- State agencies will create detailed engineering designs and feasibility assessments for chosen sub-projects. Due to landslides and erosion, Sikkim's road network needs to be upgraded on a regular basis.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- ADB is a regional development bank established in 1966;
- ADB Members: 68 countries (49 members are from Asia pacific region);
- ADB is headquartered in Mandaluyong, Philippines;
- Masatsugu Asakawa is the current president of ADB.

**CBSE to introduce coding, data science in curriculum**



- In the 2021-2022 academic session, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has partnered with Microsoft to introduce Coding as a new subject for students in grades 6-8 and Data Science as a new subject for students in

grades 8-12.

- Both of these new skill-building disciplines are being introduced in accordance with the NEP 2020.
- Critical thinking, computational skills, problem-solving skills, creativity, and hands-on exposure to new technologies are all emphasised in the Coding and Data Science curriculum.
- This is a vital step in enabling self-reliance in our kids and equipping them with critical success skills such as problem-solving, logical thinking, cooperation, and design thinking.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- CBSE Chairman: Manoj Ahuja;
- CBSE Head Office: Delhi;
- CBSE Founded: 3 November 1962.
- Microsoft CEO: Satya Nadella;
- Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States.

**Federal Bank enlists Infosys for Oracle CX implementation**



- Federal Bank has expanded its strategic partnership with Oracle and Infosys to provide a better customer experience through the Oracle CX platform.
- To strengthen Federal Bank's operations and deliver connected, data-driven, and intelligent

customer experiences across all touchpoints, the collaboration will focus on developing a comprehensive integrated Customer Relationship Management (CRM) solution across marketing, sales, customer service, and social listening.

- To create a 'Single Source of Truth,' Federal Bank will launch a 360-degree view of the customer portfolio in a single application for its users.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Federal Bank MD & CEO: Shyam Srinivasan.
- Federal Bank HQ: Aluva, Kerala.

**ADB inks USD 484 million loan with GoI to upgrade road network in Tamil Nadu**



- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India have agreed to lend \$484 million to the Chennai–Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) in Tamil Nadu to strengthen transportation connections and enable industrial development.
- “The project is critical for providing seamless road connection among industrial clusters, transportation gateways, and consuming centres, as well as lowering logistics and production costs for CKIC's targeted industries to improve their competitiveness,” says the company.
- In the CKIC's influence areas, almost 590 kilometres of state highways would be rebuilt, covering 23 of the 32 districts between Chennai

and Kanyakumari.

- The East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC) of India, which runs from West Bengal to Tamil Nadu, includes CKIC.
- ECEC connects India to the South, Southeast, and East Asian manufacturing networks.
- It should be emphasised that the Asian Development Bank is the Government of India's principal partner in developing ECEC.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- ADB is a regional development bank established in 1966;
- ADB Members: 68 countries (49 members are from Asia pacific region);
- ADB is headquartered in Mandaluyong, Philippines;
- Masatsugu Asakawa is the current president of ADB.

**Airtel, TCS partner for 5G network solutions**



- Bharti Airtel and the Tata Group have formed a strategic cooperation to create 5G network technologies for India, which will be commercially accessible in January 2022.
- Using the skills of the group and its partners, the Tata Group has created an O-RAN (open-radio access network)-based radio and non-standalone architecture/standalone architecture (NSA/SA) core, as well as a

completely indigenous telecom stack.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Bharti Airtel CEO: Gopal Vittal.
- Bharti Airtel Founder: Sunil Bharti Mittal.
- Bharti Airtel Founded: 7 July 1995.
- Tata Group Chairman: Natarajan Chandrasekaran
- Tata Group Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.

**India and Fiji inks MoU for cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sectors**



- Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, and Dr. Mahendra Reddy, Minister of Agriculture, Waterways, and Environment, Government of Fiji, held a virtual meeting.
- Both ministers signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in agriculture and related sectors during the meeting. This Memorandum of Understanding will improve the two countries' multifaceted collaboration.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Fiji Capital: Suva;
- Fiji Currency: Fijian dollar;
- Fiji President: Jioji Konousi.



## Jio and Google Cloud to Collaborate on 5G Technology



- Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited and Google Cloud are forming a long-term strategic partnership with the goal of enabling 5G in enterprise and consumer markets across the country.
- Reliance will also benefit from Google Cloud's scalable infrastructure, allowing the company's retail division to improve operational efficiency, modernise and scale for growth, and provide better performance and experiences to customers.
- Reliance will use Google's AI/ML, e-commerce, and demand forecasting offerings to enhance its computational workload for retail business as part of the partnership.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Reliance Jio President Infocomm: Mathew Oommen;
- Reliance Jio Founder: Mukesh Ambani;
- Reliance Jio Founded: 2007;
- Reliance Jio Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Google CEO: Sundar Pichai.
- Google Founded: 4 September 1998, California, United States.
- Google Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin.

### NSDC And WhatsApp Launch “Digital Skill Champions Program”



- The National Skill Development Corporation and WhatsApp have announced a partnership to start the Digital Skill Champions Program, which aims to teach India's youth digital skills so that they can find work.
- WhatsApp Digital Skills Academy and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) and WhatsApp Business App Training sessions are two primary areas of engagement identified by the alliance.
- School and university students will be tutored to assimilate digital and online abilities as part of this programme, which will end in WhatsApp and the NSDC giving ‘Digital Skill Champions’ accreditation.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- WhatsApp Founded: 2009;
- WhatsApp CEO: Will Cathcart (Mar 2019–);
- WhatsApp Headquarters: Menlo Park, California, United States;
- WhatsApp Acquisition date: 19 February 2014;
- WhatsApp Founders: Jan Koum, Brian Acton;
- WhatsApp Parent organization: Facebook.

### Paisabazaar, SBM bank announce to launch Step Up credit card



- Paisabazaar.com, India's largest lending marketplace and credit score platform, and SBM Bank India, India's youngest universal bank, have announced the launch of the "Step Up Credit Card," a credit-building product designed for consumers who have limited access to formal credit due to an ineligible credit score. It is the first product under Paisabazaar's neo-lending strategy to be released.
- Paisabazaar's neo-lending strategy kicks out with the Step Up Credit Card, which was developed in collaboration with SBM Bank India.
- Step Up Card is a secured card given against a predetermined deposit (with SBM Bank India) that assists clients with bad credit or no credit history in steadily improving their credit score.

#### **Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Paisabazaar Founded: 15 December 2011;
- Paisabazaar Founders: Naveen Kukreja, Yashish Dahiya.

#### **JSCA, SAIL-BSL inks MoU for International Cricket Stadium in Bokaro**



- The Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA) and SAIL Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the construction of an International Cricket Stadium in Bokaro.
- After Jamshedpur and Ranchi, Bokaro will become the third city in Jharkhand to get an International Cricket Stadium once it is completed.
- The MoU is a 33-year leasing agreement under which Bokaro Steel Plant will lease 20.17 acres of its land in the Balidih region of Bokaro to JSCA for the development of an international cricket stadium.
- In addition, the projected stadium will be the first to be built in SAIL township.

#### **Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Chief Minister of Jharkhand: Hemant Soren;  
Governor: Shrimati Droupadi Murmu.

## 3: Appointment

### Tata Steel's T.V. Narendran takes over as CII president



- T.V. Narendran, the chief executive and managing director of Tata Steel Ltd, has been elected president of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the years 2021-22.
- He succeeds Uday Kotak, managing director and chief executive officer of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd, who has served his term in the industry organisation.
- Narendran, a Calcutta-based alumni of the Indian Institute of Management, has been a long-time supporter of the CII.
- In addition to being chairman of CII Jharkhand, he served as chairman of the CII Eastern Region in 2016-17 and led the industry body's national committees on leadership and human resources.

#### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Confederation of Indian Industry  
Founded: 1895.

### CBDT member JB Mohapatra gets additional charge of chairman



- For three months, Finance Ministry member Jagannath Bidyadhar Mohapatra has been assigned the additional task of chairman of the direct taxation board.
- The current chairman, Pramod Chandra Mody, had an extended term that concluded on May 31.
- He was awarded a third extension in February, this time until May 31. The government named three new members to the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the department's administrative and policy-making body, last week.

#### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Central Board of Direct Taxes Established: 1924.
- Central Board of Direct Taxes Headquarters: New Delhi.

### Justice A.K. Mishra to head NHRC



- After a high-powered recommendation committee offered his name, former Supreme

Court judge Arun Kumar Mishra will be the new chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha Harivansh, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge were among the members of the selection panel.
- The high-powered panel also suggested Mahesh Mittal Kumar, former Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court, and Rajiv Jain, former Director of the Intelligence Bureau, as members of the NHRC, although the official notification will not be issued until the report is filed.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- NHRC Formed: 12 October 1993;
- NHRC Jurisdiction: Government of India;
- NHRC Headquarters: New Delhi.

**Magma Fincorp appoints Adar Poonawalla as chairman**



- Following the acquisition of a controlling share in Magma Fincorp by Poonawalla-controlled Rising Sun Holdings, the company has chosen Adar Poonawalla as its chairman. This month, Rising Sun invested Rs 3,456 crore in the non-bank lender.
- Magma will be renamed Poonawalla Group in the near future. Abhay Bhutada has been named MD, and Vijay Deshwal has been named

CEO.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Magma Fincorp Headquarters: West Bengal;
- Magma Fincorp Founder: Mayank Poddar and Sanjay Chamria;
- Magma Fincorp Founded: 1988.

**Vice-Admiral Ravneet Singh assumes charge as Deputy Chief of Naval Staff**



- Vice-Admiral Ravneet Singh, a recipient of the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) and the Nausena Medal (NM), was named Deputy Chief of Naval Staff.
- Vice Admiral MS Pawar, a recipient of the Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM), AVSM, and Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM), superannuated on May 31.

**IBF appoints Justice (retd.) Vikramjit Sen as the chairman**



- Justice Vikramjit Sen, a former Supreme Court judge, has been named Chairman of the Indian Broadcasting Foundation's (IBF) newly founded

self-regulatory organisation Digital Media Content Regulatory Council (DMCRC).

- The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, mandated the foundation of the DMCRC. The move was made to bring broadcasters and OTT (over-the-top) platforms closer together.

**WhatsApp appoints Paresh B Lal as Grievance Officer for India**



- Paresh B Lal has been named the Grievance Officer for India by WhatsApp, a Facebook-owned messaging app.
- Because social media firms are obligated by law to disclose the names and other details of their grievance officers on their websites, WhatsApp has updated the information on how to contact Mr Lal on its website.
- The appointment follows the government's new IT regulation, which mandates that all tech companies, including Google, Facebook, and WhatsApp, appoint an Indian grievance officer, nodal officer, and chief compliance officer. Within 24 hours, the grievance officer must respond to the complaint and resolve it within 15 days.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- WhatsApp Founded: 2009;
- WhatsApp CEO: Will Cathcart (Mar 2019–);
- WhatsApp Headquarters: Menlo Park, California, United States;

- WhatsApp Acquisition date: 19 February 2014;
- WhatsApp Founders: Jan Koum, Brian Acton;
- WhatsApp Parent organization: Facebook.

**Lt. General Pradeep Chandran Nair takes charge as DG of Assam Rifles**



- Lieutenant General Pradeep Chandran Nair, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM), Yudh Seva Medal (YSM), assumed command of the Assam Rifles as the 21st Director General (popularly known as Sentinels of the North-East).
- He has extensive Assam Rifles and North East experience, having previously served as an Inspector General and a Company Commander, as well as commanding Assam Rifles battalions as a Brigade Commander.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- The Assam Rifles came into being in 1835;
- Assam Rifles HQ: Shillong, Meghalaya.

**Dr Vinay K Nandicoori appointed as Director of CCMB**



- Dr Vinay K Nandicoori, a former IITian, has been named Director of the CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) in Hyderabad, Telangana. He is a well-known molecular biologist and a scientist at New Delhi's DBT-National Institute of Immunology.
- Dr. Nandicoori's study focuses on molecular signalling networks in Mycobacterium tuberculosis, the bacteria that causes tuberculosis. His research has gained national and worldwide acclaim and relevance.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology  
Founded: 1977.

**Dr Patrick Amoth of Kenya Appointed as Chair of WHO Executive Board**



- Dr. Patrick Amoth, the acting Director-General for Health at Kenya's Ministry of Health, has been appointed for a one-year term as Chairman of the World Health Organization (WHO) Executive Board.
- The statement was made by outgoing Chair Dr Harsh Vardhan during the 149th session of the WHO Executive Board on June 02, 2021.
- Mr. Amoth succeeds Dr. Harsh Vardhan, India's Union Health Minister, who finished his term as Chairman of the WHO Executive Board on June 2, 2021.
- Dr. Vardhan will remain a member of the WHO Executive Board until 2023. The chairmanship is

rotated among regional groupings every year for a year.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Kenya Capital: Nairobi;
- Kenya Currency: Kenyan shilling;
- Kenya President: Uhuru Kenyatta.

**Amul's RS Sodhi elected to board of International Dairy Federation**



- During the IDF's general assembly on June 1, R S Sodhi, managing director of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd or GCMMF, which sells Amul branded goods in India, was unanimously voted to the board.
- He is a graduate of the Anand Institute of Rural Management (IRMA). After finishing his post-graduation at IRMA, he joined GCMMF (Amul) in 1982.
- The Multinational Dairy Federation (IDF) is a non-profit, international organisation that represents the worldwide dairy industry. The federation guarantees that the production of dairy products is governed by the appropriate rules, standards, practises, and laws around the world.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- DG of International Dairy Federation: Caroline

Emond;

- International Dairy Federation Established: 1903.

**Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari appointed as IAF Vice Chief**



- The Indian Air Force will witness a number of changes at the top, with Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari being named the next Vice Chief of Air Staff at Air Headquarters.
- Air Marshal Ballabha Radha Krishna will take over the Western Command in Delhi from Chaudhari, while Air Marshal RJ Duckworth will take over the Central Air Command in Prayagraj.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- IAF HQ:- New Delhi; Founded: 8 October 1932;
- Air Chief Marshal: Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria.

**Ranjitsinh Disale Appointed as the World Bank Education Advisor**



- From June 2021 until June 2024, Ranjitsinh Disale will serve as the World Bank's Education

Advisor.

- He was the first Indian to get the Global Teacher Award in 2020, and he will now work on the World Bank's Coach Project, which will start in March 2021.
- The goal of the project is to "assist countries in accelerating learning by strengthening teacher professional development."
- Disale is from Paritewadi Village in Maharashtra's Solapur district. He aspired to be an engineer at first, but decided to pursue teacher training instead.
- In 2020, he will be the first Indian to receive the Global Teacher Award. He received the prize in appreciation of his efforts to promote females' education.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- World Bank Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States.
- World Bank Formation: July 1944.
- World Bank President: David Malpass.

**RBI approves re-appointment of Vishwavir Ahuja as MD, RBL Bank**



- The Reserve Bank of India has accepted Vishwavir Ahuja's appointment as RBL Bank's Managing Director and CEO for a one-year term beginning June 30, 2021.
- Since June 30, 2010, he has served as the

Managing Director and CEO of RBL Bank. Ahuja was the Managing Director and CEO of Bank of America in India before joining RBL Bank.



**Sanjeev Sahai to be new chairman of oil regulator PNGRB**



- Sanjeev Nandan Sahai, a senior administrator and former electricity secretary, is likely to become the next chairman of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB). Sahai's name was cleared by a search committee led by V K Saraswat, Member (S&T), NITI Aayog. The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board is a government-run organisation in India.
- Sanjiv Nandan Sahai is an Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre IAS officer from the 1986 batch.
- In 2019, he was appointed Secretary of the Ministry of Power. Throughout his career, he has held a number of posts in the bureaucracy, including five years as Prime Minister.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board  
HQ: New Delhi.

**Hitendra Dave appointed as HSBC India CEO**

- The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd. (HSBC) has named Hitendra Dave as the new Chief Executive Officer of HSBC India, pending regulatory approval.
- He has been named interim Chief Executive Officer, with a start date of June 7, 2021. Surendra Roshia, who will become the co-chief executive of HSBC Asia-Pacific, will be succeeded by Dave.
- Dave, who was previously the head of HSBC India's global banking and markets, has nearly 30 years of expertise in the Indian financial markets, the last 20 of which he spent with HSBC.
- He began his career at HSBC India in the Global Markets business in 2001 and has progressed through the ranks to his current position as head of global banking and markets business, which has been a major contributor to the bank's PBT throughout the years.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- HSBC CEO: Noel Quinn.
- HSBC Headquarters: London, United Kingdom.
- HSBC Founder: Thomas Sutherland.
- HSBC Founded: 3 March 1865, Hong Kong.

**Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar assumes Charge as DG Naval Operations**





- Director General Naval Operations has been assigned to Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, AVSM, VSM. The Flag Officer is an Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) specialist who has served as an ASW Officer on Navy frontline warships and later as the Executive Officer and Principal Warfare Officer of the Guided Destroyer INS Mysore.
- He has commanded the INS Kora missile corvette, the INS Shivalik missile frigate, and the INS Viraat aircraft carrier.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh.
- Indian Navy Founded: 26 January 1950.

**Anup Chandra Pandey appointed as election commissioner**



- Anup Chandra Pandey, a retired IAS officer from the Uttar Pradesh cadre from the 1984 batch, has been appointed as Election Commissioner by the Union government.
- Pandey will serve on the Election Commission

for just over three years, retiring in February 2024.

- Pandey has been appointed to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of outgoing Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora on April 12.
- The panel also includes Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar.
- This brings the three-member commission back to full strength, and it will now monitor the key assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Goa, Manipur, and Uttarakhand that will take place next year.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Election Commission Formed: 25 January 1950;
- Election Commission Headquarters: New Delhi;
- First executive of Election Commission: Sukumar Sen.

**UNSC recommends Antonio Guterres for second term as UN chief**



- The United Nations Security Council has endorsed Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for re-election to a second five-year term as UN chief, commencing January 1, 2022.
- The 15-nation Council met in secret and unanimously approved a resolution endorsing Guterres for a second term as Secretary-General to the 193-member General Assembly.

- Last month, India expressed its support for Guterres' re-election as UN Secretary-General for a second term beginning in January 2022.

**RBI gives nod to re-appoint CS Ghosh as MD & CEO of Bandhan Bank**



- The Reserve Bank of India has approved Chandra Shekhar Ghosh's re-appointment as MD and CEO of Bandhan Bank for another three years.
- The above re-appointment is contingent on shareholder approval at the bank's next annual general meeting.
- Ghosh, a leading proponent of microfinance in India, launched Bandhan in 2001 as a non-profit organisation dedicated to financial inclusion and women's empowerment through the construction of sustainable livelihoods. He was instrumental in the company's development into an NBFC-MFI and, eventually, a universal bank.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Bandhan Bank HQ: Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Bandhan Bank Founded: 2001.

**Facebook names Spoorthi Priya as grievance officer for India**



- Spoorthi Priya has been selected as Facebook's grievance officer for India, according to the company's website. The new Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, went into effect last month, and this move comes soon after.
- Companies with more than 50 lakh customers must employ a grievance officer, a nodal officer, and a chief compliance officer, according to new government guidelines. All three members of the team must be Indian citizens.
- WhatsApp, which is owned by Facebook, has recruited Paresh B Lal as the complaints officer.
- On May 29, WhatsApp, Facebook, and Google supplied information with the government on their compliance officer, resident grievance officer, and nodal contact person. The new IT guidelines went into effect two days later.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Chief Executive Officer of Facebook: Mark Zuckerberg.
- Facebook Headquarters: California, US.

**RBI approves re-appointment of GC Chaturvedi as part-time Chairman of ICICI Bank**



- ICICI Bank has received RBI approval for Girish Chandra Chaturvedi's re-appointment as part-time Chairman of the Bank.
- On existing terms and conditions, he would serve as part-time chairman of ICICI Bank for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2021.
- Chaturvedi was re-appointed as non-executive (part-time) Chairman of the Bank by the bank's shareholders last year, with effect from July 1, 2021.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- ICICI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ICICI Bank MD & CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi.
- ICICI Bank Tagline: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka.

**Centre extends LIC Chairman M R Kumar's term till March 2022**



- The Cabinet Appointments Committee (ACC) has accepted MR Kumar's renewal as Chairman of the state-owned insurance corporation Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).

- Mr Kumar will now hold the position until March 13, 2022, as part of the extended term. His term as chairman of the LIC was set to end on June 30, 2021.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- LIC Headquarters: Mumbai;
- LIC Founded: 1 September 1956.

**Mahesh Kumar Jain gets two-year extension as RBI Deputy Governor**



- The Cabinet Appointments Committee has accepted Mahesh Kumar Jain's reappointment as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for another two years, effective June 22, 2021.
- MK Jain's three-year stint as RBI Deputy Governor was set to expire on June 21, 2021. The other three serving RBI Deputy Governors are Michael Patra, M Rajeshwar Rao, and Rabi Sankar.

**Ferrari appoints Benedetto Vigna as new company CEO**



- Benedetto Vigna has been selected as Ferrari's new CEO, succeeding interim CEO John Elkann.
- Vigna is the president of STMicroelectronics' Analog, MEMS, and Sensor Group, as well as a member of the executive committee. Ferrari S.p.A., based in Maranello, is an Italian premium sports vehicle manufacturer.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Ferrari Founder: Enzo Ferrari;
- Ferrari Founded: 1947, Maranello, Italy;
- Ferrari Headquarters: Maranello, Italy.

### Debbie Hewitt appointed Football Association's first chairwoman



- Debbie Hewitt, a corporate executive and former RAC head, has been selected as England's Football Association's first female chair, putting an end to months of speculation about Greg Clarke's replacement following his departure over inappropriate statements.
- In 2018, the FA announced its 'Pursuit of Progress' campaign, which was founded in 1863 and has been aiming to become more inclusive. The Football Association is the governing organisation of football in England.

### K Nagaraj Naidu named to lead UN bureaucracy for a year



- K Nagaraj Naidu, an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) official, has been nominated chef de cabinet by Maldivian foreign minister Abdulla Shahid, the incoming UN General Assembly president.
- He was appointed for a one-year term to guide the world body back to normalcy while countries work to contain the pandemic.
- Naidu is India's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, and he will be on loan to the UN for a role similar to the Indian prime minister's principal secretary, who manages the cabinet bureaucracy; also similar to the US president's chief of staff.

### Thales appoints Ashish Saraf as Vice-President and Country Director for India



- Thales, a French defence and aerospace company, has named Ashish Saraf as Vice-President and Country Director for India, effective June 1, 2021. He follows Emmanuel de Roquefeuil, who has been promoted to Vice President and Head of Thales Middle East.
- He will be in charge of the company's India

operations and will be responsible for the country's strategic expansion across all of the company's markets, as well as strengthening local teams, collaborations, and innovation.

- Prior to joining Thales, Saraf headed Airbus Helicopters' sales, services, training, innovation, industrial alliances, and government relations responsibilities throughout the civil, parapublic, and military markets in India and South Asia. The Thales Group manufactures electrical systems and provides services to the aerospace, defence, and other industries.



- Akshay Kumar, the Bollywood actor, has been named the new brand ambassador for biotechnology startup Mylab Discovery Solutions.
- This news came only days after the Pune-based company released the country's first COVID-19 self-test kit, "CoviSelf."
- The collaboration with Akshay aims to raise awareness for Mylab's products and kits, including CoviSelf.

### India's Nagraj Adiga elected in International Association of Ultrarunners Council



- Nagraj Adiga of India was elected as the Asia-Oceania Representative at the recent 2021 International Association of Ultrarunners (IAU) Congress, which also featured IAU council elections.
- Adiga collaborates closely with the Athletics Federation of India and other government agencies to promote health, fitness, and the development of young athletes.

### Biotechnology company MyLab appoints Akshay Kumar as brand ambassador

### Rebeca Grynspan appointed as Secretary-General of UNCTAD



- Rebecca Grynspan, a Costa Rican economist, has been appointed Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development by the United Nations General Assembly (UNCTAD).
- She will be in office for four years. She is UNCTAD's first female and Central American director-general. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres nominated her for the position of Secretary-General.
- Grynspan would take over as Secretary-General

from Isabelle Durant, who has been acting since February 15, 2021. From 1994 until 1998, Grynspan was the UNDP's regional director for Latin America and the Caribbean and Costa Rica's second vice president.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- UNCTAD Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- UNCTAD Founded: 30 December 1964.

### Justice AK Sikri to chair IAMAI's Grievance Redressal Board



- Former Supreme Court Justice (Retd.) Arjan Kumar Sikri has been appointed by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) to chair the Grievance Redressal Board (GRB), which was established as part of the Digital Publisher Content Grievances Council (DPCGC).
- The GRB will investigate any complaints against content on any of the DPCGC members' video streaming services.
- The Grievance Redressal Board's goal will be to provide independent adjudication on content grievances that have been raised to it.
- The GRB's members include well-known figures from the media and entertainment industries, online curators of curated material, and specialists from a variety of subjects, including child rights, women's rights, and media regulations.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Chairman of the Internet and Mobile

Association of India: Amit Agarwal;

- Internet and Mobile Association of India Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Internet and Mobile Association of India Founded: 2004.

### Bharti Airtel's Ajai Puri re-elected as COAI chairman for 2021-22



- Ajai Puri, the Chief Operating Officer of Bharti Airtel, was re-elected as Chairman of the industry organisation for the years 2021-22.
- The Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI) announced its leadership for 2021-22, with Pramod Kumar Mittal, President of Reliance Jio Infocomm, continuing as Vice Chairman.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- COAI Headquarters location: New Delhi;
- COAI Founded: 1995.

### Mukesh Sharma appointed honorary member of WHO's Technical Advisory Group



- Mukesh Sharma, an IIT Kanpur professor, has been named to the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Air Pollution and Health – Technical Advisory Group as an honorary member (GAPH-TAG).
- The Technical Advisory Group's members are chosen from all over the world and designated by WHO's Director-General. Sharma, an air quality expert affiliated with IIT Kanpur's civil engineering department, has combined rigorous research with policy participation.
- The Technical Advisory Group is an advisory group tasked with providing technical advice and input to the WHO's activities and work in the areas of air pollution and health issues.
- It also assists member nations in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3.9.1, 7.1.2, and 11.6.2, which are all connected to air pollution and health.
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were approved by the United Nations in 2015 as a worldwide call to action to eradicate poverty, safeguard the environment, and promote peace and prosperity for people and the planet.

**Microsoft names CEO Satya Nadella as chairman**



- Satya Nadella, Microsoft's CEO, has been selected as the company's new chairman. In 2014, he succeeded Steve Ballmer as CEO of the software behemoth.
- He is credited for revitalising the company,

which was started in 1975. Former chairman John Thompson was also named as a lead independent director by the firm.

- The top-level management shift comes just over a year after Bill Gates resigned from the board of directors, saying he wanted to focus on the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, one of the world's largest charities.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Microsoft CEO: Satya Nadella;
- Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States.

**Govt appoints Aashish Chandorkar as director at India's WTO mission**



- The Indian government has chosen Aashish Chandorkar, a private individual, as Counsellor in India's Permanent Mission to the World Trade Organization for a three-year term. A private person has been appointed to the Mission for the first time.
- Chandorkar is the director of the Smahi Foundation of Policy and Research, a policy think tank based in Bengaluru. The World Trade Organization (WTO) is a multilateral organisation with 164 members that deals with worldwide trade. Since 1995, India has been a member of the organisation.

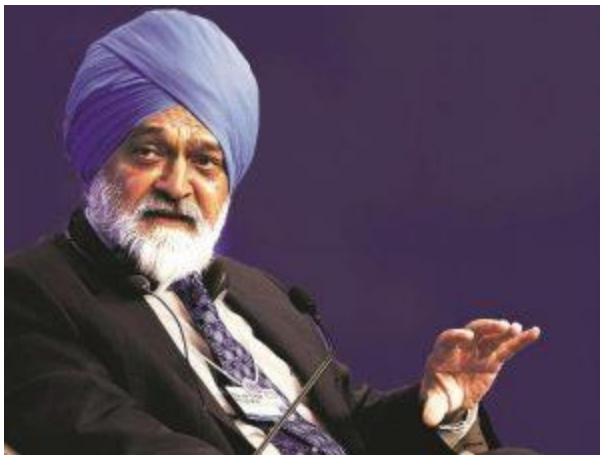
**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- World Trade Organization Director-General:

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala;

- World Trade Organization  
Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland;
- World Trade Organization Founded: 1 January 1995.

**Montek Ahluwalia named member of World Bank-IMF High Advisory Group**



- Montek Singh Ahluwalia, a former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, has been selected to a World Bank and IMF high-level advisory group.
- Mari Pangestu, Ceyla Pazarbasioglu, and Lord Nicholas Stern will lead the group. The World Bank and IMF founded the group in response to the combined crisis posed by the Covid-19 outbreak and climate change.
- Mari Pangestu is the World Bank's Managing Director for Development Policy and Partnerships. Ceyla Pazarbasioglu is the Director of the International Monetary Fund's Strategy, Policy, and Review Department. Gita Gopinath will also be a part of the ensemble. At the IMF, Gita Gopinath serves as an Economic Counsellor and Director of the Research Department.

**British lawyer Karim Khan sworn in as ICC's chief prosecutor**



- Karim Khan, a British lawyer, was sworn in as the International Criminal Court's new head prosecutor. He promised to reach out to non-members of the court and to strive to convene trials in countries where crimes have been committed.
- Former Liberian President Charles Taylor and Kenyan Deputy President William Ruto are among the clients he has defended in foreign courts.
- Khan, a 51-year-old English barrister, has worked as a prosecutor, investigator, and defence attorney in foreign courts. He succeeds Gambia's Fatou Bensouda, whose nine-year term had come to an end.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- International Criminal Court Founded: 1 July 2002;
- International Criminal Court Headquarters: The Hague, the Netherlands;
- International Criminal Court Member states: 123;
- International Criminal Court Working languages: English; French.

**Upasana Kamineni named 'Ambassador of Forest Frontline Heroes' at WWF India**





- Upasana Kamineni, Director, Apollo Hospitals, has been named a “Ambassador of Forest Frontline Heroes” by WWF India in order to recognise the efforts of frontline workers in hospitals and in the wildlife preservation field. This will be focused on many states around the country, encompassing the majority of eco-regions.
- Frontline forest employees are frequently members of the local community, and thus play a crucial role in bridging the gap between people and conservation.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- WWF India Headquarters location: New Delhi;
- WWF India Founded: 1969.

**Tadang Minu becomes 1st Arunachali Woman to be appointed in AIBA**



- Dr. Tadang Minu of Arunachal Pradesh is the first woman from the state and the second Indian woman in the country to be selected to the International Boxing Association's Coaches Committee (AIBA).

- She was chosen by AIBA because of her extensive expertise and experience in the sport of boxing.
- Dr. Tadang is currently the HOD of Physical Education at Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) and has served as the chairperson of the Women's Commission of the Boxing Federation of India for the past two years.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- AIBA Founded: 1946.
- AIBA Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland.
- AIBA President: Dr Mohamed Moustahsane.

**Senior psychiatrist Pratima Murthy appointed as director of NIMHANS**



- Dr. Pratima Murthy, the head of the Department of Psychiatry at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) in Bengaluru, has been named the Institute's Director for a five-year term. She will leave the company in March 2026.
- On World No Tobacco Day 2021, she received the WHO Regional Director's Special Recognition Award.
- After Prof and Head of Neurology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Dr Padma Srivastava was unable to assume the top office due to technical reasons, she was appointed by

NIMHANS with the approval of the central government as the full-term director of the institute of national importance.

**Jasprit Bumrah roped in as brand ambassador OnePlus**



- OnePlus, a multinational technology company, has named cricketer Jasprit Bumrah as its Wearables category's Brand Ambassador.
- The collaboration with Bumrah reaffirms the brand's motto of 'Never Settle,' as well as the company's quest for perfection.
- The OnePlus Watch, the company's first worldwide smart wearable, features a luxury design, seamless connectivity, smart fitness tracking, and a long battery life.

**Vigilance Commissioner Suresh N Patel appointed as acting CVC**



- With immediate effect, Suresh N Patel, the current Vigilance Commissioner, has been appointed as the interim Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) of India in the Central Vigilance Commission.

- Sanjay Kothari's term ended on June 23, 2021, and he was appointed in his place. He will hold the position till the new Central Vigilance Commissioner is appointed.
- The CVC is in charge of the Central Vigilance Commission, which has a maximum of two vigilance commissioners. Mr Patel is the commission's only VC at the moment. The Personnel Ministry is accepting applications for the positions of Chief Vigilance Commissioner and Vigilance Commissioner.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Central Vigilance Commission Formed: February 1964;
- Central Vigilance Commission Headquarters: New Delhi.

**Praveen Sinha appointed as Special Director of CBI**



- Praveen Sinha has been appointed Special Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) (CBI). After the Director, the Special Director is the agency's second-highest ranking position.
- Rakesh Asthana previously held the position, which had been vacant for three years. Sinha is an IPS officer from the Gujarat-cadre, and he formerly worked for the CBI as an Additional Director.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Central Bureau of Investigation

Headquarters: New Delhi;

- Central Bureau of Investigation Founded: 1 April 1963.

## Twitter appoints California-based Jeremy Kessel as India Grievance Officer



- Jeremy Kessel of California has been named the new Grievance Officer for India, according to Twitter. Twitter's Global Legal Policy Director is Kessel.
- The new Information Technology Rules, 2021, require social media firms to establish a Grievance Officer.
- However, Kessel's appointment appears to be in violation of current IT laws, which stipulate that the grievance redressal officer must be a resident of India.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Chief Executive Officer of Twitter: Jack Dorsey.
- Twitter formed: 21 March 2006.
- Headquarters of Twitter: San Francisco, California, United States.

## WhatsApp appoints Manesh Mahatme as Head of Payments in India



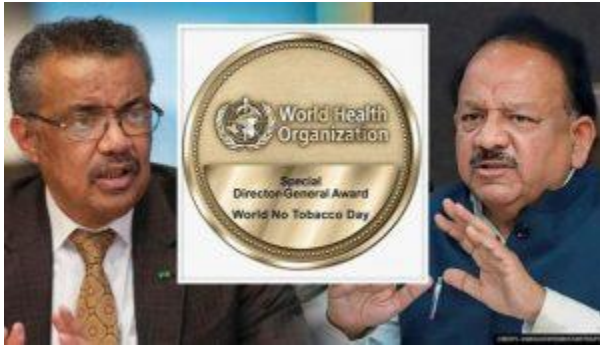
- Manesh Mahatme, a former Amazon executive, has been named a director of WhatsApp's payments division in India.
- Mahatme will work as Director, WhatsApp Payments-India, to improve the payments experience for users, scale the service, and contribute to WhatsApp's objective of digital and financial inclusion in India.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- WhatsApp Founded: 2009;
- WhatsApp CEO: Will Cathcart (Mar 2019–);
- WhatsApp Headquarters: Menlo Park, California, United States;
- WhatsApp Acquisition date: 19 February 2014;
- WhatsApp Founders: Jan Koum, Brian Acton;
- WhatsApp Parent organization: Facebook.

**4: Award**

**WHO honours Dr Harsh Vardhan for efforts in tobacco control**



- The World Health Organization (WHO) has bestowed the WHO Director-General Special Recognition Award on Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan in recognition of his achievements in tobacco control.
- Every year, WHO honours people or organisations for their achievements in tobacco reduction in each of the six WHO Regions. The WHO Director-General Special Honor Award and World No Tobacco Day Awards are two examples of this recognition.
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan's leadership was important in the passage of national legislation in 2019 prohibiting the use of E-cigarettes and heated tobacco products.

**Utah Jazz’s Jordan Clarkson wins 2021 Sixth Man of the Year**

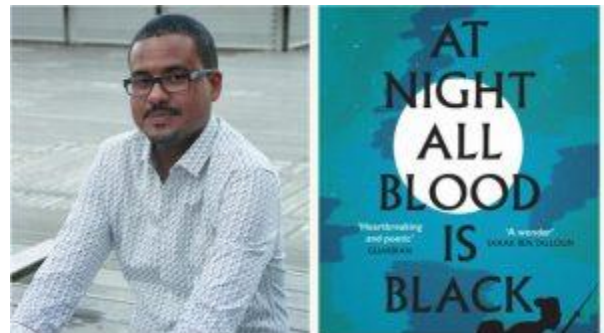


- Jordan Clarkson of the Utah Jazz has received

the Kia NBA Sixth Man Award for his accomplishments as a bench player in 2020-21.

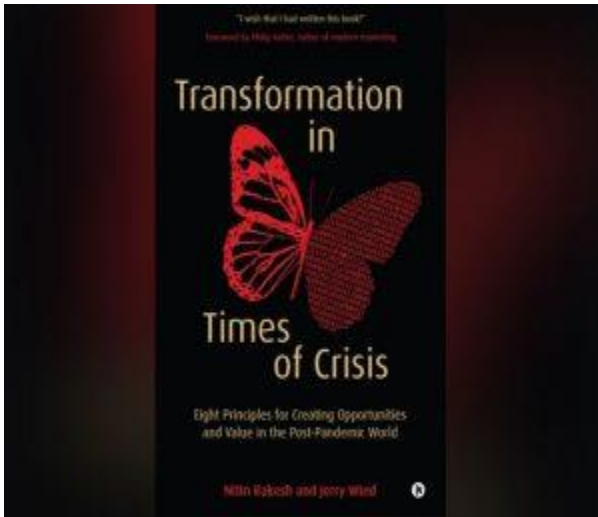
- Clarkson earns his first Sixth Man award with the Jazz, making him the first player to win the award with the team.
- Clarkson is the first player in Jazz history to win the award, which was given to him by teammate and fellow Sixth Man of the Year Finalist Joe Ingles.
- A global panel of 100 sportswriters and broadcasters gave Clarkson 65 first-place votes and 407 total points.

**David Diop wins International Booker 2021**



- With At Night All Blood Is Black, his first novel translated into English, David Diop has become the first French novelist to receive the International Booker Prize for translated fiction.
- The £50,000 yearly prize, which goes to the best author and translator of a book translated into English, was split between Diop and his translator Anna Moschovakis, who is the author of two novels.
- Since 2005, when it was won by Albanian writer Ismail Kadare, the International Booker Prize, formerly known as the Man Booker International Prize, has been awarded. It is a sister prize to the Booker Prize, which is given to an English-language novel.

**Nitin Rakesh and Jerry Wind win International Business Book of the Year Award 2021**



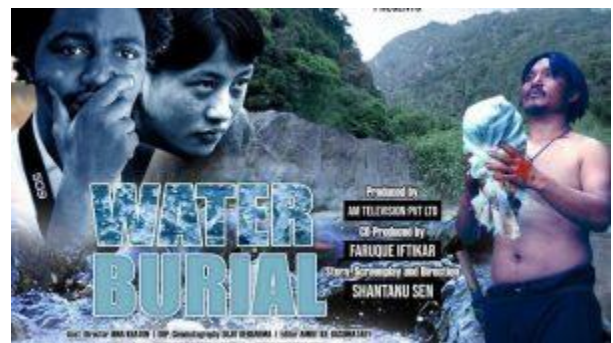
- The International Business Book of the Year Award 2021 went to Nitin Rakesh and Jerry Wind.
- The writers made history this week when their newly released book "Transformation in Times of Crisis," published by Notion Press, won the coveted International Business Book of the Year Award for 2021.
- Their book, Transformation in Times of Crisis, equips entrepreneurs and business owners with the information they need to succeed even in the face of adversity.
- Nitin Rakesh is a well-known figure in the technology and financial services industries, and has been the CEO and Executive Director of Mphasis, an IT company, since 2017.
- Jerry Wind, his co-author, is an internationally famous academician who is currently Lauder Professor Emeritus and Professor of Marketing at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School.

**Thomas Vijayan Wins Nature TTL Photographer of the Year 2021**



- Kerala-based For his photograph of an Orangutan clinging to a tree, Thomas Vijayan, who is currently based in Canada, received the 2021 Nature TTL Photography Awards. The image is titled 'The World Is Turning Inside Out.'
- Vijayan was named the overall winner of the Nature TTL Photographer of the Year 2021 competition, which had over 8,000 entries and a cash prize of 1,500 pounds (Rs.1.5 lakh). Nature TTL is the world's most comprehensive web resource for nature photography.

**Arunachal Pradesh's Water Burial bags best film National Award**



- At the 67th National Films Awards 2021, Arunachal Pradesh's Water Burial won the best film National Award for environmental protection.
- Shantanu Sen, an independent filmmaker, directed the film.
- AM Television produces Water Burial.
- Water Burial is a Monpa dialect novel based on

Yeshe Dorjee Thongchi's classic Assamese novel Saba Kota Manuh. It contains an engaging tale centred on a macabre ceremony of a tribal tribe in Arunachal Pradesh.

**BAFTA TV Awards 2021 winners announced**



- The BAFTA TV Awards 2021 winners have been announced. The ceremony itself, which was shot in London's Television Centre and hosted by Richard Ayoade, was a hybrid event that followed COVID-19 protocols by allowing a number of nominees from the key performance categories to attend in person while others participated virtually.
- The British Academy Television Awards are given out every year to honour the best in British television. It has been granted every year since 1955. It is mostly used for British shows.

**Winners of BAFTA TV Awards 2021 are:**

Sl. No.	Category	Winner
1.	Leading Actress	Michaela Coel, I May Destroy You
2.	Leading Actor	Paul Mescal, Normal People
3.	Drama Series	Save Me Too

4.	Best Comedy Performance	Charlie Cooper and Aimee Lou Wood
5.	Best Comedy Series	Inside No. 9
6.	Original Music	Harry Escott, Roadkill
7.	Sports	England v West Indies Test Cricket – Sky Sports Cricket

**Zimbabwean novelist Tsitsi Dangarembga wins PEN Pinter prize 2021**



- Tsitsi Dangarembga, the Booker Award-nominated Zimbabwean writer who was jailed last year in Harare while protesting against corruption, has been given the PEN Pinter prize for her "capacity to identify and transmit crucial truths even in times of turmoil."
- Dangarembga's work, This Mournable Body, was also nominated for the 2020 Booker Prize.
- The PEN Pinter Prize was established in 2009 to honour Nobel Laureate playwright Harold Pinter.
- The annual award is granted to an author who has "a considerable collection of plays, poems, essays, or fiction of great literary worth, written in English," according to the website.

