

JULY 2021

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PREFACE

This is our special edition of Current Affairs Magazine for various Central & State level Competitive Examinations, covering content from the month of July 2021.

The Magazine is divided into three sections:

Section 1: Topic Wise Current Affairs in ShortPage 04 to Page 83

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

Important Days	Page 04
Agreements	Page 10
Appointment News	Page 13
Award News	Page 14
Banking News	Page 18
Books and Author	Page 21
Defence News	Page 22
Economy	Page 27
International News	Page 28
Miscellaneous News	Page 36
National News	Page 51
Obituaries	Page 58
Ranks & Reports	Page 61
Schemes and Committee	Page 63
Science & Technology	Page 68
Sports News	Page 73
State News	Page 79
Summits & Conferences	Page 83

Section 2: Detailed Analysis of important eventsPage 84 to Page 119

The Second Section covers some major happenings in this month along with analysis. 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.

Economics	Page 85
Enviro & Diversity	Page 88
Governance	Page 95
History	Page 96
International Relations	Page 98
Polity	Page 99
Science Tech Art & Culture	Page 101
Security Issues	Page 117
Trivia	Page 119

Section 3: Practice Questions with Answers.....Page 120 to Page 140

The Third Section contains 100 Multiple Choice Questions based on daily current affairs.

Practice Questions	Page 121
Answers	Page 133

SECTION 1

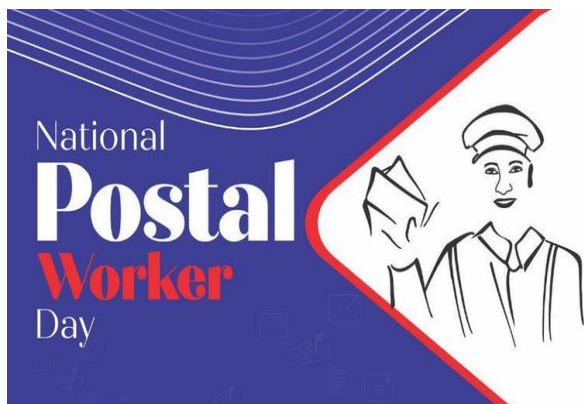
Topic Wise Current Affairs in short

1: Important Days



01 July: National Chartered Accountants Day

ICAI holds the distinction of being one of India's oldest professional institutes, having been founded before the Indian Constitution was officially ratified. It is India's only licencing and regulatory authority for the accountancy and financial audit professions, as well as the country's assurance and auditing standards.



01 July: National Postal Worker Day

The National Postal Worker Day is celebrated every year on July 1 in recognition of the contribution made by postal workers in our society. This day comes as a unique opportunity for saying 'thank you to all postal and other delivery workers that keep on working continuously to provide our deliveries on time.



03 July: International Day of Cooperatives

This July 3rd, the International Day of Cooperatives (#CoopsDay) will be celebrated as "Rebuild better together". Cooperatives from around the world will demonstrate how they are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic with solidarity and resilience, while also providing a people-centered and environmentally just recovery to communities.



04 July: World Zoonoses Day

Every year on July 6, World Zoonoses Day is observed to raise awareness about the dangers of zoonotic illnesses. Zoonoses are infectious diseases (viruses, bacteria, and parasites) that can be transmitted from animals to people and vice versa, either directly or indirectly, through vectors or food. Louis Pasteur successfully provided the first vaccination against the Rabies virus, a zoonotic illness, on July 6, 1885.



07 July: World Chocolate Day

Every year on July 7th, World Chocolate Day or International Chocolate Day is honoured. The day honours the fact that chocolate exists in our lives. It is commemorated by the consumption of chocolates and the exchange of gifts with loved ones. The day is an annual global festival of chocolate, allowing people to feast themselves and indulge guiltlessly. On this day, chocolate enthusiasts all around the world indulge in various types of chocolate or prepare a variety of dishes with it, such as cakes, pastries, decadent and goey brownies, hot chocolate, or chocolate mousse, without feeling guilty.