## India's Tillotama Shome wins Best Actor award at UK Asian Film Festival



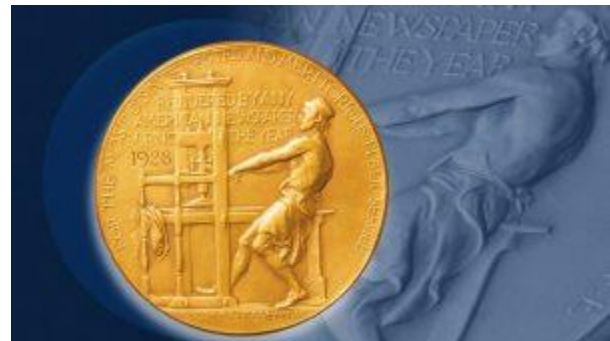
- Tillotama Shome, an Indian actor, has won the Best Actor award at the 2021 UK Asian Film Festival, bringing pride to her homeland (UKAFF). Tillotama was honoured for her performance in Raahgir: The Wayfarers.
- Goutam Ghose is the director of the film. The UK Asian Film Festival (UKAFF) 2021 was the festival's 23rd edition. In addition to Tillotama, Goutam Ghose received the Best Director prize at the UKAFF.
- Adil Hussain (Lakhua), Tillotama Shome (Nathuni), and Neeraj Kabi feature in Raahgir: The Wayfarers (Chopatlal). It's the storey of three strangers living on a daily wage who happen to cross each other's paths on a journey and form a close friendship.

## RS Sodhi conferred with Asia Pacific Productivity Champion award



- R.S. Sodhi, the Managing Director of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (Amul), received the Asia Pacific Productivity Champion award from the Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Tokyo, Japan, in appreciation of increased productivity and more efficient milk supply chain.
- In the last 20 years, he is the first Indian to get the prestigious prize. The award is given to eligible persons who have made a substantial contribution to the advancement of productivity in the Asia-Pacific region and in a specific APO member economy.
- Every five years, the APO regional awards are given out, and each country can only propose one contender out of all the nominees. Only five regional nominees are chosen every five years to receive the prize. Sodhi accepted the prize on behalf of the 3.6 million dairy producers in the United States.

## 2021 Pulitzer Prize Announced: Complete List of Winners



- The winners of the 105th class of Pulitzer Prizes for Journalism, Books, Drama, and Music for the year 2021 have been revealed. The Pulitzer Prize is an award given in the United States for achievements in newspaper, magazine, and internet journalism, literature, and musical creation.
- It is administered by Columbia University in New York City and was formed in 1917 by provisions in the will of American (Hungarian-

born) Joseph Pulitzer, who gained his wealth as a newspaper publisher.

- Each winner in twenty-two of the categories receives a certificate and a cash prize of US \$15,000 (up from \$10,000 in 2017). A gold medal is given to the winner of the public service category.

**DBS tops Forbes ‘World’s Best Banks’ list in India**



- Forbes has nominated DBS Bank to their list of the World's Best Banks for 2021. For the second year in a row, DBS was ranked first in India among 30 domestic and international banks.
- Forbes has released its third edition of the "World's Best Banks" list, which was created in collaboration with market research firm Statista.
- A total of 43,000 banking customers from all around the world were polled about their present and previous banking ties. Customers were polled on their overall satisfaction with banks as well as essential aspects such as trust, digital services, financial advice, and costs.

**IIT Roorkee prof bags NSG award for ‘blast-resistant’ helmet**



- The ‘NSG Counter-IED and Counter-Terrorism Innovator Award 2021’ was given to Shailesh Govind Ganpule, an assistant professor in the mechanical and industrial engineering department (MIED), for designing a “blast-resistant” helmet.
- The annual award by NSG was in its second year. The National Security Guard (NSG) campus in Maneswar, near Gurgaon, hosted the ceremony.
- Prof. Shailesh Ganpule's 'Blast-Resistant Helmet,' with a technology readiness of 4, is an upgraded version of ordinary helmets designed to protect military personnel from IED-induced blast waves.
- The National Security Guard established the ‘NSG Counter-IED & Counter-Terrorism Innovator Award’ for deserving innovators who have made a remarkable contribution to innovation in the Counter-IED and Counter-Terrorism domains to defend national security.

**Vinoo Mankad and 9 others inducted into ICC Hall of Fame**



- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has admitted ten legends of the game, including India's Vinoo Mankad, into its renowned Hall of Fame, with two players from each of five eras making the cut.
- The announcement comes ahead of the first World Test Championship final, which will be held in Southampton on June 18 and will



feature India and New Zealand.

Aubrey Faulkner (South Africa), Monty Noble (Australia), Sir Learie Constantine (West Indies), Stan McCabe (Australia), Ted Dexter (England), Vinoo Mankad (India), Desmond Haynes (West Indies), Bob Willis (England),

## **KK Shailaja awarded prestigious CEU Open Society Prize for 2021**



- Former Kerala Health Minister KK Shailaja has been awarded the Central European University (CEU) Open Society Prize for 2021. The medal was given to her in honour of "her steadfast leadership and community-based public health work, which helped save lives during the pandemic."
- She illustrates to the rest of the world that strong leadership, community-based public health, and clear communication can save lives. George Soros, a Hungarian-born political activist and billionaire philanthropist, founded CEU in 1991 with the goal of training future generations of scholars, professionals, politicians, and civil society leaders to "contribute to the building of open and democratic societies that respect human rights and adhere to the rule of law."

## **Sumita Mitra honoured with prestigious European Inventor Award**



- Sumita Mitra, an Indian-American chemist, has won the European Inventor Award 2021 in the category of "Non-European Patent Office countries."
- She was the first to successfully use nanotechnology into dental materials, resulting in fillings that are both tougher and more visually acceptable.
- The European Patent Office (EPO) presents the award, one of Europe's most prestigious invention honours, every year to recognise great inventors from Europe and beyond.

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



- NTPC was named India's Best Employers among Nation-Builders 2021 for the first time. The Great Places to Work Institute has named it the 'Great Place to Work' for the 15th year in a row. It is now ranked 38th. Last year, it was ranked 47th.
- It was also named India's Best Employers among Nation-Builders 2021 for the first time. The Ministry of Power oversees NTPC, a

Maharatna Community and Public Sector Unit.

- In March 2021, the PSU was also named a CII HR Excellence Role Model. It is the country's highest honour in the subject of human resource management.

## Cochin International Airport won honour in airport service quality



- The Director General's Roll of Excellence in Airport Service Quality was awarded to Cochin International Airport (CIAL) by the Airport Council International (ACI). This award is given to airports that have continuously provided great service in the eyes of passengers.
- For the past ten years, Cochin International Airport has continuously offered excellent customer service, receiving many honours. In 2021, it will be one of six airports in the world to receive recognition.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Airport Council International Headquarters location: Montreal, Canada;
- Airport Council International Founded: 1991.

### Centre releases full list of Smart Cities Awards 2020 winners

- The 'Exceptional Place to Work' designation is widely recognised as the gold standard for finding and recognising great workplaces with high levels of trust and high-performance cultures. It is the most comprehensive 'Employer of Choice' certification that the company aspires to attain.



- Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and Surat (Gujarat) won the Smart City Awards 2020 jointly for their overall progress, according to the Central Government.
- Under the Smart City Award, 2020, Uttar Pradesh came out on top among all states, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- Social Aspects, Governance, Culture, Urban Environment, Sanitation, Economy, Built Environment, Water, and Urban Mobility were among the themes covered by the Smart City awards.

### French non-fiction author Emmanuel Carrere wins top Spanish award



- The Spanish Princess of Asturias Literature

Award was given to French author Emmanuel Carrere, who is known for his high-brow nonfiction novels.

- The 50000-euro prize is one of the foundation's eight outstanding prizes named after Princess Leonor, Spain's heir to the throne. The eight prizes are divided into different categories, such as arts, social sciences, and sports.

## RK Sabharwal gets highest civilian award of Mongolia



- RK Sabharwal, Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Engineers India Limited (EIL), has been awarded Mongolia's highest civilian decoration, the Order of Polar Star, by His Excellency.
- The President of Mongolia commends him for his excellent contribution to the development of Mongolia's first oil refinery. At a ceremony held at the Mongolian Embassy, His Excellency, the Mongolian Ambassador to India, Gonching Ganbold, accepted the award on behalf of the Mongolian government.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Mongolia Capital: Ulaanbaatar;
- Mongolia Currency: Mongolian Togrog;
- Mongolia President: Ukhnaa Khurelsukh.

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- Under the Smart City Award, 2020, Uttar Pradesh came out on top among all states, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

## Journalist P Sainath wins Japan's Fukuoka Grand Prize



- Palagummi Sainath, a journalist, has been awarded the Fukuoka Grand Prize for 2021. He is a dedicated journalist who has continued to examine impoverished farming villages in India, capturing the truth of life in such communities.
- Individuals and organisations for their work in maintaining Asian culture are honoured with the prize, which was established by Fukuoka City and the Fukuoka City International Foundation in Japan. There are two other award categories, academics and culture, in addition to the Grand Prize.

## 5: Banking News

### RBI cancels licence of Shivajirao Bhosale Sahakari Bank



- Shivajirao Bhosale Sahakari Bank, situated in Pune, has had its licence revoked by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). With effect from the close of business on May 31, the bank will no longer conduct banking business.
- The bank lacks sufficient capital and earnings potential. As a result, it does not comply with the Banking Regulation Act of 1949.
- With its current financial situation, the bank would be unable to pay all of its current depositors in full, according to the RBI. From the conclusion of business on May 4, 2019, the bank was placed under RBI Directions.

### ICICI Lombard companions with Microsoft to automate audits of service calls



- The country's largest private sector general insurer, **ICICI Lombard** has tied up with **Microsoft** to strengthen and automate the

quality control processes.

- The insurer will make use of **Microsoft's Azure Speech Services and Natural Language Processing (NLP)** to screen its daily service calls made by customer service reps.
- The deployment of Azure's synthetic instruments has, amongst different issues, allowed ICICI Lombard to enhance the accuracy of its high-quality audits.
- In response to Girish Nayak, ICICI Lombard's chief expertise officer, the usage of cognitive intelligence expertise will automate high-quality checks which can in flip make their service extra environment friendly.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- ICICI Lombard CEO: Bhargav Dasgupta.
- ICICI Lombard Headquarters: Mumbai.
- ICICI Lombard Founded: 2001.

### ICICI Bank Became 2nd Globally to offer 'SWIFT gpi Instant' facility



- ICICI Bank has established a partnership with SWIFT to provide a service that allows international partner banks to transmit instant remittances on behalf of their clients to an Indian beneficiary.
- The credit is immediately credited to the beneficiary's bank account. ICICI Bank is the first bank in Asia-Pacific and the second in the world to offer the 'SWIFT gpi Instant' option for cross-border inward payments.
- We are continuing to live up to our promise to

providing customer-centric solutions that enable rapid and painless money transfers with this new service.”

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- ICICI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ICICI Bank MD & CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi.
- ICICI Bank Tagline: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka.

**RBI imposes penalty on BoI, PNB totalling Rs 6 crore**



- The Reserve Bank of India has fined Bank of India and Punjab National Bank a total of Rs 6 crores for violating RBI rules, including one pertaining to "Frauds - Classification and Reporting."
- The Bank of India has been fined Rs 4 crores, while Punjab National Bank has been fined Rs 2 crores.
- The bank had also conducted an investigation and submitted a Fraud Monitoring Report (FMR) relating to the identification of fraud in an account on January 1, 2019. Notices were issued in both cases to show cause why a penalty should not be imposed for such infractions of the directives.

**NITI Aayog recommends privatisation of Central Bank, Indian Overseas Bank**



- As part of the privatisation drive announced in the Union Budget, the NITI Aayog has suggested that the government sell its stakes in the Central Bank of India and the Indian Overseas Bank (IOB).
- In her Budget speech, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the privatisation of two public sector banks (PSBs) and one general insurance business in 2021-22.
- According to the new PSE (Public Sector Enterprise) policy for 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat,' the NITI Aayog is in charge of suggesting names for PSUs in important areas that should be merged, privatised, or made subsidiaries of other PSUs.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- NITI Aayog Formed: 1 January 2015.
- NITI Aayog Headquarters: New Delhi.
- NITI Aayog Chairperson: Narendra Modi.

**SBI launches Kavach Personal Loan for Covid-19 patients**



- The State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a no-

collateral “Kavach Personal Loan” to help clients pay for Covid therapy for themselves and family members.

- Customers can get loans up to 5 lakhs under this scheme at an effective interest rate of 8.5 percent per year for 60 months, which includes a three-month moratorium.
- As part of the Reserve Bank of India's Covid alleviation initiatives, this loan product will be included in the Covid loan book generated by banks. The financing will also cover reimbursement of previously incurred Covid-related medical expenses.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- SBI Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara.
- SBI Headquarters: Mumbai.
- SBI Founded: 1 July 1955.

**RBI: ATM cash withdrawal rule changed**



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made certain changes to the rules for cash withdrawals from automated teller machines (ATMs) (ATM).
- Higher fees on transactions that exceed the free allowable limit, a new free ATM transaction limit, and an increase in the interchange fee are among the changes to ATM cash withdrawal rules.
- Limit on free cash withdrawals from one's own bank: Customers can now use their own bank ATMs to conduct five free financial and non-

financial transactions each month.

**The new ATM charges as defined by RBI are as under:**

- **Free ATM transaction limit from other banks:** ATM cardholders can do three free financial and non-financial transactions in metro centres while five in the non-metro transaction from other bank ATMs
- **Charges on ATM cash withdrawal beyond the free limit:** RBI allowed banks to increase charges on ATM transactions beyond the free ATM transaction limit.
- **Rise in interchange fee:** Interchange fee per transaction changed from **Rs 15 to Rs 17** for financial transactions while from Rs 5 to Rs 6 for non-financial transactions in effect from August 1, 2021.
- **New charges on ATM withdrawal beyond the free transaction limit:** Bank customer will have to pay **Rs 21 (currently it is Rs 20)** for each ATM cash withdrawal beyond the free transaction limit in effect from January 1, 2022.

**IDFC FIRST Bank launches Customer COVID relief Ghar Ghar Ration Program**



- IDFC FIRST Bank has announced the establishment of the ‘Ghar Ghar Ration’ Program, a customer-funded programme for low-income clients whose livelihoods have been impacted by COVID-19.
- In addition, the bank has announced a comprehensive programme for the families of employees who died as a result of COVID-19, as well as a variety of additional social responsibility activities.
- “Ghar Ghar Ration” is a one-of-a-kind

programme in which employees contributed from their personal salary to establish a Customer COVID Care Fund to help 50,000 low-income IDFC FIRST Bank customers affected by COVID.

- The Bank's employees each gave one day's salary, which amounted to one month's salary.
- Employees are purchasing ration kits that include 10 kg rice/flour, 2 kg dal (lentils), 1 kilogramme sugar and salt, 1 kg cooking oil, 5 packets of different spices, tea and biscuits, and other staples for a small household to last roughly a month.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- IDFC FIRST Bank CEO: V. Vaidyanathan;
- IDFC FIRST Bank Headquarters: Mumbai;
- IDFC FIRST Bank Founded: October 2015.

**ICICI Bank launches 'ICICI STACK for Corporates'**



- ICICI Bank has launched 'ICICI STACK for Corporates,' a comprehensive set of digital banking products for corporations and their whole ecosystem, which includes promoters, group companies, workers, dealers, vendors, and all other stakeholders.
- The extensive selection of 360-degree solutions helps businesses to address all of their ecosystem's financial needs in a timely and frictionless manner.

**The four main pillars of the 'ICICI STACK for Corporates' are:**

- Digital banking solutions for companies;
- Digital banking services for channel partners, dealers and vendors;

- Digital banking services for employees;
- Curated services for promoters, directors and signatories.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- ICICI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ICICI Bank MD & CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi.
- ICICI Bank Tagline: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka.

**LIC CSL launches prepaid gift card in collaboration with IDBI Bank**



- In partnership with IDBI Bank, LIC Cards Services (LIC CSL) has released the 'Shagun' contactless prepaid gift card on the RuPay platform.
- The goal of this card is to grow the gift card market with the goal of promoting cashless gifting and providing a diverse range of end-use options, as well as a future entrance into the e-gift card market.
- The Shagun Gift Card was launched on the RuPay network by NPCI in collaboration with LIC CSL and IDBI Bank.
- In the beginning, the Shagun card will only be available for official use by LIC and its subsidiaries. During official conferences and functions, the card will be utilised to facilitate prizes and special rewards.
- The Shagun gift card allows for personalization by allowing for flexible loading of any value between Rs 500 and Rs 10,000. The customer can make several transactions with this card

during its three-year validity period.

- They can also use it to shop online, pay utility bills, and book airline, rail, and bus tickets, among other things, using numerous mobile wallets and E-commerce portals or apps.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- IDBI Bank CEO: Rakesh Sharma.
- IDBI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.

**SBI General Insurance and IDFC First Bank tie-up for bancassurance**



- SBI General Insurance, one of India's largest general insurers, has inked a corporate agency relationship with IDFC FIRST Bank to provide non-life insurance solutions.
- SBI general insurance will have access to IDFC first bank's larger customer base as a result of this partnership, resulting in greater penetration of its insurance products due to the latter's digital-first approach.
- SBI General Insurance will provide insurance products such as health, personal injury, home, motor, and travel to the bank's customers under this strategic collaboration, as well as commercial insurance products such as property, marine, and engineering insurance.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- IDFC First Bank Establishment: 2018;
- IDFC First Bank MD & CEO: V. Vaidyanathan;
- IDFC First Bank Headquarters; Mumbai, Maharashtra;

**SBI launches Aarogyam healthcare business loan**

- SBI general insurance MD & CEO: Prakash Chandra Kandpal;
- SBI general insurance Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- SBI general insurance Tagline: Suraksha Aur Bharosa Dono.

**Kotak Mahindra Bank launches 'Pay Your Contact' service**



- Kotak Mahindra Bank has announced the debut of a new tool called "Pay Your Contact," which allows consumers to send money or make payments to any of their contacts using any of their payment applications just by entering the beneficiary's mobile number.
- The lender's mobile banking app offers the 'Pay Your Contact' service, which runs on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform.
- The Kotak mobile banking app's 'Pay Your Contact' feature has made payments as simple as possible. Customers of Kotak can now make payments to friends, domestic help, local shops, and others simply by having the beneficiary's mobile number.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Kotak Mahindra Bank Establishment: 2003;
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- Kotak Mahindra Bank MD & CEO: Uday Kotak;
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Tagline: Let's Make Money Simple.





- To help the healthcare sector cope with the epidemic, the State Bank of India (SBI) has created the Aarogyam healthcare business loan.
- The country's largest state-owned bank is offering loans up to Rs 100 crore (depending on geographic location) to the entire healthcare ecosystem, including hospitals, nursing homes, diagnostic centres, pathology labs, manufacturers, suppliers, importers, and logistic firms engaged in critical healthcare supply.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- SBI Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara.
- SBI Headquarters: Mumbai.
- SBI Founded: 1 July 1955.

**SBI Card partners with Fabindia to launch Fabindia SBI Card**



- SBI Card, India's second-largest credit card issuer, and Fabindia, a retail platform for a wide selection of handcrafted products by the country's artisans, have teamed up to develop the "Fabindia SBI Card," an exclusive co-

branded contactless credit card.

- The card is available in two versions: Fabindia SBI Card SELECT and Fabindia SBI Card. It is developed with tailored rewards and privileges to provide a satisfying shopping experience to its premium consumers.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- SBI Card MD and CEO: Rama Mohan Rao Amara;
- SBI Card Founded: October 1998;
- SBI Card Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana.

**LIC introduces Technology Platform 'e-PGS'**



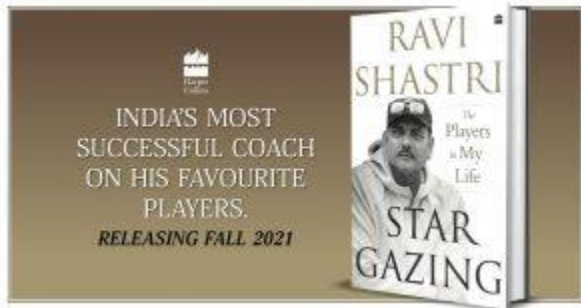
- The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has introduced "e-PGS," a centralised web-based workflow-based IT platform.
- e-PGS, the new technological platform, is meant to enable centralised collection and payment accounting with high bank connectivity. It was created with the goal of providing cutting-edge features such as smooth and integrated banking, as well as automatic reconciliations.
- Through the customer portal, this system can provide extensive self-service capabilities. Corporate customers will be able to access their data, initiate actionable actions, and lodge and track claims through this platform.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Chairman of LIC: MR Kumar;
- LIC Headquarters: Mumbai;
- LIC Founded: 1 September 1956.

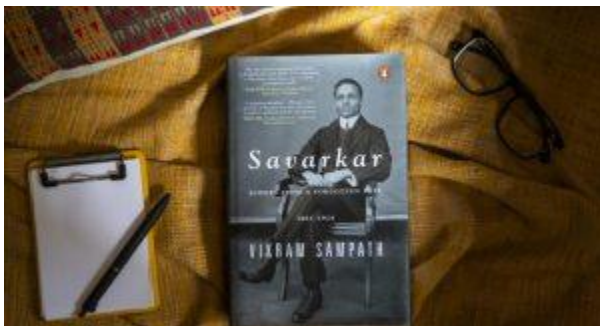
## 6: Books and Author

### Ravi Shastri's Debut Book Titled 'Stargazing: The Players in My Life'



- Ravi Shastri, a cricket all-rounder, commentator, and coach, has written a book titled 'Stargazing: The Players in My Life,' which is his first foray into publication.
- HarperCollins India is the publisher of the book. Ayaz Memon contributed as a co-author. On June 25, 2021, it is expected to be launched.
- Shastri has written about 60 exceptional people he has met from all across the world who have inspired him in the book.

### A book title 'Savarkar: A contested Legacy (1924-1966) authored by Vikram Sampath



- Vikram Sampath, a renowned historian and author, has published the second and last volume of his book on Veer Savarkar's life and works, titled "Savarkar: A Contested Legacy (1924-1966)."
- The book will be published by Penguin Random

House India and will be available on July 26, 2021.

- "Savarkar: Echoes from a Forgotten Past," the first volume, was published in 2019 and chronicled Savarkar's life from his birth in 1883 through his conditional release from prison in 1924.
- The second volume will cover Vinayak Damodar Savarkar's life and career from 1924 to 1966, the year he died.

### A book title '1232 km: The Long Journey Home' by Vinod Kapri

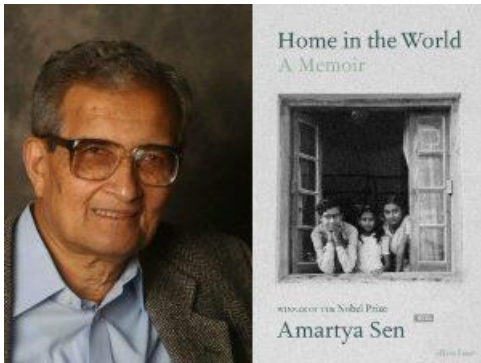


- A new book by filmmaker Vinod Kapri, titled "1232 km: The Long Experience Home," depicts the journey of seven migrant workers from Bihar who rode their bicycles back home and arrived seven days later.
- Harper Collins is the publisher of the book. Thousands of migrant labourers were compelled to return to their original communities by walking thousands of kilometres during the statewide lockdown in

March 2020.

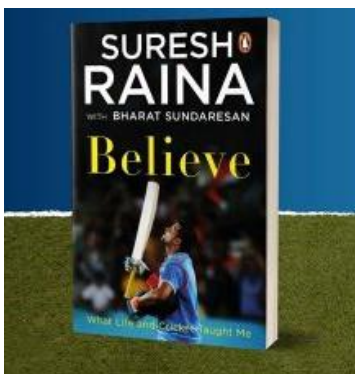
- Ritesh, Ashish, Ram Babu, Sonu, Krishna, Sandeep, and Mukesh were among the seven migrant labourers that accompanied Kapri on their 1,232-kilometer journey from Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, to Saharsa, Bihar.

**‘Home in the World’ Book: by Amartya Sen’s memoir**



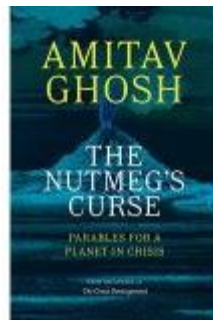
- Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, one of the world's greatest public intellectuals, has written a memoir titled "Home in the World."
- Penguin Random House will release the book in July. Sen explains in this book how Rabindranath Tagore gave him the name Amartya.
- He also recalls conversations he had in Calcutta's famed Coffee House and at Cambridge, as well as Marx's, Keynes', and Arrow's ideas, all of which influenced his thinking.

**Cricketer Suresh Raina releases his autobiography ‘Believe’**



- Suresh Raina, a former Indian cricketer, has published his autobiography, "Believe - What Life and Cricket Taught Me."
- Bharat Sundaresan co-wrote the book, and Suresh Raina described his journey for India, including the golden word (Believe) from Sachin Tendulkar, which he tattooed on his bicep.
- The cricketer gave an insight into his career, including success, failure, injuries, setbacks, and how he overcame them.
- He discussed how the BCCI, veteran players, and an Air India scholarship helped him develop as a cricketer while he was a student.
- He also said it was an honour to be crowned India's finest fielder by former South Africa great Jonty Rhodes, and that he gained a lot from playing with Yuvraj Singh, Mohd Kaif, Gautam Gambhir, and Rahul Dravid.
- He detailed the value of hope, love, work, and camaraderie in the book, which helped him become one of the world's most respected white-ball batsmen.

**Amitav Ghosh’s new book ‘The Nutmeg’s Curse’**



- Amitav Ghosh, a Jnanpith Awardee and acclaimed novelist, has written a book called "The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis." John Murray is the publisher.
- Through the storey of the nutmeg, the book explores the history of colonialism's impact on the world today.
- Ghosh explores how the nutmeg's voyage from

its native Banda islands provides insight on a common colonial mindset of exploitation of human life and the environment, which is still present today, in his book "The Nutmeg's Curse." The Ibis trilogy and 'The Great Derangement,' for example, are two of Ghosh's other significant works.

**Naveen Patnaik releases Bishnupada Sethi's 'Beyond Here and Other Poems'**



- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has presented 'Beyond Here and Other Poems,' a collection of poems authored by senior official Bishnupada Sethi. It's a collection of 61 poems that depict a wide range of life experiences, death perceptions, and philosophical thought.
- The foreword was written by renowned writer Haraprasad Das. Eminent artist Gajendra Sahu created the cover design for the 161-page book.

**Tahira Kashyap Khurrana announces new book 'The 7 Sins of Being A Mother'**



- Tahira Kashyap Khurrana, a filmmaker and writer, has announced the release of "The 7 Sins of Being a Mother," a book about parenthood.
- This is her sixth novel, and her second after the

outbreak. The director released 12 Commandments of Being a Woman last year, which she completed amid the coronavirus-induced shutdown.

- Cracking The Code: My Journey in Bollywood and Souled Out are two of the author's other works.

**Arvind Gaur releases book 'Habba Khatoon' written by Kajal Suri**



- Personality in the theatre Kajal Suri's novel "Habba Khatoon" has been published by Arvind Gaur.
- Sanjana Prakashan published the book "Habba Khatoon." Habba Khatoon was a Kashmiri poet and ascetic who earned the honorary title of "The Nightingale of Kashmir." She was the last Emperor of Kashmir's wife, Yousuf Shah Chak.

**Actor Will Smith announced his autobiography 'Will'**



- Will Smith's planned book, "Will," has been given a title and a cover. Penguin Press will release the book on November 9th.
- Will Smith collaborated on the book alongside

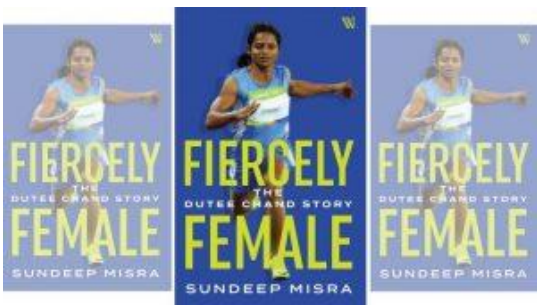
author Mark Manson, while New Orleans artist Brandan “BMike” Odums drew the cover. Smith will also be the narrator of Penguin Random House Audio's Will audiobook.

**Ruskin Bond’s book titled ‘It’s a wonderful Life’ launched**



- Ruskin Bond, an Indian British author, has written a new book called "It's a Wonderful Life," which is published by Aleph Book Company.
- The book is written in a non-fictional, observant, inspiring, deeply touching style. He has been awarded the Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan awards.

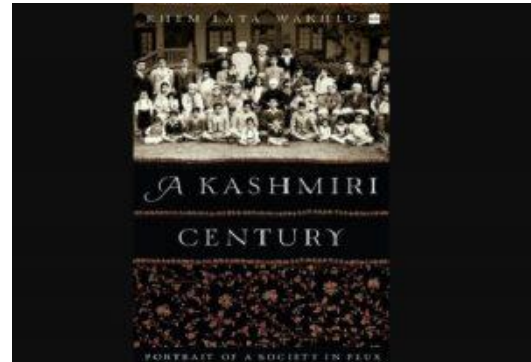
**A book titled “Fiercely Female: The Dutee Chand Story” by Sundeep Mishra**



- Sundeep Mishra's book, "Fiercely Female: The Dutee Chand Story," is a thorough account of Chand's journey, including the gender-identity debate that made her a famous figure in Indian sport.
- Dutee Chand, who hails from a small hamlet in Odisha, holds the national record in the

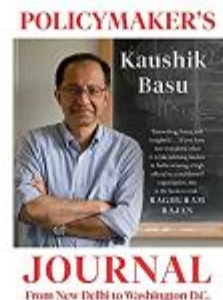
women's 100m and is only the sixth Indian to compete in the women's 100m at the Olympics, having qualified for the 2016 Rio Games.

**A book titled “Kashmiri Century: Portrait of a Society in Flux” released**



- Khemlata Wakhlu's book "Kashmiri Century: Portrait of a Society in Transition." She is a writer, a politician, and a social worker who has dedicated the past fifty years to improving the lives of many people in Jammu and Kashmir.
- A Kashmiri Century is an exceptional collection of human-interest stories.

**A book titled “Policymaker’s Journal: From New Delhi to Washington, DC” by Kaushik Basu**



- Kaushik Basu's book "Policymaker's Journal: From New Delhi to Washington, DC" will be released soon. This book follows Kaushik Basu's career as he transitioned from the ivory towers of academia to the fast-paced world of policymaking, first in India as Chief Economic Adviser to the Indian Government and then in Washington as Chief Economist at the World Bank.

**7: Defence News**

**NATO Conduct Steadfast Defender 21 war Games**



- As tensions with Russia rise, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is holding “Steadfast Defender 21 war games” military exercises in Europe.
- These war simulations are being held with the goal of modelling how a 30-nation military organisation would react if one of its members was attacked. Its goal is to see how well NATO can deploy soldiers from the United States.
- Top NATO officials stress that the military drills, which involve 9,000 troops from 20 nations, are not intended at Russia specifically, but rather at the Black Sea region, where Russia is accused of obstructing ship passage.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- NATO Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium.
- NATO Chairman of the NATO Military Committee: Air Chief Marshal Stuart Peach.
- Member countries of NATO: 30; Founded: 4 April 1949.

**Navy’s Hydrographic Survey Ship Sandhayak To Be Decommissioned**



- Sandhayak, the Indian Navy's hydrographic survey ship, will be retired after 40 years of service.
- The decommissioning ceremony for the INS Sandhayak will take place at the navy dockyard in Visakhapatnam, and will be a low-key affair with only in-station officials and sailors in attendance and strict adherence to COVID-19 rules.
- During its commissioned service, the ship conducted over 200 major hydrographic surveys and several minor surveys around the country's east and west coasts, in the Andaman Seas, and in neighbouring nations.

**US to hand over three MH-60 ‘Romeo’ multi-role choppers to India**



- The Indian Navy will acquire its first set of multi-role helicopters in July, when three MH-60 Romeo helicopters are delivered to the service in the United States. The first group of Indian pilots has arrived in the United States for

training on the helicopters that will arrive in India in July of next year.

- Under fast track protocols on a government-to-government agreement, India and the US agreed to buy 24 MH-60 Romeo helicopters from Lockheed Martin in 2020 for over Rs 16,000 crore.
- The 24 MH-60 Romeos would be outfitted with Hellfire missiles, torpedoes, and precision-guided armament, as well as multi-mode radars and night-vision sensors.
- The helicopters can be launched from frigates, destroyers, cruisers, or aircraft carriers.
- The choppers are designed to hunt submarines, knock out ships, and conduct search-and-rescue missions at sea.
- India and the United States are also negotiating to finalise a contract to buy 30 Predator drones to improve the three countries' striking capability.

**Indian Navy inducted three ALH MK III advanced light helicopters**



- The Indian Navy has added three ALH MK-III sophisticated light helicopters produced in India to their fleet.
- These helicopters, which were developed at the Indian Naval Station (INS) Dega near Visakhapatnam by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, will be utilised for maritime reconnaissance and coastal security.

- Modern surveillance radar and electro-optical technology are installed in these helicopters. It allows them to conduct search and rescue operations at all hours of the day and night. It also has a detachable medical intensive care unit (ICU) that can be used to evacuate severely ill patients. It can also carry out law enforcement tasks.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited: CMD: R Madhavan;
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited HQ: Bengaluru, Karnataka.

**Indo-Thai CORPAT Begins in Andaman Sea**



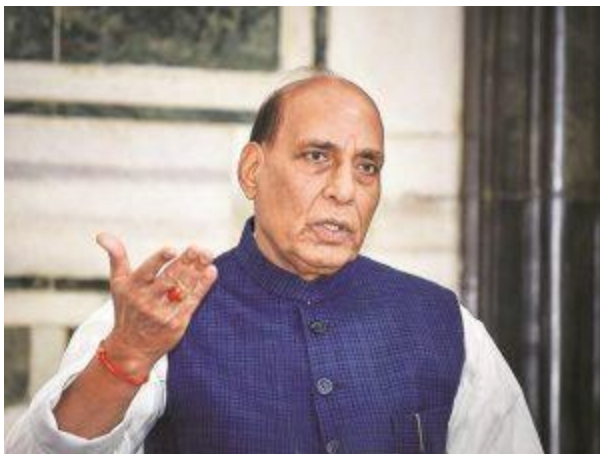
- The 31st iteration of the India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) began in the Andaman Sea on June 9, 2021.
- From June 9 to 11, 2021, the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy will conduct a three-day coordinated patrol.
- CORPAT features an indigenously built Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Saryu, from the Indian Navy, and HTMS Krabi from the Thai Navy, as well as Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both navies.
- Since 2005, the two fleets have been conducting CORPAT exercises bi-annually along their International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL).

- CORPAT improves fleets' understanding and interoperability while also developing ways to prevent and combat illegal activities such as IUU fishing, drug trafficking, maritime terrorism, armed robbery, and piracy.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Thailand Capital: Bangkok;
- Thailand Currency: Thai baht.

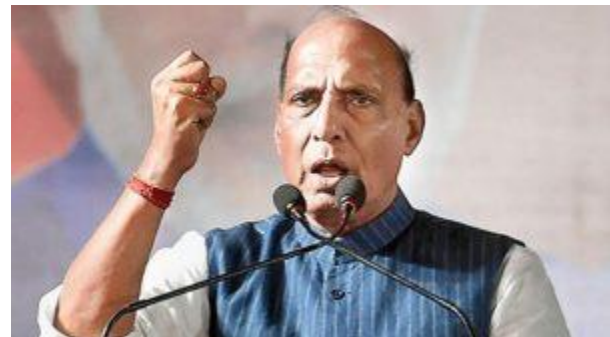
**Defence Minister Approves Budgetary Support of Rs 499 cr for innovations**



- The budgetary support of Rs 498.8 crore for iDEX-DIO (Innovations for Defence Excellence – Defence Innovation Organisation) for the next five years has been granted by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- With a greater goal of assuring self-reliance in the defence sector, the funds will be utilised to provide financial support to roughly 300 start-ups, micro, small and medium companies (MSMEs), and individual innovators.
- The programme is in line with the government's efforts to reduce military hardware and weapon imports and turn India into a defence manufacturing hub.
- Allow for faster development of new, indigenous, and innovative technology for the Indian defence and aerospace sectors.

- To stimulate co-creation in the defence and aerospace sectors, foster a culture of engagement with creative entrepreneurs.
- Encourage a culture of co-creation and co-innovation in the defence and aerospace industries.

**Rajnath Singh approves new policy for declassification of war history**



- The Ministry of Defence's policy on archiving, declassification, compilation, and release of war and operations histories has been authorised by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh (MoD).
- Declassification of past wars, such as the 1962 conflict, is not automatic and will be decided on a case-by-case basis by a committee to be formed under the new approach.
- Records should be declassified every 25 years, according to the regulation.
- Once the war/operations histories have been compiled, records older than 25 years should be handed to the National Archives of India. It should, however, be examined by archival professionals first.
- Older wars, such as the Henderson Brooks report on the 1962 war with China and Operation Bluestar in 1984, are not automatically declassified. It is handled on a case-by-case basis by a committee that will be formed as part of the policy.

**India, Japan conduct bilateral naval exercise in Indian**



**Ocean**



- In the Indian Ocean, ships from the Indian Navy and the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) took part in a cooperative naval exercise to actualize the “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP).”
- In the Indian Ocean, JS KASHIMA (TV3508) and JS SETOYUKI (TV3518) performed a bilateral exercise with INS KULISH (P63). India and Japan's naval cooperation has grown in scope and complexity over the years.
- India and Japan's naval cooperation has grown in scope and complexity over the years. In September of last year, the Indian Navy and the JMSDF held a three-day naval exercise called JIMEX-2020. JIMEX, the India-Japan maritime bilateral exercise, was in its fourth edition.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Japan Capital: Tokyo;
- Japan Currency: Japanese yen;
- Japan Prime minister: Yoshihide Suga.

**Mawya Sudan becomes IAF’s 1st woman fighter pilot from J&K**



- Flying Officer Mawya Sudan is the first woman from Jammu and Kashmir to join the Indian Air Force as a fighter pilot (IAF). She is the 12th woman to be inducted into the IAF as a fighter pilot.
- Mawya, 24, is from Lamberi village, which is located close the Line of Control (LoC) in the Rajouri district of Jammu division.
- On June 19, 2021, during the Combined Graduation parade event at the Airforce Academy in Hyderabad, Mawya was commissioned as a fighter pilot. She will now spend nearly a year in intensive fighter training to become "fully operational" as a fighter pilot.

**Indian Navy and European Naval Force hold first joint exercise**



- The Indian Navy is taking part in a combined exercise with the European Union Naval Force for the first time (EUNAVFOR). The stealth frigate INS Trikand, which is currently stationed in the Gulf of Aden on anti-piracy operations, will take part in the two-day drill.
- The exercise's goal is to improve and perfect their warfighting skills as well as their capacity to work together as an integrated force to maintain maritime peace, security, and stability. Other naval forces present include those from Italy, Spain, and France, in addition to the Indian Navy.
- Advanced air defence and anti-submarine exercises, tactical manoeuvres, Search and Rescue, and other maritime security activities

were all part of the navy exercise.

**India’s first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier to be commissioned in 2022**



- India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, the IAC-1, is expected to be commissioned by 2022, according to Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- The carrier will be renamed INS Vikrant once it is commissioned, in honour of India's first aircraft carrier.
- The IAC-1 carrier is being built as part of a public-private collaboration at the Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) in Kochi, Kerala.
- From design to steel used in construction to crucial weapons and sensors, it contains about 75% indigenous stuff.
- Before being inducted into the Navy, the IAC-1 will go through a series of sea testing.
- Vikrant is 262 metres long (860 feet) and 62 metres wide (203 feet), with a displacement of 40,000 metric tonnes (39,000 long tons).

**DRDO Successfully Test Fires Enhanced Pinaka Rocket Off Odisha Coast**



- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested a longer-range version of the Pinaka rocket, which was created in-house. The rockets were fired from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha, using a Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL).
- The Pinaka Rocket System's expanded range variant can destroy objects up to 45 kilometres away. 25 Enhanced Pinaka Rockets were launched in rapid succession at a variety of targets at varied ranges.
- The Pinaka Rocket system was developed in collaboration between the Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) in Pune and the High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL) in Nagpur, with manufacturing support from M/s Economic Explosives Limited.

## 8: Economy

### OECD estimate growth cut of India to 9.9% FY22



- The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has lowered India's growth forecast for Fiscal Year 2022 to 9.9%. It predicted 12.6 percent growth in March.
- The rate was decreased as a result of a series of lockdowns that threatened to stymie India's nascent economic recovery.
- According to the OECD, "the epidemic can be halted swiftly, but GDP (gross domestic product) growth will remain around 10% in 2021-22 and 8% in 2022-23."

#### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- OECD Headquarters: Paris, France;
- OECD Founded: 30 September 1961.

### SBI Economists Revises GDP Growth Estimate in FY22 to 7.9%



- In its research study "Ecowrap," SBI researchers drastically reduced GDP growth predictions for the Indian economy to 7.9% in FY22, down from a previous projection of 10.4%. Among all

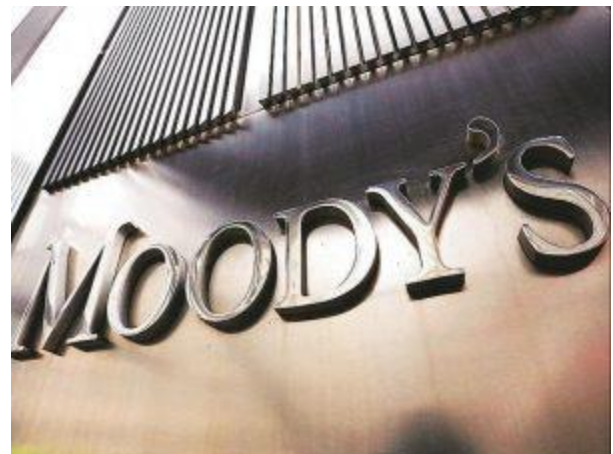
analysts, this is the lowest growth rate forecast for India.

- The impact of the second wave of COVID-19 infections is the most important factor in revising the growth estimate.
- Instead of the expected "V-shaped" rebound in FY22, SBI economists predict a "W-shaped" recovery with two troughs.

#### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- SBI Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara.
- SBI Headquarters: Mumbai.
- SBI Founded: 1 July 1955.

### Moody's Projects Indian Economy to grow 9.3% in FY22

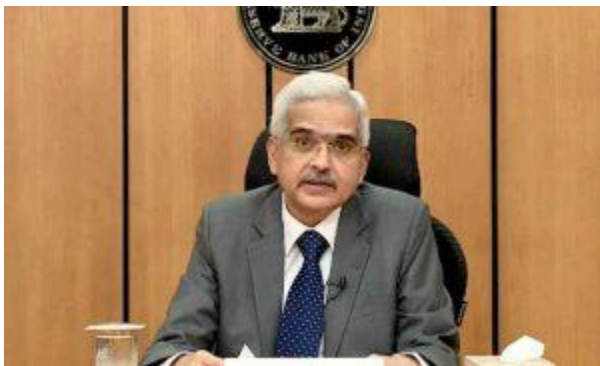


- According to Moody's Investors Service, India's economy would grow by 9.3% in the current fiscal year, but the second Covid-19 wave has added risks to the country's outlook, potentially affecting longer-term credit.
- According to Moody's Investors Service, the Indian economy's GDP growth rate will be: 9.3 percent in 2021-22 (FY22); 7.9 percent in 2022-23 (FY23).
- In terms of sovereign ratings, Moody's has

assigned India a negative outlook and a 'Baa3' rating.

- According to the report, the economy quickly recovered from a sharp downturn in 2020. However, the shock of the coronavirus second wave has increased vulnerabilities to India's credit profile, such as a sustained slowdown in GDP, inadequate government finances, and mounting financial sector risks.

**RBI Governor Addressed On RBI Monetary Policy 2021**



- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) six-member monetary policy committee, led by Governor Shaktikanta Das, agreed to hold key lending rates unchanged for the sixth time in a row during its June 2021 policy review meeting, which took place between June 2 and 4, 2021.
- The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has decided to maintain its accommodative stance until COVID-19's impact is mitigated. The MPC's next meeting is slated for August 4–6, 2021.

**The Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and bank rates remain unchanged:**

- Policy Repo Rate: 4.00%
- Reverse Repo Rate: 3.35%
- Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 4.25%
- Bank Rate: 4.25%
- CRR: 4%

- SLR: 18.00%

**RBI Monetary Policy Highlights & Key Decisions:**

- The RBI also lowered its GDP growth prediction for FY22 from 10.5 percent to 9.5 percent, down from 10.5 percent previously.
- Growth, on the other hand, is a greater worry. In FY21, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) shrank by 7.3 percent.
- SBI experts recently slashed their FY22 GDP growth forecasts to 7.9% from 10.4% previously.
- Governor of the Reserve Bank of India Shaktikanta Das forecasted Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation of 5.1 percent in FY 2021-22.
- To assist the market, G-SAP 2.0 worth 1.2 lakh crore will be taken in the second quarter of FY22.
- The rupee ended a three-day losing trend versus the US dollar by closing 18 paise higher at 72.91.

**GST collections at Rs 1.03 lakh crore for May**



- May's goods and service tax revenues totaled Rs 1,02,709 crore, marking the eighth month in a row that receipts had above Rs 1 lakh crore.
- Despite many states being under lockdown owing to the Covid epidemic, receipts were 65 percent greater than GST revenues in the same

month.

- May GST collections were also down 27.6% from April's record figure of Rs 1.41 lakh crore, which was the greatest monthly collection since the countrywide tax was introduced.

**List of GST Collection previous months:**

- April 2021: ₹1.41 lakh crore(All-time Highest)
- March 2021: Rs. 1.24lacs cr.
- Feb 2021: Rs 1,13,143 crore
- January 2021: ₹ 1,19,847 crore

**World Bank projects India to grow at 8.3 per cent in 2021**



**WORLD BANK**

- According to the World Bank, India's economy would increase by 8.3% in 2021 and 7.5 percent in 2022.
- A massive second COVID-19 wave in India is weakening the sharper-than-expected increase in activity witnessed during the second half of Fiscal Year 2020/21, especially in services, according to the Washington-based global lender's latest edition of Global Economic Prospects.
- According to the World Bank, India is anticipated to increase by 6.5 percent in 2023.

**Crisil Projects India’s GDP Growth for FY22 to 9.5%**



- Crisil, India's domestic credit rating agency, has lowered its GDP growth forecast for FY22 (2021-22) to 9.5 percent from 11 percent previously.
- According to CRISIL, the economy shrank by 7.3 percent in FY21.
- The downward revision is mostly due to the impact of COVID-19's second wave on private consumption and investment.

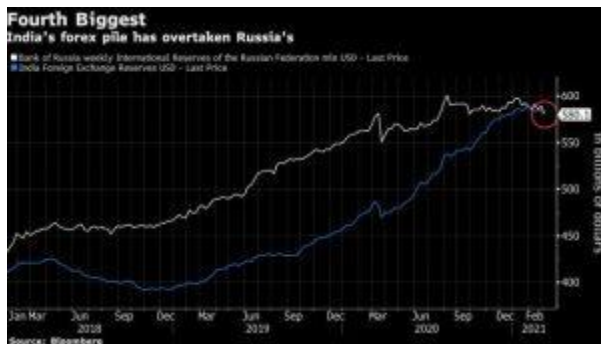
**ICRA projects GDP growth of India at 8.5% in FY 2022**



- India's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to rise at an annual pace of 8.5 percent in fiscal year 2021-22, according to the domestic credit rating agency ICRA.
- It forecasts a 7.3% increase in gross value added (GVA) at basic prices (at constant 2011-12 prices) in FY2022. Moody's Corporation owns ICRA, a credit rating agency based in Gurgaon.

**India ties with Russia as 4th largest forex reserves**

**holder**



- According to figures from the Reserve Bank of India, India's foreign exchange reserves have surpassed \$600 billion for the first time.
- In the week ending June 4, 2021, India's foreign exchange reserves climbed by USD 6.842 billion to \$605.008 billion.
- This is India's all-time high in terms of foreign assets. With this, India has surpassed Russia as the world's fourth largest reserve holding. Russia's foreign exchange reserves are estimated to be \$605.2 billion.

**India's retail inflation touches 6.3% in May**



- After falling to a three-month low of 4.23 percent in April, India's retail inflation rose to a six-month high of 6.3 percent in May. Inflation has broken the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) goal range for the first time in five months, according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
- As part of its inflation objective, the RBI is required to keep the important metric at 4% in the medium term, with a 2 percentage point range on each side.
- Food inflation increased to 5% in May from 2%

in April, according to National Statistical Office data, as prices of protein goods such as meat, fish, eggs, oils, and fats increased.

- After the state election results on May 2, the government hiked retail prices of gasoline and diesel, resulting in an 11.6 percent rise in the fuel bill. During the second wave of the pandemic, service inflation soared as the cost of health, transportation, and personal care increased.

**Wholesale inflation hits record high of 12.94% in May**



- On rising crude oil and manufactured goods prices, wholesale price-based inflation advanced to a new high of 12.94% in May. The low base effect also played a role in the May 2021 rise in WPI inflation.
- WPI inflation was (-) 3.37 percent in May 2020. WPI inflation reached double digits in April 2021, at 10.49 percent.

**CII projects India's FY22 GDP growth at 9.5%**



- India's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to rise at 9.5 percent in the current

fiscal year, FY 2021-22, according to the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). This will bring GDP up to somewhat higher levels than in FY20.

## PAN to be declared 'INOPERATIVE' if not linked before June 30, 2021



- Due to the problems caused by the ongoing Covid epidemic, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) recently extended the deadline to connect Permanent Account Number (PAN) with Aadhaar number to June 30, 2021. Now that the deadline is rapidly approaching, here are some criteria to remember.
- PAN cards that are not linked to Aadhaar after June 30, 2021, will be termed "inoperative," and a penalty of Rs 1,000 may be imposed, according to the new Section 234H of the Income-tax Act 1961, which was just adopted during Budget 2021. The person, on the other hand, will be treated as an individual without a PAN card.

## No tax on cash deposits made by housewives during demo 2016



- The Agra bench of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), consisting of Judicial Member Lalit Kumar and Accountant Member Dr Mitha Lal Meena, has ruled that cash deposits made

by housewives during the demonetization scheme 2016 are not subject to addition if the amount is less than Rs 2.5 lakh, and the amount is not treated as income of the assessee.

## Finance Ministry allows HFCs above Rs 100 cr to use to SARFAESI law



- Housing finance companies (HFCs) with assets of over Rs. 100 crore are now allowed to recover debts under the SARFAESI statute, according to the Ministry of Finance. This decision is considered to be a boon to thousands of tiny HFCs, as it will make it easier to recover past-due debts and encourage them to lend more.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs: Nirmala Sitharaman.

## Moody's Revises India's GDP growth rate to 9.6%



- Moody's Investors Service has lowered India's growth forecast for the calendar year 2021 to 9.6%, down from 13.9 percent previously. GDP growth is expected to be 7% in the calendar year 2022.
- High-frequency economic indicators reveal that

the second wave of COVID-19 infections affected India's economy in April and May, according to Moody's research, "Macroeconomics India: Economic shocks from second COVID wave would not be as severe as last year's."

**S&P Projects India's Growth Forecast for FY22 to 9.5%**



- S&P Global Ratings lowered India's FY22 growth prediction for the current fiscal year to 9.5 percent from 11 percent previously, citing the risk of subsequent COVID pandemic waves. India's growth is expected to be 7.8% in the fiscal year ending March 31, 2023, according to the report.
- The agency decreased its growth forecast, citing a severe second COVID-19 epidemic in April and May, which resulted in state-imposed lockdowns and a dramatic drop in economic activity.

**India's bank credit-to-GDP ratio grows 56% in 2020**



- Despite incremental credit growth hitting a 59-year low of 5.56 percent in FY21, the bank credit-to-GDP ratio surged to a five-year high of little over 56 percent in 2020, according to the latest Bank for International Settlements figures (BIS).
- According to BIS data for the year, total outstanding bank credit in the country stood at USD 1.52 trillion in 2020, the second-lowest among all Asian peers, with a credit-to-GDP ratio of 56.075 percent.
- In developing market peers, it is 135.5 percent, whereas in advanced economies, it is 88.7 percent. The expansion of bank credit is an important measure of economic growth, and a credit-to-GDP ratio of 100 percent is optimal.

**Ind-Ra revises India's GDP growth rate for FY22 at 9.6%**



- India's GDP growth rate for fiscal year FY22 (2021-22) is anticipated to be 9.6%, according to India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra).
- The rating agency had previously expected this to be 10%. This rate, however, is predicated on India's adult population being vaccinated by December 31, 2021.



**9: International News**

**WHO names Covid-19 variants first found in India as 'Kappa' and 'Delta'**



- Two forms of the Covid-19, first discovered in India, have been given easy-to-say designations by the United Nations' World Health Organization (WHO). B.1.617.1 and B.1.617.2 are the two versions.
- The Covid 19 B.1.617.1 variety is known as 'Kappa,' whereas the B1.617.2 form is known as 'Delta.'
- The nomenclature of these variations is intended to aid public conversation regarding VOI/VOC rather than to replace the existing scientific names of these #SARSCoV2 Variants of Concern (VOCs) & Interest (VOIs).

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- WHO was established on 7 April 1948.
- WHO is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health.
- WHO is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- WHO current President is Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

**Isaac Herzog Elected as President of Israel**



- Isaac Herzog, a veteran Israeli politician, was elected President of the country on June 1, 2021, during the 120-member legislative election.
- Herzog, who is 60 years old, will be Israel's 11th President, taking office on July 9, 2021. He will succeed Reuven Rivlin, who will leave office in July 2021 after serving for seven years.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Prime Minister of Israel: Benjamin Netanyahu.
- Israel Capital: Jerusalem.
- Israel Currency: Israeli Shekel.

**China reports first human case of H10N3 bird flu**



- According to China's National Health Commission, a 41-year-old male in the eastern province of Jiangsu has been confirmed as the

first human case of bird flu infection with the H10N3 strain (NHC).

- The man, a Zhenjiang resident, was admitted to the hospital on April 28 after acquiring a fever and other symptoms. He was found to be infected with the H10N3 avian influenza virus.
- In poultry, H10N3 is a low pathogenic, or less severe, strain of the virus, and the risk of it spreading on a broad scale was quite low.
- In China, there are many distinct strains of avian influenza, and some of them sporadically infect people, generally individuals who interact with poultry.
- Since the H7N9 variant killed roughly 300 people in 2016-2017, there have been no substantial numbers of human illnesses with bird flu.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- China Capital: Beijing.
- China Currency: Renminbi.
- China President: Xi Jinping.

### China developed a combined air defence system along LAC



- Along the Line of Actual Control, China has developed an integrated air defence system (LAC). The combined air defence system was created in collaboration with elements of the Western Theatre Command's air force and

army.

- China has established an integrated army air defence system along its western frontiers for the first time.
- The unified air defence system was created with the goal of bringing all army and air force assets under one command. China has boosted the number of airbases and heliports located near the LAC since 2017.

### Bill Gates and EU pledge \$1 billion boost for green technology



- The European Union and a Bill Gates-founded energy investment initiative want to gather up to \$1 billion to help Europe implement low-carbon technologies in order to reach its climate change targets.
- Breakthrough Energy, which was founded by Bill Gates, would employ private cash and charity contributions to match EU financing.
- From 2022 to 2026, the goal is to raise up to 820 million euros (\$1 billion).
- Hydrogen produced from renewable energy, sustainable aviation fuels, CO2 absorption technology, and long-duration energy storage will all be supported.
- These technologies are important for reducing emissions from heavy industry and aviation, but they are too expensive to scale up without help and compete with cheaper fossil fuel

alternatives.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- European Union Headquarters  
location: Brussels, Belgium;
- European Union Founded: 1 November 1993.

**United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration:  
2021-2030**



- The United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, which will run from 2021 to 2030, has been officially begun.
- The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will co-lead the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (FAO). The United Nations General Assembly declared it in a resolution passed in 2019.
- Millions of hectares of ecosystems around the world are being protected and restored for the benefit of people and environment. As a result, the achievement of all of the Sustainable Development Goals will be aided.
- For the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, a Multi-Partner Trust Fund has also been established. Germany is the first country to contribute 14 million euros to this fund.
- A paper defining the need for such a worldwide

restoration effort has also been produced to support the commencement of the UN Decade.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA.
- Mr Antonio Guterres is the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

**Maldivian minister Abdullah Shahid elected President of 76th UNGA**



- Abdullah Shahid, the Maldivian foreign minister, was elected President of the 76th United Nations General Assembly (PGA) by a landslide. He received 143 votes in favour and 48 votes against, giving him a three-fourths majority.
- The presidency of the United Nations General Assembly was alternated among regional groups on a yearly basis. The Asia-Pacific group will host the 76th session (2021-22), and this will be the first time the Maldives has held the PGA office.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- President of the Maldives: Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.
- Capital of Maldives: Male; Currency of the Maldives: Maldivian Rufiyaa.

**G7 deal on Minimum Global Corporate Tax**



- The advanced economies of the Group of Seven (G7) have signed a historic agreement on multinational corporation taxation.
- According to the agreement, the global tax rate must be at least 15%.
- Finance ministers from the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany, Canada, France, Italy, and Japan signed the pact.
- It allows charges on multinational corporations in nations where they operate rather than merely where they are based.

## Interpol launches "I-Familia" to identify missing persons



- Interpol has established a new worldwide database called "I-Familia" to help police solve cold cases in member countries by identifying missing people using family DNA.
- In a statement, Interpol described it as a "groundbreaking database" that "used cutting-edge scientific research and utilised the DNA of families to locate missing persons or

unidentified human remains around the world."

- I-Familia is a global database that uses family DNA to track down missing people. It will assist authorities in member countries in solving cases.
- Interpol employs cutting-edge scientific research and relatives' DNA to locate missing people and unidentified human remains all around the world.
- In most circumstances, DNA kinship matching is performed when a direct sample of the missing person is not available.

## Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Interpol President: Kim Jong Yang;
- Interpol Founded: 7 September 1923.
- Interpol Headquarters: Lyon, France, Motto: "Connecting police for a safer world".

## El Salvador becomes first country to adopt bitcoin as legal tender



- El Salvador has become the first country in the world to recognise bitcoin as legal cash. In 90 days, the usage of bitcoin as legal money will be legal.
- The economy of El Salvador is strongly reliant

on remittances, therefore anyone working abroad can send money home in bitcoins.

- Bitcoin usage will be entirely optional. It will boost the country's financial inclusion, investment, tourism, innovation, and economic development.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- El Salvador Capital: San Salvador; Currency: United States Dollar;
- President of El Salvador: Nayib Bukele.

**Russian navy building first fully stealth warship**



- Russia is creating the world's first stealth naval ship, which will be difficult to detect.
- The hull of the Mercury naval corvette, code-named Project 20386, has already been completed, and the ship will be delivered to the navy next year. The cruise missiles, anti-air missiles, and artillery will be aboard the vessel.
- The naval ship has the ability to locate and destroy submarines. Military assets such as ships and planes can use stealth technology to avoid being detected by radar.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Russia President: Vladimir Putin.
- Russia Capital: Moscow.
- Russia Currency: Russian Ruble.

**Ex-Mongolian prime minister Khurelsukh won presidential election**



- With a landslide victory, former Mongolian Prime Minister Ukhnaa Khurelsukh was elected the country's sixth democratically elected president, consolidating the power of the ruling Mongolian People's Party (MPP).
- Khurelsukh's tally has reached 821,136 votes, or 68 percent of the total, with 99.7% of the votes counted overnight, the highest share of the vote since the democratic era began in 1990.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Mongolia Capital: Ulaanbaatar;
- Mongolia Currency: Mongolian Togrog.

**Israel will become the World's First Mask-Free Country from June 15**



- During the Corona period, Israel will become

the world's first mask-free country. From June 15, the rule prohibiting the use of masks in enclosed areas will be abolished. Israel's Health Minister, Yuli Edelstein, made the announcement. The country has already eliminated the practise of wearing masks outside.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Israel Prime minister: Benjamin Netanyahu;
- Israel Capital: Jerusalem; Currency: Israeli Shekel.

**Naftali Bennett Takes Charge as Israel’s new Prime Minister**



- Former Israeli Defense Minister and leader of the Yamina party, Naftali Bennett, was sworn in as Prime Minister of Israel.
- Benjamin Netanyahu, a 49-year-old former software entrepreneur, has been thrown out of office after 12 years in office (2009 to 2021).
- (Netanyahu is Israel's longest-serving Prime Minister.) Bennett will lead a new coalition government with the centrist Yesh Atid party's leader, Yair Lapid.
- Bennett will remain as Israel's prime minister until September 2023, after which Lapid will take over for the next two years, until 2025, under the new Coalition government.

**NATO leaders declare China a global security challenge**



- China, according to NATO leaders, is a perpetual security threat and is seeking to destabilise global order.
- This statement is in line with US Vice President Joe Biden's efforts to unite allies in opposition to China's trade, military, and human rights activities.

**UAE, Brazil, Albania, Gabon, Ghana elected to UNSC**



- Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana, and the United Arab Emirates were chosen as non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council for the period 2022-2023. All ve countries will take office on January 1, 2022, after being elected without opposition.
- The Security Council's non-permanent members are elected by secret ballot, with candidates needing a two-thirds majority in the General Assembly to be elected.

## Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- UN Security Council Headquarters: New York, United States;
- UN Security Council Founded: 24 October 1945.

## Ebrahim Raisi wins Iran's 2021 Presidential Election



- With almost 90% of ballots counted, Ebrahim Raisi has won the 2021 Iranian presidential election with 62 percent of the vote.
- Raisi, 60, will take over from Hassan Rouhani in August 2021 and begin a four-year term. Since March 2019, he has also served as Iran's Chief Justice.

## Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Iran Capital: Tehran;
- Iran Currency: Iranian Toman.

## Nikol Pashinyan elected as Armenia Prime Minister



- Despite being largely criticised for a military setback in the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave last year, Armenia's acting prime minister, Nikol Pashinyan, retained power in a parliamentary election that bolstered his influence. Civil Contract, Nikol's political party, received 53.92 percent of the vote.
- According to the results based on ballots from 100% of precincts counted, an alliance led by his competitor, ex-leader Robert Kocharyan, came in second with 21%. From 1998 to 2008, Kocharyan served as Armenia's president.

## Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Capital of Armenia: Yerevan.
- Currency of Armenia: Armenian dram.

## Swedish PM Stefan Lofven resigns following no confidence vote



- After losing a confidence vote in parliament, Sweden's Prime Minister, Stefan Lofven, has announced his resignation for June 28, 2021.
- Lofven, who is 63 years old, is the first Swedish government leader to face a no-confidence vote. Since 2014, he has been the Prime Minister of Sweden.

## Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Sweden Capital: Stockholm; Currency: Swedish krona.

**10: Miscellaneous News**

**IFFCO introduces world’s first ‘Nano Urea’ for farmers across world**



पूर्णतः सहकारी स्वामित्व  
Wholly owned by Cooperatives

- For farmers all around the world, Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) has introduced the world's first Nano Urea Liquid. According to an official release from IFFCO, the world's first Nano Urea Liquid was revealed at the organization's 50th annual general body meeting in India, which was held in an online-offline format.
- In accordance with 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Atmanirbhar Krishi,' the Nano Urea Liquid was produced in-house after many years of research by its scientists and engineers using a patented technology developed at the Nano Biotechnology Research Centre in Kalol.
- Plant nutrition with Nano Urea Liquid has been demonstrated to be effective and efficient, resulting in increased production and improved nutritional quality.
- It will also have a big positive impact on the quality of subsurface water, as well as a considerable reduction in global warming, which will have an impact on climate change and long-term development.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- IFFCO Headquarters: New Delhi;
- IFFCO Founded: 3 November 1967, New Delhi;

- IFFCO Chairman: B.S Nakai;
- IFFCO MD & CEO: Dr U.S Awasthi.

**World Health Assembly adopts decision to recognize 30 January as World NTD Day**



- The World Health Assembly's 74th session approved a resolution designating January 30 as World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day ('World NTD Day').
- On January 30, 2012, World NTD Day honours the simultaneous presentation of the first NTD road map and the London Declaration on NTDs.
- This is a new beginning for nations affected by neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) and the global community of partners.

**Microsoft launches the first ever Asia-Pacific cybersecurity council**



- Microsoft has established the first Asia Pacific



Public Sector Cyber Security Executive Council. Policymakers and influencers from Brunei, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand are members of the group.

- The council's goal is to boost public-private cybersecurity collaborations and share threat intelligence.
- The council will convene virtually every three months. Government agencies and state leaders will participate in a forum as part of the council.
- Microsoft and its cybersecurity industry consultants are attending the forum. In the case of APAC, malware and ransomware attack rates are greater than typical. APAC stands for Asia-Pacific (A-sia PAC-ic).

#### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Microsoft CEO: Satya Nadella;
- Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States.

#### HeidelbergCement plans world's first CO2 neutral cement plant in Sweden



- HeidelbergCement, the world's second-largest cement manufacturer, wants to use carbon capture technology to transform its Swedish production in Slite into the world's first CO2-neutral cement plant by 2030.
- The plant will be able to capture up to 1.8 million tonnes of CO2 per year after the planned refurbishment, which would cost at least 100 million euros (\$122 million).

#### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Stockholm is the capital of Sweden.
- The krona is the official currency of Sweden.
- The current PM of Sweden is Stefan Lofven.

#### Bengaluru international airport achieves net energy neutral status



- As part of its environmental ambitions, the Kempegowda International Airport in Bangalore attained net energy neutral status in the Financial Year 2020-21.
- In the Financial Year 2020-21, Bengaluru International Airport (BIAL) was able to save approximately 22 lakh units of energy, enough to power nearly 9,000 homes for a month.
- Solar installations on utility building rooftops, car parks, ground-mounted solar installations at the airside, rooftops of cargo buildings, and project offices were used to fulfil these goals, according to BIAL.
- It has also started purchasing 40 million solar power units through open access and wind power through open access. The use of LEDs and the best possible usage of natural light contributed to the achievement of energy-neutral status.

#### Rhea Chakraborty topped 'The Times 50 Most Desirable Women 2020'



- The list of the Times 50 Most Desirable Women 2020 has been released, and it includes women under the age of 40 from a variety of disciplines.
- Rhea Chakraborty is the most desirable woman in the world, according to the Times Most Desirable Women 2020 list. She was in the news for most of last year as a result of Sushant Singh Rajput's untimely death and the ensuing controversies.
- Adline Castelino, Miss Universe 2020's third runner-up, came in second on the list. Disha Patani, Kiara Advani, and Deepika Padukone, respectively, came in third, fourth, and fifth place.

**Weyan village in Bandipora, India’s first to inoculate all adults**



- Weyan, a village in the district of Bandipora (J&K), has become the country's first community to vaccinate its entire population over the age of 18.
- The vaccination in Weyan village was covered

by the J&K model, which is a 10-point plan for inoculating everyone who is eligible for vaccinations at a faster rate.

- Despite initial vaccine apprehension, the Union territory attained a vaccination rate of 70% for people aged 45 and up, nearly double the national norm.
- The village is only 28 kilometres from the Bandipora district headquarters, but due to the lack of a motorable road, a distance of 18 kilometres must be completed on foot.

**Facebook launches ‘Report it, Don’t share it!’ initiative**



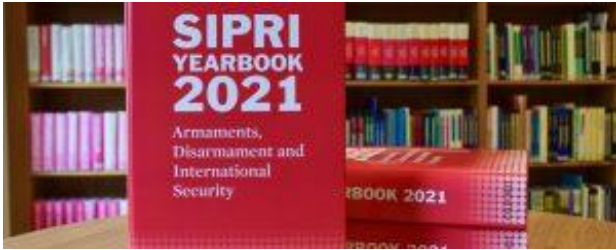
- Facebook has started a new programme called "Report it, Don't Share It!" that urges users to report and not share child abuse content on its platforms.
- In conjunction with civil society organisations such as Aarambh India Initiative, Cyber Peace Foundation, and Arpan, the initiative "Report it, don't share it" was launched.
- Call 1098 and report any content that puts a child in danger to the Childline India Foundation. If the content is found on one of Facebook's apps, it can be reported at [fb.me/onlinechildprotection](https://fb.me/onlinechildprotection).

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Chief Executive Officer of Facebook: Mark Zuckerberg.
- Facebook Headquarters: California, US.

**SIPRI Yearbook 2021: China, India, Pakistan expanding**

## nuclear arsenal



- The SIPRI Yearbook 2021 has been published by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). The current condition of weaponry, disarmament, and international security is assessed in the paper.
- China is in the process of modernising and growing its nuclear arsenal, and India and Pakistan look to be doing the same.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Sipri Headquarters: Oslo, Norway.
- Sipri Founded: 6 May 1966.
- Sipri Director: Dan Smith.

## World's Third-Largest Diamond Unearthed in Botswana



- A **1,098-carat diamond** has been discovered in **Botswana**, by Debswana Diamond Company, a joint venture between the government of Botswana and the South African diamond company **De Beers**.

## Karnam Malleswari appointed 1st vice-chancellor of Delhi Sports University



- Karnam Malleswari, a former Olympic weightlifter, has been named the first Vice-Chancellor of Delhi Sports University by the Delhi government. She is the first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal in weightlifting.
- In the 2000 Sydney Olympics, she made history by lifting 110 and 130 kg in the snatch and clean and jerk divisions, respectively.

## Delhi Govt launched Mukhyamantri Covid-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojana



- The Delhi government has created the “Mukhyamantri COVID-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojana” to help families who have lost a family member as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- According to a statement from the Social Welfare Department, every family that has lost a member due to a pandemic will receive Rs 50,000 as an ex-gratia payment. Families that lost their sole breadwinner due to the Covid-19 outbreak would receive a monthly stipend of Rs 2,500.

## 11: National News

### RDSO Becomes First Standards Body to Join 'One Nation, One Standard' Scheme



- The Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO), which sets standards for India's railway sector, has become the country's first standards agency to join the central government's "One Nation, One Standard" initiative.
- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has designated the RDSO, the Railways Ministry's sole R&D wing, as a "Standard Developing Organization" for a three-year period.
- The Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is in charge of putting the "One Nation, One Standard" idea into action. The RDSO and the BIS will now work together to define the parameters that will ensure that the railways receive high-quality goods and services.
- The 'One Nation, One Standard' initiative was established in 2019 with the goal of developing a single standard template for one product in the country rather than having numerous agencies set it, resulting in the long-term development of a 'Brand India' identity.

#### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- RDSO Headquarters location: Lucknow;
- RDSO Founded: 1921.

#### Narendra Singh Tomar launches Horticulture Cluster

### Development Programme



- Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, virtually announced the Horticulture Cluster Development Programme (CDP) to ensure horticulture's comprehensive growth. The initiative will be implemented in 12 horticultural clusters in a pilot phase, out of a total of 53 clusters chosen for the programme.
- CDP, a central sector initiative run by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare's National Horticulture Board (NHB), intends to establish and develop specified horticulture clusters in order to make them globally competitive. The programme aims to foster integrated and market-driven horticulture cluster development by leveraging geographical specialisation.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW) identified 53 horticultural clusters, 12 of which were chosen for the program's pilot launch. The programme will be scaled up to encompass all of the selected clusters based on the lessons learned from the pilot project.

#### Union Cabinet approves MoC between India-Japan on urban development



- A agreement of cooperation between India and Japan in the field of sustainable urban development has been approved by the Union Cabinet.
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs of India and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on Sustainable Urban Development.
- A Joint Working Group (JWG) will be constituted to carry out the cooperation programmes outlined in the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC). Once a year, the JWG will meet.
- The Memorandum of Understanding would expand technical collaboration in areas such as urban planning, smart city development, affordable housing (including rental housing), urban flood management, sewerage and waste water management, and so on.
- In the topic of Sustainable Urban Development, India and Japan will share best practises and significant lessons learned.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Japan Capital: Tokyo;
- Japan Currency: Japanese yen;

**NCPCR devises online portal ‘Bal Swaraj’ for children affected by Covid-19**

- In response to the growing problem of children infected with COVID-19, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has created the “Bal Swaraj (COVID-Care link)” online tracking platform for children in need of care and protection.
- Children who have lost familial support or have no ostensible means of subsistence are considered children in need of care and protection under Section 2(14) of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, and must follow all procedures outlined in the Act to ensure their well-being and best interests.
- The platform was built with the intention of digitally tracking and monitoring children in need of care and protection in real time.
- During COVID-19, the site will also be utilised to track children who have lost both parents.
- The concerned officer or department can upload the data of such children through the portal's "COVID-Care" link.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Union Minister of Women and Child Development: Smriti Zubin Irani.

**Thaawarchand Gehlot Launches SAGE Programme and Portal**



- On June 4, 2021, Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot virtually launched the SAGE (Seniorcare Aging Growth Engine) initiative, as well as the SAGE platform, to assist India's aged.
- The SAGE portal will serve as a "one-stop shop" for trustworthy start-ups offering aged care products and services.
- SAGE will choose start-ups based on their innovative products and services, which they should be able to supply across sectors such as health, housing, and care centres, in addition to technology access to finance, food, and wealth management, and legal advice.
- The main goal of this effort is to engage youth in senior care through start-ups and new ideas, in order to turn elderly care into a national movement rather than a government programme.

**IEPFA’s 6 modules of short films titled “Hisab Ki Kitaab” launched**



- Anurag Singh Thakur, Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, unveiled the “Hisaab Ki Kitaab” series of six short films produced by the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA).
- Common Services Centers (CSC) eGov created these short films as part of their training product.
- The numerous courses emphasise the necessity of budgeting, saving, insurance, and other government-sponsored social security programmes, among other things.
- The modules also depict the effects of an ordinary person falling victim to Ponzi schemes and how they might defend themselves from them.
- IEPFA and its partner organisation will use these short videos in Investor Awareness Programs around the country. During the debut, all six modules were featured in a quiz game.

**India Launches Global Energy Initiative “Mission Innovation CleanTech Exchange”**



- Mission Innovation 2.0 is a bold new strategy proposed by the governments of 23 countries, including India, to accelerate action and spearhead a decade of innovation for global investment in clean energy research, development, and demonstrations.
- Mission Innovation 2.0 is the second phase of the worldwide Mission Innovation effort, which was unveiled at the 2015 COP21 conference

alongside the Paris Agreement.

- The new programme was announced during Chile's Innovating to Net Zero Summit.

**PM Modi Launches Three E-100 Ethanol Dispensing Stations in Pune**



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered a virtual speech at the World Environment Day event, which was co-hosted by the Ministries of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- PM Modi also unveiled the "Report of the Expert Committee on the Road Map for Ethanol Blending in India 2020-2025" at the event.
- The report's main focus is "promoting biofuels for a better environment."
- PM Modi also launched a Pilot Project of E 100 ethanol dispensing stations in three Pune areas for the manufacture and distribution of ethanol across the country, because ethanol has a positive impact on the environment and the livelihoods of farmers.
- The government has re-set the goal of blending 20% ethanol into gasoline by 2025. This goal was previously set to be met by 2030.
- The Indian government has issued an E-20 notification, mandating oil companies to supply ethanol-blended petrol with a percentage of ethanol up to 20% starting April 1, 2023, as part of WED 2021; and BIS Specifications for higher ethanol blends E12 and E15.

**India elected as member of UN Economic and Social Council for 2022-24**

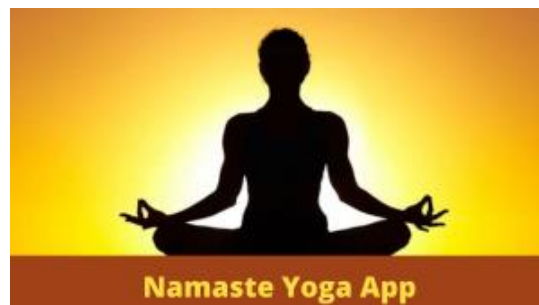


- India has been elected to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), one of the UN's six main organisations, for three-year terms running from 2022 to 2024.
- The UNGA elected India, together with Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, and Oman, to the 54-member ECOSOC on June 7, 2021, in the Asia-Pacific States category.
- ECOSOC is the United Nations' major forum for debating worldwide economic, social, and environmental concerns and developing policy recommendations for member states and the UN system.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- ECOSOC Headquarters: New York and Geneva;
- ECOSOC Founded: 26 June 1945;
- ECOSOC President: Oh Joon.

**Ministry of Ayush Launches 'Namaste Yoga' App**



- A curtain raiser event for the 7th International

Day of Yoga was held by the Ministry of Ayush. The Ministry of Ayush, in collaboration with the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, hosted the event (MDNIY).

- On a virtual platform, the event brought together various Yoga Gurus and seasoned Yoga practitioners to encourage the global population to include Yoga into their daily lives for the benefit of both the individual and mankind.
- The event highlighted the significance of IDY 2021's fundamental theme, "Be With Yoga, Be At Home." A mobile app devoted to Yoga, dubbed "Namaste Yoga," was also introduced as part of the event.
- The Namaste Yoga" app was created as a public information platform with the goal of increasing public knowledge of yoga and making it more accessible to the general population.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Minister of State (IC) of the Ministry of Ayush: Shripad Yesso Naik.

**Cabinet approves Deep Ocean Mission of Ministry of Earth Sciences**



- The "Deep Ocean Mission" has been authorised by the Union Cabinet, which is chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has proposed this mission to investigate the deep

ocean for resources and develop deep-sea technology for long-term utilisation of ocean resources.

- The Mission would be implemented in five years at a cost of Rs. 4077 crore, phase by phase.
- The first phase would be completed between 2021 and 2024 at a cost of Rs. 2823.4 crore.
- The Deep Ocean Mission's major goal is to support the Indian government's Blue Economy Initiatives.
- The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) will serve as the focal point for carrying out this multi-institutional goal.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Union Minister of Earth Sciences: Dr Harsh Vardhan.

**Central Govt launched "Project O2 for India" initiative**



- The Indian government has created 'Project O2 for India,' which aims to enhance medical oxygen production in order to meet the possible rise in demand caused by additional pandemic waves.
- The Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India (GoI), has launched 'Project O2 for India,' which intends to assist stakeholders in improving the country's ability to satisfy the rising demand for medical oxygen.
- A 'National Consortium of Oxygen' is being established as part of the project to enable the



supply of crucial raw materials such as zeolites, the establishment of small oxygen plants, the fabrication of compressors, and the final products such as oxygen plants, concentrators, and ventilators.

- In addition, the consortium is trying to improve the manufacturing ecosystem in order to ensure long-term preparation.

**UK and Australia agreed on historic free trade agreement**



- In a changing strategic environment, a new free trade deal with the United Kingdom will bring more Australian employment and business opportunities to exporters, bringing the two countries closer together.
- Prime Ministers Scott Morrison and Boris Johnson have agreed on the main principles of a free trade agreement between Australia and the United Kingdom (FTA).
- The FTA is the correct deal for Australia and the United Kingdom because it provides greater access to a wide range of high-quality products created in both countries, as well as greater access for businesses and employees, all of which will help both countries expand economically and create jobs.
- Increased access to the UK market will benefit Australian producers and farmers significantly.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- UK Capital: London;

- UK Prime minister: Boris Johnson;
- UK Currency: Pound sterling;
- Australia Capital: Canberra;
- Australia Currency: Australian dollar;
- Australia Prime minister: Scott Morrison.

**India was fifth largest recipient of FDI in 2020: UN Report**



- According to the UN Conference on Trade and Development's (UNCTAD) World Investment Report 2021, India was the world's fifth-largest receiver of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows in 2020.
- In 2020, the country got USD 64 billion in foreign direct investment, up 27% from USD 51 billion in 2019.
- The United States remained the top FDI receiver, despite the fact that FDI inflows to the country fell by 40% in 2020, to \$156 billion.
- With USD 149 billion in FDI, China was the second-largest beneficiary. Global FDI flows fell by 35% to USD 1 trillion in 2020, down from USD 1.5 trillion in 2019.

**PM Narendra Modi launches mYoga App**



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the mYoga mobile app on the occasion of the seventh International Yoga Day on June 21, 2021.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy (Ministry of AYUSH), Government of India, collaborated on the app.
- The mYoga app comes packed with a variety of yoga training videos and audio practise sessions in a variety of languages that can be done at home.
- The mYoga app is currently accessible in English, Hindi, and French, but other UN languages will be added in the coming months. PM Modi's government hopes to accomplish the motto "One World, One Health" with this effort.

**Minority Affairs Minister launched “Jaan Hai To Jahaan Hai” awareness campaign**



- Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Minister of Minority Affairs, has begun a statewide “JaanHaiToJahaanHai” Corona immunisation awareness campaign for rural and isolated communities.
- The goal of this campaign is to raise public awareness about Corona vaccine and to dispel rumours and fears about it. The Ministry of Minority Affairs, in collaboration with several socio-educational organisations, NGOs, and

Women Self-Help Groups, has launched it.

- Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi invited members of the Central Waqf Council, the Maulana Azad Education Foundation, and other social and educational organisations to participate in the campaign. The world's largest Corona immunisation campaign is under underway in India.

**India’s official Olympic theme song ‘Lakshya Tera Samne Hai’ released**



- The official Olympic theme song for the Indian delegation was released ahead of the Tokyo Games.
- The song "Lakshya Tera Samne Hai" was composed and sung by Mohit Chauhan. The Games will begin on July 23, and over 100 Indian athletes have already qualified.
- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) hosted the event, which was attended by its President, Secretary-General, Deputy Chef de Mission, Sports Secretary, and Director-General of the Sports Authority of India (SAI). The event's chief guest was Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Indian Olympic Association President: Narayana Ramachandran;
- Indian Olympic Association Founded: 1927

**India-Bhutan: Tax Inspectors Without Borders**

**Initiative**



- The “Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB)” initiative was launched jointly by India and Bhutan. It was established in order to improve Bhutan's tax administration. International taxation and transfer pricing will be the main topics.
- The TIWB programme aims to help developing nations strengthen their tax administrations by passing on technical know-how and skills to their tax auditors, as well as sharing general audit practises and disseminating knowledge products.
- This programme marks a new turning point in India's ties with Bhutan. It will take a total of 24 months to finish.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Bhutan Capital: Thimphu;

- Bhutan Prime minister: Lotay Tshering;
- Bhutan Currency: Bhutanese ngultrum.

**FM Sitharaman’s announces relief package worth Rs 6,28,993 crore against COVID-19**



- Nirmala Sitharaman, the Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister, has proposed a raft of steps to help people and companies affected by the COVID-19 pandemic's second wave.
- A total of 17 measures costing Rs. 6,28,993 crore were announced by the Minister.

**These 17 measures have further been grouped into 3 broad categories:**

1. Economic Relief from Pandemic (8)
2. Strengthening Public Health (1)
3. Impetus for Growth & Employment (8)

## 12: Obituaries

### Former Danish Prime Minister Poul Schlueter Passes Away



- Former Denmark's Prime Minister **Poul Schlueter**, who negotiated exemptions for his country to a key **European Union (EU) treaty** has passed away.
- He was born on 3 April 1929 in Tonder, Denmark. Schlueter served as the prime minister of the country from **1982-1993**.

### T.M. Kaliannan, the last surviving member of the Constituent Assembly, passes away



- At the age of 101, T.M. Kaliannan Gounder, the last living former member of the Indian Constituent Assembly, died.
- Between 1952 and 1967, he was a member of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council and an MLA three times.

- He was reputedly the Constituent Assembly's youngest member at the time, as well as a member of India's first interim parliament.