10 July: National Fish Farmers' Day

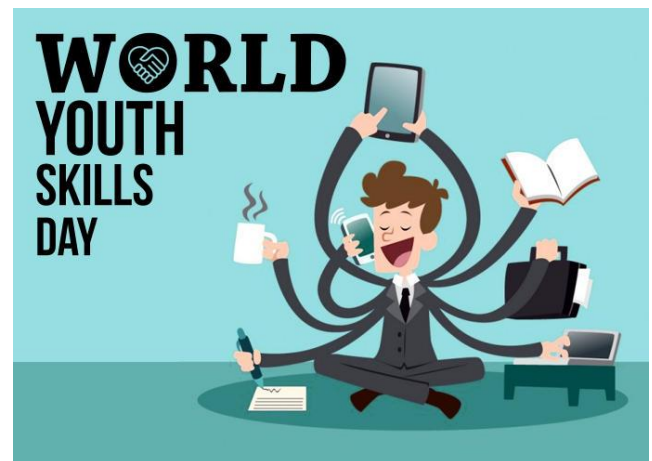
Every year on July 10th, the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, in collaboration with the National Fisheries Development Board, celebrates National Fish Farmers' Day (NFDB). The purpose of the event is to raise awareness about the need to change the way the country manages its fisheries resources in order to

preserve sustainable stocks and healthy ecosystems. This day is set aside to recognise the contributions of fish growers, aquapreneurs, fishermen, stakeholders, and everyone else involved in the fisheries.



12 July: Rath Yatra of Shri Jagannath Puri.

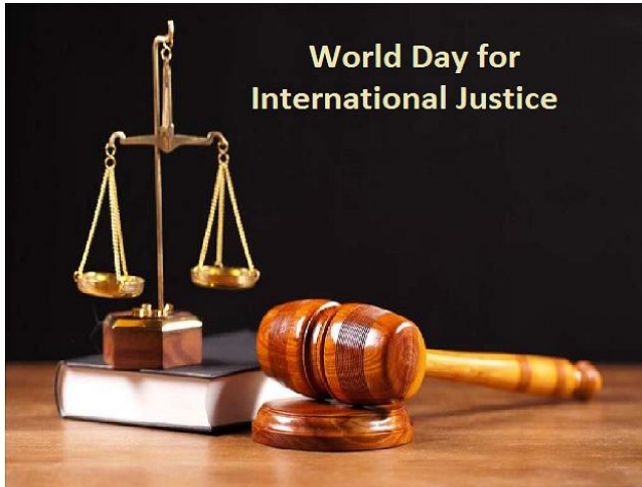
The Jagannath Puri Yatra takes place at Jagannath Temple in Puri, Odisha, which is one of the Char Dhams. This is one of the most well-known Vaishnavite ceremonies, both in India and outside. Devotees pray to Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, and Lordess Subhadra on this auspicious day. Every year, unique chariots are constructed for this occasion.



15 July: World Youth Skills Day

Every year on July 15, the United Nations commemorates World Youth Skills Day. Young people, technical and vocational education and training (TVET)

institutions, and public and private sector partners commemorate the day as a chance to recognise and celebrate the importance of preparing young people with skills for employment, decent work, and entrepreneurship.



17 July: World Day for International Justice.

The necessity of bringing justice to the victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide is highlighted on this day. It's sometimes referred to as International Justice Day or International Criminal Justice Day. With the help of this treaty, ICC was established.



18 July: Nelson Mandela International Day.

Mandela, who was born on July 18, 1918, was South Africa's first democratically elected president and

battled to end institutionalised racism. In November 2009, the United Nations declared Mandela Day to honour his contributions to peace and freedom.



20 July: Science Exploration Day

Every year on July 20, Science Exploration Day (also known as Moon Day) is observed. Neil Armstrong and Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin became the first people to set foot on the Moon on this day in 1969. The day was initially observed to honour man's first step on the moon during activities staged in the early 1970s, and the day itself was first observed to commemorate this historic event.