### Mauritius former Prime Minister Sir Anerood Jugnauth passes away



- Sir Anerood Jugnauth, the former Prime Minister and President of the Republic of Mauritius, has died.
- With more than 18 years in office, he is the country's longest-serving prime minister. He was widely regarded as the architect of Mauritius' economic miracle in the 1980s.
- Between 1982 and 1995, Jugnauth served as Prime Minister, then again between 2000 and 2003, and again between 2014 and 2017, until handing over the reins to his son, Pravind Jugnauth, who is currently the Prime Minister of Mauritius.

### Asian Games gold medal-winning Boxer Dingko Singh Passes Away



- Dingko Singh, a former Asian Games gold medalist in boxing, died after a battle with liver cancer. Dingko Singh of Manipur won the gold medal for India in the Asian Games in Bangkok, Thailand in 1998.
- In 1998, he received the Arjuna award, and in 2013, he received the Padma Shri, the country's fourth highest civilian honour.

**National award-winning Bengali Filmmaker  
Buddhadeb Dasgupta Passes Away**



- Buddhadeb Dasgupta, a national award-winning prominent Bengali film director, has died. For his contribution to Bengali cinema, he received multiple National Awards.
- Bagh Bahadur (1989), Charachar (1994), Lal Darja (1997), Mondo Meyer Upakhyan (2002), and Kaalpurush (2005) are just a few of his national award-winning films.

**Padma Shri Awardee Eminent Environmentalist  
Radhamohan Passes Away**



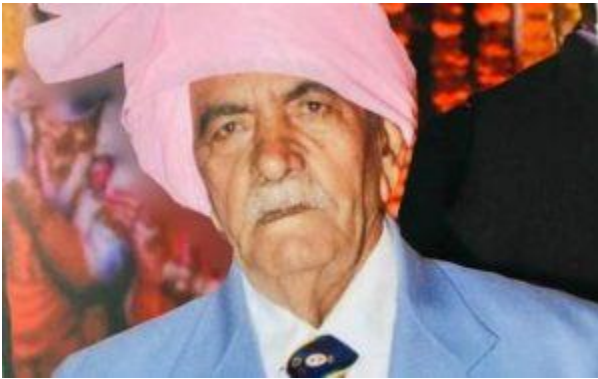
- Prof Radhamohan Ji, a Padma Shri winner and well-known economist and environmentalist, has died.
- He was the previous Information Commissioner of Odisha, as well as an Economics lecturer at various colleges in the state.
- In 2020, he and his daughter Sabarmatee received the prestigious Padma Shri Award for their contributions to the agricultural industry.

**Noted Kannada Poet Siddalingaiah Passes Away**



- Siddalingaiah, a well-known Kannada poet, writer, and Dalit activist, died of Covid-19-related diseases.
- He was known as "Dalita Kavi" and was one of Karnataka's first prominent Dalit poets.
- He is credited with founding the Dalit-Bandaya literary movement and the Dalit literature genre in Kannada. He was also a founding member of the state's Dalita Sangharsh Samiti.

**Olympian Surat Singh Mathur passes away**



- Surat Singh Mathur, the first athlete from independent India to run a marathon in the Olympics, died.
- In the 1952 Helsinki Olympics, Mathur finished 52nd in the marathon in 2:58.92s, alongside the renowned Emil Zatopek.
- Mathur, who was born in Mohammadpur Majri village (Karala) in Delhi, was a two-time National champion and a bronze medalist at the first Asian Games in 1951.

**Mahavir Chakra recipient Brigadier Raghbir Singh passes away**



- Brigadier Raghbir Singh, a Mahavir Chakra recipient and legendary veteran, has died. He joined the Sawaiman Guards as a Second Lieutenant on April 18, 1943, and served in several wars, including the Second World War.
- Dr. S Radhakrishnan, India's then-President, awarded Lieutenant Colonel (later Brigadier) Raghbir Singh the Maha Vir Chakra, the country's second-highest gallantry medal, for

his bravery.

**Former Indian volleyball captain Nirmal Milkha Singh passes away**



- Nirmal Milkha Kaur, the former captain of the Indian women's volleyball team and the wife of sprint hero Milkha Singh (Flying Sikh), died as a result of COVID-19 complications.
- Nirmal Milkha Singh was also the Punjab Government's previous Director of Women's Sports.

**National award winning Kannada film actor Sanchari Vijay passes away**



- Sanchari Vijay, a veteran Kannada film actor who got the National award in 2015, has died.
- In 2011, he made his film debut in the Kannada film Rangappa Hogbitna.
- His act as a transgender in the 2015 film Naanu Avanalla...Avalu earned him the Best Actor

Award at the 62nd National Film Awards.

## Pritzker Prize Laureate Gottfried Bohm Passes Away



- At the age of 101, Gottfried Bohm, the first German architect to receive the Pritzker Prize, passed dead.
- The Neviges Pilgrimage Church (1968), Bensberger City Hall (1969), and the Museum of the Diocese were among his most significant achievements (1975).
- Bohm, the eighth winner of the renowned Pritzker Architecture Prize, was best known for his concrete churches, the majority of which were constructed in Germany.

## DPIIT Secretary Guruprasad Mohapatra Passes Away



- Due to COVID-19-related difficulties, Guruprasad Mohapatra, Secretary of the

Department of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), died.

- Mohapatra served as Chairman of the Airports Authority of India until being nominated as DPIIT secretary in August 2019. (AAI). He was a Gujarat cadre IAS officer from the 1986 batch who had previously worked as a joint secretary in the Department of Commerce.

## John McAfee, founder of McAfee antivirus software, passes away



- John David McAfee, the founder of McAfee antivirus software and a British-American software pioneer, has died.
- John was discovered dead in his cell in a jail in Barcelona, where he had been detained for tax evasion since October 2020.
- The event occurred shortly after Spain's National Court approved his extradition to the United States on criminal accusations brought by the Justice Department's tax division in Tennessee.
- Between 2014 and 2018, he was accused of knowingly failing to file tax returns while earning millions from consulting work, cryptocurrency, and other sources.

## 13: Ranks & Reports

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



- According to the Centre for World University Rankings 2021-22, 19,788 institutions were ranked, with the top 1% making the worldwide 2000 list.
- Harvard University is the top-ranked university in the world, followed by Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University, University of Cambridge, and Oxford University.
- According to the Centre for World University Rankings (CWUR) 2021-22, 68 Indian institutes have made it to the top 2000 higher education institutes worldwide.
- The Indian group is led by the IIM-Ahmedabad, which is ranked 415th, and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), which is ranked 459th.

#### CWUR Ranking 2021: Top 10 Indian Institutes

- Global Rank 415: IIM Ahmedabad
- Global Rank 459: Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
- Rank 543: Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai
- Rank 557: IIT Madras
- Rank 567: IIT Bombay
- Rank 571: University of Delhi
- Rank 623: IIT Delhi
- Rank 708: IIT Kharagpur

- Rank 709: Panjab University
- Rank 818: IIT Kanpur

### Kerala retains top rank in Niti Aayog's 3rd SDG India Index 2020-21



- In the third edition of Niti Aayog's SDG India Index 2020-21, Kerala has retained its top spot, while Bihar has been deemed the lowest performer.
- The Index for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) assesses how far governments and union territories have progressed in terms of social, economic, and environmental indicators.
- With a score of 75, Kerala maintained its position as the top state.
- On June 3rd, Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar unveiled the third edition of India's SDG Index.

#### **Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- NITI Aayog Formed: 1 January 2015.
- NITI Aayog Headquarters: New Delhi.
- NITI Aayog Chairperson: Narendra Modi.

#### **Wipro becomes third Indian IT firm to scale Rs 3 trillion market cap**





- Wipro has surpassed Rs 3 trillion in market capitalization for the first time, joining Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys as the third Indian IT firm to do so.
- The company has won \$7.1 billion in deals, including the largest agreement it has ever obtained from German retailer Metro. There are a total of 13 listed companies in India with a market capitalization of more than Rs 3 trillion. Wipro is now at 14th place.
- With a market capitalization of \$14.05 trillion, Reliance Industries is India's most valuable firm, followed by Tata Consultancy Services Ltd and HDFC Bank, which have m-caps of 11.58 trillion and \$8.33 trillion, respectively.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Chairman of Wipro Limited: Rishad Premji.
- Wipro Headquarters: Bengaluru;
- Wipro MD and CEO: Thierry Delaporte.

**India slips two spots on 17th Sustainable Development Goals report**



- On the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) announced as part of the 2030 agenda by 193 United Nations member states in 2015, India has dropped two positions to 117.
- Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh are the worst four countries in South Asia.
- According to the State of India's Environment Report 2021, India dropped two places from last year's ranking of 115, owing to major challenges such as ending hunger and achieving food security (SDG 2), achieving gender equality (SDG 5) and building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, and fostering innovation (SDG 9) still facing the country.

**THE Asia University Rankings 2021 released**



- Higher Education in the Times Three Indian universities made the top 100 list in the Asia university rankings for 2021. The Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, the Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar, and the Indian Institute of Technology, Indore, have all been ranked among Asia's top 100 universities. Like last year, no Indian university made it into the top ten. IISc Bangalore came in 37th place.
- Among the top 100 universities, IIT Ropar is ranked 55th, and IIT Indore is ranked 78th.
- China's Tsinghua University has risen to the top of the Asia university rankings for 2021. China's Peking University is in second place as well. Singapore varsities took third and fifth places, respectively. The University of Hong Kong, on the other hand, is ranked fourth.

**Punjab tops performance grading index in school**

## education



- Punjab, which improved from 13th place in 2018-19, led the charts this time among all states and union territories with a score of 929 out of 1,000, followed by Chandigarh (912) and Tamil Nadu (911). (906).
- To catalyse transformational change in the field of school education, the performance grading index grades states on a set of 70 characteristics relating to learning outcomes and quality, access, infrastructure and facilities, equity, and governance processes.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Punjab CM: Captain Amarinder Singh.
- Punjab Governor: V.P.Singh Badnore.

### QS World University Rankings 2022 released



- The London-based Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) has issued the QS World University Rankings 2022, which compares and rates universities around the world based on a variety of criteria.
- In the QS World University Rankings 2022, issued on June 09, 2021, eight Indian

universities were ranked among the top 400 universities in the world.

- Only three universities, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, IIT-Delhi, and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore, are among the top 200.

### Top Indian University

- With a ranking of 177, IIT-Bombay is the best university in India. IIT-Delhi (185) and IISc come in second and third, respectively (186).
- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru has also been named the "world's top research university," with a perfect score of 100/100 for the CPF (Citations Per Faculty) metric, which assesses research impact.
- This is the first time an Indian institute has received a flawless score on any parameter, including research.

### Top University

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has topped the ranking for the 10th years in a row.
- MIT is followed by the University of Oxford in the second position. Stanford University and the University of Cambridge shared the third spot.

### United States Tops Bitcoin Investment Gains in 2020



- According to the newest research by Chainalysis, a blockchain analysis business

based in Manhattan, New York, US traders gained the most from Bitcoin Investment Gain in 2020, with a profit of \$4.1 billion.

- With a profit of \$1.1 billion, Chinese dealers came in second.
- India was placed 18th among the top 25 countries in Bitcoin investment gains 2020, with a profit of \$241 million.

## Auckland tops Global Liveability Index 2021



- The Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index 2021 ranked New Zealand and Australian cities first and second, respectively (EIU).
- Because of its capacity to contain Covid-19 quicker, Auckland has been placed first in liveability rankings.
- On the EIU's Global Liveability Index 2021, the Japanese cities of Osaka and Tokyo came in second and fourth, respectively, with Adelaide, Australia coming in third. The worst living conditions persisted in Syria's capital, Damascus.

## AISHE 2019-20 report released by Union Education Minister



- Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has released the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2019-20 report.
- According to AISHE, student enrollment has increased by 11.4 percent over the last five years (2015-16 to 2019-20).
- Female enrollment in higher education has climbed by 18.2 percent from 2015-16 to 2019-20, according to AISHE.
- The All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2019-20 is the tenth in the series. It is published annually by the Department of Higher Education.

## India ranks 67th in Coursera's Global Skills Report 2021



- According to Coursera's "Global Skills Report 2021," India is rated 67th overall in the world.
- Overall, India ranks 67th globally, with 38% proficiency, with mid-rankings in each domain, 55th in business and 66th in both technology and data science, according to the survey.
- The report is based on performance data collected on the platform from almost 77 million learners (from over 100 countries) since the pandemic began. It assesses skill mastery in three areas: business, technology, and data science.

**Rank:**

1. **Switzerland**
2. **Luxembourg**
3. **Austria**

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Coursera CEO: Jeff Maggioncalda;
- Coursera Headquarters: California, USA.

**India slips 12 spots to 55th position in Global Home Price Index**

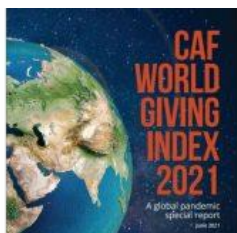


- According to Knight Frank's latest study report "Global House Price Index" – Q1 2021, India has dropped 12 ranks in the global home price index to 55th place in Q1 2021, down from 43rd place in Q1 2020, with a 1.6 percent year-on-year (YoY) reduction in home prices.
- Knight Frank, located in London, compiles the Global Home Price Index, which tracks property prices in 56 nations. Turkey is at the top of the annual rankings, with prices jumping 32% year on year, followed by New Zealand.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Knight Frank Established: 1896;
- Knight Frank Headquarters: London, United Kingdom.

**India ranked 14th in World Giving Index 2021**



- The Charities Aid Foundation has rated India 14th out of 114 countries in the World Giving Index 2021. (CAF).
- This is an improvement over the previous 10-year global ranking of 82. Indonesia topped the World Giving Index rankings, with Kenya, Nigeria, Myanmar, and Australia rounding out the top five.
- The Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) is a non-profit organisation established in the United Kingdom that encourages people to give in order to improve their lives and communities around the world.
- The World Giving Index provides a unique look at global trends in generosity and who is most likely to engage in social activities for the benefit of their communities and support global giving growth.

**India ranked 2nd in share of central bank surplus transfers**



- For fiscal year 2020-21, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) came in second in terms of reserves transferred to the government as a proportion of GDP. Turkey is at the top of the list.
- The Reserve Bank of India has transferred a surplus of Rs 99,122 crore to the government for FY21, which is 73 percent more than the Rs 57,128 crore paid out in 2019-20.
- The excess transferred by the RBI is 0.44 percent of GDP, whereas the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey's surplus is 0.5 percent.

## Global Peace Index 2021 announced



- The Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) Sydney has released the 15th edition of the Global Peace Index (GPI). The GPI is the world's premier gauge of global peacefulness.
- The index assigns a score to 163 independent nations and territories based on their peacefulness. This paper is the most thorough data-driven analysis of peace trends, economic value, and how to promote peaceful communities that has ever been published.
- Iceland continues to be the world's most tranquil country, a title it has held since 2008.
- New Zealand, Denmark, Portugal, and Slovenia are also at the top of the ranking.
- For the fourth year in a row, Afghanistan is the world's least peaceful country, followed by Yemen, Syria, South Sudan, and Iraq.
- India has risen two places from last year's list to become the world's 135th most peaceful country and the region's fifth.

## Ease of Living Index: Bengaluru 'most liveable' city



- In the Ease of Living Index 2020, presented by the Centre for Science and Environment, Bengaluru was declared India's most livable city (CSE).
- The Ease of Living Index 2020 is included in the State of India's Environment 2021 report. The top five best cities are Bengaluru, Chennai, Shimla, Bhubaneswar, and Mumbai, in that order.
- The report employed four criteria to calculate each city's ease of living index score: quality of life, economic ability, sustainability, and inhabitants' perspectives.
- In all factors, each city was given a score of 100.
- The Ease of Living Index 2020 is the second edition of the index, which was introduced in 2018.

## India ranked 51st in terms of Money Deposited in Swiss Banks



- The Swiss National Bank (SNB), the country's central bank, just announced its "Annual Bank Statistics of 2020."
- India has been ranked 51st in the list of foreign clients' money in Swiss banks during 2020, with a total of CHF 2.55 billion (INR 20,706 crore). With CHF 377 billion, the United Kingdom (UK) led the list, followed by the United States (US) (152 billion).
- In terms of international clients' money in Swiss banks, India was ahead of countries such as New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Denmark,

Hungary, Mauritius, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka.

- The amount of money kept in Swiss banks by Indian people and companies increased to over 2.55 billion Swiss francs (about Rs 20,700 crore) in 2020, the highest level in 13 years.
- According to Swiss National Bank (SNB) data, the figures reached a peak of approximately CHF 6.5 billion in 2006, following which they have largely been on a declining trend, save for a few years in 2011, 2013, and 2017.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Swiss National Bank Chairman of the Governing Board: Thomas J. Jordan;
- Swiss National Bank Head Offices: Berne, Zurich.

### India's Rank 120th in Sustainable Development Report 2021



- According to the 6th Edition of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN 'Sustainable')'s Development Report 2021 (SDR 2021), India is ranked 120th out of 165 countries with a score of 60.1.
- Finland came out on top, followed by Sweden and Denmark.
- Due to the COVID-19 epidemic, all countries have shown a reversal in progress toward reaching Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) for the first time since 2015. Professor Jeffrey

Sachs, President of the SDSN, led a group of academics who wrote SDR 2021, which was published by Cambridge University Press.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Sustainable Development Solutions Network President: Jeffrey Sachs;
- Sustainable Development Solutions Network Headquarters: Paris, France & New York, USA.

### Bengaluru ranked as one of the Top 5 technology centers in Asia Pacific



- According to a Colliers analysis titled 'Growth Engines of Innovation: How Asia Pacific Technological Hubs are Reshaping Regional Real Estate,' Bengaluru has risen to the top five technology hubs in the APAC region, with Hyderabad ranking in the top ten.
- The analysis assesses the most appealing technology submarkets inside key APAC cities, and it should serve as a guide for technology companies looking to expand.
- Beijing, Shanghai, Bengaluru, Shenzhen, and Singapore are the top five technology hubs in Asia Pacific; they provide a compelling blend of infrastructure and talent for occupiers and are well-positioned to create future development and investment opportunities for owners.
- Other cities, such as Seoul and Hong Kong in fintech, are gaining strengths in specialised areas of technology, while other centres, such as Hyderabad and Sydney, are emerging.

**Jamsetji Tata tops inaugural list of Top Philanthropists of the Century**



- Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata, the founder of the Tata Group and an Indian pioneer businessman, has topped the first EdelGive Hurun Philanthropists of the Century list, which recognises the world's 50 most generous individuals from the previous century.
- The overall gifts made by Mumbai-based Jamsetji Tata are believed to be worth US\$102.4 billion, according to the research. He is the sole Indian on the Hurun Research and EdelGive Foundation's top ten list.
- Azim Premji, the former chairman of Wipro, is the only other Indian on the list of 50 worldwide philanthropists. He is now rated 12th.
- With \$74.6 billion in gifts, Bill and Melinda Gates came in second. Henry Wellcome (\$56.7 billion), Howard Hughes (\$38.6 billion), and Warren Buffett (\$37.4 billion) are the next richest people in the world.

**Ashgabat world's most expensive city for foreign workers**



- Ashgabat, Turkmenistan's capital in Central Asia, has been declared the most costly city in the world for foreign workers. In a 2021 cost-of-living poll conducted by consulting firm Mercer, the city came out on top.
- Hong Kong was in second place, followed by Lebanon's Beirut and Japan's Tokyo. The exquisite marble buildings and monuments of Ashgabat are well-known. Tolkuchka Bazaar, one of Central Asia's most colourful bazaars, is also located here.
- The National Museum, White Marble, Turkmenbashi Cableway, Museum of Fine Arts, Alem Cultural and Entertainment Center, and Turkmen Carpet Museum are among the other tourist attractions.
- Mumbai remains India's most costly city at 78th place, but it has slipped 18 places in this year's rating "thanks to a relatively weak Indian rupee in comparison to other cities in the ranking," according to the report. New Delhi (117), Chennai (158), Bengaluru (170), and Kolkata are among the other Indian cities on the list (181).

## 14: Schemes & Committee

### Ladakh LG RK Mathur Launches “YounTab Scheme”



- RK Mathur, the Lt Governor of Ladakh, launched the 'YounTab' programme, which would distribute 12,300 tablets to schools in the Union Territory.
- Mr Mathur gave the tablets to pupils in Classes 9 to 12 as part of the first phase of the YounTab Scheme.
- A total of 12,300 pupils in government schools from grades 6 to 12 will benefit.
- Online and offline content, including as textbooks, video lectures, and online class applications, will be pre-loaded on the tablets.
- The YounTab scheme's major purpose is to promote digital learning, bridge the digital divide between connected and unconnected regions, and reduce the impact of the Covid pandemic.



## 15: Science & Technology

### IIT Guwahati researchers design “smart windows” to cut carbon emissions



- Researchers at IIT Guwahati have developed a "Smart Window" material that can manage the amount of heat and light that passes through it in response to an applied voltage.
- This material may be used in the development of building climate control systems. According to the researchers, such materials can aid in the development of effective automatic climate control systems in buildings.
- This research was published in the journal 'Solar Energy Materials & Solar Cells' recently.
- However, invention by Debabrata Sikdar, an assistant professor at IIT's Department of Electronics and Electrical Engineering, and his research student Ashish Kumar Chowdhary makes reaching such a goal easier.

### TCS opens its first European innovation centre in Amsterdam, Netherland



- At its latest innovation hub in Amsterdam, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) will bring together universities, corporations, startups, and government to help employ digital technology to solve sustainability concerns.
- It will focus on the sustainability difficulties that businesses confront, and it will be the first in a network of European centres known as TCS Pace Ports.
- The TCS Pace Port network is used by about 70 colleges around the world, over 2,000 startups, large tech giants like Amazon and Microsoft, enterprise customers, and governments.

#### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- TCS CEO: Rajesh Gopinathan;
- TCS Founded: 1 April 1968;
- TCS Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Netherland capital : Amsterdam;
- Netherland currency: Euro.

### IIT-Ropar Develops ‘AmbiTAG’ India’s First Indigenous Temperature Data Logger



- The Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar (IIT Ropar) in Punjab has invented the “AmbiTag,” a first-of-its-kind Internet of Things gadget that records real-time ambient temperature during the transportation of perishable goods,

vaccines, and even body organs and blood.

- That recorded temperature also aids in determining if an item shipped from anywhere in the world is still usable or has died due to temperature variations. This information is very important when it comes to vaccines, such as the Covid-19 vaccine, as well as organ and blood transportation.
- AmbiTag, which is shaped like a USB drive, records the temperature of its immediate surroundings "from -40 to +80 degrees in any time zone" for 90 days on a single charge.
- The majority of identical gadgets on the foreign market only store data for 30- 60 days.
- By connecting the USB to any computer, the recorded data can be retrieved. The device was created by the AWaDH (Agriculture and Water Technology Development Hub) Technology Innovation Hub and its startup ScratchNest. AWaDH is a programme of the Indian government.

**XraySetu Launched to Detect Covid in Rural Population via WhatsApp**



- With the help of a chest X-ray, a new AI-driven platform called 'XraySetu' has been developed to aid in the early diagnosis of COVID 19.
- Early detection will be aided by the solution, which will be especially useful in rural areas where RT-PCR tests and CT-Scans are not readily available. XraySetu will be accessible via WhatsApp. Even low-resolution Chest X-Ray

images supplied via Whatsapp-based Chatbot will be used to identify COVID positive individuals.

- The solution was created by ARTPARK (AI & Robotics Technology Park), a non-profit foundation founded by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, with support from the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, in collaboration with Bangalore-based HealthTech startup Niramai and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) (IISc).

**IIT Madras hosts Asia’s first International Memory Studies Workshop**



- The Centre for Memory Studies at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras recently conducted Asia's first International Memory Studies Workshop.
- The Indian Network for Memory Studies (INMS), established under the auspices of the International Memory Studies Association in Amsterdam, is Asia's first national network in the area.
- The first of its type in Asia, this international workshop on memory studies precedes the official establishment of the Indian Network for Memory Studies (INMS).
- The INMS will be launched during a virtual event at IIT Madras in mid-June 2021.
- The international Memory Studies Workshop, which brought together academics from Kashmir, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Kerala, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Delhi,

Rajasthan, and Jharkhand, among others, as well as the University of Warwick and Leeds Beckett University in the United Kingdom, proved to be a promising platform.

## European Space Agency to Launch 'EnVision' Mission to Venus in 2030



- European Space Agency (ESA) is now preparing its own mission to explore Venus, which will provide a comprehensive picture of the planet from its core to upper atmosphere.
- The "EnVision" mission will most likely be dispatched to the planet in early 2030.
- The ESA's EnVision mission will look into how and why Venus and Earth evolved so differently, despite the fact that they are both in the habitable zone of the Sun.
- This mission will be carried out by the European Space Agency (ESA) with support from NASA.
- The EnVision spacecraft will be equipped with a variety of equipment for studying the planet's atmosphere and surface, as well as monitoring trace gases in the atmosphere and analysing the planet's surface composition. The surface would be imaged and mapped using a radar provided by NASA.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- European Space Agency Headquarters: Paris, France;
- European Space Agency Founded: 30 May 1975, Europe;

- European Space Agency CEO: Johann-Dietrich Wörner.

## IIT Ropar develops India's first power-free CPAP device 'Jivan Vayu'



- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar has created a gadget called Jivan Vayu that can be used to replace a CPAP machine. Jivan Vayu can deliver 60 litres per minute of high-flow oxygen (LPM).
- This equipment is the first of its kind in India, and it can work on both types of oxygen producing units, such as O2 cylinders and oxygen pipelines in hospitals.
- These features were previously unavailable in existing CPAP devices.
- CPAP therapy is a treatment for sleep apnea patients who have breathing issues while sleeping.

## European Space Agency (ESA) will launch world's first wooden satellite



- The European Space Agency (ESA) intends to

send the first wooden satellite into orbit.

- It will be launched out of New Zealand. By the end of 2021, it will be launched from a Rocket Lab Electron rocket. Jari Makinen is the man behind the satellite.
- WISA Woodsat is a nanosatellite satellite. The length, height, and width are all 10cm on each side.
- The European Space Agency (ESA) designed the satellite's instruments, and designers kept the wood dry by placing it in a thermal vacuum chamber.
- To reduce the amount of vapour produced by the wood and protect it from the erosive effects of atomic oxygen, a very thin layer of aluminium oxide was applied.

#### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- European Space Agency Headquarters: Paris, France;
- European Space Agency Founded: 30 May 1975, Europe;
- European Space Agency CEO: Johann-Dietrich Wörner.

#### ISRO, NOAA-led multinational project endorsed by UN body



- The “Committee on Earth Observation Satellites Coastal Observations, Applications, Services, and Tools (CEOS COAST)” has been approved by a UN authority. ISRO and NOAA from the United States are co-leading the CEOS COAST

programme.

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is the acronym for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Disaster risk reduction and coastal resilience among continental shorelines and tiny island states are among the projects' focuses.
- The CEOS COAST has been collaborating with stakeholders in industries such as agriculture, construction, and commercial/recreational fishing to assist all types of decision-makers, including parents deciding which beach to take their children to, sailors navigating the coast, and policymakers taking action on climate change, among others.

#### Microsoft Officially Launches ‘Windows 11’



- Microsoft has made its next Windows operating system, Windows 11, available for download. It is referred to as Windows' "next generation."
- The update arrives nearly six years after the release of the most recent Windows operating system, Windows 10, in July 2015.
- Windows 11 is unique in that it emphasises a new user interface, a new Windows Store, and speed enhancements such as a center-aligned Taskbar and Start button.

#### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Microsoft CEO and Chairman: Satya Nadella;
- Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States.

## 16: Sports News

### Asian Boxing Championship: India's Sanjeet Kumar wins gold medal



- Sanjeet Kumar, an Indian pugilist, won gold in the 91 kg weight category at the ASBC Asian Boxing Championships.
- Sanjeet won the Asian Championships in Dubai by defeating five-time Asian medalist and Rio Olympic silver medalist Vassiliy Levit of Kazakhstan in a 3-2 split decision.

### ICC Expands Men's ODI Cricket World Cup to 14 teams



- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has confirmed that the Men's Cricket World Cup will be a 14-team, 54-match competition in 2027 and 2031.
- Only 10 teams competed in the first round of the 2019 World Cup, compared to 14 teams in the 2015 World Cup.
- These 14 teams will be divided into two groups

of seven, with the top three teams from each group advancing to the Super Six stage, which will be followed by semifinals and the final.

- The ICC has also decided to increase the number of teams in the men's T20 World Cup to 20. From 2024 to 2030, the event will be held every two years.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Chairman of ICC: Greg Barclay.
- CEO of ICC: Manu Sawhney.
- Headquarters of ICC: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

### FIH world rankings: Indian men's team maintain 4th position



- In the latest International Hockey Federation world rankings, the Indian men's team remained in fourth place, while the women's team remained in ninth place.
- Despite missing the European leg of the FIH Hockey Pro League series in April and May in the United Kingdom, Spain, and Germany, the Indian men's team finished fourth.

### Djokovic Wins 83rd Career Title In Belgrade open



- Novak Djokovic won the Belgrade Open for the 83rd time, and it was his first trophy on home soil.
- At the Novak Tennis Center, the Serbian superstar dropped his serve three times in the first set before adjusting his game to upset Slovakian qualifier and first-time ATP Tour finalist Alex Molcan 6-4, 6-3 in 88 minutes.

**Sergio Perez wins Formula 1's Azerbaijan Grand Prix**



- Sergio Perez of Red Bull won a tumultuous Azerbaijan Grand Prix, which saw both Max Verstappen and Lewis Hamilton fail to finish.
- Perez's first victory since joining Red Bull came in this race. The surprising podium was completed by Sebastian Vettel for Aston Martin and Pierre Gasly for Alpha Tauri.
- With five laps to go, Verstappen crashed, putting the race in his hands. When Hamilton was on target for the second, he locked up at the restart.

**Germany's FIFA World Cup-winner Sami Khedira announces retirement**



- Sami Khedira, Germany's FIFA World Cup winner, has declared his retirement. He started his career at VfB Stuttgart, where he helped them win the Bundesliga title in 2006-07. He then moved to Real Madrid, where he won the league and the Champions League during a trophy-laden time.
- He scored seven goals in 77 games for Germany, helping them win the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

**Oman to host inaugural FIH Hockey5s World Cup in 2024**



- The inaugural International Hockey Federation (FIH) Hockey5s World Cup will be held in Oman.
- The men's and women's competitions will be held in Muscat, Oman's capital city, in January 2024, according to the FIH. Following a recommendation from the organization's Events Bidding Task Force, the governing body's Executive Board picked Oman as the host.

- The 2019 Hockey5s World Cup has been announced by the FIH Executive Board. The debut comes as Hockey 5s, a smaller-pitch version of the sport that has been featured at the last two Summer Youth Olympic Games, grows in popularity.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Oman Capital: Muscat;
- Oman Currency: Omani rial.

### Sunil Chhetri surpasses Argentina's Lionel Messi



- With 74 goals, Sunil Chhetri has surpassed Argentina's Lionel Messi to become the second-highest active international goal-scorer.
- In a dual preliminary qualifying round encounter for the 2022 FIFA World Cup and the 2023 AFC Asian Cup, he set the record. In terms of active international goal scorers, he is now ranked second behind Cristiano Ronaldo (103) of Portugal.
- Chhetri also helped India win its first World Cup qualifier in six years. Chhetri is on the verge of breaking into the all-time top-10 in world football. Sunil Chhetri is a professional footballer from India. Captain Fantastic is his popular name.

### Chris Broad to be match referee for World Test Championship final



- Chris Broad, an ICC Elite Panel match referee, will oversee the World Test Championship (WTC) final between India and New Zealand, which will begin on June 18 at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton.
- The match's officials have been announced by the International Cricket Council (ICC). Richard Illingworth and Michael Gough of the ICC Elite Panel will serve as on-field umpires.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Chairman of ICC: Greg Barclay.
- CEO of ICC: Manu Sawhney.
- Headquarters of ICC: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

### Sehwag launches cricket coaching website 'Cricuru'



- Virender Sehwag, an Indian cricketer, has created CRICURU, an immersive learning portal for cricket teaching.
- CRICURU is India's first AI-enabled coaching

website, providing younger players with a customised learning experience. [www.cricuru.com](http://www.cricuru.com) is the website's address.

- Virender Sehwag, together with former Indian player and Indian Cricket team Batting Coach Sanjay Bangar, created a specific curriculum for each player (2015-19).
- Young cricketers will be able to study the game from 30 player-coaches from across the world, including AB de Villiers, Brett Lee, Brian Lara, Chris Gayle, Dwayne Bravo, Harbhajan Singh, and Jonty Rhodes, who will share their knowledge and experience with users.

**BharatPe becomes ICC’s official partner till 2023**



- BharatPe, a lending and digital payments firm, has signed a three-year arrangement to become an official partner of the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- BharatPe will promote the partnership across broadcast and digital channels, as well as execute in-venue marketing activations at all ICC tournaments till 2023, according to the deal.
- The ICC World Test Championship (Southampton, UK, 2021), Men's T20 World Cup (India, 2021), Men's T20 World Cup (Australia, 2022), Women's World Cup (New Zealand, 2022), U19 Cricket World Cup (West Indies, 2022), Women's T20 World Cup (South Africa, 2022), Men's Cricket World Cup (South Africa, 2022), Men's Cricket World Cup (India, 2023), and World Test Championship (India (2023)).

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Chief Executive Officer of BharatPe: Ashneer Grover;
- Headoffice of BharatPe: New Delhi;
- BharatPe Founded: 2018.

**Patiala to host Indian Grand Prix 4**



- The Indian Grand Prix 4 will be held on June 21 at the National Institute of Sports in Patiala, according to the Athletics Federation of India (AFI).
- The decision to hold the local events in India was taken in order to provide Indian competitors the best chance of qualifying for the Tokyo Olympics. Dutee Chand and Hima Das, two of India's top sprinters, are set to compete in the fourth Indian Grand Prix in 2021.
- From June 25 to July 1, the National Inter-State Athletics Championships will be held at the same location.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Athletics Federation of India Founded: 1946;
- Athletics Federation of India Headquarters location: New Delhi.

**Novak Djokovic wins French Open Tennis Title 2021**





- Novak Djokovic won the French Open for the second time in his career, defeating Stefanos Tsitsipas. With his 19th Grand Slam triumph, Djokovic has reduced the gap on Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal for the most Grand Slam titles. Both players have won a total of 20 Grand Slams.
- Djokovic is also the first guy in the Open Era to accomplish the Grand Slam twice in his career.
- (He has nine Australian Open titles, five Wimbledon titles, and three US Open titles.) After Rod Laver, he became the only man in 52 years to win all four Grand Slams twice. He is only the third male tennis player to accomplish this milestone. Roy Emerson is the third.

**Winners of French Open Tennis Tournament 2021**

- Men’s Singles: **Novak Djokovic (Serbia)**
- Women’s Singles: **Barbora Krejčíková (Czech Republic)**
- Men’s Doubles: Pierre-Hugues Herbert (France) and Nicolas Mahut (France)
- Women’s Doubles: Barbora Krejčíková (Czech Republic) and Kateřina Siniaková (Czech Republic)
- Mixed Doubles- Desirae Krawczyk (United States) and Joe Salisbury (United Kingdom).

**Kathryn Bryce, Mushfiqur Rahim named ICC Players of the month for May**



- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has named Kathryn Bryce of Scotland and Mushfiqur Rahim of Bangladesh as the winners of the ICC Player of the Month Awards for the month of May.
- The ICC Player of the Month Awards strive to recognise and celebrate the best achievements from both male and female cricketers throughout the year in all forms of international cricket.

**D. Gukesh wins Gelfand Challenge chess title**



- D. Gukesh stunned the chess world by winning the \$15,000 Gelfand Challenge and, with it, a spot in the elite Meltwaters Champions Chess Tour.
- He won all four rounds, including the crucial match against Praggnanandhaa, and came out on top after a string of victories over other title challengers.

**Wrestler Vinesh Phogat clinched gold medal in Poland**

**open**



- Vinesh Phogat, an Indian wrestler, won gold in the 53 kg category at the Poland Open. It's her third championship of the season.
- She had previously won gold in the Matteo Pellicone event in March and at the Asian Championships (April). In the final, she defeated Khrystyna Bereza of Ukraine.
- At the Poland Open, Khrystyna Bereza took silver. Anshu Malik, an Indian wrestler, had already withdrawn from the 57kg tournament owing to a fever.

**Sports brand Puma India extends partnership with Yuvraj Singh**



- Former Indian cricketer Yuvraj Singh, who has been connected with Puma India for over a decade, has extended his collaboration with the brand.
- Yuvraj will now be known as the face of Puma Motorsport in India, exhibiting his affinity for fast automobiles and sports-inspired design.
- Yuvraj has now joined the ranks of Thierry

Henry, Boris Becker, and Usain Bolt as global ambassadors for the company.

- Puma is linked to Scuderia Ferrari, Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team, Aston Martin Red Bull Racing, BMW M Motorsport, and Porsche Motorsport on a global scale.
- Puma motorsport seeks to capitalise on the growing demand for streetstyle products inspired by performance gear in India, which is one of the brand's largest markets.

**Max Verstappen wins 2021 French Grand Prix**



- The 2021 French Grand Prix was won by Max Verstappen (Netherlands-Red Bull). The seventh round of the FIA Formula One World Championship in 2021 will be held here.
- Max Verstappen now leads Lewis Hamilton (119 points) in the Formula One drivers' standings after seven races, with 131 points. Sergio Perez (Mexico-Red Bull) was third and Lewis Hamilton (Britain-Mercedes) was second.

**Weightlifter Laurel Hubbard will be first trans athlete to compete at Olympics**



- Laurel Hubbard, a New Zealand weightlifter, is set to create history and stir up controversy after being confirmed as the first transgender athlete to compete in an Olympic Games.
- The 43-year-old is viewed as a serious medal contender in the women's super heavyweight 87kg-plus category in Tokyo, where she will be the fourth oldest weightlifter at an Olympics.
- Those who believe she has unfair advantages in strength and power because she went through male puberty before transitioning in 2012 have questioned her inclusion, which has been welcomed by trans groups but questioned by those who believe she has unfair advantages in strength and power because she went through male puberty before transitioning in 2012.

**Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce becomes second fastest woman of all-time ahead**



- Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, a Jamaican sprinter, clocked 10.63 seconds at a meet in Kingston to become the second-fastest woman of all time after Florence Griffith-Joyner, the world record holder in the 100 metres.
- Griffith-Joyner of the United States still maintains the women's 100m world record of 10.49 seconds, which she achieved in Indianapolis in 1988, as well as the three fastest times ever, 10.61 and 10.62, both recorded in 1988.

**Rani Rampal, Manpreet Singh named captains of**

**Indian hockey teams**



- Manpreet Singh, a midfielder, has been selected captain of India's Olympic-bound men's hockey squad, while Birendra Lakra and Harmanpreet Singh, both seasoned defenders, have been named vice-captains.

**New Zealand crowned first ICC World Test Championship**



- The first ICC World Test Championship was won by New Zealand, who defeated India. With eight wickets in hand, New Zealand chased down a 139-run goal to win the first-ever World Test Championship final.
- The match ended on June 23, 2021, with the final day being played on June 23, 2021. Due to the rain, the match was extended to six days instead of the usual five. Kyle Jamieson (New Zealand) was named "Player of the Match," while Kane Williamson (New Zealand) was named "Player of the Series."
- The inaugural test championship began in 2019 and ended in 2021 with the finals.

## Australian swimmer Kaylee McKeown breaks 100-meter backstroke world record



- At the South Australian Aquatic Centre, Australian swimmer Kaylee McKeown breaks the 100-meter backstroke world record with a time of 57.45 seconds, beating the previous mark of 57.57 seconds established by American Regan Smith in 2019.
- Emily Seebohm was second in 58.59 seconds to earn a spot in her fourth Olympics.

## Cristiano Ronaldo becomes joint top-scorer in men's international football



- Cristiano Ronaldo has surpassed Lionel Messi as the all-time leading scorer in men's international football. He is now tied with Ali Daei of Iran, who scored 109 goals in 149 games from 1993 to 2006.
- After a 2-2 draw with France, Cristiano Ronaldo converted two penalties to tie the all-time men's scoring record of 109 goals in 176 games.

## Max Verstappen Wins 2021 Styrian Grand Prix



- The 2021 Styrian Grand Prix was won by Max Verstappen (Netherlands-Red Bull). Verstappen has won four times in the 2021 Formula One season.
- With this victory, Verstappen now holds a 156-point lead over Hamilton in the 2021 driver's championship standings (138).

## Deepika Kumari wins Gold Medal at Archery World Cup Stage 3



- Deepika Kumari, an ace Indian archer, set a new world record by winning three gold medals in a row in a single day at the Archery World Cup Stage 3 in Paris.
- Each of the women's recurve individual, team, and mixed pair events were won by the Ranchi daughter.

## 17: State News

### Madhya Pradesh Government launches 'Ankur' scheme



- The administration of Madhya Pradesh's Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has established a programme called "Ankur," in which citizens would be rewarded for planting trees during the monsoon season.
- To ensure public participation in the programme, citizens who take part in it will be awarded the Pranvayu Award.
- During the monsoon, a sapling planting programme will be carried out.
- Participants must post a photo of themselves planting the sapling and then another one after 30 days of caring for the sapling.
- Following that, winners will be chosen from each district to receive the Pranvayu Award, which will be verified.
- Citizens can participate in the tree-planting effort by enrolling on the Vayudoot app, which was launched by the state to manage the "Ankur" program's activities.

#### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh: Shivraj Singh Chouhan; Governor: Anandiben Patel.

### Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurates Indus Best Mega Food Park in Chhattisgarh



- With Bhupesh Baghel, Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, and Rameswar Teli, Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries, Narendra Singh Tomar virtually launched the Indus Best MegaFood Park.
- The Mega Food Park will provide value addition, a longer shelf life for farm food, improved price realisation for farmers, excellent storage facilities, and a regional alternate market for farmers.
- About 5,000 people will be employed directly and indirectly as a result of the park, and about 25,000 farmers in the CPC and PPC catchment areas will benefit.
- The modern infrastructure for food processing constructed at Park will greatly benefit processors and customers in Chhattisgarh and the surrounding areas, and will provide a significant boost to the state's food processing sector's growth.

#### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh: Bhupesh Baghel; Governor: Anusuiya Uikey.

### Gujarat's Vishwamitri river project gets National Green

**Tribunal nod**



- The National Green Tribunal's Principal Bench recently ordered the Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC), Gujarat, and other authorities to carry out the Vishwamitri River Action Plan, which includes demarcation, planting, and protecting the river's integrity.
- Crocodiles, turtles, and other endangered animals have been nesting in the river's lengths. The NGT has noted that the Vishwamitri River in Vadodara is one of the 351 polluted river stretches identified by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), and that the restoration of such stretches has also been "exhaustively considered" by the Tribunal in another hearing of the same applicants' petition.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Chairman of NGT: Adarsh Kumar Goel;
- NGT Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Gujarat Chief Minister: Vijay Rupani;
- Gujarat Governor: Acharya Devvrat.

**Kerala launches 'Knowledge Economy Mission'**



- Kerala's government has created the "Knowledge Economy Mission" to help knowledge workers improve their job prospects. On June 4, the proposal was announced in the State Budget.
- Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K-DISC) was in charge of it, and they will present a detailed project report by July 15.
- The project will be created in order to consolidate ongoing efforts to employ educated people and support "knowledge workers" into a single initiative.
- For knowledge workers who work near to their homes and engage with employers, a strategy will be developed to offer basic facilities and a social security system.
- A 'knowledge economy fund' will be established for implementation and funding reasons.
- The knowledge economy budget was increased from 200 crores to 300 crores in order to enhance skills and strengthen the higher education system, as well as for technological change.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Kerala CM: Pinarayi Vijayan.
- Kerala Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan.

**Assam govt names Raimona reserve forest sixth national park**



- Raimona, located in the Kokrajhar district, has been designated as Assam's sixth national park.

The 422-square-foot wildlife habitat in Kokrajhar district is adjacent to Manas Tiger Reserve's westernmost boundary.

- Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Orang, and Dibru-Saikhowa were the five national parks that existed before the 422 sq km Raimona.
- Raimona's southern border is defined by the Pekua River. Raimona is part of the Manas Biosphere Reserve, which covers 2,837 square kilometres, as well as the Chirang-Ripu Elephant Reserve.
- The long-term protection of endemic species like the golden langur, the mascot of the Bodoland Territorial Council, and endangered species like the Asian elephant, Bengal tiger, and other flora and faunal species it supports will be ensured by such a secure transboundary ecological landscape.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Assam Governor: Jagdish Mukhi;
- Assam Chief Minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma.

**Haryana CM announces creating 'Oxi-van' in Karnal**



- Manohar Lal Khattar, Haryana's Chief Minister, announced the creation of 80 acres of "Oxi-van" (forest) in the Karnal district.
- On June 5, 2021, it was announced on the occasion of World Environment Day. Oxi-van will be made up of ten different woodland

kinds.

- On this occasion, we want to emphasise the value of trees and encourage their promotion, protection, and planting. The Haryana government has announced four major initiatives:
- Pension Scheme of Pran Vayu Devta: A pension of Rs 2500 would be granted in the name of Pran Vayu Devta to preserve trees that are above 75 years old under this scheme. On the basis of the old age Samman pension, this pension would increase each year.
- Panchavati Plantation in Haryana: As part of this endeavour, plantations would be made in the name of Panchvati throughout Haryana's villages. It will aid in the extraction of natural oxygen from trees. The plan will also promote agroforestry on unoccupied land. As a result, the income of Panchayats in rural areas will increase.
- Oxy Forest was launched on Forest Department land at Mughal Canal, Karnal, by Oxy-Van. Bel, Amla, Ashoka, Banyan, and Peepal trees were planted in Panchavati. It will cover an area of 80 acres.
- Oxy-Van in Panchkula: It will be built on a hundred-acre plot in Bir Ghaggar in order to produce Mother Nature's green lungs for Panchkula inhabitants to breathe fresh air. This programme has been given a budget of Rs 1 crore.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Haryana Capital: Chandigarh.
- Haryana Governor: Satyadev Narayan Arya.
- Haryana Chief Minister: Manohar Lal Khattar.

**India's first International Maritime Cluster to come up at GIFT City**



- At GIFT City, the Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) will establish the country's first international maritime services cluster.
- The marine cluster will be built as a distinct ecosystem that includes ports, shipping, logistics service providers, and government regulators, all of which will be located in GIFT City. GIFT City is India's first smart city with international financial services in operation.
- This will be India's first-of-its-kind commercial maritime services cluster, designed to boost India's competitiveness and self-sufficiency in the maritime industry and serve as a one-stop shop for the entire nautical community.
- Regulators, government agencies, maritime/shipping industry associations and businesses, intermediate service providers such as shipping finance, marine insurance, maritime arbitrators, maritime law firms, and support services providers such as maritime education institutes are all expected to be part of the cluster.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Gujarat Chief Minister: Vijay Rupani;
- Gujarat Governor: Acharya Devvrat.

**6. Himachal jumps to third spot in Anemia Mukh Bharat Index**



- With a score of 57.1, Himachal Pradesh has ascended to third place in the Anemia Mukh Bharat Index 2020-21 national ranking. Himachal Pradesh was ranked 18th in 2018-19, but the state was able to climb to third place thanks to the efforts of the government and field workers.
- With a score of 64.1, Madhya Pradesh ranks first, followed by Odisha with a score of 59.3. In just three years, the prevalence of soil-transmitted helminths had dropped from 29 percent to 0.3 percent.
- Anemia is still a serious public health concern, with a high incidence across the country, regardless of gender, age, or location.
- India is one of the countries where anaemia is currently a major public health concern.
- Anemia affects about half of pregnant women in India, 59 percent of children under the age of five, 54 percent of adolescent girls, and 53 percent of non-pregnant non-lactating women.

**Assam gets its seventh national park with Dehing Patkai**



- In a recent cabinet meeting, the Assam government decided to designate Dehing Patkai



Wildlife Sanctuary as the state's seventh national park.

- The state administration recognised the great floral and faunal richness of the newest national park, widely known as Dehing Patkai Rain Forest, in 2004 when 111.19 square kilometres of the territory was designated as Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Hoolock gibbons, elephants, slow lorises, tigers, leopards, clouded leopards, golden cats, fishing cats, marble cats, sambar, hog deer, sloth bears, and a variety of bird species, including the endangered white-winged wood duck, call the area home.
- The state now boasts the country's second-highest number of national parks. Each of the states of Madhya Pradesh and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands has nine national parks.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Assam Governor: Jagdish Mukhi;
- Assam Chief Minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma.

**Assam CM Sarma launches Sishu Seva Achoni for COVID-19 Orphans**



- Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, the Chief Minister of Assam, has dedicated the Chief Minister Sishu Seva Scheme to the benefit of the beneficiaries and has handed over financial support checks to a few beneficiaries who have lost both parents owing to COVID.
- It should be emphasised that under the scheme, each beneficiary will have a fixed deposit of Rs. 7,81,200 deposited in his or her name in the

bank.

- The state government will provide Rs. 3500 per month each child, with an additional Rs. 2000 from the federal government.
- The State government will take steps to place children under the age of ten and adolescent girls without a guardian in one of the child care institutions and provide enough money for their upkeep, including educational expenses.
- Orphaned adolescent girls will be placed in appropriate and reputable institutions to provide their proper care and safety. Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya residential schools is one such institution.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Assam Governor: Jagdish Mukhi;
- Assam Chief Minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma.

**Assam to institute own versions of Bharat Ratna and Padma awards**



- From next year, the Assam government will deliver its own versions of the Bharat Ratna and Padma awards. The cabinet also established civilian honours such as the Asom Bibhushan Award, which is given to three people every year, the Assam Bhushan to five, and the Asom Shree to ten.
- The cash prizes for these four awards will be Rs 5 lakh, Rs 3 lakh, Rs 2 lakh, and Rs 1 lakh, respectively.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Assam Governor: Jagdish Mukhi;
- Assam Chief Minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma.

**Raja Parba- Odisha’s Famous Festival celebrated**



- Odisha celebrates the Raja Parba festival. It is a three-day celebration in which the state commemorates the arrival of monsoon and the earth's womanhood. Mother Earth, also known as Bhudevi, is said to be menstruating at this time.
- The 'purification bath' takes place on the fourth day. Women do not work for three days. This celebration is known for its numerous cake variants (pithas).
- As a result, the Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) has established a unique initiative known as "Pitha on Wheels." On 'Pitha on Wheels,' many pithas such as 'Poda Pitha,' 'Manda,' 'Kakara,' 'Arisha,' 'Chakuli,' and 'Chandrakala' are available (kiosks on wheels).
- These traditional cake-selling vans were stationed in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, and Sambalpur.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Chief Minister of Odisha: Naveen Patnaik and Governor is Ganeshi Lal.

**Telangana AI Mission launched ‘Revv Up’**



- The Telangana government has announced the Telangana AI Mission (T-AIM) supported by Nasscom, which includes an accelerator programme dubbed "Revv Up" to enable and develop AI entrepreneurs.
- The programme, which will begin in July with its first cohort, is another step toward making Telangana and Hyderabad a global hub for AI and other developing technologies.
- The accelerator programme, which is only for growth-stage AI firms, will span a wide range of industries.
- “Telangana is committed to its aim of putting the State as a leader in AI,” said Telangana Industries and IT Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan.
- T-AIM has launched the first round of the Revv Up accelerator programme to hone creative AI ideas after being the first state in India to adopt an actionable policy framework for Artificial Intelligence in June 2020.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Telangana Capital: Hyderabad;
- Telangana Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan;
- Telangana Chief minister: K. Chandrashekar Rao.

**Rajasthan govt will set Vedic Education and Sanskar Board**



- To revitalise knowledge of Sanskrit scriptures and Vedas, the Rajasthan government will shortly establish a Vedic Education and Sanskar Board. In the following four to five months, the board will most likely be created.
- According to Minister of State (MoS) for Sanskrit Education Subhash Garg, a committee constituted to describe the board's goals, objectives, and functioning has submitted its report to the state government, and modules would be presented to the board based on the report.
- He claimed that the Vedic board would be operational when Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot gave his approval. **Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**
- Chief Minister of Rajasthan: Ashok Gehlot; Governor: Kalraj Mishra.

**MP Govt launches 'Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan'**



- The government of Madhya Pradesh has initiated the 'Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan' to raise awareness about the

continuing COVID-19 pandemic in the state. With the support of the young power campaign, it translates to "free from Corona."

- Students will be given information and specifics about the importance of COVID-friendly behaviour and vaccination in small groups in colleges.
- The campaign was launched on the orders of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan by the state's higher education and technical education departments in partnership with the public healthcare and family welfare departments.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh: Shivraj Singh Chouhan; Governor: Anandiben Patel.

**Bihar government launches 'Mukhya Mantri Udyaymi Yojana'**



- Nitish Kumar, the Chief Minister of Bihar, has announced the beginning of two ambitious programmes, the Mukhya Mantri Yuva Udyaymi Yojana and the Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyami Yojana. Both initiatives are part of the state's Mukhaya Mantri Udyami Yojana, which aims to foster entrepreneurship among young and women from all walks of life.
- During the 2020 Bihar elections, the chief minister pledged the initiatives.
- Youth and women of all castes and creeds who want to start a business will be given a loan of Rs 10 lakh, of which Rs 5 lakh will be a grant

from the state government and the other Rs 5 lakh will be a loan that will be repaid in 84 instalments.

- He also developed a website where young people and women from all walks of life can register to get government loans.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Chief Minister of Bihar: Nitish Kumar; Governor: Phagu Chauhan.

**Odisha CM launches ‘Ashirbad’ for education and health of Covid orphans**



- Naveen Patnaik, the Chief Minister of Odisha, established a new scheme called Ashirbad for the education, health, and upkeep of Covid orphans.
- Following the loss of their parents, the Chief Minister declared that Rs 2500 per month will be put in the bank accounts of family members who have assumed care for the children.
- Children who lost their parents or the family's primary earner to Covid-19 on April 1, 2020, or later will be eligible for coverage under the scheme. The children that are in distress have been separated into three groups.
- Those who have lost both parents, either father or mother, and those whose main earning member of the family, either father or mother, has passed away.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Chief Minister of Odisha: Naveen Patnaik and Governor is Ganeshi Lal.

**Raghuram Rajan named in Tamil Nadu economic advisory panel**



- The Tamil Nadu government has appointed Nobel Laureate Esther Duflo and former Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan to the state's five-member Economic Advisory Council.
- Former Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian, development economist Jean Drèze, and former Union Finance Secretary S Narayan are the other members of the council.
- Finance Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, who worked as an investment banker in the United States and Singapore before entering politics, put together the five-member committee. The government will revitalise the state's economy based on the Council's recommendations, ensuring that the benefits of economic growth reach all segments of society.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Tamil Nadu governor Banwarilal Purohit;
- MK Stalin chief minister of Tamil Nadu.

**Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani e-launches Agricultural Diversification Scheme**



- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has effectively inaugurated the 'Agricultural Diversification Scheme-2021,' with the goal of making agriculture in the state's tribal areas more sustainable and profitable.
- More than 1.26 lakh vanbandhu-farmers from Gujarat's 14 tribal districts will benefit from the scheme.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Gujarat Chief Minister: Vijay Rupani;
- Gujarat Governor: Acharya Devvrat.

**World's first-ever genetically modified rubber planted in Assam**



- Rubber Board has planted the world's first genetically modified (GM) rubber plant at its field at Sarutari, near Guwahati, in Assam.
- The Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII) at Puthuppally, Kottayam, Kerala, produced the GM rubber sapling.
- This first-of-its-kind plant was created specifically for the northeast, allowing it to survive in the region's climatic circumstances..

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Assam Governor: Jagdish Mukhi;
- Assam Chief Minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma.

**India and World Bank signs USD 32 million loan for Mizoram**



**THE WORLD BANK**

- For the Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project, the Government of India and the Government of Mizoram have inked a \$32 million financing deal with the World Bank.
- The project's goal is to strengthen Mizoram's management capacity and health-care quality, with an emphasis on underserved areas and vulnerable groups.
- The project will strengthen the Department of Health and Family Welfare (DoHFW) and its subsidiaries' governance and management structures, improve the quality and coverage of services delivered by state government health systems, and invest in a comprehensive Quality Assurance programme that will enable health facility quality certification.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- World Bank Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States.
- World Bank Formation: July 1944.
- World Bank President: David Malpass.
- Chief Minister of Mizoram: Pu Zoramthanga; Governor: P.S. Sreedharan Pillai.

**World Bank Approves USD125 million financial support**

**for Kerala**



- The World Bank Board of Executive Directors has authorised a \$125 million grant for the 'Resilient Kerala Program,' which would aid the state with disaster preparedness, climate change impacts, disease outbreaks, and pandemics.
- The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) loan, worth \$125 million, has a 14-year term with a six-year grace period.
- The 2018 monsoons were the worst in over a century in Kerala, resulting in deadly floods and landslides. More than 5 million people were affected, mostly in the Pamba River Basin.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Kerala CM: Pinarayi Vijayan.
- Kerala Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan.
- World Bank Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States.
- World Bank Formation: July 1944.
- World Bank President: David Malpass.

**Goa becomes first state to go rabies free**



- Goa has become the first state in the country to be Rabies-free, according to Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant.
- Since the last three years, no single instance of rabies has been discovered in the state, according to the CM. The mission rabies team had been doing an excellent job and administering rabies vaccinations to canines.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Goa Capital: Panaji.
- Governor of Goa: Bhagat Singh Koshiyari.
- Chief Minister of Goa: Pramod Sawant.

**Andhra Pradesh introduces SALT programme**



- The World Bank has granted a loan of \$250 million for Andhra Pradesh's Supporting Andhra's Learning Transformation (SALT) programme to reform foundational learning in government schools.
- The program's main goals are to enhance foundation schools and provide teachers with training and skill development. More than 40 lakh youngsters and approximately 2 lakh teachers are enrolled in Andhra Pradesh's public school system.

**Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

- Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh: YS Jagan Mohan Reddy; Governor: Biswa Bhusan Harichandan.

## 18: Summits & Conferences

### UN Sustainable Transport Conference will take place in China



- The second United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference will be place in Beijing, China, from the 14th to the 16th of October 2021.
- It will give participants the chance to focus on the potential, problems, and solutions for attaining global sustainable transportation.
- The conference will build on the first Global Sustainable Transport Conference, which took place in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, in 2016, and is expected to show how sustainable transportation can assist meet the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Agreement.

### BRICS Foreign Minister meeting concluded virtually



- S Jaishankar, the External Affairs Minister, presided over a video conferencing meeting of BRICS foreign ministers. This summit brought

together the foreign ministers of Brazil, Russia, China, and South Africa.

- Ministers agreed to work together on the pillars of political and security, economic and financial cooperation, and people-to-people and cultural exchanges at this meeting.
- They also talked about the social and economic consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, and they agreed that the UN and other global agencies needed to reform.
- They also discussed a variety of topics, such as sustainable development, terrorism, and intra-BRICS collaboration, among others.
- The 'BRICS Joint Ministerial Statement on Strengthening and Reforming the Multilateral System' was adopted and disseminated by all member countries.
- The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the creation of a BRICS Vaccine Research and Development Center.

### Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- BRICS is a group formed by five major emerging countries Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- South Africa joined the group in 2010.
- India will host the 13th BRICS summit in 2021.

### 47th G7 summit held in UK's Cornwall



- The 47th G7 Leaders' Summit 2021 (Outreach Session of the G7 conference) was held in a hybrid style in Cornwall, United Kingdom, from June 11 to 13, 2021. (UK). The United Kingdom (UK) hosted it because it is the G7 Presidency for 2021.
- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the conference online and urged G7 summit members to adopt a "One Earth, One Health" approach to effectively combat the worldwide coronavirus epidemic, as well as seek G7 cooperation to eliminate patent restrictions for COVID-19 medicines.
- The Summit's theme is 'Building Back Better.'
- Australia, India, South Korea, and South Africa (dubbed "Democracy 11") were invited as Guest Countries to the 2021 summit by the United Kingdom.

## 2021 NATO Summit Held in Brussels, Belgium



- The leaders of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) met face to face in Brussels, Belgium, at NATO headquarters.
- The NATO summit in Brussels in 2021 was the alliance's 31st formal meeting of heads of state and government.
- The 30-nation NATO summit took place as part of US President Joe Biden's first overseas trip since taking office.
- All of the leaders agreed on the "NATO 2030" agenda, a broad undertaking aimed at ensuring that the alliance is prepared to meet future

challenges.

- NATO will also increase political consultation and societal resilience, reinforce defence and deterrence, sharpen the technological edge, and prepare its next Strategic Concept in time for the summit in 2022, according to the agenda.

## Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- NATO Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium.
- NATO Chairman of the NATO Military Committee: Air Chief Marshal Stuart Peach.
- Member countries of NATO: 30; Founded: 4 April 1949.

## Dr. Harsh Vardhan addresses the Global Yoga Conference 2021



- Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, spoke during the Global Yoga Conference 2021's opening ceremony.
- The event was organised by the 'Mokshayatan Yog Sansthan' in collaboration with the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations to commemorate the 7th International Day of Yoga, which will take place on June 21, 2021.

## IIT Bombay Hosts Conference of BRICS Network Universities 2021





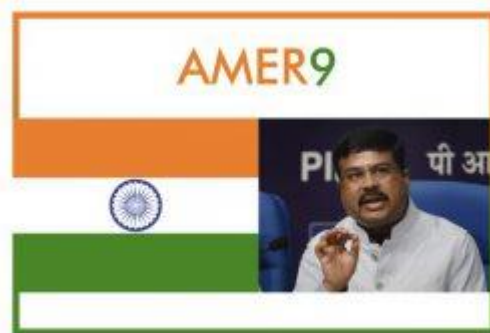
- A three-day virtual "Conference of BRICS Network Universities" is being hosted by the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay). This conference is being hosted as part of India's presidency of the 13th BRICS Summit, which will take place in 2021.
- The BRICS Network University's main goal is to improve educational cooperation in general, but especially in the area of research and innovation. The theme of the BRICS Network Universities Conference is "Electric Mobility."
- 18 experts from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa will offer keynotes on topics such as traffic management, hydrogen technology, hybrid vehicles, lithium-ion batteries, and the link between e-mobility and livelihoods during the event.

**PM Modi Virtually Addresses 5th edition of VivaTech in Paris**



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered a virtual address to the VivaTech 5th edition. VivaTech is one of Europe's largest digital and startup events, held every year in Paris since 2016.
- PM Modi has been invited as a Guest of Honour to give the keynote talk at VivaTech 2021, which will take place in Paris from June 16 to 19, 2021. PM Modi asked the world to invest in India on the basis of five pillars: talent, market, capital, ecosystem, and openness culture.
- Mr. Emmanuel Macron, President of France, Mr. Pedro Sanchez, Prime Minister of Spain, and Ministers/MPs from several European nations are among the other notable speakers at the event.

**9<sup>th</sup> Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable to be hosted by India**



- India has accepted to host the 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable, according to the International Energy Forum (IEF) (AMER9).
- In 2022, the Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable will have its ninth meeting. The conference's dates will be revealed later, and it will build on the agreements struck at the previous gathering in Abu Dhabi in 2018.
- After a virtual meeting between IEF Secretary-General Joseph McMonigle and Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, India decided to host this Energy Roundtable.

# SECTION 2

## Detailed Analysis of Important Events

**Economics**

**Places in news: Sardar Sarovar Dam**

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Sardar Sarovar Dam

**Mains level :** NA

devoid of water for agriculture during the summer months.

**Answer this PYQ in the comment box:**

**Q. Which one of the following pairs is not correctly matched?**

**Dam/Lake River**

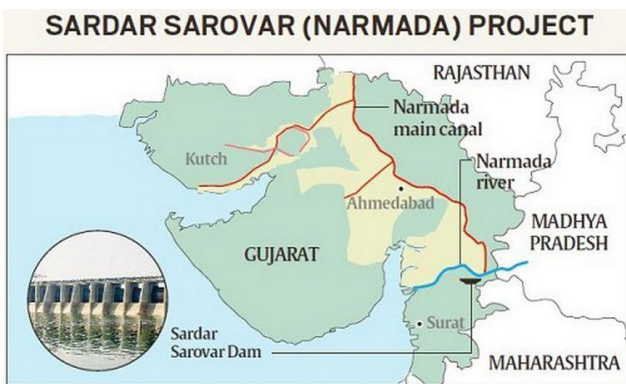
- (a) Govind Sagar: Satluj
- (b) Kolleru Lake: Krishna
- (c) Ukai Reservoir: Tapi
- (d) Wular Lake: Jhelum

**A successful model of river water sharing**

- Water storage is provided in all large, medium, and minor dams on the main river and its tributaries, making River Narmada a textbook example of Integrated River Basin Planning, Development, and Management.
- Its water is divided among four party states - Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra – in accordance with the Narmada Water Dispute Tribunal's 1979 judgement.

**How has it saved water for summers?**

- The reservoir functioning is closely synced with the rain forecast in the catchment area during the monsoon season, which runs from July to October.
- The River Bed Power House (RPBH) operates strategically to ensure that the least amount of water goes downstream into the sea and the most amount of water is used during the dam overflow period, which is not included in the yearly water allocation.



The Sardar Sarovar Dam is providing irrigation water in summer for the first time in history.

**Sardar Sarovar Dam**

- The Sardar Sarovar Narmada Dam is a terminal dam on the Narmada River in Gujarat's Narmada district, erected at Kevadia.
- The dam provides water and electricity to four Indian states: Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan.
- Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru laid the foundation stone for the project on April 5, 1961.
- The project began in 1979 as part of a World Bank-funded development plan to enhance irrigation and generate hydroelectricity through the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.
- Known as Gujarat's "lifeline," it is frequently

- These measures aid in maximising the annual water share allocation.
- Similarly, in non-monsoon months, optimal use of the allocated share often entails reducing conventional and operational losses.
- It entails reducing water waste, regulating water-intensive perennial crops, implementing Underground Pipelines (UGPL), and rotating canal maintenance and operation.

**Mustard oil blending is now banned**

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Edible Oil imports of India

**Mains level :** NA

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India had decided this on March 31. This would end the practice to add other edible oil (like palms, rice bran, etc) to mustard oil.

**Why such move?**

- This is wonderful news for mustard farmers who had their fortunes ruined because up to a fifth of mustard oil volume might previously have been made up of mixes of other oils.
- But why did India begin the practise to begin with? What impact has it had on consumer health?

**Answer this question from CSP 2018:**

**Q.Consider the following statements:**

1. *The quantity of imported edible oils is more than the domestic production of edible oils in the last five years.*
2. *The Government does not impose any customs duty on all the imported edible oils as a special case.*

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Why did the blending begin?**

- In a notification issued in 1990, the Union health ministry permitted the addition of edible vegetable oil.
- The dropsy epidemic struck Delhi and other north Indian states in 1998, causing swelling in the body due to a build-up of fluid in tissues.
- In the national capital, at least 60 people perished and 3,000 were hospitalised.
- The condition was thought to be caused by mustard oil use, according to researchers.

**Adulteration is hazardous**

- It was discovered to be tainted with Argemone Mexicana, a type of plant with yellow blossoms, after further analysis.
- The adulteration, on the other hand, seemed exceedingly suspicious: while mustard is a winter crop, Argemone Mexicana blooms in April and May.
- This suggested that pairing mustard seeds with Argemone mexicana was extremely unlikely.
- The suspicion of adulteration instilled panic in the public. It began a drive to reduce oil use.
- Mustard oil has been confirmed to be harmful to consume in several research.

**The 1990 decision**

- According to experts, combining mustard oil was not only harmful to one's health but also

had a negative impact on mustard growing.

- The blending of refined oil has also been raised by some parties.
- The FSSAI issued regulations in 2006 after the Union health ministry issued a notification in 1990 allowing for the blending of edible vegetable oil.
- The Agriculture Produce (Grading and Marking) Act regulated producers and other businesses involved in blending (AGMARK).
- It also required that the type of oil used for blending be written on the packet.
- Despite accusations of its excessive and unregulated use, the corporations involved in blending vigorously lobbied for the cause. Over the years, administrations have been tight-lipped about it.

**Has blending led to dependence over the import of oil?**

- India was self-sufficient in mustard oil production in 1990-91, producing 98 percent of the oil required.
- It is thought that combining mustard oil with other edible oils will improve the nutritional profile, flavour, and quality.
- Despite the negative consequences, the processing industry benefited from blending.
- Occasionally, cheap palm oil would be combined up to 80% in mustard oil.
- As a result, mustard producers' income dried up, discouraging them from growing the crop.
- One of the causes for India's rising reliance on oil imports during the previous two decades could be this.

**FSSAI recognizes new precision Iodine Value Analyser**

From UPSC perspective, the following things are

important :

**Prelims level :** Precision Iodine Value Analyzer

**Mains level :** Not Much

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Central Scientific Instruments Organization (CSIR-CSIO) has developed and transferred the technology of Precision Iodine Value Analyzer (PIVA).

**What is Precision Iodine Value Analyzer?**

- It's a device that measures the amount of unsaturation (iodine value) in vegetable oils.
- On World Food Safety Day, June 7, 2021, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) recognised this indigenous food testing device.
- It's used in oil extraction units, quality control and assurance labs, food regulatory agencies, soaps and cosmetics, bakeries, meat processing, paint processing, biodiesel analysis, and charcoal production.
- It can also be used to determine if edible oils and fats are adulterated.

**Measuring iodine value**

- Manual titration and a few analytical devices based on automated titration are used to determine iodine value.
- These procedures, on the other hand, take longer to analyse, are more expensive, and employ harmful chemicals.
- Researchers at CSIR-CSIO devised a quick analysis technique that performs the same study in just three minutes.
- Coconut, sunflower, mustard, palm, rice bran, soybean, peanut, olive oil, and ghee have all been calibrated and tested with PIVA.
- This new product is part of a larger effort to

improve food testing capabilities by introducing faster and more sophisticated food testing kits.

**Kerala’s Silver-Line Railway Project**

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :



**Prelims level :** Silverline Project

**Mains level :** Not Much

**SILVERLINE: TRAVEL TIME TO BE CUT FROM 12 TO 4 HRS**

**LENGTH:** 532km  
**TRACK TO CUT THROUGH 11 DISTRICTS**  
**LAND REQUIRED:** 1,226.45 hectares  
**SPEED OF TRAINS:** 200km/hr  
**COST:** ₹56,443 crore (estimated in May this year)  
**CONSTRUCTION PERIOD:** 2020-2024  
**TRAVEL TIME:** Four hours from Thiruvananthapuram to Kasaragod (at present, it is 12-14 hours)

- Fast accessibility to improve economical and industrial growth
- Fillip for tourism sector
- About 11,000 permanent job opportunities

**ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS**

- Decongestion of road traffic
- Improvement of air quality
- Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
- Lower noise impact compared to road transport mode
- Minimal land required at about half of that of four-lane highways

Stop	Distance from Tpuram in km	Running time from Tpuram
Kollam	55	24 minutes
Chengannur	108.7	48 minutes
Kottayam	142.2	1 hour, 3 minutes
Ernakulam	194.9	1 hour, 26 minutes
Thrissur	259	1 hour, 54 minutes
Tirur	316.45	2 hours, 19 minutes
Kozhikode	357.4	2 hours, 37 minutes
Kannur	448.17	3 hours, 16 minutes
Kasaragod	530.29	3 hours 52 minutes

- When the project is completed, trains moving at 200 km/hr would be able to travel from Kasaragod to Thiruvananthapuram in less than four hours.
- On the present Indian Railways network, travel time is currently 12 hours.
- Kerala Rail Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL), a joint venture between the Kerala government and the Union Ministry of Railways, is in charge of the project.

**What was the need for the project?**

- Experts in urban policy have long claimed that the state's current railway infrastructure will not be able to fulfil future needs.
- Due to the numerous curves and turns on the existing route, most trains travel at a 45 km/h average speed.
- The government believes that the SilverLine project is urgently needed because it will relieve congestion on the existing railway line and make travel smoother and faster for commuters.
- As a result, traffic congestion will be reduced, as will the number of accidents and fatalities.

Last week, the Kerala cabinet gave the green light to begin acquiring land for SilverLine, its flagship semi high-speed railway project.

**What is the SilverLine project?**

- The SilverLine Project comprises the construction of a semi-high-speed railway track through the state, connecting Thiruvananthapuram, the state capital, with Kasaragod, the state's northern terminus.
- It's being promoted as one of the country's largest infrastructural projects by the ruling Left Party.
- The proposed route would be 529.45 kilometres long, with 11 stops serving 11 districts.

**Issues with the Project**

- The project's unofficial deadline is 2025, although given the difficult nature of land acquisition in a heavily populated state like Kerala, many would argue that this is not a feasible goal.
- Obtaining land in metropolitan areas, particularly from private actors, remains a major difficulty for the project.
- Environmentalists have also expressed strong opposition to the proposal, noting potential harm to the state's ecosystem along the proposed route.

Enviro & Diversity

**‘Sea Snot’ outbreak in Turkey**

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Sea Snot, Marmara Sea

**Mains level :** Algal bloom



There has been growing environmental concern in Turkey over the accumulation of ‘sea snot’, a slimy layer of grey or green sludge in the country’s seas, which can cause considerable damage to the marine ecosystem.

**What is ‘Sea Snot’?**

- Sea snot is a type of marine mucilage that forms when algae become overburdened with nutrients as a result of water pollution and climate change.
- In 2007, the country saw its first ‘sea snot’ outbreak. It was also seen near Greece in the Aegean Sea around the time.
- However, the current epidemic in the Sea of Marmara is the country's largest ever.
- When algae thrive in the warm temperatures brought on by global warming, nutritional overload ensues. Pollution of the water supply exacerbates the problem.

- According to environmental experts, the current situation is caused by the overproduction of phytoplankton induced by climate change, as well as the uncontrolled dumping of household and industrial garbage into the seas.

**Where has it been found?**



- Turkey’s Sea of Marmara, which connects the Black Sea to the Aegean Sea, has witnessed the largest outbreak of ‘sea snot’.
- The sludge has also been spotted in the adjoining Black and Aegean seas.

**How badly can the crisis affect the marine ecosystem?**

- The increase of mucilage, which floats on the sea’s surface like brown phlegm, is posing a serious threat to the country's marine ecosystem.
- Divers claim that it has killed a large number of fish, as well as corals and sponges, in addition to other aquatic animals.

- The mucilage has already covered the sea's surface and has also extended to depths of 80-100 feet.
- If left unchecked, it might sink to the bottom and cover the sea floor, wreaking havoc on the marine life.
- It has the potential to poison all aquatic species, including fish, crabs, oysters, mussels, and sea stars, over time.

**Glacier melting in Hindu Kush Himalayas**

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Hindu Kush Himalayas

**Mains level :** Melting of glaciers



Up to two billion people in southeast Asia can face food and water shortages even as the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) mountain ranges lose up to two-thirds of its ice by 2100, a United Nations-backed research flagged.

**Hindu Kush Himalayas**

- The HKH region, often known as the 'Third Pole,' is 3,500 square kilometres in size and spans eight countries, including India, Nepal, and China.
- The range is the westernmost extension of the

Pamir Mountains, the Karakoram, and the Himalayas, and it constitutes the western component of the Hindu Kush Himalayan Region (HKH).

- It separates the Amu Darya (ancient Oxus) river basin to the north from the Indus River valley to the south.
- After Antarctica and the Arctic, it has the world's third-largest frozen water store.
- The region's mountains are home to around 240 million people; downstream, 1.7 billion people live in river basins, and food grown in these basins feeds three billion people.

**Continuous warming**

- Even if the globe is able to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the HKH region continues to warm in the twenty-first century.
- Another study on glacial ice thickness published in 2019 estimated that glaciers in the HKH may contain 27% less ice than previously thought.
- The HKH region is located near some of the most polluted areas on the planet. Agriculture, the environment, and monsoon patterns are all at risk.

**[pib] Northern Limit of Monsoon (NLM)**

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Northern Limit of Monsoon (NLM)

**Mains level :** Indian Monsoon

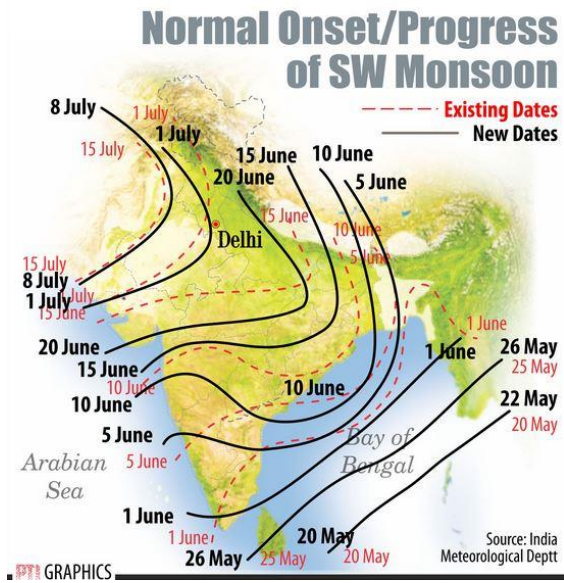
The Northern Limit of Monsoon (NLM) continues to pass through Diu, Surat, Nandurbar, Bhopal, Nowgong, Hamirpur, Barabanki, Bareilly, Saharanpur, Ambala & Amritsar.

**Try this question from CS Mains 2017:**

*Q.What characteristics can be assigned to monsoon*



climate that succeeds in feeding more than 50 percent of the won population residing in Monsoon Asia?

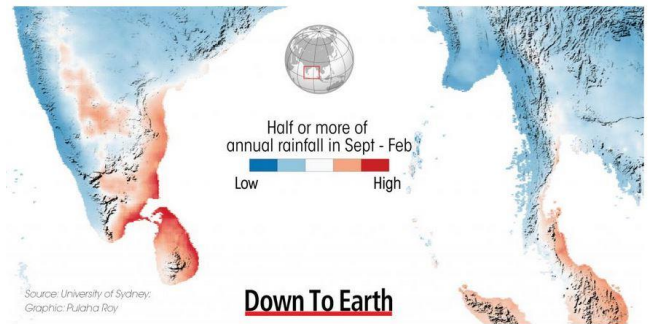


**Retreating Monsoon is a global phenomenon: Study**

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Indian monsoon

**Mains level :** Monsoon and climate change



**What is the Northern Limit of Monsoon?**

- On any given day, monsoon rains have advanced up to NLM, India's northernmost limit.
- As a result, it's a method of following the path of monsoon clouds as they pass over India's landmass.
- The monsoon "advances northwards, frequently in surges, and covers the entire country around July 15", according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

**What are the Eastern and Western Arms?**

- The south-western winds are split by the Himalayas of southern India, giving the Indian monsoon its "two arms."
- The Western Ghats redirect the monsoon's western arm northwards, to (Mumbai) and eventually to Pakistan.
- The Himalayas divert the eastern arm north-westwards as it goes up through the Bay of Bengal to (Kolkata) and Assam.

Rainfall during retreating monsoon, which parts of South India experience every year, is not a local anomaly and is global in nature and scale, according to a recent study by the University of Sydney.

**What is Retreating Monsoon?**

- The withdrawal of south-west monsoon winds from North India is known as retreating monsoon in India.
- The withdrawal takes roughly three months and is gradual.
- The clouds dissipate as the monsoons fade away, and the sky becomes clear. The temperature begins to plummet during the day.
- Monsoon rains are waning over India, with the exception of a few southeastern states.
- It is beneficial in the cultivation of Rabi crops.

**What has the research found?**

- The study found that the northern hemisphere receives the most rainfall in September, October, and November, whereas the southern

hemisphere receives the most rainfall from March to August.

- The fact that these are part of a worldwide pattern rather than isolated events means they can be examined more thoroughly, which will aid in understanding how these communities may be affected by climate change.
- Peninsular India and areas of Southeast Asia are two of the study's eight regions.

#### Factors affecting the retreat

- The study's eight geographical regions that receive the majority of their rainfall after summer have some features in common.
- They are found on the eastern outskirts of landmasses, next to mountain ranges of moderate height.

Two predominant factors cause the phenomenon:

- For starters, each region's low mountain range runs north to south, protecting it from west-bound winds that bring the summer monsoon.
- After the summer, the range aids in the 'orographic lift,' or the rise of east-bound air mass from a lower to a higher elevation, resulting in clouds and rain.

- Atmospheric convection, or air movement upward, is the second factor.
- Various surfaces absorb different quantities of energy as the earth is heated by the sun, and convection can occur when the surface heats up very quickly.
- As the surface heats up, the underlying air warms up as well, becoming less dense than the surrounding air and rising.
- Because of the function played by sea surface temperature or water temperature, this environment is more favourable from September to February.

**Answer this PYQ in the comment box:**

**Q. The seasonal reversal of winds is the typical characteristic of:**

- (a) Equatorial climate
- (b) Mediterranean climate
- (c) Monsoon climate
- (d) All of the above climates

## Governance

### Operation Pangea XIV

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Operation Pangea XIV

**Mains level :** NA

More than 1.10 lakh web links, including websites and online marketplaces, have been taken down in the operation Pangea XIV.

#### Operation Pangea XIV

- Interpol coordinated the drill, which was codenamed "Operation Pangea XIV."

- It enlisted the help of 92 nations' police, customs, and health regulatory agencies to combat the selling of counterfeit and illegal medications and medical supplies.
- According to an official with the Central Bureau of Investigation, which is the country's Interpol nodal organisation, Indian agencies also took part in the operation.
- It revealed that thieves were continuing to profit from the COVID-19 pandemic's high demand for personal protection and hygiene items.

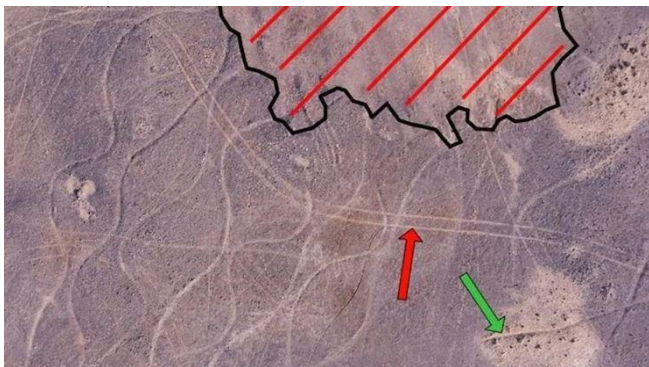
## History

### New geometrical lines discovered in Thar Desert

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Boha Geoglyphs

**Mains level :** NA



Using satellite observations and field visits, two independent researchers from France have identified eight sites around Jaisalmer in the Thar Desert, that show linear features resembling geoglyphs.

#### What are geoglyphs?

- Geoglyphs are enormous, unexplained geometrical designs on terrain that are often assumed to be man-made.
- The greatest grouping of geoglyphs has been discovered in southern Peru, encompassing an area of about 1,000 square kilometres.
- The identified geoglyphs in the Thar Desert encompass an area of around 6 square kilometres, according to a recent report.

#### Boha Geoglyphs in Thar

- Boha, a little village 40 kilometres north of Jaisalmer, was the authors' major focus. There,

they found a succession of concentric and linear structures.

- These features were given the name Boha geoglyphs, and they estimated that they were at least 150 years old.
- It is possible, however, that they were constructed around the middle of the 19th century, at the start of the British colonial period.

#### How are they patterned?

- The Boha geoglyphs are undoubtedly man-made, with the main unit being a massive spiral, although they have recently been degraded by cars driving over the lines.
- As a result, they are certainly not the result of weathering or any natural occurrence."
- The observed features could have developed naturally, but have since degraded due to natural and human-caused factors.

#### Degraded over time

- A common weathering feature can be found in the rocky landscape, particularly over the iron-rich sandstone and shale strata.
- Extreme aridity and high temperatures here cause long-term geochemical translocation of minerals, with heavier minerals such as iron and manganese moving away from lighter minerals.
- As a result, alternate regions of harder and softer mineral concentrations gradually formed.
- The softer materials erode with time, while the harder ones stand out, resulting in the classic concentric or box-like geometric shapes.

#### National Maritime Heritage Complex

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** National Maritime Heritage Complex, Lothal

**Mains level :** Not Much



In order to showcase the maritime heritage and history of India, a National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) will be developed in the Lothal region of Gujarat.

**National Maritime Heritage Complex**

- It's worth noting that the National Maritime Heritage Complex will be built on the ASI site in Lothal, Gujarat, which is 80 kilometres from Ahmedabad.
- Once completed, the project will be turned into an international tourism attraction in India, where visitors from all over the world may learn about India's maritime heritage from ancient to present times.
- The government intends to demonstrate this through an edutainment strategy that uses cutting-edge technology to raise awareness.
- The development will take place over a 400-acre area.

- The National Maritime Heritage Museum, Heritage Theme Park, and Light House Museum will all be part of the complex.

**About Lothal**

- Lothal, in Gujarat, was one of the ancient Indus Valley Civilization's southernmost cities.
- The city's construction began approximately 2200 BCE.
- Lothal possessed the world's oldest known port, according to the ASI, which connected the city to an ancient flow of the Sabarmati river on the trade route between Harappan settlements in Sindh and the peninsula of Saurashtra.
- In ancient times, Lothal was a prosperous commercial centre, with its commerce of beads, diamonds, and expensive decorations stretching far into West Asia and Africa.
- For over 4000 years, the techniques and tools they developed for beadmaking and metallurgy have endured the test of time.
- The Lothal site has been nominated for UNESCO World Heritage status, and the application is currently pending on UNESCO's tentative list.

**Answer this question from CSP 2019 in the comment box:**

**Q. Which one of the following is not a Harappan site?**

- (a) Chanhudaro
- (b) Kot Diji
- (c) Sohgaura
- (d) Desalpur

## International Relations

### US investigation into India's Digital Services Tax (DST)

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Digital Services Taxes

**Mains level :** Read the attached story

The US government has announced the further suspension of punitive tariffs for six months on India, Austria, Italy, Spain, Turkey, and the UK while it continues to resolve the DST investigation amid the ongoing multilateral negotiations at the OECD and the G20.

#### **Do you remember?**

*GAFA tax—named after Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon—is a proposed digital tax to be levied on large technology and internet companies.*

#### **What are the Digital Services Taxes in India?**

- The NDA administration proposed an amendment to the Finance Bill 2020-21 that would levy a 2% digital service tax on non-resident e-commerce firms with a turnover of more than Rs 2 crore on trade and services.
- The equalisation levy for non-resident e-commerce companies engaged in the supply of services, including the online sale of goods and provision of services, has been expanded with the new charge.

#### **What is the story?**

- The United States is working to find a multilateral solution to a number of critical international tax issues, including our concerns about digital services taxes.

- Through the OECD and G20 processes, it is attempting to develop a consensus on international tax issues.

#### **Investigation regarding DST**

- The US has conducted a year-long inquiry into countries' digital services taxes, claiming that they are discriminatory against internet giants such as Apple, Amazon, Google, and Facebook.

#### **What's the case against India?**

- The USTR's proposed course of action in the case of India includes additional tariffs of up to 25% ad valorem on an aggregate level of commerce.
- The preliminary list of things that would be subject to the increased taxes includes around 26 categories of commodities.
- Shrimps, basmati rice, cigarette paper, cultured pearls, semi-precious stones, silver powder and silver jewellery, gold mixed link necklaces and neck chains, and certain bentwood furniture fall within this category.

#### **Why does India need DST?**

- The agenda to modify international tax legislation so that digital businesses are taxed where their economic operations take place is still in the works.
- As a result, countries are concerned that they may lose their ability to tax revenue. As a result, a digital services tax has been suggested or implemented in a number of nations.
- The development of digital service taxes (DSTs) is a sign of a shifting global economic system.

## Polity

### Appointment of Election Commissioners

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Election Commission

**Mains level :** Appointment in constitutional bodies

President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday appointed of Anup Chandra Pandey, a retired Uttar Pradesh cadre IAS officer, to the post of Election Commissioner.

### Election Commission of India (ECI)

- The ECI is a constitutional organisation tasked with managing elections in India in accordance with the Indian Constitution's rules and regulations.
- On January 25, 1950, it was founded.
- The electoral commission of India's main goal is to define and regulate the election process at all levels, including Parliament, State Legislatures, and the offices of the President and Vice President of India.

### Functions

According to Article 324 of the Indian Constitution:

- The ECI is in charge of overseeing, directing, and controlling the entire election process for every State's Parliament and Legislature (state legislative assembly and state legislative council), as well as the positions of President and Vice-President of India.

**Answer this PYQ in the comment box:**

**Q.Consider the following statements:**

1. *The Election Commission of India is a five-*

*member body.*

2. *Union Ministry of Home Affairs decides the election schedule for the conduct of both general elections and bye-elections.*
3. *Election Commission resolves the disputes relating to splits/mergers of recognized political parties.*

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (CSP 2017)**

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 3 only

### Its composition

- The commission began with merely a Chief Election Commissioner. There is now a Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners on the board.
- Two extra Commissioners were appointed for the first time on October 16, 1989, although only for a short time, until January 1, 1990.
- Following that, on October 1, 1993, two more Election Commissioners were appointed.

### Appointment & Tenure of Commissioners

- The President has the authority to appoint the Chief Election Commissioner and other election officials.
- They serve for six years or until they reach the age of 65, whichever comes first.
- They have the same status as Judges of the Supreme Court of India.

## Science Tech Art & Culture

### China's EAST Tokamak Device

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Artificial Sun

**Mains level :** Concept behind artificial sun



China's Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST), which mimics the energy generation process of the sun, set a new record.

#### What is China's 'artificial sun' EAST?

- The Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) reactor is a cutting-edge nuclear fusion test bed.
- The artificial sun's objective is to mimic the nuclear fusion reaction, which is the same reaction that drives the sun.
- The EAST is one of three major domestic tokamaks currently in operation in the United States.
- China is now running the HL-2A reactor as well as J-TEXT, in addition to the EAST.
- The EAST has achieved multiple records for the duration of confinement of extremely hot

plasma since it initially became operational in 2006.

- The EAST project is part of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) facility, which when completed in 2035 would be the world's largest nuclear fusion reactor.
- Several countries, including India, South Korea, Japan, Russia, and the United States, have contributed to the project.

#### How does the 'artificial sun' EAST work?

- The EAST Tokamak is a device that simulates the nuclear fusion process that occurs in the sun and stars.
- Nuclear fusion is a method of producing big amounts of energy without producing large amounts of waste.
- Previously, energy was generated by splitting the nucleus of a heavy atom into two or more nuclei of lighter atoms, a process known as nuclear fission.

#### Fission vs. Fusion

- While fission is a less time-consuming process, it produces significantly more nuclear waste.
- Fusion, unlike fission, does not produce greenhouse gases and is thought to be a safer process with a decreased danger of mishaps.
- Nuclear fusion, once mastered, has the potential to offer endless clean energy at very low costs.

#### But what is Fusion?

- To achieve nuclear fusion, enormous heat and pressure are delivered to hydrogen atoms, causing them to fuse together.



- Deuterium and tritium nuclei, both contained in hydrogen, are fused together to form a helium nucleus, which contains a neutron and a lot of energy.
- Fuel is heated to nearly 150 million degrees Celsius, forming a hot plasma "soup" of subatomic particles.
- The plasma is maintained away from the reactor's walls by a strong magnetic field, ensuring that it does not cool down and lose its ability to generate vast amounts of energy.
- For fusion to occur, the plasma must be confined for long periods of time.

**What is the latest record and why does it matter?**

- On Friday, the EAST reactor broke a new record by reaching a plasma temperature of 216 million degrees Fahrenheit and running at 288 million degrees Fahrenheit for 20 seconds.
- To put this in context, the sun's core only reaches roughly 15 million degrees Celsius, implying that the reactor may reach temperatures ten times higher.
- The scientists behind the experimental reactor's next goal is to keep the high temperature for an extended length of time. The EAST has already set a temperature record of 100 million degrees Celsius in 2018.

**China is not the only**

- But China is not the only country that has achieved high plasma temperatures.
- In 2020, South Korea's KSTAR reactor set a new record by maintaining a plasma temperature of over 100 million degrees Celsius for 20 seconds.

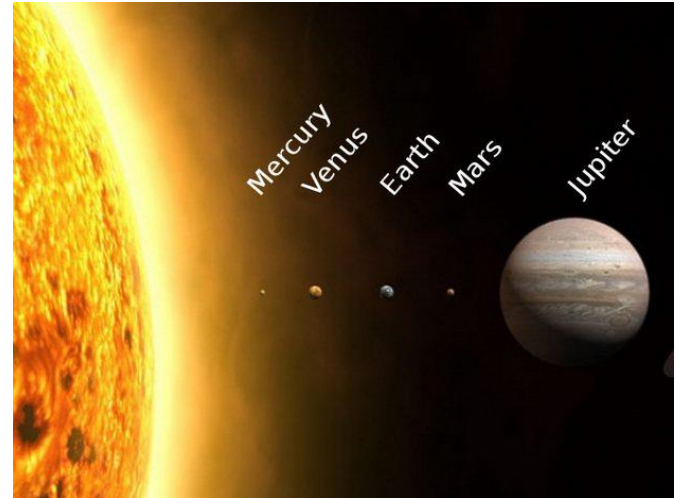
**DAVINCI+ and VERITAS missions for exploration of Venus**

From UPSC perspective, the following things are

important :

**Prelims level :** Missions on Venus

**Mains level :** Planetary exploration



NASA has selected two missions to the planet Venus, Earth's nearest neighbor. The missions are called DAVINCI+ and VERITAS.

**DAVINCI+ and VERITAS**

**(1) DAVINCI+**

- DAVINCI+ (Deep Atmosphere Venus Investigation of Noble Gases, Chemistry, and Imaging) is the first US-led expedition to the planet's atmosphere since 1978.
- It will attempt to decipher Venus' composition in order to determine how the planet formed and evolved.
- This mission will also include a descent sphere that will pass through the planet's dense atmosphere to collect data on noble gases and other components.
- This mission will also attempt to return the first high-resolution photos of a unique geological structure on Venus.
- This feature, known as "tesserae," may be analogous to Earth's continents.

- The discovery of tesserae could indicate that Venus, like Earth, has tectonic plates.

**(2) VERITAS**

- VERITAS (Venus Emissivity, Radio Science, InSAR, Topography, and Spectroscopy) is the name of the second mission.
- It will map the planet's surface in order to learn more about its geologic history and why it developed so differently from Earth.
- VERITAS will orbit Venus with a radar that will aid in the creation of a 3D reconstruction of the planet's terrain, which could tell scientists whether processes like plate tectonics and volcanism are still operating there.
- This project will also map the emissions from Venus's surface, which could aid in understanding the types of rocks that exist on the planet—information that is currently unknown.
- It will also assess whether or not active volcanoes are spewing water vapour into the atmosphere.

**Why study Venus?**

- The findings of DAVINCI+ are expected to change how we think about the genesis of terrestrial planets in our solar system and beyond.
- Both missions are expected to provide scientists with greater information about the planet's dense cloud cover and surface volcanoes when combined.
- Scientists also hypothesise on the likelihood of life on Venus in the distant past, as well as life in the top layers of its clouds, where temperatures are less harsh.

**Have humans visited Venus?**

- No people have visited the planet because of its

hostile environment, and the spacecraft that have been sent there have not lived for very long.

- Because Venus's high surface temperatures quickly overheat electronics in spacecraft, it appears doubtful that a person could stay long on the planet's surface.
- Several nations' spaceships have visited the planet so far.
- The first of these spacecraft was the Soviet Union's Venera series (which, because to the hard circumstances on the planet, did not last long).
- The Magellan Mission, which investigated Venus from 1990 to 1994, was the next mission. The planet is currently being studied from orbit by Japan's Akatsuki mission.

**Back2Basics: Venus**

- After the moon, Venus is the second brightest object in the sky for those on Earth.
- The heavy cloud cover reflects and scatters light, giving it a dazzling appearance.
- According to NASA, surface temperatures on Venus can reach 471 degrees Celsius, which is hot enough to melt lead. According to NASA, surface temperatures on Venus can reach 471 degrees Celsius, which is hot enough to melt lead.

**Some unknown facts**

- Despite the fact that Venus, the second nearest planet to the Sun, is known as the Earth's twin due to their comparable proportions, the two worlds are very different.
- For one thing, the planet's thick atmosphere retains heat, which is why, despite being the second-closest planet to the Sun, it is the hottest planet in the solar system.
- In addition, Venus advances forward in its orbit

around the Sun while slowly spinning backwards around its axis.

- As a result, the Sun rises in the west and sets in the east on Venus.
- Because of its retrograde spinning, which is the opposite of that of the Earth and most other planets, one day on Venus is equivalent to 243 Earth days.
- Venus is also devoid of a moon and rings.

**[pib] India’s First Indigenous Tumour Antigen SPAG9**

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** SPAG9

**Mains level :** NA

The National Institute of Immunology (NII) has received a trademark for India’s First Indigenous Tumor Antigen SPAG9.

**About SPAG9**

- Dr Anil Suri, who heads the Cancer Research Program at NII, found India's first indigenous tumour antigen SPAG9 in 1998.
- The SPAG9 antigen has been given the trademark ASPAGNII-TM in a recent development.
- ASPAGNIITM is currently being employed in dendritic cell (DC) based immunotherapy for cervical cancer, ovarian cancer, and breast cancer.

**What is immunotherapy?**

- Immunotherapy is a novel treatment that taps into the body's natural ability to fight cancer.
- With this method, either the immune system is boosted or T cells are “trained” to recognise

and kill refractory cancer cells.

- Patients who express the SPAG9 protein can be treated with a DC-based vaccination in this tailored strategy.
- In a DC-based vaccine, the patient's blood cells, called monocytes, are collected and converted into dendritic cells.
- These dendritic cells are primed with ASPAGNIITM before being injected back into the patient to aid the body's "fighter" cells, or T-cells, in killing cancer cells.

**Why need such therapy?**

- DC-based immunotherapy is safe and inexpensive, and it can boost antitumor immune responses and help cancer patients live longer.
- The ASPAGNIITM is a shining example of Atmanirbhar Bharat spirit and translational cancer research.
- This will be a huge morale booster for cancer treatment options that are affordable, tailored, and indigenous.

**Answer this PYQ in the comment box:**

**Q. ‘RNA Interference (RNAi)’ technology has gained popularity in the last few years. why?**

1. *It is used in developing gene silencing therapies*
2. *It can be used in developing therapies for the treatment of cancer*
3. *It can be used to developer hormone replacement therapies*
4. *It can be used to produce crop plants that are resistant to viral pathogens*

**Select the correct answer using the code given below.**

a) 1, 2 and 4

b) 2 and 3

c) 1 and 3

d) 1 and 4 only

**The burden of cancer in India**

- Cancer kills 8.51 lakh people in India every year (International Agency for Research on Cancer, 2020).
- As per World Health Organization (WHO), one in 10 Indians will develop cancer during their lifetime, and one in 15 will die of cancer.

**CIBER-2 Mission to count the stars in the Universe**

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** CIBER 2 Mission

**Mains level :** NA

A NASA-funded rocket’s launch window will open at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, USA. The aim of this mission is to count the number of stars that exist in the Universe.

**Answer this PYQ from CSP 2020 in the comment box:**

**Q. “The experiment will employ a trio of spacecraft flying in formation in the shape of an equilateral triangle that has sides one million kilometers long, with lasers shining between the craft.” The experiment in question refers to**

- (a) Voyager-2
- (b) New horizons
- (c) Lisa Pathfinder
- (d) Evolved LISA

**What is CIBER-2?**

- Scientists have determined that each galaxy has

about 100 million stars on average, however this figure is not correct, in order to estimate the number of stars in the Universe.

- The figure of 100 million people is likely to be underestimated by a factor of ten or more.
- To put this in perspective, each galaxy has an average of 100 million stars (NASA estimates there are 2 trillion), resulting in a total of one hundred quintillion stars, or 1 with 21 zeroes after it.
- According to NASA, if this figure is correct, there are more than ten stars for every grain of sand on Earth.
- However, this estimate presupposes that all stars are contained within galaxies, which may not be the case, as the CIBER-2 instrument will investigate.

**How will CIBER-2 count stars?**

- The gadget will identify extragalactic background light rather than counting specific stars, according to NASA.
- It is all of the light that has ever been emitted in the Universe's history.
- The CIBER-2 will focus on a portion of this extragalactic background light termed cosmic infrared background, which is released by some of the most common stars, from all of this extragalactic background light.
- Essentially, this method looks at the brightness of the light to give scientists an estimate of how many stars are out there.
- Previously, the ESA's Herschel infrared space observatory counted and measured the number of galaxies in the infrared.

**How blind people can navigate better using Echolocation**

From UPSC perspective, the following things are

important :

**Prelims level :** Echolocation

**Mains level :** NA

A technique used by animals such as dolphins, whales, and bats to navigate their surroundings can also be used by blind people to get around better and have greater independence and well-being, researchers at Durham University in the UK have shown.

### What is Echolocation?

- Echolocation, commonly known as biosonar, is a type of biological sonar employed by a variety of animals.
- Animals that echolocate send out calls into the surroundings and listen for echoes of those calls returning from various objects nearby.
- These echoes are used to find and identify the items.

### What has the new study found?

- Blind persons can use the same technique to locate still things by making clicking sounds with their mouth and hands.
- The researchers put together a 10-week training programme in which 12 blind and 14 sighted volunteers, ranging in age from 21 to 79, were taught click-based echolocation.
- The volunteers were taught how to discern between object sizes, perception of orientation, and virtual navigation.
- Participants were able to enhance their ability to navigate utilising clicking noises from their mouths, walking cane taps, or footsteps by the end of the session.

### Supersonic flying: benefits and concerns

From UPSC perspective, the following things are

important :

**Prelims level :** Supersonic plane

**Mains level :** NA

The United Airlines of USA has announced it was ordering 15 Overture planes with the ability to travel at Mach 1.7, faster than the speed of sound, from the Denver-based startup Boom.

### What is a Supersonic Plane?

- Planes that can go faster than the speed of sound are known as supersonic aircraft.
- Supersonic flight technology is approximately 70 years old, yet it has only lately been deployed for commercial flights.
- The planes were solely employed for military purposes prior to 1976, when the first commercial supersonic flight took conducted.
- Supersonic planes can travel at speeds of up to 900 km/h, or twice the speed of regular flights.

### What about the Overture supersonic plane?

- The Overture aircraft would have a range of 4,250 nautical miles and a top speed of Mach 1.7 (1,805 kmph). It could carry 65 to 88 passengers in a single flight and reach a height of 60,000 feet.
- The business has stated that it expects to have a “experimental” jet ready by 2022, begin rolling out planes in 2025, and open them to passengers by 2029.
- It claims to expand on Concorde's legacy by using technology that is quicker, more efficient, and more environmentally friendly.

### Challenges with supersonic planes

Flying passengers at a supersonic speed is accompanied by a whole set of challenges.

- To begin with, the expenses of producing “sustainable” supersonic jets are too high.
- The nature of its flying — which consumes a lot of fuel and energy — is expected to have significant environmental consequences.
- The use of renewable fuels does not eliminate greenhouse gas emissions.
- Second, because of the planes' high speeds, they produce considerable noise pollution in the surroundings.
- To the human ear, the "Sonic Boom" emitted by these planes sounds like an explosion.
- As a result, supersonic planes are limited in where they may fly and when they can fly. They won't be able to reach their maximum speed until they're far enough away from people and entirely above the water.
- Finally, it would not be financially possible for all. Only the very wealthy can buy supersonic jets, as a ticket is likely to be far more expensive than a standard plane's first-class ticket.

## CHIME Telescope

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** CHIME Telescope, Fast Radio Bursts

**Mains level :** NA



Scientists with the Canadian Hydrogen Intensity Mapping Experiment (CHIME) Collaboration have assembled the largest collection of fast radio bursts

(FRBs) in the telescope’s first FRB catalog.

## CHIME Telescope

- The Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory in British Columbia, Canada, hosts CHIME, an interferometric radio telescope.
- It comprises of four antennas with 100 x 20-meter cylindrical parabolic reflectors suspended above them and 1024 dual-polarization radio receivers suspended above them.
- As the Earth revolves, the telescope gets radio waves from half of the sky every day.
- While typical radio astronomy involves swivelling a big dish to focus light from different parts of the sky, CHIME stares at the sky statically and utilises a correlator to focus incoming signals.
- This is a sophisticated digital signal processor that can handle massive volumes of data at a rate of around seven terabytes per second, or about 1% of all Internet traffic.

## What are FRBs?

- FRBs are unusually brilliant flashes of light that occur in the radio band of the electromagnetic spectrum and last only a few milliseconds before disappearing.
- These mysterious, fleeting lights have been discovered in far-flung corners of the universe, as well as in our own galaxy.
- Their origins are unknown, and their look varies greatly.
- However, since the start of the CHIME project, the number of fast radio bursts discovered has roughly quadrupled.
- Astronomers seek to track down the extreme origins of these very brilliant signals with more observations.

## EnVision Mission to Venus

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** EnVision Mission

**Mains level :** Interplanetary missions

Following NASA's footsteps, the European Space Agency (ESA) announced that it has selected EnVision as its next orbiter that will visit Venus sometime in the 2030s.

*Last week, NASA selected two missions to the planet Venus, Earth's nearest neighbour. The missions called **DAVINCI+** and **VERITAS** have been selected based on their potential for scientific value and the feasibility of their development plans.*

### What is EnVision?

- EnVision is a NASA-led mission led by the European Space Agency. It will most likely be released in the 2030s.
- EnVision's first launch window is in 2031, followed by 2032 and 2033.
- The spacecraft will take around 15 months to reach Venus after being launched on an Ariane 6 rocket, and another 16 months to achieve orbit circularization.
- The spacecraft will be equipped with a variety of equipment for studying the planet's atmosphere and surface, as well as monitoring trace gases in the atmosphere and analysing the planet's surface composition.

### What are other such missions?

- EnVision will follow the 'Venus Express' (2005-2014) ESA-led mission to Venus, which concentrated on atmospheric studies and pointed to volcanic hotspots on the planet's surface.
- Aside from that, since 2015, Japan's Akatsuki

spacecraft has been examining the planet's atmosphere.

### Why are scientists interested in studying Venus?

- The puzzle of how Earth and Venus evolved so differently, despite the fact that they are nearly the same size and composition, lies at the heart of the ESA's mission.
- Because of the heat contained by its dense cloud cover, Venus is the hottest planet in the solar system.
- Last year, a group of scientists reported finding phosphine gas (a chemical created solely by biological activities) in Venus's atmosphere.
- The scientific community was ecstatic about the prospect of certain life forms being nourished by the planet.
- However, given Venus's high temperatures and corrosive atmosphere, the possibility of life on the planet is almost impossible.

### Back2Basics: Venus Planet

- After the moon, Venus is the second brightest object in the sky for those on Earth.
- The heavy cloud cover reflects and scatters light, giving it a dazzling appearance.
- However, despite the fact that Venus, the second closest planet to the Sun, is known as the Earth's twin due to their comparable proportions, the two worlds have substantial distinctions.
- For one thing, the planet's thick atmosphere retains heat, which is why, despite being the second-closest planet to the Sun, it is the hottest planet in the solar system.
- On the surface of Venus, temperatures can reach 471 degrees Celsius, which is hot enough to melt lead.
- In addition, Venus advances forward in its orbit

around the Sun while slowly spinning backwards around its axis.

- As a result, the Sun rises in the west and sets in the east on Venus.
- Because of its retrograde spinning, which is the opposite of that of the Earth and most other planets, one day on Venus is equivalent to 243 Earth days.
- Venus is also devoid of a moon and rings.

**Polar-Areas Stellar-Imaging in Polarisation High-Accuracy Experiment (PASIPHAE)**

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** PASIPHAE

**Mains level :** Theory of expansion of the universe

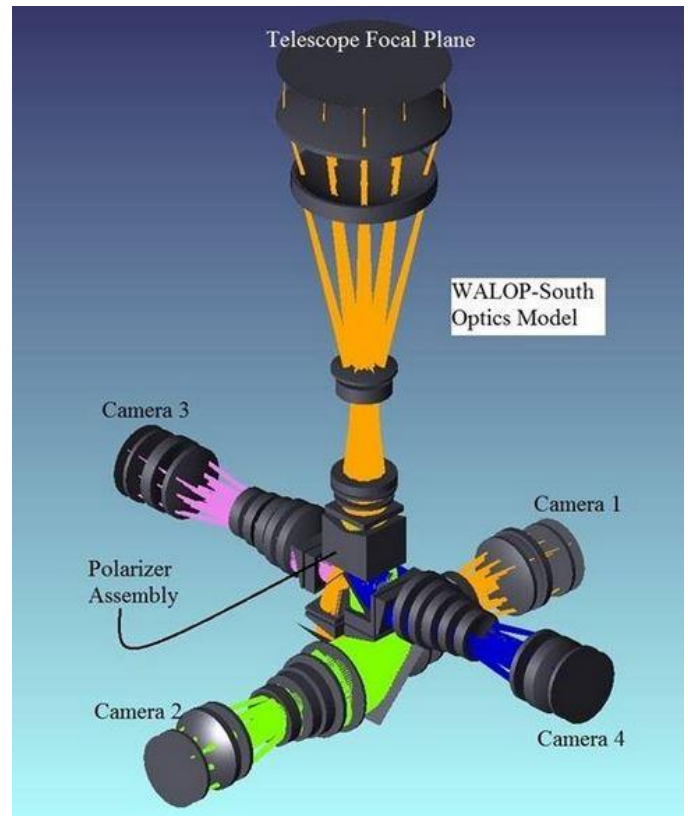
The development of a vital instrument PASIPHAE, which will be used in upcoming sky surveys to study stars, is being led by an Indian astronomer.

**What is PASIPHAE?**

- Polar-Areas Stellar-Imaging in Polarisation High-Accuracy Experiment (PASIPHAE) is an acronym for Polar-Areas Stellar-Imaging in Polarisation High-Accuracy Experiment.
- It's a collaborative international sky surveying initiative. Scientists want to investigate the polarisation of light emitted by millions of stars.
- Pasiphae, the daughter of the Greek Sun God Helios, was the inspiration for the name.
- Two high-tech optical polarimeters will be used to simultaneously observe the northern and southern skies during the survey.
- It will concentrate on capturing the polarisation of very dim stars that are so far away that their polarisation signals have not been explored in

detail.

- Using a revolutionary polarimeter device known as WALOP, astronomers will make the first magnetic field tomography mapping of the interstellar medium of very vast portions of the sky by merging the data.



**Why is PASIPHAE important?**

- The cosmos has been expanding since its origin some 14 billion years ago, as shown by the presence of Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) radiation that permeates the universe.
- The cosmos went through a brief inflationary period shortly after its formation, during which it expanded at a very fast rate before slowing down and reaching its current rate.
- However, the early universe has only been linked to ideas and indirect evidence of expansion so far.
- As a result of the inflationary phase, a small



fraction of the CMB radiation should leave imprints in the form of a certain type of polarisation (known scientifically as a B-mode signal).

- All prior attempts to detect this signal failed, owing to the challenges provided by our galaxy, the Milky Way, which emits a great deal of polarised radiation.
- Furthermore, it has a large number of dust clouds in the shape of clusters. Starlight is scattered and polarised when it passes through these dust clouds.

**What will PASIPHAE do?**

- The PASIPHAE survey will track the polarisation of starlight across vast swaths of the sky.
- This information, combined with distances to the stars, will be used to generate a three-dimensional model of the galaxy's dust distribution and magnetic field structure.
- This information can aid in the removal of galactic polarised foreground light, allowing astronomers to search for the elusive B-mode signal.

**What is WALOP?**

- The Wide Area Linear Optical Polarimeter (WALOP) is an instrument that will be used to detect polarised light signals emanating from stars at high galactic latitudes when installed on two tiny optical telescopes.
- The photographs will feature the most minute characteristics of a star as well as a panoramic background.
- WALOP will work on the idea that data from a section of the sky under observation will be separated into four channels at any given time.
- The polarisation value from the star is calculated based on the way light flows through the four channels.

- That is, each star will have four equivalent photos that, when stitched together, will aid in calculating a star's ideal polarisation value.

**New Shepard rocket system for cost-effective access to space**

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** New Shepard

**Mains level :** Space tourism



Last week, Amazon founder and billionaire Jeff Bezos’s space company called Blue Origin concluded the online auction for the first seat on New Shepard, a rocket system meant to take tourists to space.

**What is New Shepard?**

- New Shepard is named after astronaut Alan Shepard, the first American in space, and provides flights to space above 100 kilometres above the Earth as well as payload accommodation.
- It is, in essence, a rocket system meant to transport people and research payloads beyond the Karman line, which is the internationally acknowledged space frontier.
- The goal is to make access to space for things like university research, corporate technology development, and entrepreneurial endeavours easier and more cost-effective.

- In addition to its academic and research goals, New Shephard will provide space tourists with the opportunity to experience microgravity by transporting them 100 kilometres above the Earth.
- The cabin, or capsule, and the rocket, or booster, are the two elements of the rocket system.
- Experiments ranging in size from tiny Mini Payloads to 100 kg can be accommodated in the cabin.

**Its components**

- The Mini Payloads, according to Blue Origin, make space more accessible to students who are enrolled in educational institutions who are creating their own space programmes.
- In addition, the cabin is built for six people and rides atop a 60-foot-tall rocket, which it separates from before crossing the Karman line, after which both vehicles return to Earth.
- The capsule's six seats are reserved for passengers, each of whom has their own window seat. The capsule is self-contained and does not require the assistance of a pilot.

**How does it work?**

- The vehicle is a totally reusable vertical takeoff and vertical landing space spacecraft that speeds for around 2.5 minutes before shutting down.
- The capsule free falls in space once it separates from the booster, while the booster executes an autonomously controlled vertical landing back on Earth.
- The capsule, on the other hand, uses parachutes to return to Earth.

**A boost for space tourism**

- The goal of space tourism is to allow ordinary

people to go to space for recreational, leisure, or business purposes.

- The goal is to make space more accessible to people who aren't astronauts but wish to go to space for reasons other than science.

**[pib] Space-time induces Neutrino Oscillations**

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Neutrinos

**Mains level :** NA

Indian scientists have shown that the geometry of space-time can cause neutrinos to oscillate.

**What are Neutrinos?**

- A neutrino is a subatomic particle that resembles an electron but lacks an electrical charge and has an extremely low mass, maybe zero.
- The electromagnetic forces that act on electrons have no effect on neutrinos since they are electrically neutral. As a result, they're also known as Ghost Particles.
- Neutrinos are only impacted by a “weak” subatomic force with a far shorter range than electromagnetic, allowing them to flow through matter over long distances without being harmed.
- They're also one of the universe's most common particles. They are, however, extremely difficult to detect since they have very little interaction with matter.

**Answer this PYQ in the comment box:**

**Q. The known forces of nature can be divided into four classes, viz, gravity, electromagnetism, weak nuclear force and strong nuclear force. With reference to them,**

*which one of the following statements is not correct?*

- (a) Gravity is the strongest of the four
- (b) Electromagnetism act only on particles with an electric charge
- (c) Weak nuclear force causes radioactivity
- (d) Strong nuclear force holds protons and neutrons inside the nuclear of an atom

**Finding of the new research**

- Neutrinos are enigmatic particles that are abundantly created in nuclear events on the Sun, in stars, and elsewhere.
- They "oscillate," which means that different types of neutrinos mix together, as several experiments have shown.
- In order to understand the birth of the universe, researchers must investigate neutrino oscillations and their relationships with mass.
- Neutrinos interact with everything else very weakly, and trillions of them pass through each human being every second without anyone noticing.
- The spin of a neutrino always points in the opposite direction of its speed, and neutrinos were thought to be massless until recently.

**What makes this possible?**

- Even if neutrinos have no mass, the geometry of space-time can produce neutrino oscillations through quantum effects.
- Gravitation, according to Einstein's general theory of relativity, is the manifestation of space-time curvature.
- When neutrinos, electrons, protons, and other fermions move in the presence of gravity, they exhibit a strange behaviour.
- Between every two fermions, space-time

generates a quantum force in addition to gravity.

- When massless neutrinos pass through matter, such as the Sun's corona or the Earth's atmosphere, this force, which is dependent on the spin of the particles, causes them to appear huge.
- Electroweak interactions have a comparable effect, and this, along with the geometrically induced mass, is enough to cause neutrino oscillations.

**First-ever genetically modified rubber planted in Assam**

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** First-ever genetically modified rubber planted in Assam

**Mains level :** Hazards of using GMO crops



Rubber Board chairman K.N. Raghavan plants a GM rubber sapling in Guwahati on June 22, 2021. Photo: Special Arrangement

A Rubber Board research farm on the outskirts of Guwahati now sports the world's first genetically modified (GM) rubber plant tailored for the climatic conditions in the Northeast.

**GM rubber**

- Additional copies of the MnSOD gene, which stands for manganese-containing superoxide dismutase, have been put into the GM rubber

plant.

- The facility was created at the Rubber Research Institute of India in Kerala (RRII).
- It is expected to weather the harsh winter circumstances, which have hampered the growth of immature rubber plants in the region.

**Why need GM rubber?**

- Natural rubber is a native of the warm, humid Amazon rainforests and is not well adapted to the cooler climates of India's Northeast, which is one of the country's top rubber producers.
- During the winter months, which are also marked by gradual soil drying, the growth of new rubber plants is halted.
- This is the explanation for the crop's protracted immature period in the area.

**What does MnSOD gene offer?**

- Plants can be protected by the MnSOD gene against the negative impacts of severe environmental conditions like cold and drought.
- The GM rubber plants overexpressed the MnSOD gene as expected, providing protection to the cells, according to laboratory investigations done at the RRII.
- As a result, the plant is likely to thrive and grow quickly in the area.
- There was no chance of genes from the GM rubber spreading to other native species, which is a common concern among environmentalists who oppose GM plants in general.

## Security Issues

### What is Fastly Internet Outage?

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Content delivery network (CDN)

**Mains level :** Need for data localization

Several big websites around the world went down for about half an hour because of a major issue with the content delivery network (CDN) of American cloud computing services provider Fastly.

#### Global internet outage: Which websites were affected?

- Some of the larger names include Reddit, Twitch, Spotify, Pinterest, Stack Overflow, GitHub, gov.uk, Hulu, HBO Max, Quora, PayPal, Vimeo, and Shopify.
- The Financial Times, the Guardian, the New York Times, CNN, and Verge, to name a few, were all affected.
- When most people attempted to access these websites, they received a 503 error, indicating that the browser was unable to connect to the server.

#### What is Fastly?

- Fastly is a cloud computing services company that provides CDN, edge computing, and cloud storage.
- “Degraded Performance” affected all of its territories, including the three stations it operates in India — Chennai, Mumbai, and New Delhi.

**Answer this PYQ from CSP 2018:**

**Q.The terms ‘WannaCry, Petya, Eternal Blue’**

*sometimes mentioned news recently are related to*

- (a) Exoplanets
- (b) Crypto currency
- (c) Cyber attacks
- (d) Mini satellites

#### What is a CDN?

- A CDN is a geographically distributed network of servers that collaborate to provide Internet content quickly.
- They keep material near to the networks of telecom service providers.
- The majority of web traffic is now routed through CDNs around the world.
- Platforms with enormous amounts of data stored in worldwide libraries, such as Netflix, Facebook, and Amazon, host their geographically relevant material closer to where it will be consumed.
- This ensures that the end user can access the content more quickly.
- Companies also use CDNs to safeguard their websites from traffic spikes, distributed denial of service (DDOS) assaults, and other threats.

### What is a Full Ship Shock Trial (FSST)?

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Full Ship Shock Trial (FSST)

**Mains level :** Not Much



The US Navy Friday carried out a 'full ship shock trial' on its newest and most advanced nuclear-powered aircraft carrier to ensure its hardness was capable of withstanding battle conditions.

### What is a Full Ship Shock Trial (FSST)?

- During World War II, German mines and torpedoes that had missed their objective but

burst underwater in close vicinity caused serious damage to American vessels.

- Since then, the US Navy has tried to increase the shockproofing of their ship systems in order to reduce the damage caused by similar "near miss" explosions.
- An underwater explosive charge is detonated near a functioning ship in FSSTs, and system and component failures are recorded.
- The FSST investigates whether components survive shock in their ship's environment, as well as the possibility of system breakdowns and massive components that could not be tested otherwise.

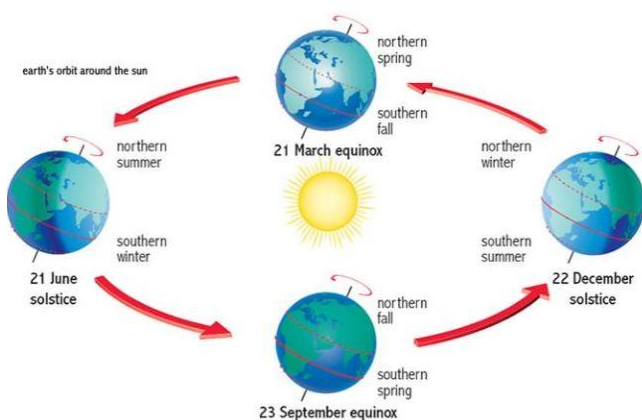
**Trivia**

**What is Summer Solstice?**

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Rotation and Revolution of Earth

**Mains level :** NA



The summer solstice will happen today around 9:02 am on Monday (Indian Standard Time).

**What is Summer Solstice?**

- In Latin, solstice means "the sun stands still."
- For those residing north of the Equator, June 21 will be the longest day of the year in 2021.
- This day is distinguished by a higher amount of solar energy received.
- This day is known as the summer solstice in technical terms, as it is the longest day of the summer season. It happens when the sun is directly above the Tropic of Cancer, or more precisely, when the sun is directly overhead 23.5 degrees north latitude.

*The Southern Hemisphere receives most sunlight on December 21, 22 or 23 when the northern hemisphere*

*has its longest nights– or the winter solstice.*

**Why do we have summer solstice?**

- Because the Earth revolves on its axis, the Northern Hemisphere receives more direct sunshine during the day between March and September.
- This also indicates that those in the Northern Hemisphere will be experiencing summer at this time.
- The Southern Hemisphere receives more sunlight for the rest of the year.
- During the solstice, the Earth's axis — the axis around which the planet rotates once every day — is tilted so that the North Pole faces the sun and the South Pole faces away from it.

**Answer this PYQ in the comment box:**

**Q.On 21st June, the Sun (CSP 2019):**

- (a) Does not set below the horizon at the Arctic Circle
- (b) Does not set below the horizon at Antarctic Circle
- (c) Shines vertically overhead at noon on the Equator
- (d) Shines vertically overhead at the Tropic of Capricorn

**Some other facts**

- The term "summer solstice" does not refer to the earliest or latest dawn or sunset.
- Although June 21 will be the longest day of the year in 2021, it does not guarantee it will have the earliest sunrise or the latest sunset.
- It is determined by the country's latitudinal location.

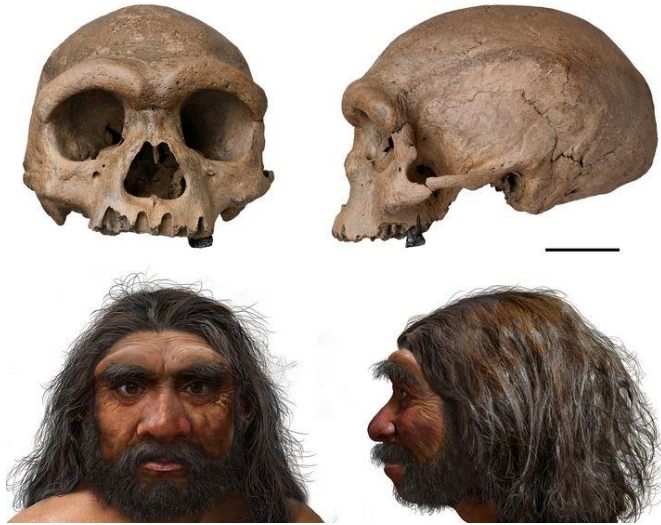
**Skull found in China represents a new**

**human species**

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Stone age man and his evolution

**Mains level :** Not Much



Scientists have announced that a skull discovered in northeast China represents a newly discovered human species they have named Homo longi, or “Dragon Man”.

**Answer this PYQ in the comment box:**

**Q.The word ‘Denisovan’ is sometimes mentioned in media in reference to (CSP 2019):**

- (a) fossils of a kind of dinosaurs
- (b) an early human species
- (c) a cave system found in North-East India.
- (d) a geological period in the history of Indian subcontinent

**Who is the “Dragon Man”, the latest Chinese discovery?**

- The cranium discovered in China has been called the "Dragon Man" or Homo longi, a

name drawn from the Long Jiang or Dragon River in China's Heilongjiang province, which is home to the city of Harbin.

- The skull was allegedly unearthed in 1933 while constructing a bridge across the Songhua River.
- The skull was buried in sediments for thousands of years.
- Some team members have urged that the skull, which was discovered virtually intact, be classified as a new Homo species because of its unusual shape.
- The size of the skull, which has a large brain capacity, is comparable to that of modern humans and Neanderthals, which is significant.

**Why is this discovery being considered significant?**

- For one thing, it adds to our understanding of Homo sapiens' evolution.
- It might be useful in bridging the gap between ourselves and our ancient relatives, Homo erectus.
- Because there is limited agreement among scientists regarding how different human species are connected and which species are our direct ancestors, this knowledge is critical.
- Some palaeontologists think Homo heidelbergensis to be our immediate forebears, according to Smithsonian.
- This species was first identified in 1908, and it lived 700,000 to 200,000 years ago in Europe, China, and possibly some portions of Africa.

**Back2Basics: Species of Humans**

- Today, modern humans are the only human species on the planet.
- While the actual number of human species is a point of contention, most scientists believe there are at least 21.