22 July: World's brain day.

Every year on July 22nd, World Brain Day is commemorated to raise awareness of multiple sclerosis (MS). Multiple sclerosis is a condition that affects the brain and spine and can be disabling. World Brain Day

promotes early detection of this ailment, which can improve the patient's quality of life.



National Broadcasting Day 23 July

23 July: National Broadcast Day



24 July: Guru Purnima.

Guru Purnima will be observed across the country on July 24th. The day is observed to honour and give respect to one's guru, teacher, or parents, as the name suggests. It's also a day to thank Gurus, or spiritual mentors and leaders, for always imparting knowledge and wisdom to their followers.



25 July: World Drowning Prevention Day.

Following the approval of the first-ever United Nations General Assembly resolution on global drowning prevention on April 28, 2021, World Drowning Prevention Day will be marked for the first time on July 25, 2021. The World Health Organization is in charge of coordinating the activity (WHO).



26 July: Kargil Vijay Diwas.

22nd Kargil Vijay Diwas was commemorated around the country on 26 July. On Kargil Vijay Diwas, the nation remembers its war heroes and pays honour to martyrs. The success of Indian military forces in Operation Vijay in 1999, when they ejected infiltrators assisted by the Pakistani army from high outposts in the Kargil area, is commemorated on this day.



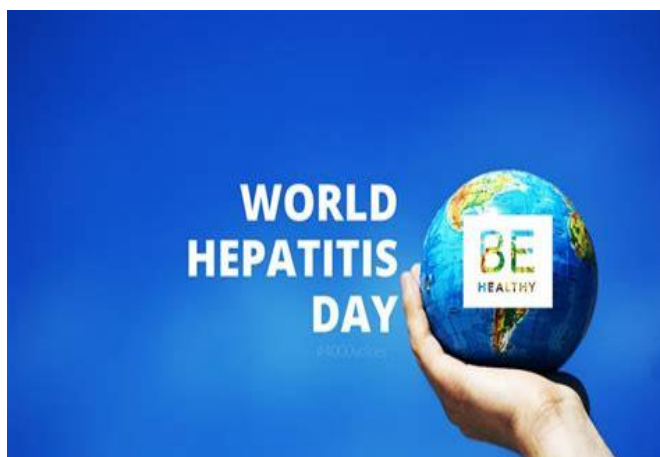
27 July: CRPF Raising Day.

On July 27, 2021, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) celebrated its 83rd Raising Day. The Central Armed Police Force (CRPF) is India's largest Central Armed Police Force, reporting to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). The company's headquarters are in New Delhi. On July 27, 1939, it was established as the Crown Representative's Police.



27 July: 15th Foundation Day of Ministry of Earth Research

On July 27, the Ministry of Earth Research (MoES) celebrates its 15th Foundation Day; the MoES-ESSDP (Earth System Science Data Portal) was created to make data on numerous earth system science topics available for public use.



28 July: World Hepatitis Day 2021.

Every year on July 28th, World Hepatitis Day is commemorated to promote awareness of viral hepatitis, a liver inflammation that can lead to serious liver disease and hepatocellular carcinoma. The topic for this year is "Hepatitis Can't Wait," which emphasises the necessity of efforts to eradicate hepatitis as a public health hazard by 2030.



28 July: World Nature Conservation Day.

Every year on July 28, the World Nature Conservation Day is commemorated. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness about the importance of environmental and natural resource preservation in order to keep the globe healthy. One of the main themes of World Nature Conservation Day is to save endangered flora and animals.



29 July: International Tiger Day.

Every year on July 29th, Global Tiger Day or International Tiger Day is commemorated to raise awareness about the dwindling population of wild cats and to make efforts to conserve them. The day's purpose is to promote a global system for safeguarding tigers' natural habitats, as well as to boost public awareness and support for tiger conservation.



30 July: International Day of Friendship

On the 30th of July, the world celebrates International Friendship Day. This day is commemorated to honour the value of friendship in one's life. The day also

promotes the importance of friendship in creating peace in various cultures around the world.