As per the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, there are over 21 human species. Major among these are:

### (1) Sahelanthropus tchadensis

- The oldest member of the human family tree is thought to be Sahelanthropus tchadensis.
- It existed somewhere in present-day Chad, Africa, about 7-6 million years ago.
- It was bipedal and had ape-like and human-like traits, which may have boosted its chances of survival.

### (2) Homo erectus

- Homo erectus lived in Northern, Eastern, and Southern Africa, as well as Western and East Asia, between 1.89 million and 110,000 years ago.
- The most complete fossil of this species is 'Turkana Boy,' which dates back to roughly 1.6 million years.

### (3) Modern man

- Homo neanderthalensis lived between 400,000 and 40,000 years ago, and for a few thousand years coexisted alongside Homo sapiens.
- They resided in southwestern and central Asia as well as Europe.
- Homo sapiens emerged around 300,000 years ago and is now found all over the planet.

## Sainath awarded 2021 Fukuoka Prize

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

**Prelims level :** Fukuoka Prize

**Mains level :** Not Much

Noted journalist P. Sainath has been selected as one of the three recipients of the Fukuoka Prize for 2021.

### Fukuoka Prize

- The Fukuoka Prize is awarded annually to deserving individuals in order to promote and raise awareness of Asian cultures, as well as to establish a broad framework of interchange and mutual learning among Asians.
- The Fukuoka City International Foundation and the city of Fukuoka in Japan founded the prize in 1990.
- Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh, historian Romila Thapar, and sarod maestro Amjad Ali Khan had previously received the Grand Prize. So far, eleven Indians have been awarded the Fukuoka Prize.
- In the last 30 years, the Prize has been awarded to 115 people from 28 different nations and regions.

### Citation for the award

- Mr. Sainath was recognised as a "highly deserving recipient of the Fukuoka Prize Grand Prize" in a statement.
- The Secretariat praised him for "promoting civil cooperation" and "creating a new form of knowledge through his writings and analyses on rural India."

# SECTION 3

## Practice Questions with Answers

## PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1) Global Parents Day is observed on June \_\_\_\_.

- A) 5
- B) 4
- C) 1
- D) 2
- E) 3

2) Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020 has been Authored by who among the following?

- A) Sukseh Ranjan
- B) Anand Tripathi
- C) Sudesh Raj
- D) Salman Rushdie
- E) Amit Shah

3) Who among the following has introduced the Horticulture Cluster Development Programme?

- A) Anurag Thakur
- B) Prahlad Patel
- C) Narendra Modi
- D) Amit Shah
- E) NS Tomar

4) Which institution has launched AmbiTAG, India's first indigenous temperature data logger?

- A) IIT Bombay

B) IIT Guwahati

C) IIT Madras

D) IIT-Ropar

E) IIT Delhi

5) Which institution has devised the 'Bal Swaraj' for children affected due to COVID-19?

- A) FICCI
- B) NCPDR
- C) CII
- D) ASSOCHAM
- E) NAFED

6) Agri Services E-Marketplace Launches CSC SPV. The CSC, a Special Purpose Vehicle under the Ministry of Electronics and IT, plans to reach out to \_\_\_\_ Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), one in each block of the country, this year.

- A) 4000
- B) 5000
- C) 6000
- D) 5500
- E) 6500

7) Who among the following has initiated the jetty at Old Goa?

- A) Narendra Modi

- B) Mansukh Mandaviya
- C) Amit Shah
- D) Prahlad Patel
- E) NS Tomar

**8) Mali court has appointed who among the following as interim president?**

- A) Somalia Case
- B) Ibhram Keita
- C) Boubar Keita
- D) Mahmoud Dicko
- E) AssimiGoita

**9) Which state government has launched "Udaan Scheme" to provide sanitary pads ?**

- A) Himachal Pradesh
- B) Chhattisgarh
- C) Bihar
- D) Punjab
- E) Haryana

**10) Moody's predicts India GDP growth at \_\_\_ per cent in FY22.**

- A) 7.4
- B) 8.8
- C) 8.5
- D) 9.2
- E) 9.3

**11) International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression – Observed in June \_\_\_.**

- A) 1
- B) 2
- C) 4
- D) 5
- E) 3

**12) Brazil to host Copa America for \_\_\_ consecutive time.**

- A) 6th
- B) 5th
- C) 2nd
- D) 3rd
- E) 4th

**13) Who among the following will launch the SAGE project ?**

- A) Narendra Modi
- B) NS Tomar
- C) Prahlad Patel
- D) Thawarchand Gehlot
- E) Amit Shah

**14) Which organization has suggested to link Aadhaar with Voter ID card ?**

- A) RBI
- B) FICCI

C) ECI

D) Niti Aayog

E) CII

**15) The government has announced the Target year to Achieve '20% Ethanol-Blending to Petrol' to 2023 from**

—.

A) 2028

B) 2027

C) 2025

D) 2023

E) 2026

**16) The National AI Portal recently celebrated its first anniversary on which date?.**

A) May 25

B) May 26

C) May 28

D) May 30

E) May 31

**17) Who among the following has Announced the Integration of e-Gopala app with UMANG platform?**

A) Anurag Thakur

B) NS Tomar

C) Giriraj Singh

D) Amit Shah

E) Prahlad Patel

**18) Who among the following has Initiated List of Initiatives to Enhance SATAT Scheme?**

A) Narendra Modi

B) NS Tomar

C) Dharmendra Pradhan

D) Amit Shah

E) Thawarchand Gehlot

**19) Which institution gave approval to China's SINOVAC Covid vaccine for Emergency Use Listing?**

A) UNESCO

B) UNICEF

C) WHO

D) IMF

E) None of these

**20) Which state government has launched new plans on Kaliagnar's 97th birthday?**

A) Bihar

B) Chhattisgarh

C) Tamil Nadu

D) Haryana

E) Madhya Pradesh

**21) What is the theme of the World oceans day 2021, observed every year on June 8?**

(a) Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean

(b) Preventing plastic pollution and encouraging

solutions for a healthy ocean

(c) Our Oceans, Our Future

(d) The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods

(e) Gender and the Ocean

(c) 21 Sectors

(d) 37 Sectors

(e) 35 Sectors

**22) Name the Portal which was launched by the IncomeTax Department for new e-filing to further ease the filing of income tax returns.**

(a) www.incometax.gov.in

(b) www.incometax.gov.co.in

(c) www.gov.incometax.in

(d) www.gov.incometax.co.in

(e) www.incometaxgov.in

**25) What is the increased limit of family pension for the family members of the deceased employees raised by the central government from its existing Rs 45,000?**

(a) 1lakh 75 Thousand

(b) 1lakh 55 Thousand

(c) 1lakh 25 Thousand

(d) 1lakh 50Thousand

(e) 1lakh 20 Thousand

**23) PM Modi has recently extended the time period of PradhanMantriGaribKalyan Anna Yojana to November 2021. When was the PMGHAY launched?**

(a) June 2020

(b) November 2020

(c) April 2020

(d) September 2020

(e) March 2020

**26) At the 12th Clean Energy Ministerial, UK and India together launched a new work stream to promote industrial energy efficiency under IDDI. IDDI has been supported by which of the following countries?**

(a) Germany and Canada

(b) Germany and Italy

(c) France and Canada

(d) Germany and France

(e) Denmark and France

**24) National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj in collaboration with Ministry of Panchayati Raj has prepared a framework for delivery of the services across how many sectors with localized Sustainable Development Goals?**

(a) 33 Sectors

(b) 29 Sectors

**27) The Assam Chief Minister has declared the Raimona national Park as the 6<sup>th</sup> National park in the state. This National Park is situated in which district of Assam?**

(a) Biswanath

(b) Darrang

(c) Nalbari

(d) Kokrajhar

(e) Dibrugarh

**28) Which state government has launched the Knowledge Economy Mission to provide employment to the educated and support 'knowledge workers' under a single programme?**

(a) Tamil Nadu

(b) Kerala

(c) Maharashtra

(d) Andhra Pradesh

(e) Jharkhand

**29) MS Mani stated that the GST collection for the Month of April has reached above Rs 1 lakh crore. MS Mani is the senior director of which among the following companies?**

(a) Capgemini

(b) TCS

(c) NTT Data

(d) IBM

(e) Deloitte India

**30) The World Bank has approved \$500 Million loan for India to help MSME in the second intervention. How much amount of fund has been approved in the first intervention for MSME?**

(a) \$ 700 Million

(b) \$ 500 Million

(c) \$ 750 Million

(d) \$ 600 Million

(e) \$ 650 Million

**31) The Central Government has increased the Minimum Support Price of Groundnut by how much rupees per quintal in 2021-22?**

(a) Rs 300

(b) Rs 270

(c) Rs 265

(d) Rs 255

(e) Rs 275

**32) Which of the following is true regarding the appointment of federal judge by the US Senate?**

**i)** Zahid Quraishi is the first Muslim federal judge in the history.

**ii)** Over 39 Republicans have joined the Democrats in confirming the first-ever Muslim-American as a federal judge.

**iii)** He has appointed to the District Court in Pennsylvania.

(a) Only i) & iii) is true

(b) Only i) is true

(c) Only ii) is true

(d) None is true

(e) All are true

**33) Dehing Patkai of Assam has been officially noted as the National Park by the Assam government. Now, how many national parks are located in Assam?**

(a) Ten

- (b) Twelve
- (c) Seven
- (d) Five
- (e) Eight

- (c) Andaman & Nicobar
- (d) Ladakh
- (e) Chandigarh

**34) Read the statement about the Jagananna Thodu scheme.**

- i)** This Scheme is entirely launched for Healthcare workers.
- ii)** This Scheme will provide an interest free loan of Rs 10,000.
- iii)** A total of Rs 370 crore has been allotted for the scheme.
- iv)** The scheme has been extended for the third consecutive year.

**Which among the following statements are true about the scheme?**

- (a) Only ii) & iii) are true
- (b) Only iv) is true
- (c) Only i) & iv) are true
- (d) None is true
- (e) All are true

**35) Which among the following Union Territory administration has reserved all their government jobs for the locals residents as per the Union Territory of Employment (Subordinate) Service Recruitment Rules, 2021?**

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) J&K

**36) 'Jahan Vote, Wahan Vaccination' campaign has been launched by the Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal to vaccinate all people of the state of above 45 years within a target of how many weeks?**

- (a) Within Four weeks
- (b) Within One week
- (c) Within Two weeks
- (d) Within Three weeks
- (e) None of the Above

**37) PayNearby has been partnered with which of the following Life Insurance Company to launch 'Poorna Suraksha' for its retail customers?**

- (a) Bharti AXA Life Insurance Company Limited
- (b) Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance Company Limited
- (c) Aegon Life Insurance Company Limited
- (d) Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Limited
- (e) IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited

**38) Anup Purohit has been appointed as \_\_\_\_\_ by the Bangalore based IT services major Wipro Ltd.**

- (a) CEO
- (b) COO
- (c) CIO



(d) Chairman

(e) MD

**39) SM Shafiuddin Ahmed has been appointed as the Chief of Army Staff of Bangladesh by replacing whom among the following?**

(a) Shafiuddin Ahmed

(b) Aziz Ahmed

(c) Iqbal Karim Bhuiyan

(d) Mohammed Abdul Mubeen

(e) Abdullah Ibne Jayed

**40) QX Global Group has received the Outsourcing Service Provider of the Year Award at the 19th Edition of the Asian Leadership Awards. In which of the following city, the QX Global Group doesn't place its Centres?**

(a) Mumbai

(b) Baroda

(c) Noida

(d) Lucknow

(e) Ahmedabad

**41) Global Wind Day has been observed every year on June 15. Which country is known as the Country of Winds?**

(a) UAE

(b) Sweden

(c) India

(d) Malaysia

(e) Denmark

**42) What is the 2021 theme of the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, celebrated every year on June 15?**

(a) Access to Justice

(b) Understand and End Financial Abuse of Older People: A Human Rights Issue

(c) Moving from Awareness to Action through a Human Rights based approach

(d) Lift up Voices

(e) Access to Justice: Legal, Social and Economic Services for Older Victims of Sexual, Physical and Financial Crimes

**43) International Day of Family Remittances has been observed every year on which of the following day?**

(a) June 19

(b) June 15

(c) June 17

(d) June 16

(e) June 20

**44) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated two Centres of excellence in New Delhi. The centres were established by which among the following organization?**

(a) NHA

(b) BRO

(c) ISRO

(d) DRDO

(e) Both B & C

**45) 'Project O2 for India' has recently been launched by the Government of India to meet the potential increase in demand due to further waves of the pandemic. It is an initiative of \_\_\_\_\_.**

- (a) Cabinet Ministers
- (b) Vice President
- (c) Principal Scientific Adviser
- (d) Prime Minister
- (e) President

**46) An accelerator program, "Revv Up" has been launched by which among the following state to enable and empower AI startups?**

- (a) Madhya Pradesh
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Odisha
- (d) Telangana
- (e) Rajasthan

**47) The Odisha Government has recently celebrated 'Raja Parba', a festival of womanhood. The Festival is filled with \_\_\_\_\_.**

- (a) Varieties of Cakes
- (b) Varieties of Toffees
- (c) Varieties of Mangoes
- (d) Varieties of Cookies
- (e) Varieties of Jack Fruit

**48) Which variety of Geographical Indications certified Mangoes has been exported from Bihar to the United Kingdom?**

- (a) Chausa
- (b) Dasheri
- (c) Jardalu
- (d) Kesar
- (e) Alphonso

**49) What is the Retail Inflation of India in the Month of May, breaching the upper limit of the central bank's inflation target for the first time in six months?**

- (a) 7.7%
- (b) 6.1%
- (c) 7.0%
- (d) 6.9%
- (e) 6.3%

**50) Ambuja Cement Foundation has partnered with NABARD to implement its employability through skill initiative project's second phase. It provides skill training for how many years?**

- (a) 7 Years
- (b) 2 Years
- (c) 4 Years
- (d) 1 Year
- (e) 5 Years

**51) The Sustainable Gastronomy Day is observed every year on June 18. Which Organisation has observed the day first?**

- (a) UNSC
  - (b) WHO
  - (c) UNESCO
  - (d) FAO
  - (e) UNGA
- (c) \$ 488 Million
  - (d) \$ 844 Million
  - (e) \$ 448 Million

**52) Which of the following day is observed ever year on June 18?**

- (a) International Wandering Day
  - (b) International Picnic Day
  - (c) International Excursion Day
  - (d) International Galloping Day
  - (e) International Tourism Day
- (a) Rs 6000
  - (b) Rs 4000
  - (c) Rs 5000
  - (d) Rs 3500
  - (e) Rs 2000

**53) June 18 has been observed as the Autistic Pride Day. What is the theme for 2021 Autistic Pride Day?**

- (a) The Transition to Adulthood
  - (b) Assistive Technologies, Active Participation
  - (c) Toward Autonomy and Self-Determination
  - (d) Inclusion in the Workplace: Challenges and Opportunities in a Post-Pandemic World
  - (e) Light it Up Blue
- (a) Rs 8000
  - (b) Rs 3000
  - (c) Rs 5000
  - (d) Rs 7000
  - (e) Rs 6000

**54) What is the loan amount provided by the ADB to Tamil Nadu for improving transport connectivity and road maintenance in the Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor?**

- (a) \$ 484 Million
- (b) \$ 444 Million

**55) How much amount has been provided by Haryana State government to all small shopkeepers, construction workers, auto-rickshaw drivers and unorganized labourers who have faced financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic?**

**56) Krishak Bandhu scheme has been launched by the West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee. The financial assistance for farmers has increased to Rs10000 a year from its existing Rs \_\_\_\_\_.**

**57) Oracle CX Platform has been launched by which among the following bank along with Oracle and Infosys to enhance customer experience through the platform?**

- (a) Federal Bank

(b) DBS Bank

(c) Bank of China

(d) HSBC

(e) RBL Bank

**58) 'Shagun' a contactless prepaid gift card has been launched by LIC Cards Services Ltd in collaboration with which of the following Bank on the RuPay platform?**

(a) Axis Bank

(b) Yes Bank

(c) HDFC Bank

(d) Punjab National Bank

(e) IDBI Bank

**59) The Canara Bank has designated as the lead sponsor for National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited after taking how much % Stake by Canara Bank in NARCL?**

(a) 20%

(b) 16%

(c) 19%

(d) 12%

(e) 14%

**60) Ravi Kumar has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of udChalo. Who among the following has been replaced by him?**

(a) Pawan Kumar

(b) Varun Jain

(c) Krishna Kumar

(d) Vinay Sharma

(e) Ajay Singh

**61) What is the theme of the World Sickle Cell Awareness Day, celebrated every year on June 19?**

(a) Breaking The Cycle of Pain

(b) Empowering Teenagers to 'Step Up'

(c) Break the Silence on Sickle Cell Disorder

(d) Shine the Light on Sickle Cell

(e) Know your sickle cell status

**62) On June 19, the World Sauntering Day has been celebrated every year. What does the word Saunter Mean?**

(a) to walk slowly in a relaxed manner

(b) to walk for maintaining fitness

(c) to walk fast in a hasty manner

(d) to run in order to maintain fitness

(e) None of these

**63) The World Refugee Day has been celebrated every year on June 20 to honour refugees around the globe. In which year, it was established first?**

(a) 2002

(b) 2005

(c) 2000

(d) 2003

(e) 2001

**64) Every year, the Father's Day has been celebrated on which of the following day?**

- (a) Third Saturday of June
- (b) Third Friday of June
- (c) Third Sunday of June
- (d) Second Saturday of June
- (e) Second Sunday of June

**65) On every year June 21, The International Day of Yoga has been celebrated. What edition of International Yoga Day has celebrated in 2021?**

- (a) Fourth
- (b) Seventh
- (c) Third
- (d) Second
- (e) Fifth

**66) What is the theme of World Hydrography Day, celebrated every year on 21st June?**

- (a) Hydrography – enabling autonomous technologies
- (b) Mapping our seas, oceans and waterways – more important than ever
- (c) 100 years of international cooperation in hydrography
- (d) Bathymetry – the foundation for sustainable seas, oceans and waterways
- (e) Hydrographic information driving marine knowledge

**67) The World Music Day is celebrated every year on**

**which of the following day?**

- (a) June 21
- (b) June 18
- (c) June 19
- (d) June 17
- (e) June 20

**68) The PM Modi has launched a custom crash course programme that aims to skill over one lakh "Covid warriors" across the country under PradhanMantriKaushalVikasYojana 3.0. What is the total outlay of the programme?**

- (a) Rs. 271 Crore
- (b) Rs. 276 Crore
- (c) Rs. 279 Crore
- (d) Rs. 277 Crore
- (e) Rs. 270 Crore

**69) The Election Commission of India has recently released 'General Elections 2019 – An Atlas'. Which among the following state has registered the lowest number of electors per polling station?**

- (a) Nagaland
- (b) Assam
- (c) Bihar
- (d) Goa
- (e) Arunachal Pradesh

**70) A 12-hour virtual Yoga Session 'Yogathon' has been celebrated in Kerala on International Day of Yoga**

**virtually. The Session was organised by which among the following?**

- (a) National Ayush Mission
- (b) The Yoga Institute
- (c) Patanjali Yoga Center
- (d) Both A & B
- (e) Both A & C

**71) The Union government has recently launched 'green tariff' policy for distribution companies for which among the following reason?**

- (a) To supply electricity for free
- (b) To supply electricity from Coal
- (c) To export Electricity
- (d) To generate electricity by foreign technologies
- (e) To supply electricity from clean energy

**72) The Union cabinet has approved the merger of the Central Railside Warehouse Company Limited with the Central Warehousing Corporation. The estimated expenditure of RWC will come down by \_\_\_\_\_ crore.**

- (a) 2 Crore
- (b) 5 Crore
- (c) 8 Crore
- (d) 4 Crore
- (e) 7 Crore

**73) The world's first GM Rubber Sapling has been planted in Assam which is expected to grow under the climatic condition of the northeast. This Sapling has**

**been developed by which state's Rubber Research Institute?**

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) Arunachal Pradesh
- (c) Odisha
- (d) Kerala
- (e) Nagaland

**74) Which of the following Act has been amended by the Maharashtra state cabinet for the protection of Heritage Trees in their state?**

- (a) Protection and Preservation of Trees Act, 1975
- (b) Protection and Preservation of Trees Act, 1978
- (c) Protection and Preservation of Trees Act, 1971
- (d) Protection and Preservation of Trees Act, 1977
- (e) Protection and Preservation of Trees Act, 1970

**75) The CII-IGBC has launched the IGBC Green High-Speed Rail Rating System to address the sustainable aspects of High-Speed Rail projects. What does B in IGBC?**

- (a) Business
- (b) Bias
- (c) Building
- (d) Basic
- (e) Bond

**76) Tata Power has been partnered with Tata Motors to develop India's largest behind-the-meter solar energy carport. The carport is set to launch in which**

city?

- (a) Bangalore
- (b) Chennai
- (c) Vijayawada
- (d) Cochin
- (e) Pune

- (b) Rs 20 Lakh
- (c) Rs 12 Lakh
- (d) Rs 07 Lakh
- (e) Rs 01 Lakh

**77) As per the Moody Report, India's GDP has been contracted to 9.6% for 2021. What is its estimation for the upcoming year 2022?**

- (a) 8.7%
- (b) 7.0%
- (c) 8.5%
- (d) 7.3%
- (e) 8.0%

- (a) Vodafone Idea
- (b) Britannia
- (c) ITC
- (d) Hindustan Unilever
- (e) Ponds

**78) The Step Up credit card has been launched by Paisabazaar.com in partnership with which among the following bank?**

- (a) SBM Bank
- (b) Deutsche Bank
- (c) HSBC Bank
- (d) Citi Bank
- (e) DBS Bank

- 80) Amrita Padda has been appointed as the Chief People Officer for Bharti Airtel. She formerly has a working experience in which among the following company?**
- (a) Vodafone Idea
  - (b) Britannia
  - (c) ITC
  - (d) Hindustan Unilever
  - (e) Ponds
- 81) What is the theme of the Seafarerday, observed every year on June 25?**
- (a) Am On Board with gender equality
  - (b) Seafarers: at the core of shipping's future
  - (c) Seafarers' Wellbeing
  - (d) Connecting Ships, Ports and People
  - (e) Seafarers are the Key workers

**79) The Reserve Bank of India has imposed \_\_\_\_\_ Lakh penalty for the Mogaveera Co-operative Bank Limited.**

- (a) Rs 23 Lakh

- 82) On June 25, the World Vitiligo Day has been observed every year on the remembrance of whom among the following?**
- (a) Daniel Dancer
  - (b) Patrick Swayze
  - (c) Nelson Mandela

(d) Marliyn Monrae

(e) Michael Jackson

**83) What is the basic interest rate charged for the Central Government employees under House Building Advance, remain available till 31st March 2022?**

(a) 7.9 %

(b) 7.1%

(c) 7.5%

(d) 7.7%

(e) 7.0%

**84) Which of the following states has participated in the first batch of NISHTHA capacity-building programme, launched together by Tribal Ministry and NCERT?**

(a) Himachal Pradesh

(b) Odisha

(c) Chhattisgarh

(d) Both A & B

(e) Both A & C

**85) What is the outlay of the road project, inaugurated by Union minister Nitin Gadkari in Himachal Pradesh?**

(a) Rs 6152 Crore

(b) Rs 6153 Crore

(c) Rs 6154 Crore

(d) Rs 6155 Crore

(e) Rs 6156 Crore

**86) Who among the following would lay the foundation stone for the Bengaluru Suburban Rail project within next three months?**

(a) Yediyurappa

(b) Narendra Modi

(c) Nitin Kadkari

(d) Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala

(e) Piyush Goyal

**87) The S&P Global Ratings has lowered India's GDP growth rate for the current fiscal to 9.5%. What is its estimation for the FY2023?**

(a) 11.0%

(b) 7.5%

(c) 8.3%

(d) 7.8%

(e) 10.1%

**88) Fabindia has partnered with which among the following to launch contactless co-branded credit cards to the premium segment customers?**

(a) SBI Cards

(b) PayPal

(c) Paytm

(d) HDFC Credila

(e) None of these

**89) Which among the following service has been launched by Kotak Mahindra Bank to send money or**



**make payments to any of their contacts across all payment apps simply by entering the beneficiary's mobile number?**

- (a) Pay Own Contact
- (b) Pay By Contact
- (c) Pay Your Contact
- (d) Pay Via Contact
- (e) Pay Us Contact

- (b) PC Mahalanobis
- (c) Galileo Galilei
- (d) Albert Einstein
- (e) Ramanjam

**90) Under which of the following act, the State government has appointed 41 Honorary Wildlife Wardens across all the districts for two years?**

- (a) Forest Conservation Act, 1980
- (b) Biological Diversity Act, 2002
- (c) Indian Forests Act 1927
- (d) Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- (e) The Environmental Protection Act, 1986

**93) What is the extension period of the second phase of FAME India scheme by the Union Government?**

- (a) March 30, 2024
- (b) March 30, 2022
- (c) March 31, 2023
- (d) March 31, 2024
- (e) March 31, 2022

**91) What is the theme of the International Day of the Tropics, observed every year on 29 June?**

- (a) Measure progress on Tropics
- (b) We are the Tropics
- (c) Forests and Energy
- (d) Forests and Sustainable Cities
- (e) Digital Divide in the Tropics

**94) How many bridges have been inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in Ladakh among 63 bridges?**

- (a) 11
- (b) 29
- (c) 03
- (d) 08
- (e) 01

**92) On June 29, the World Statistics Day has been observed every year on the birth anniversary of whom among the following?**

- (a) Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya

**95) All websites of the high court's now have captchas that are accessible to people with disabilities. Who has headed the e-Committee of the Supreme Court that has been a core component of the work?**

- (a) N. V. Ramana
- (b) Patanjali Sastri
- (c) D Y Chandrachud

(d) Ranjan Gogoi

(e) Sunehri Bagh

**96) Who has constituted the committee chaired by Vandana Aggarwal to examine global best practices in financing and leasing of ships, identify opportunities and devise a roadmap to enable such activities?**

(a) IFSCA

(b) Ministry of Finance

(c) Ministry of Shipping

(d) Ministry of Road and Transport

(e) NHAI

**97) According to the Mercer Cost of Living Survey 2021, which among the following city is the India's most expensive city?**

(a) Chennai

(b) New Delhi

(c) Bengaluru

(d) Mumbai

(e) Kolkata

**98) Which among the following country has replaced UAE to become India's second-largest export destination in the FY21?**

(a) Singapore

(b) China

(c) USA

(d) Japan

(e) Russia

**99) The Prime Minister Narendra Modi would inaugurate a Zen garden and Kaizen Academy in which among the following district of Gujarat?**

(a) Vadadora

(b) Surat

(c) Gandhinagar

(d) Rajkot

(e) Ahmedabad

**100) What is the capacity of the country's first Fenton Catalytic Reactor, inaugurated virtually by Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani?**

(a) 70 MLD

(b) 60 MLD

(c) 30 MLD

(d) 20 MLD

(e) 50 MLD

## ANSWERS

**1) Answer: C**

Global Parents Day, also known as Parents Day, is a day dedicated to honouring parents all around the world. It is a wonderful opportunity for children and parents to celebrate their special relationship.

The topic of the 2021 global parents' day is "appreciate all parents around the world."

Every year on June 1st, the World Day of Parents is commemorated.

The United Nations General Assembly declared the day in 2012.

**2) Answer: D**

Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020 is a collection of essays published between 2003 and 2020. Salman Rushdie wrote the book.

Random House is the publisher of the book.

The Book's Description:

Written between 2003 and 2020, the author discusses his perspective and imagination on the transformation in literature and culture in this book.

**3) Answer: E**

The initiative will be implemented in 12 horticultural clusters in a pilot phase, out of a total of 53 clusters chosen for the programme.

CDP, a central sector initiative run by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare's National Horticulture Board (NHB), intends to establish and develop specified horticulture clusters in order to make them globally competitive.

In his remarks, NS Tomar stated that the programme will address all main issues facing the Indian

horticulture industry, including pre-production, production, post-harvest management, logistics, marketing, and branding.

**4) Answer: D**

AmbiTag, a first-of-its-kind IoT gadget invented by the Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar (IIT Ropar) in Punjab, captures real-time ambient temperature during the transit of perishable products, vaccines, and even body organs and blood.

That recorded temperature also aids in determining if an item shipped from anywhere in the world is still usable or has died due to temperature variations.

This information is especially important for vaccines, such as the Covid-19 vaccine, as well as organ and blood transportation.

**5) Answer: B**

In light of the growing problem of children infected with COVID-19, the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development announced that the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has created an online tracking portal for children in need of care and protection called Bal Swaraj (COVID-Care link).

The platform was built with the intention of digitally tracking and monitoring children in need of care and protection in real time.

During COVID-19, the site will also be utilised to track children who have lost both parents.

The concerned officer or department can upload the data of such children through the portal's "COVID-Care" link.

**6) Answer: C**

The Common Services Centres (CSC) has unveiled a unique Agri Services Portal that will operate as a one-stop destination and marketplace for small and marginal farmers, who make up 86 percent of India's farming community.

Small and marginal farmers who do not have easy access to the internet world will be able to get vital agri services with simplicity and at a low cost through the portal.

“The newly established site may be accessible by farmers with the help of local CSCs for buying agri-input products, renting and hiring of agriculture implements and machinery, soil testing, sale of farm produce, tele-consultations, loan and insurance facility,” said CSC CEO Sanjay Rakesh.

This year, the CSC, a Special Purpose Vehicle under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, wants to contact 6,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), one in each block of the country.

**7) Answer: B**

On the occasion of Goa statehood day, Union Minister of State (I/C) for Ports, Shipping & Waterways Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, in the presence of Chief Minister of Goa Shri Pramod Sawant, virtually inaugurated the second floating jetty at Old Goa.

Shri Mandaviya expressed optimism that the floating jetty in Old Goa will transform the state's tourism industry.

He also stated that ferry and cruise services will connect Panjim and Old Goa.

The Minister claimed that the jetty will provide tourists with safe and hassle-free transportation.

The Minister praised the Goa government's efforts to turn the tourist sector into an economic engine for the state.

**8) Answer: E**

AssimiGoita, the colonel who led a military coup while serving as vice president, has been named interim president by Mali's constitutional court.

Colonel AssimiGoita is a Malian military commander and the leader of the National Committee for the Salvation of the People, a military junta that ousted previous President Ibrahim Boubacar Keta in a coup in 2020.

**9) Answer: D**

On the occasion of International Menstrual Hygiene Day, Punjab Social Security Minister Aruna Chaudhary announced the women-empowerment-oriented 'Udaan Scheme,' under which sanitary pads worth Rs 40.55 crore will be supplied free of charge to poor women and girls every year.

According to Chaudhary, the scheme's major goal is to prevent women and girls from menstrual hygiene-related diseases and to raise awareness about menstruation hygiene.

A total of one lakh packets of sanitary pads were delivered at the opening ceremony to all 1,500 online locations as well as anganwadi centres across the state.

**10) Answer: E**

India's GDP growth is expected to be 9.3% in the current fiscal year, which ends in March 2022, and 7.9% in FY23, according to Moody's Investors Service.

“We expect a decline in economic activity in the April-June quarter, followed by a rebound, resulting in real, inflation-adjusted GDP growth of 9.3% in the fiscal year ending March 2022 and 7.9% in the fiscal year ending March 2023, but we do not expect the impact to be as severe as during the first wave.

**11) Answer: C**

Every year on June 4, the United Nations commemorates the International Day of Innocent

Children Victims of Aggression.

It was founded on August 19, 1982.

The goal of the day is to recognise the suffering of children who are victims of physical, mental, and emotional abuse all around the world.

The United Nations' commitment to protecting children's rights is reaffirmed on this day.

**12) Answer: C**

After Colombia and Argentina were stripped of their hosting rights for the Copa America, Brazil will host the tournament for the second time.

CONMEBOL, the South American soccer governing body, has announced it.

It has been revealed that the event will take place between June 13 and July 10.

Colombia was removed as a co-host on May 20 as the country was rocked by public protests against President Iván Duque.

The Copa America was supposed to take place in 2020, however it was postponed because to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**13) Answer: D**

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment will launch the Senior Care Ageing Growth Engine (SAGE) project, which will identify, support, and build a "one-stop shop" for aged care products and services from respectable start-ups.

Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot launched the initiative in New Delhi in the presence of MoS, MSJE, Shri Rattan Lal Kataria.

Through a dedicated portal, start-ups can apply to be a part of SAGE.

According to polls, the percentage of elders in the country's total population is predicted to rise from

roughly 7.5 percent in 2001 to nearly 12.5 percent by 2026.

**14) Answer: C**

The Election Commission of India has presented a series of recommendations to the Law Ministry in order to promote free and fair elections in the country and optimise electoral coverage, including the cancellation of candidature and a two-year prison sentence for poll candidates who falsify affidavits.

Currently, the statute only permits the insertion of names of those who have reached the age of 18 as of January 1st of the year.

In yet another important reform, the Central Election Commission has proposed integrating the Aadhar Card with the Voter ID Card to avoid EPIC card duplication.

Shri Sushil Chandra is the current Chief Election Commissioner.

**15) Answer: C**

According to brokers and a statement in the country's official gazette, India's government may move the possibility of fuel businesses selling gasoline containing up to 20% ethanol (E20) from 2025 to 2023.

It's the second time India's government has predicted E20 fuel sales, which were initially scheduled for 2030, as the country strives to lower its oil import cost and minimise carbon dioxide pollution in cities.

Sugar cane processing will account for the majority of the new ethanol output in the country, hence sugar cane will likely be used less.

India has also been providing sugar mills with low-interest loans to help them expand their ethanol production capacity by adding distillation infrastructure to their current facilities.

**16) Answer: C**

On May 28, 2021, the 'National AI Portal' celebrated its one anniversary.

The National AI Portal's description is as follows:

The National AI Portal, for starters, was released in May 2020.

It is a collaboration between the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the National e-Government Division (NeGD), and NASSCOM.

Second, the site serves as a one-stop digital platform for resource exchange.

Articles, startups, AI investment funds, resources, companies, and educational institutions in India are just a few examples.

Third, the portal disseminates materials, case studies, and research reports, among other things.

It also features a section on AI-related learning and new employment roles.

### 17) Answer: C

Giriraj Singh, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairy, announced the integration of the e Gopala App with the UMANG platform, giving the app access to 3.1 million Umang platform users.

On September 10, 2020, Hon'ble PM introduced the e-GOPALA app (Generation of Wealth via Productive Livestock), a comprehensive breed improvement marketplace and information gateway for direct usage by farmers.

According to the Minister, India is the world's leading dairy producer, producing 198.4 million tonnes of milk in 2019-20.

At present prices, the value of milk output in 2018-19 is more than Rs 7.72 lakh crore, which is more than the combined value of wheat and paddy output.

The Minister announced the inauguration of the Gopal Ratna Awards, which are national awards for the cattle

and dairy industries.

Best Dairy Farmer, Best Artificial Insemination Technician (AIT), and Best Dairy Cooperative/ Milk Producer Company/ FPO are the three categories for the award.

He stated that qualified farmers, dairy cooperative societies, and AI technicians will be able to apply for the award online beginning July 15, 2021

The award winners will be announced on October 31, 2021.

### 18) Answer: C

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gases and Steel, presided over a virtual ceremony in which a number of projects were launched to provide a big boost to the SATAT initiative and enable India leapfrog to a greener future.

Oil and gas giants such as IndianOil, HPCL, BPCL, GAIL, and IGL signed a Cooperation Agreement for the promotion and development of the SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) project.

The SATAT programme intends to establish compressed biogas production units and make CBG available for use as a green fuel on the market.

GAIL will be in charge of coordinating the CBG-CGD synchronisation scheme's implementation.

### 19) Answer: C

China's Sinovac Covid vaccine has been certified by the World Health Organization (WHO) for emergency use.

Following Sinopharm, it is the second Chinese vaccine to get WHO approval.

According to the WHO, the vaccine has received emergency approval since it "meets international standards for safety, efficacy, and manufacture."

Vaccination efficacy data showed that the vaccine prevented symptomatic disease in 51% of those who

were vaccinated and severe COVID-19 and hospitalisation in 100% of those who were immunised.

Because few older persons (over 60 years) were enrolled in research studies, efficacy in this age group could not be determined.

**20) Answer: C**

The Tamil Nadu government has announced new preparations to commemorate Kalaignar's 97th birthday.

During Covid-19, a slew of new approaches were announced, and Chief Minister Stalin started the distribution of welfare strategies.

The government announced that a 500-bed multi-specialty medical centre will be built for the benefit of residents residing in South Chennai at a cost of Rs. 250 crore.

In Madurai, a library will be established in Kalaignar's honour.

Award-winning Tamil authors will be given a place to live in their own districts.

During the Covid period, Chief Minister Stalin gave 10 kilogrammes of grains and 15 grocery items, as well as the next tranche of 2000 Rs compensation to ration card users.

He also presented Rs.4000 to priests working at temples under the State Hindu Spiritual and Charitable Endowments Ministry, together with food and rice.

The Chief Minister launched a bonus scheme of Rs.5000/- for a single lakh 12 thousand 184 law enforcement personnel who are fighting Covid-19 at the front lines.

**21) Answer: D**

World Oceans Day is an annual international event that takes place on June 8th. 'The Ocean: Life and

Livelihoods' is the theme for World Oceans Day 2021.

The concept was first suggested in 1992 during the Earth Summit - United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, by Canada's International Centre for Ocean Development and the Ocean Institute of Canada.

The goal of the Day is to raise public awareness about the impact of human actions on the ocean, to build a global citizen movement for the ocean, and to mobilise and unite the global population behind a project for the long-term management of the world's oceans.

**22) Answer: A**

The Income Tax Department has established [www.incometax.gov.in](http://www.incometax.gov.in), a new e-filing platform.

The Internal Revenue Service will debut a new e-filing facility to make filing tax returns even easier (ITRs).

The e-portal will be available at [www.incometax.gov.in](http://www.incometax.gov.in), according to the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), and will provide taxpayers with a "contemporary, seamless" experience.

**23) Answer: E**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the PradhanMantriGaribKalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) will be extended until Diwali this year to ensure that those in need receive free rations.

80 crore Indians would receive a fixed amount of food grains each month until November as part of the central scheme.

"In this time of epidemic, the government stands with the poor in their every need, as their partner," Prime Minister Modi said.

During the COVID-19 pandemic in India, the Government of India introduced the PradhanMantriGaribKalyan Anna Yojana, a food security assistance scheme. The Department of Food and Public Distribution, which is part of the Ministry of Consumer

Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, runs the programme.

**24) Answer: B**

Union Minister of Rural Development, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare & Panchayati Raj released a Model Panchayat Citizens Charter/framework for delivery of services across 29 sectors, aligning actions with localised Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), prepared by Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) in collaboration with National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR).

The Citizen Charter would promote open and effective public service delivery for long-term development and improved citizen service experiences, as well as deepening inclusive and accountable Local Self Governments by incorporating varied perspectives into service design and delivery.

The purpose of the Gram Panchayat Citizen Charter is to empower citizens in respect to public services and to improve service quality without prejudice and in accordance with citizens' expectations.

**25) Answer: C**

To give 'ease of living' for the family members of deceased employees, the central government has raised the maximum ceiling for family pension from Rs 45,000 to Rs 1,25,000 per month. This will provide them with appropriate financial stability.

In the event that both parents of a child die, the child is entitled to two family pensions.

This amount has now been increased, and clarifications have been made in this regard.

**26) Answer: A**

At the 12th Chief Energy Ministerial, India and the United Kingdom inaugurated a new work stream to enhance industrial energy efficiency under the Clean

Energy Ministerial's (CEM) - Industrial Deep Decarbonization Initiative (IDDI), coordinated by UNIDO (CEM).

The 12th CEM started on May 31st and will end on June 6th, 2021. Germany and Canada have backed the IDDI project, and more countries are anticipated to follow soon.

Green technologies will be infused, and demand for low-carbon industrial materials will be stimulated. India is committed to reducing emissions intensity per unit of GDP by 33 to 35 percent by 2030, according to Mr. Alok Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Power.

**27) Answer: D**

Raimona, located in the Kokrajhar district of Assam, has been designated as the state's sixth national park.

On the occasion of World Environment Day, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma issued a declaration in this regard.

Raimona has been designated as a national park by the state's Environment and Forest Department. The chief minister also noted that the Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary was being converted into a national park.

**28) Answer: B**

The Kerala State government has formed the Knowledge Economy Mission to bring together all of the state's initiatives to recruit educated people and support "knowledge workers" into one programme.

Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K-DISC) is the driving force behind it, and they plan to deliver a thorough project report by July 15.

"At the heart of the programme is a comprehensive digital platform for educated youngsters that helps them upskill, expand knowledge, and equip them to confront the difficulties of an ever-changing labour market," said the state chief minister.

This digital network, according to the chief minister,



would provide a terrific opportunity for those who have taken a vacation from work and are jobless to interact with worldwide employers.

Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation, and Technology collaborated on the development of the digital platform (formerly IIITM-K).

**29) Answer: E**

“Collections exceeding Rs 1 lakh crore pertaining to transactions in the month of April 21 suggests that the economic impact of the lockdowns has been far lesser than expected,” said MS Mani, senior director, Deloitte India

He further stated that the next month's collections should be closely monitored to evaluate the degree of the impact on GST collections in FY 22.

In May 2021, gross GST income was Rs 17,592 crore, state GST was Rs 22,653 crore, integrated GST was Rs 53,199 crore (including Rs 26,002 crore collected on import of goods), and cess was Rs 9,265 crore (including Rs 868 crore collected on import of goods).

**30) Answer: C**

A USD 500 million programme to aid India's MSME sector has been authorised by the World Bank. The programme aims to improve the performance of 500,000 small and medium-sized businesses.

More than 40% of the country's 58 million MSMEs do not have access to formal sources of credit.

The World Bank's second intervention in this sector is the USD 500 million Raising and Accelerating Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Performance (RAMP) Program, which follows the USD 750 million MSME Emergency Response Program, which was approved in July 2020 to address the immediate liquidity and credit needs of millions of viable MSMEs severely impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

**31) Answer: E**

The Central government increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of kharif crops for the 2021-22 crop season (July-June) by an average 3.7 per cent as compared to the previous year with the maximum hike reserved for pulses and oilseeds to encourage farmers to shift from paddy.

The MSP of tur and urad has been increased by Rs 300 per quintal in absolute terms for 2021-22 to Rs 6300 per quintal while the MSP of groundnut seed has been increased by Rs 275 per quintal in 2021-22 to Rs 5550 per quintal.

**32) Answer: B**

The US Senate has confirmed Pakistani-American Zahid Quraishi's nomination to the District Court of New Jersey, making him the country's first Muslim federal judge.

Quraishi, 46, was confirmed by the Senate with an 81-16 majority. As many as 34 Republicans joined Democrats in voting to confirm the first Muslim-American federal judge in history.

**33) Answer: C**

Assam's government has designated DehingPatkai as a national park. “Raimona and DihingPatkai National Parks have been legally notified, bringing Assam's total number of National Parks (NP) to seven,” Assam Minister for Environment and Forest ParimalSuklabaidya said.

Assam has overtaken Gujarat as the country's most populous state in terms of NPs. The newly established NPs will aid conservation efforts while also providing a boost to the tourism and agriculture sectors.”

**34) Answer: A**

YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, the Chief Minister of Telangana, will launch the JaganannaThodu scheme, which aims to assist small and petty merchants across the state.

At a cost of Rs 370 crore, the plan will provide 3.7 lakh small and petty vendors with an interest-free loan of Rs 10,000.

Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy introduced the scheme on November 25, 2020, and it is being extended for the second year in a row to benefit small and petty traders.

The scheme's principal goal is to relieve vendors of the burden of paying high interest on loans obtained from private parties.

### 35) Answer: D

The Union Territory (UT) administration has reserved all government posts for locals in a momentous decision that could bring cheer to people of the frontier Ladakh area.

Despite the fact that the regulations defining the conditions for such locales have yet to be drafted, they will take effect on the date of their publication in the official gazette. Lieutenant Governor R K Mathur of Ladakh announced the revised recruiting regulations.

The Union Territory of Ladakh Employment (Subordinate) Service Recruitment Rules, 2021 stated, "No person shall be qualified for appointment to the Service unless the person is a Resident of Union Territory of Ladakh."

### 36) Answer: A

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced the "Jahan Vote, Wahan Vaccination" campaign with the goal of vaccinating all persons over 45 years old in Delhi against COVID-19 within the next four weeks.

"We are launching a 'Jahan Vote, Wahan Vaccination' campaign," Kejriwal said. We will tell individuals to get vaccinated at their assigned polling booths as part of our campaign.

The main goal is to vaccinate everyone over 45 years old in Delhi within four weeks if vaccines are not in low

supply.

### 37) Answer: E

PayNearby has launched an insurance option for its shop community called PoornaSuraksha.

PayNearby's 15+ lakh shop partners across 17,500+ PIN codes will be safe and secure thanks to this unique and comprehensive insurance solution.

This cost-effective three-in-one solution was developed in partnership with IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited (IndiaFirst Life) to protect PayNearby's retailers throughout the COVID-19 epidemic and beyond, ensuring that they have access to a safety net whenever and wherever they need it.

PayNearby's PoornaSuraksha insurance mirrors this idea by offering reasonable coverage for all types of insurance, including life, health, and disability.

### 38) Answer: C

Wipro Ltd, an IT services company, announced the appointment of Anup Purohit as its chief information officer (CIO).

Sanjeev Singh, the Bengaluru-based company's chief operations officer, will be noted by Purohit.

Purohit has over 25 years of banking and financial services experience, with a focus on digital banking, financial management, business solutions and service delivery, portfolio and programme management, risk and controls, and information security.

### 39) Answer: B

Lieutenant General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed will succeed Bangladesh Army General Aziz Ahmed as Chief of Army Staff.

When General Aziz formally retires on June 24, Lieutenant Colonel Abdullah IbneJayed, director of the Bangladeshi Defense Ministry's Inter Service Public

Relations (ISPR) department, confirmed to Xinhua that Ahmed will take command of the Bangladesh Army in a ceremonial transfer.

**40) Answer: D**

QX Global Group, a supplier of business process management services, announced that it had won the Outsourcing Service Provider of the Year Award at the 19th Asian Leadership Awards.

The award was given in the area of Asian Outsourcing Leadership Awards.

QX Global has delivery centres in Ahmedabad, Baroda, Mumbai, and Noida, and offers cost reductions, process efficiencies, and transformation in the areas of finance, accounting, payroll, and recruitment.

**41) Answer: E**

Every year on June 15, 2021, World Wind Day, also known as Global Wind Day, is observed.

The purpose of the event is to raise awareness of wind, its power, and the opportunities it holds for changing our energy systems, decarbonizing our economies, and increasing jobs and growth.

WindEurope and GWEC are the organisers. It's a day to celebrate wind energy, share knowledge, and educate adults and children about its power and potential to improve the world. Denmark is known as the "Wind Country."

**42) Answer: A**

Every year on June 15, World Senior Abuse Awareness Day is commemorated to promote awareness about elder abuse and neglect, as well as the cultural, social, economic, and demographic aspects that influence elder abuse and neglect.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day's current topic is "Access to Justice." The topic serves as a reminder of

the crucial necessity to fully meet the needs of older people, as well as the importance of caring for the people

On June 15, 2006, the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization at the United Nations (UN) together organised the first World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) to bring communities all over the world together in raising awareness about elder abuse.

Purple is a hue that represents the worldwide epidemic of elder abuse. An estimated 5 million elderly people are abused, neglected, and exploited each year.

**43) Answer: D**

The annual International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR) is celebrated on June 16th to honour the financial contributions of 250 million migrant workers to long-term international development.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) calls on governments, financial institutions, and money transfer companies to commit to a cross-sector approach to make remittances more affordable, transparent, and accessible around the world, allowing them to reach their full development potential.

**44) Answer: B**

At SeemaSadakBhawan in New Delhi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched two Border Roads Organization (BRO) centres of excellence

Mr. Singh also launched KanchanUgursandi's first-ever solo women's motorcycling excursion to Ladakh's Umling La Pass and back. The Centre of Excellence for Road Safety and Awareness (CoERSA) aims to raise road safety awareness.

This will be accomplished by the investigation and sharing of road accidents, as well as the suggestion of various techniques to aid in the saving of lives.

The Centre of Excellence for Roads, Bridges, Air Fields,

and Tunnels (CoERBAT) is focused on institutionalising the knowledge gathered over the years while building 56,000 metres of bridges, 19 airfields, 60,000 kilometres of roads, and four tunnels in the country's eastern and northwestern regions.

**45) Answer: C**

The Centre has started 'Project O2 for India' to expand medical oxygen production in order to meet the probable rise in demand due to additional pandemic waves.

The Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India (GoI), has launched 'Project O2 for India,' which intends to assist stakeholders in improving the country's ability to satisfy the rising demand for medical oxygen.

A 'National Consortium of Oxygen' is being established as part of the project to enable the supply of crucial raw materials such as zeolites, the establishment of small oxygen plants, the fabrication of compressors, and the final products such as oxygen plants, concentrators, and ventilators.

In addition, the consortium is aiming to develop the manufacturing ecosystem in order to ensure long-term readiness.

**46) Answer: D**

The Telangana government announced the Telangana AI Mission (T-AIM), which is supported by Nasscom, and included an accelerator programme called Revv Up to enable and empower AI entrepreneurs as part of the T-AIM.

The programme, which will begin in July with its first cohort, is another step toward establishing Telangana and Hyderabad as a global hub for AI and other emerging technologies. The accelerator programme, which is only for growth-stage AI firms, will span a wide range of industries.

"Telangana is committed to its aim of putting the State as a leader in AI," said Telangana Industries and IT Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan.

After being the first state in India to release an actionable AI policy framework in June 2020, T-AIM has now launched the first round of the Revv Up accelerator programme to hone breakthrough AI ideas.

**47) Answer: A**

Raja Parba, a three-day celebration honouring women, is being held throughout Odisha.

According to Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) chairperson S Mishra, it is believed that Mother Earth menstruates during this time and prepares herself for future agricultural activities with the onset of monsoon

The celebration is known for its numerous cake variants (pithas). The Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) has launched a new initiative called "Pitha on Wheels."

Because ladies are not working during these three days, seven 'Pitha On Wheels' cars would arrive at people's doorsteps in Bhubaneswar," she added.

On 'Pitha on Wheels,' many pithas such as 'PodaPitha,' 'Manda,' 'Kakara,' 'Arisha,' 'Chakuli,' and 'Chandrakala' are available (kiosks on wheels).

These traditional cake-selling vans were stationed in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, and Sambalpur.

**48) Answer: C**

The first commercial consignment of GI-certified 'Jardalu' mangoes from Bhagalpur, Bihar, was shipped to the United Kingdom, thus boosting the potential of farm exports from the eastern region.

APEDA has begun taking steps to increase mango exports from non-traditional areas.

16 types of Indian mangos, including three GI certified

Khirsapati&Lakshmanbhog (West Bengal) and Jardalu (Bihar), were showcased at mega stores of importer Al Jazeera group during a week-long promotion in Bahrain.

**49) Answer: E**

In May, India's retail inflation soared to 6.3 percent, breaking beyond the upper limit of the central bank's inflation target for the first time in six months and putting more strain on an economy already reeling from the second wave of covid-19 infections

Core retail inflation, which excludes volatile food and fuel goods, climbed to an 83-month high of 6.6 percent in May, according to AditiNayar, senior economist at ICRA Ratings, and is likely to continue over 5% until FY22.

Given the high base of last year, Sunil Kumar Sinha, principal economist at India Ratings and Research, believes it is still too early to predict if retail inflation would continue above 6% on a sustained basis.

**50) Answer: B**

The Ambuja Cement Foundation and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have partnered to implement the second phase of their employability through skill initiative project.

NABARD provided the foundation with a grant under the GramyaVikasNidhi, a fund dedicated to the growth of non-farm sector activities.

The project will deliver two-year skill training in 12 trades across 19 locations. Despite the pandemic, it has already reached almost 4,000 young people.

**51) Answer: E**

On December 21, 2016, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution designating June 18 as Sustainable Gastronomy Day.

Because of its interconnections with the three elements of sustainable development, sustainable gastronomy can help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by

promoting:

- Development of agriculture
- Nutrition food security
- Food production that is sustainable
- Biological diversity preservation

**52) Answer: B**

Every year on June 18th, International Picnic Day is observed. The roots of this event are unknown, but that does not diminish its popularity, as it is celebrated in numerous nations around the world.

Although this is not your normal fundraiser awareness day, it is a fun event.

Get outside and enjoy nature with friends or family to commemorate International Picnic Day! It's an opportunity for you to get away from your regular routine and spend some time in nature.

**53) Answer: D**

Autistic Pride Day is an annual celebration of autistic pride on June 18th

The United Nations (UN) has announced the subject for World Autistic Pride Day 2021 as "Inclusion in the Workplace: Challenges and Opportunities in a Post-Pandemic World."

Autistic pride acknowledges the significance of pride for autistic persons and its role in bringing about constructive social change.

Autism, often known as autism spectrum disorder (ASD), is a complex illness characterised by communication and behavioural issues. It can manifest itself in a wide range of symptoms and abilities.

Communication is difficult for people with autism. They have a hard time comprehending what other people are thinking and feeling.

**54) Answer: A**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has authorised a USD 484 million loan for the Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) in Tamil Nadu to increase transportation connectivity and road upkeep.

The CKIC is part of India's East Coast Economic Corridor, which runs from West Bengal to Tamil Nadu and connects India to Southeast and East Asian production networks.

In the CKIC's impact zones, the project will upgrade approximately 590 kilometres of state roadways.

In addition, the project would help strengthen the highways and minor ports department of Tamil Nadu's planning capabilities.

**55) Answer: C**

Small merchants, construction workers, auto-rickshaw drivers, and unorganised labourers who have suffered financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown would get a one-time payment of Rs 5,000 apiece from the Haryana government.

Chief Minister ManoharLalKhattar stated at a media briefing here on the occasion of his government's 600th day in office that BPL families who have lost a family member in the 18-50 age range to COVID-19 will be granted an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh apiece.

In addition, the chief minister offered a slew of other perks, including a property tax exemption and an electricity bill cut in the first quarter of 2021-22.

**56) Answer: C**

Mamata Banerjee, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, reintroduced her government's KrishakBandhu initiative, raising the amount of money given to farmers to Rs 10,000 per year

She claimed that day labourers in farmlands and sharecroppers with at least one kottah (0.0165 acre) of land will henceforth be paid Rs 4,000 per year instead of

the previous Rs 2,000.

Banerjee further stated that the state's respective boards will reveal the grading process for the classes 10 and 12 examinations that were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic crisis.

**57) Answer: A**

Federal Bank has expanded its strategic partnership with Oracle and Infosys to provide a better customer experience through the Oracle CX platform.

To strengthen Federal Bank's operations and deliver connected, data-driven, and intelligent customer experiences across all touch points, the partnership will develop a comprehensive integrated Customer Relationship Management (CRM) solution spanning marketing, sales, customer service, and social listening.

Through order to achieve a "Single Source of Truth," Federal Bank will launch a 360-degree picture of the customer portfolio in an application. These services, according to the lender, will assist boost production and customer happiness.

**58) Answer: E**

In partnership with IDBI Bank, LIC Cards Services Ltd (LIC CSL) has created a contactless prepaid gift card called Shagun on the RuPay platform.

The goal of this card is to grow the gift card market in order to promote cashless gifting and provide a diverse range of end-use options, as well as to venture into the e-gift card market in the future.

In the beginning, the Shagun card will only be available for official use by LIC and its subsidiaries.

During official conferences and functions, the card will be utilised to facilitate prizes and special rewards.

The Shagun gift card allows for personalization by allowing for flexible loading of any value between Rs 500 and Rs 10,000. Because RuPay is widely accepted in India, the Shagun gift card can be used at millions of

merchant outlets and e-commerce websites to broaden the card's purchasing options.

**59) Answer: D**

With a 12 percent ownership in the firm, state-owned Canara Bank would be the principal sponsor of National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL), or bad bank.

A bad bank is a financial institution that takes over a lender's bad assets and resolves them.

"The Indian Banks' Association (IBA) urged Canara Bank to participate in NARCL as a sponsor in a letter dated May 13, 2021

Canara Bank's board of directors has given its permission in principle to buy a share in NARCL." In the first phase, banks have identified roughly 22 problematic loans totaling Rs 89,000 crore that will be transferred to the NARCL.

**60) Answer: B**

Ravi Kumar has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of udChalo, a Consumer Services Company for Indian Defense Personnel.

Varun Jain, the Company's outgoing Chief Executive Officer, will continue to serve as an advisor.

Ravi is a Stanford GSB Seed Program graduate and a graduate of the Army Institute of Technology in Pune. He was named one of Asia One Magazine's 40 Under 40 Most Influential Asians for his contributions to travel, as well as the Army Institute of Technology's Young Entrepreneur Award.

**61) Answer: D**

Every year on June 19, World Sickle Cell Awareness Day is held to raise awareness and understanding of the disease and the problems that patients and their families encounter.

'Shine the Light on Sickle Cell' is the theme for World Sickle Cell Day 2021. Sickle Cell Disease Day is observed to raise awareness about the condition's treatment options and to promote global control of the disease.

The Sickle Cell Society is marking 40 years of service to the sickle cell community this year.

World Sickle Cell Day is a United Nations-designated day to enhance national and worldwide awareness of sickle cell disease.

**62) Answer: A**

Every year on June 19, World Sauntering Day is observed. The theme for World Sauntering Day 2021 is "A lengthy walk is the finest medicine for a bad attitude."

The goal is to encourage individuals to take their time and appreciate life rather than rushing through it.

International Sauntering Day is another name for the day.

The word'saunter' indicates to walk leisurely and comfortably.

It is critical to slow down and appreciate the small pleasures that we may overlook as we speed through life.

**63) Answer: E**

The United Nations organises World Refugee Day every year on June 20th. "Together we heal, learn, and shine" is the theme of World Refugee Day 2021.

Every year on June 20, the United Nations commemorates World Refugee Day to celebrate refugees all throughout the world.

It is intended to honour and celebrate refugees from all over the world. On June 20, 2001, the day was established to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees.

Thousands of families are forced to escape their homes

every day, abandoning all they own.

The globe comes together on this day to honour the strength, fortitude, and tenacity of millions of refugees.

**64) Answer: C**

Father's Day is observed on the third Sunday in June in most regions of the world. It will be commemorated on June 20 this year.

Father's Day is a day dedicated to honouring fathers, paternal connections, and the important role fathers play in society. Father's Day was inspired by a Civil War soldier and a single father.

On May 9, 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd sat in the pews of Spokane's Central Methodist Episcopal Church, listening to her pastor extol the virtues of mothers.

'Follower Adviser Teacher Honorable Educated Reminder' is the most prevalent complete form of FATHER.

**65) Answer: B**

Following its establishment at the United Nations General Assembly in 2014, the International Day of Yoga has been observed yearly on June 21st since 2015.

The seventh edition of International Day of Yoga will take place on June 21, 2021, with the subject of 'Yoga for Well-Being.'

Yoga is an ancient Indian physical, mental, and spiritual discipline. It is timely in a society that is still recuperating from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Yoga Day is observed all around the world to raise awareness of the importance of yoga and how it may help keep the body and mind in good condition.

Yoga, which is a comprehensive method that targets the various systems of the body and mind, renews the mind and gives it confidence.

**66) Answer: C**

Every year on June 21, World Hydrography Day is commemorated. The subject for World Hydrography Day 2021 is "100 years of international hydrographic cooperation."

Hydrography is a field of applied science that studies the physical characteristics of water bodies.

Hydrography is the science of measuring and describing the physical characteristics of the Earth's navigable surface and adjacent coastal areas.

Hydrographic surveyors examine these bodies of water to determine the "floor." The major goal of the day is to draw people's attention to the IHO's international activities.

**67) Answer: A**

The Fête de la musique, also known as Music Day, Make Music Day, or World Music Day in English, is an annual music festival held on June 21.

Citizens of a city or country are permitted and encouraged to perform music outside in their neighbourhoods, public areas, and parks on Music Day.

Every year on June 21, World Music Day honours artists and singers for the gift of music, which gives life to everything and provides flight to the imagination.

Many people believe that a world without music would be meaningless, and World Music Day is celebrated to honour the power of this art form.

**68) Answer: B**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the beginning of a one-of-a-kind crash course programme aimed at training and upskilling over one lakh "Covid warriors" across the country.

People in six specialised job categories — home care support, basic care support, advanced care support, emergency care support, sample collection support, and



medical equipment support — will receive training as part of this programme.

PM Modi said the course, which is being offered in 111 locations across 26 states, was devised by top experts and that the Corona time has demonstrated the value of skill, re-skilling, and up-skilling.

The initiative was created as a unique component of the PradhanMantriKaushalVikasYojana 3.0, with a total budgetary outlay of Rs. 276 crore, according to the PMO.

**69) Answer: E**

On June 15, 2021, E Chief Election Commissioner, ShriSushil Chandra, and Election Commissioners Shri Rajiv Kumar and ShriAnup Chandra Pandey released 'General Elections 2019 – An Atlas.'

It includes 42 themed maps and 90 tables that represent different aspects of the elections. The Atlas highlights key elements such as data from the 23 states and territories where women outnumber men in the voting booth; information on the largest and smallest parliamentary constituencies in terms of electors, candidates, and political party performance, among other things.

The gender gap in the 2019 General Elections was the smallest in the history of Indian elections.

During the 2014 and 2019 General Elections, the Atlas compares the average number of electors per polling station in different states.

In the General Elections of 2019, the Election Commission of India set up over 10 lakh voting stations, with Arunachal Pradesh having the lowest number of electors per polling station (365).

**70) Answer: A**

Kerala will commemorate International Yoga Day in a virtual way by hosting a variety of events.

In the state, the National Ayush Mission will host a 12-

hour virtual Yoga Session called a "Yogathon."

For school pupils, quiz competitions and essay competitions on the theme of Yoga will be held.

In partnership with the Kerala General Education Department's Victor's Channel, the project also hopes to broadcast yoga courses for youngsters.

In conjunction with International Yoga Day, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting's Field Outreach Bureau will host webinars and virtual Yoga sessions.

**71) Answer: E**

The union government is developing a "green tariff" strategy to assist electricity distribution firms (discoms) in supplying electricity generated from clean energy projects at a lower cost than power generated from traditional fuel sources like coal.

This was stated by Raj Kumar Singh, the minister of electricity, new and renewable energy, who said the government was working on a set of laws and guidelines to enable such a structure.

Once the mechanism is in place, discoms can only acquire green electricity and supply it at a 'green tariff,' which is the consumer's weighted average green energy tariff.

This comes as solar and wind power tariffs in India have reached new lows of Rs.1.99 per unit and Rs.2.43 per unit, respectively. By 2022, India will have completed the world's largest clean energy programme, with 175 gigawatts (GW) of renewable capacity, including 100 GW of solar power.

**72) Answer: B**

The merger of Central Railside Warehouse Company Limited's assets, liabilities, rights, and obligations with Central Warehousing Corporation has been approved by the Union Cabinet.

It will bring together identical operations from both firms under one administration to enhance efficiency, optimal capacity use, transparency, accountability,

financial savings, and the use of railway siding for expanded warehousing capacity.

RWCs' management costs are expected to drop by five crore as a result of cost savings in corporate office rent, personnel salaries, and other administrative costs. The capacity use of RWCs will also improve since CWC would be able to store goods other than cement, fertiliser, sugar, salt, and soda, which are currently stored.

The merger will allow at least 50 new Railside warehouses to be built near the goods-shed locations. This is expected to result in over 36 thousand mandays of employment for skilled workers and over 9.12 lakh mandays for unskilled workers. The merger is projected to take eight months to complete.

### 73) Answer: D

The World's First Genetically Modified Rubber Rubber Board chairman and executive director KN Raghavan planted the seedling at the board's farm in Sarutari near Guwahati, which was developed at the Kerala-based Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII).

The GM rubber plant, which is the first of its kind created specifically for the northeast, is predicted to thrive in the region's climate.

The plant, which contains extra copies of the gene MnSOD (manganese containing superoxide dismutase), is predicted to change India's natural rubber industry.

The plant was produced by the Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII) in Kerala following years of research in its biotechnology lab, and it is predicted to thrive in the northeast's climate.

The genetically engineered rubber plant, the first of its kind produced particularly for this region, is likely to flourish well under the climatic circumstances of the hilly northeastern region, according to KN Raghavan, Chairman and Executive Director of the Rubber Board.

### 74) Answer: A

A Maharashtra Cabinet meeting authorised an amendment to the Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection and Preservation of Trees Act, 1975, to include the notion of "historic trees."

It is likely to take effect as an ordinance. The Cabinet also approved the establishment of the Maharashtra Tree Authority, which will be responsible for all tree-related decisions.

It will be in charge of tree protection and conservation, including so-called "historic trees." "The Act will concentrate on improving urban tree cover.

The need of the hour is to protect existing trees while also protecting those with cultural significance. ManishaMhaiskar, Principal Secretary (Environment), stated, "It is vital that development is carried out in a sustainable manner while preserving environmental conservation."

### 75) Answer: C

During an exclusive session with the National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited, the Confederation of Indian Industry-Indian Green Building Council launched the IGBC Green High-Speed Rail Rating System.

IGBC respects and recognises AchalKhare, Managing Director, NHRCL, for his outstanding leadership in generating new ideas on how the Indian High-Speed Rail project can become a green role model.

Khare and V Suresh, Chairman of the IGBC, launched the rating system online. Officials from NHRCL, IGBC, and business executives and specialists from the transit sector attended the discussion.

"The IGBC Green HSR rating system is a first-of-its-kind in the world, established particularly to address the sustainability aspects of High-Speed Rail (HSR) projects," Suresh explained.

The ranking system was created in accordance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals."

**76) Answer: E**

Tata Power, an Indian utility, has teamed up with Tata Motors, its sister company, to build India's largest behind-the-meter solar energy carport.

The 6.2MWp solar carport in Chikhali, Pune, is located at a Tata Motors car facility and will generate around 86,000KWh of energy each year while reducing 7,000 tonnes of carbon emissions.

The solar factory, which spans 30,000 square metres of land, was built as part of Tata Motors' attempts to encourage the use of sustainable energy in automobile manufacture.

**77) Answer: B**

Moody's Investors Service cut India's GDP forecast for the calendar year 2021 from 13.9 percent to 9.6 percent, citing faster vaccination progress as critical to limiting economic losses in the June quarter.

According to Moody's, "the virus's reappearance adds uncertainty to India's growth outlook for 2021; however, the economic harm is anticipated to be limited to the April-June quarter."

India's real GDP is expected to expand 9.6% in 2021 and 7% in 2022, according to our estimates."

As the government weathered the first wave of COVID, the Indian GDP declined by 7.3 percent in fiscal 2020-21, compared to 4% growth in fiscal 2019-20."

**78) Answer: A**

Paisabazaar.com, India's largest lending marketplace and credit score platform, and SBM Bank India, India's youngest universal bank, have announced the launch of Step Up Credit Card, a credit builder product for individuals who have limited access to formal credit due to an invalid credit score.

Paisabazaar's long-term growth strategy includes collaborating with partners to develop neo-lending

products that address specific consumer needs.

These novel solutions would promote inclusion by allowing underprivileged populations to obtain credit, while also strengthening the lending environment in the long run. Paisabazaar's neo-lending strategy kicks out with the Step Up Credit Card, which was developed in collaboration with SBM Bank India.

**79) Answer: C**

Three cooperative banks, including Mogaveera Co-operative Bank Limited in Mumbai, were fined Rs 23 lakh by the RBI for violating several regulations.

Mogaveera Co-operative Bank Limited was fined Rs 12 lakh, Indapur Urban Cooperative Bank was fined Rs 10 lakh, and The BaramatiSahakari Bank Limited, Baramati was fined Rs 1 lakh.

The inspection report of Mogaveera Co-operative Bank, based on its financial position as of March 31, 2019, revealed that the bank had not fully transferred unclaimed deposits to the Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund and had not conducted an annual review of inoperative accounts, according to the RBI.

The RBI noted that an inspection report of Indapur Urban Cooperative Bank, based on its financial situation as of March 31, 2019, found that the bank had not adhered to the aggregate ceiling on unsecured lending and did not have a process for periodic evaluation of risk categorization of accounts.

According to BaramatiSahakari Bank's inspection report, the bank's prudential inter-bank (single bank) exposure limit has been exceeded.

**80) Answer: D**

According to a business announcement, BhartiAirtel has named Amrita Padda as Chief People Officer to manage the firm's people strategy as it transitions into a digital services provider.

Padda will begin working for BhartiAirtel on October 1st and will report to Gopal Vittal, the company's managing director and CEO.

Padda has over two decades of experience with Hindustan Unilever, where she has worked in a variety of Human Resources capacities.

**81) Answer: B**

The "Day of the Seafarer" is celebrated on June 25 each year to honour the vital contribution that seafarers make to international trade and the global economy, often at great personal expense to themselves and their families.

"Seafarers: at the heart of shipping's future," is the theme for the 2021 Day of the Seafarer. The subject "seeks to improve the visibility of seafarers by drawing attention to the critical role they play now and in the future."

This year's Day of the Seafarer campaign urges for a "fair future for seafarers." The campaign's goal is to talk about "topics that will still be relevant to seafarers beyond the epidemic, such as fair treatment of seafarers, fair working conditions, fair training, and fair safety," among other things.

**82) Answer: E**

The World Vitiligo Day, which takes place on June 25, is a campaign to raise global awareness about vitiligo. "Embracing Life with Vitiligo" is the topic for 2021.

"Patients with vitiligo have the same COVID experience as everyone else and should not be afraid of vaccination," is another key subject for 2021.

Vitiligo is a loss of colour in the skin that causes a variety of patterns on the skin. It affects 1-2 percent of the world's population.

The 25th of June was chosen in honour of Michael Jackson, who died on that day in 2009 after suffering from vitiligo.

**83) Answer: A**

The centre is delivering House Building Advance (HBA) benefits to all central government employees with the goal of assisting those who desire to build their own home (CGS).

The base interest rate for this HBA is 7.9%, and the benefit will be available until March 31, 2022.

The centre has already amended the HBA rules for central government employees, keeping the 7th pay commission salary matrix and 7th CPC approval provisions in mind.

The HBA amount for house extension is set at Rs.10 lakh or 34 months of basic pay, whichever is less, or the cost of house expansion or amount according to repaying capacity.

For the construction or purchase of a new house or flat, a central government employee can borrow up to his or her 34 month basic monthly income or Rs 25 lakh, whichever is lower, or the cost of the house or the amount based on the employee's repaying ability, whichever is lower.

**84) Answer: E**

A combined mission for Eklavya school teachers and administrators was recently organised by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

The initial batch of the programme included teachers and principals from 120 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) from three states (Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh). National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA) is an acronym for National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers' Holistic Advancement.

Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) are a Central government initiative that began in 1998-99 with the goal of establishing a model residential school for tribal children in their local environment from Class

VI to XII.

**85) Answer: D**

Through video conferencing from Manali in Kullu district, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and lay foundation stones for road projects worth Rs 6,155 crore in Himachal Pradesh.

The Parwanoo-Solan segment of the NH-22, which cost Rs 1,303 crore to build, was one of the projects.

Gadkari noted at the time that roads are necessary for any country's entire growth. Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur stated that the state has a 40,000-kilometer road network, but that much more has to be done.

**86) Answer: B**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone for the Bengaluru Suburban Rail project within the next three months, according to Karnataka's chief minister.

The work on doubling the Baiyappanahalli-Hosur railway lines (Rs 499 crore) and Yeshwantpur-Channasandra railway lines (Rs 315 crore) began in October 2020 and would be completed by December 2023, according to the chief minister, who was inspecting the railway works being carried out between Bengaluru Cantonment and Heelalige. The suburban train project, which is expected to cost Rs 15,760 crore, will connect the neighbouring towns to the Bengaluru airport, according to Yediyurappa.

By 2023, the railway lines between Hosur and Channasandra will be doubled. K-RIDE (Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development Enterprises), a special purpose vehicle set up jointly by the state and the Centre, is implementing the project. Both will contribute 20% of the project costs, with the remaining funds coming from borrowings.

**87) Answer: D**

S&P Global Ratings lowered India's growth prediction for the current fiscal year to 9.5 percent from 11 percent previously, citing the risk of more COVID pandemic waves.

The agency decreased its growth forecast, citing a severe second COVID-19 epidemic in April and May, which resulted in state-imposed lockdowns and a dramatic drop in economic activity.

"From our March projection of 11%, S&P expects growth of 9.5 percent this fiscal year."

It forecasted India's growth at 7.8% in the next fiscal year, ending March 31, 2023, citing irreversible damage to corporate and public sector balance sheets as a constraint over the next few years.

**88) Answer: A**

SBI Card has partnered with Fabindia, a lifestyle retail company, to provide contactless co-branded credit cards for premium clients.

SBI Card has been mentioned. The new co-branded contactless credit card combines best-in-class rewards points on retail purchases with value back on a variety of spending areas, answering premium cardholders' overall spending needs.

The card is developed with carefully selected rewards and privileges to provide premium consumers with a pleasurable purchasing experience. Fabindia SBI Card SELECT and Fabindia SBI Card are the two versions of the card.

Customers who have a Fabindia SBI Card gain direct access to Fabindia's FabFamily reward programmes at higher tiers (Gold and Platinum), which are otherwise only available after meeting the minimum annual spending requirements of Rs 30,000 and Rs 75,000, respectively.

**89) Answer: C**

Kotak Mahindra Bank has announced the launch of 'Pay

Your Contact,' an innovative feature on the KMBL mobile banking app that uses the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform to allow customers to send money or make payments to any of their contacts across all payment apps by simply entering the beneficiary's mobile number.

Customers of KMBL no longer need to remember or obtain their bank account information, IFSC code, or UPI IDs in order to send money or make payments with 'Pay Your Contact.'

The 'Pay Your Contact' feature is accessible on both Android and iOS and is compatible with all payment apps. "Interoperability is another important issue that 'Pay Your Contact' addresses.

Due to UPI's enormous popularity in India, practically every Indian with a bank account has a UPI ID. Customers may now transfer payments to any UPI-linked bank account across payment applications with just a mobile number to identify their beneficiary thanks to 'Pay Your Contact.'

### 90) Answer: D

According to the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, the state government appointed 41 Honorary Wildlife Wardens (HWWs) throughout all districts. They have been appointed for a two-year term that will end in June 2023.

Aditya Chandra Panda, a wildlife conservationist, and Pradeep Kumar Sahoo have been chosen as the HWWs for the Angul district. Subhendu Mallik, the general secretary of the Snake Helpline, has been appointed as the new HWW for the Khurda area.

Apart from Mallik, Kusal Biswas of Speak for Animal and JyotirmayaBarik of JyotirmayaBarik of JyotirmayaBarik of JyotirmayaBarik of JyotirmayaBarik of Jyo Mayurbhanj district's HWWs are PradiptaKabi, Akshay Kumar Mohanty, and Bibekananda Pattnaik, whereas Sambalpur district's HWWs are SibaramSahoo and HrudanandaNaik.

Suresh Chandra Tripathy will be Cuttack's HWW, while Bijay Kumar Dash and Surya Narayan Lenka will be in charge of Dhenkanal and Kendrapara, respectively. The appointments were postponed for about a year because the HWWs' contract with the State was set to end in July 2020.

### 91) Answer: E

Every year on June 29, the International Day of the Tropics is held to highlight opportunities and unique problems encountered by countries located between the tropics, as well as to appreciate the diversity of tropical regions. This year's theme is "The Digital Divide in the Tropics.

The goal of the day is to promote tropical regions around the world and raise awareness about conservation efforts. The area between the Tropics of Capricorn and Cancer is referred to as the Tropics.

The tropics are those parts of the world that are roughly in the middle.

The tropics are the area between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn on the equator. The Equator, as well as regions of North America, South America, Africa, Asia, and Australia, are all part of the tropics.

### 92) Answer: B

World Statistics Day is an annual celebration of statistics that takes place on June 29. The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 is the theme of Statistics Day 2021. (End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture).

National Statistics Day is celebrated on the anniversary of PC Mahalanobis' birth. PC Mahalanobis was born on June 29, 1893 in Calcutta (now Kolkata), West Bengal, and is known as the "Father of Indian Statistics."

He was a member of India's first Planning Commission

and received the Padma Vibhushan honour. On June 29, 2006, the inaugural National Statistics Day was observed. Every five years, the day is commemorated.

Rao Inderjit Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) and Ministry of Planning, is the Chief Guest of the National Statistics Day 2021 event.

**93) Answer: D**

The demand incentive has been enhanced by 50% to Rs 15,000 per kWh, up from Rs 10,000 per kWh previously. The maximum cap has now been raised to 40% of the cost of an electric two-wheeler, up from 20% previously.

The FAME II scheme, which was announced in April 2019 with a significant financial outlay of Rs 10,000 crore to support 7,000 e-buses, 500,000 e-three-wheelers, 55,000 e-passenger cars, and a million e-two-wheelers, was introduced to push higher adoption of EVs in India. However, it appears to have missed the mark by a large margin.

The Union government has announced a two-year extension of the FAME India scheme's second phase until March 31, 2024.

**94) Answer: A**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated 63 bridges built by Border Roads Organisation in six states and two Union Territories to improve road connectivity in border areas (BRO).

There are 11 in Ladakh, four in Jammu & Kashmir, three in Himachal Pradesh, six in Uttarakhand, eight in Sikkim, one each in Nagaland and Manipur, and 29 in Arunachal Pradesh among the 63 bridges.

The projects have a total cost of Rs 240 crores. BRO has beaten its own record of 44 bridges launched in 2020 by launching 63 bridges in one go. These 63 bridges, along

with 12 roads dedicated to the country by Shri Rajnath Singh on June 17, 2021, make up a bouquet of 75 infrastructure projects completed by BRO during the nation's 75th anniversary of independence celebrations.

**95) Answer: C**

According to the law ministry, all high court websites now feature captchas that are accessible to people with disabilities.

The issue of making the Indian judicial system's digital infrastructure more accessible to people with disabilities has been a major focus of the Supreme Court's e-work Committee's in recent months.

“A noteworthy milestone achieved as a result of the e-efforts Committee's toward this goal is that all high court websites now feature captchas that are accessible to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).”

Justice D Y Chandrachud chairs the Supreme Court's e-Committee.

**96) Answer: A**

The International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) has formed a team to review global best practises in ship financing and leasing, identify opportunities, and develop a plan for GIFT IFSC to support such activities.

Gujarat International Finance Technology City (GIFT City) is a business centre in Gujarat near Ahmedabad

It is the country's first greenfield smart city and international financial services centre to open for business.

Representatives from the Government of India, the Gujarat Maritime Board, and industry professionals with domain knowledge will make up this committee, which will be chaired by Vandana Aggarwal, former Senior Economic Advisor and Government of India.

**97) Answer: D**

According to the Mercer Cost of Living Survey, Turkmenistan's capital city Ashgabat has become the world's most costly city for international employees. The annual research compares the costs of more than 200 commodities such as accommodation, transportation, food, clothing, home products, and entertainment in 209 cities across five continents.

The survey's base city was New York City, which came in at number 14 on the list, and currency changes were measured against the US dollar. Global financial hubs such as Hong Kong, which was the most expensive city last year, Tokyo, Shanghai, Zurich, and Singapore dominate the list of the top ten most expensive cities.

Mumbai remains India's most costly city at 78th place, but it has slipped 18 places in this year's rating "thanks to a relatively weak Indian rupee in comparison to other cities in the ranking," according to the report.

New Delhi (117), Chennai (158), Bengaluru (170), and Kolkata are among the other Indian cities on the list (181).

**98) Answer: B**

Despite the onslaught of the Covid-19 pandemic and a deadly border clash, China overtook the UAE to become India's second-largest export destination in FY21, behind only the US, for the first time in recent memory, with outbound shipments to the neighbouring country rising 27.53 percent to \$21.18 billion in the pandemic year.

According to government data, the United States remained India's largest export partner, but shipments dipped 2.78 percent to \$51.63 billion in a year when India's merchandise commerce — both exports and imports — fell amid global lockdowns and logistics disruptions caused by the pandemic.

**99) Answer: E**

In Gujarat's Ahmedabad, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will open a Zen garden and a Kaizen Academy.

The live stream of the virtual event is available on the Ahmedabad Management Association's YouTube site.

'Zen-Kaizen' at AMA, a collaboration between the Japan Information and Study Centre at AMA and the Indo-Japan Friendship Association (IJFA) in Gujarat, aims to highlight various aspects of Japanese art, culture, nature, and architecture. The Hyogo International Association in Japan has backed it up (HIA).

A classic Zen garden, known as karesansui, is a dry landscape composed primarily of natural components such as rock, gravel, sand, and wood, with few plants and no water. Bridges, sculptures, and stone lanterns are examples of man-made elements, with an enclosing wall or fence separating the place from the outside world.

**100) Answer: C**

At the Vatva industrial sector of the city, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani virtually launched the country's first Fenton Catalytic Reactor, a modern industrial wastewater treatment plant.

Fenton Catalytic Reactor, with a capacity of 30 MLD (million litres per day), was built by the Green Environment Services Co-operative Society Limited (GESCSL) in Vatva GIDC at a cost of Rs 70 crore.

According to Rupani, the plant would serve at least 700 industrial units in the Vatva industrial region, most of which are involved in the manufacture of chemicals and dyes.



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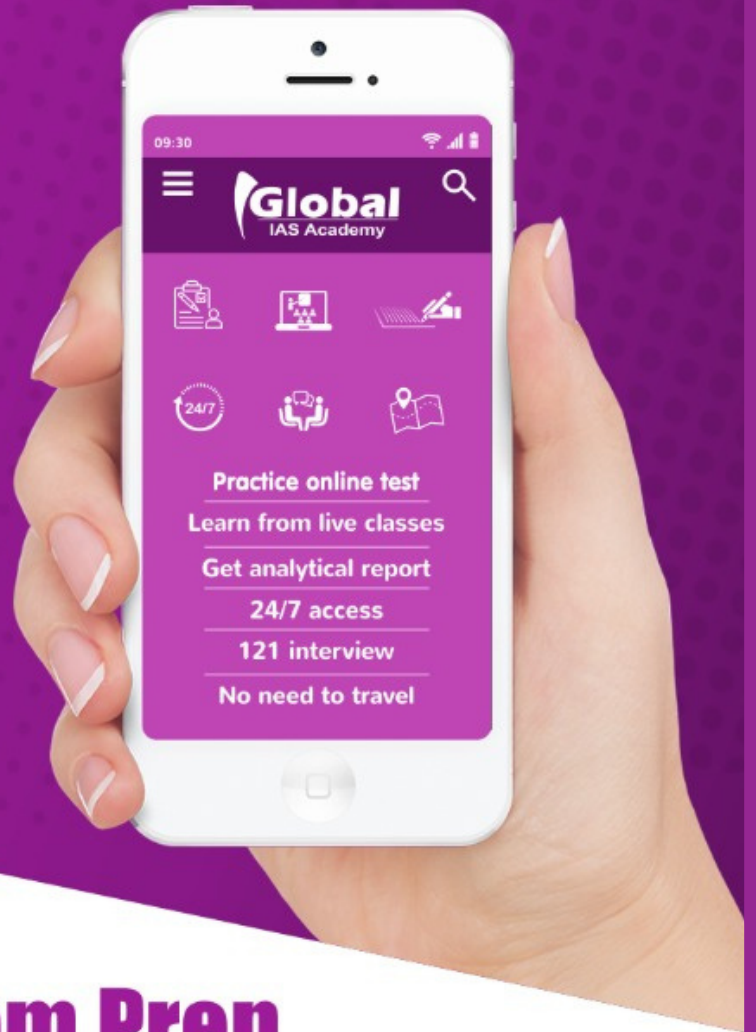
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