31 July: World Ranger Day

Every year on July 31, World Ranger Day is commemorated to honour the Rangers who have been killed or injured while on duty and to honour the work that Rangers do to conserve the world's natural and cultural heritage. World Ranger Day is an opportunity to show your support for their important job, which includes everything from environmental activism to teaching. The day also serves as an occasion to honour rangers who have died in the line of duty.

2: Agreements



AJNIFM, Microsoft partner to build AI

Microsoft and the Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM) have created a strategic relationship to establish an AI and emerging technologies Center of Excellence. The cooperation aims to investigate the role of cloud, AI, and emerging technologies in reshaping and shaping India's public financial management.



ISRO approves the use of satellite television in classrooms

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) gave its approval to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education to provide technical help to satellite TV classrooms across the country in order to close the learning gap created by COVID-induced lockdown.



Axis Bank has partnered with Amazon Web Services

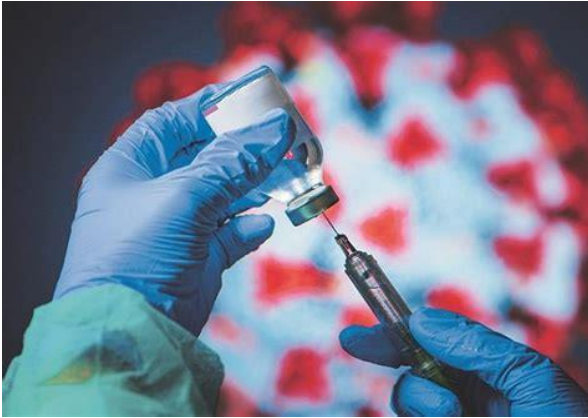
Axis Bank has signed a multi-year agreement with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to support the country's third-largest private sector bank's digital transformation effort. As part of the partnership, Axis Bank will work with AWS to develop a portfolio of new digital financial services to provide consumers with improved banking experiences.



Biden hosts summit with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other Quad leaders.

According to Kurt Campbell, the US coordinator for the Indo-Pacific region, US President Joe Biden will convene a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other leaders from the Quad countries. In 2007, the United States, India, Australia, and Japan formed the

Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD), a four-nation alliance.



COVAX agreements are signed by Chinese vaccine manufacturers.

COVAX, the UN-backed initiative that aims to distribute vaccinations to poor countries and those in need, has signed agreements with China's two biggest COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers to give up to 550 million doses. Between July and October 2021, Gavi plans to purchase 110 million doses from Sinopharm and Sinovac.



MoU between India and Russia.

The Union Cabinet of India, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved a Memorandum of Understanding between India's Steel Ministry and Russia's Ministry of Energy on cooperation in the field of coking coal, which is used in steel production. The MoU's goal is to promote cooperation in the steel

sector between the Indian and Russian governments.



MoU between India and Kingdom of Denmark.

The bilateral MoU would promote cooperation between the two ministries through cooperative projects and technological development in the health sector, as well as boost India-Denmark ties. It will also promote collaboration through cooperative efforts and the advancement of health-related research.



Ladakh's Central University has been approved.

The formation of a Central University in Ladakh has been approved by the Union Cabinet. The cost of establishing this university is estimated to be Rs 750 crore. The university's initial phase will be completed in four years. The bill to alter the Central Universities Act, 2009 will be filed in order to permit the construction of a Central University in Ladakh.



in a deadly battle recently. According to a Home Ministry official, both state governments have agreed to deploy a neutral Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) along the tense interstate boundary along National Highway 306.

National Research Foundation set up proposal.

Dharmendra Pradhan, India's Union Minister of Education, revealed on July 26, 2021 that the government of India intends to establish a National Research Foundation (NRF) with the primary goal of strengthening the country's research environment. The overall proposed outlay for the NRF over a five-year period has been announced at Rs 50,000 crore.



Assam, Mizoram agreed the deployment of central police forces.

Officials stated that a neutral central force will be deployed along the troubled Assam-Mizoram border, where five police officers and a civilian were murdered

3: Appointment



Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari to be new IAF Vice Chief

Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari was named Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force on Thursday. During his tenure, Air Marshal Aora was important in ensuring that assets were deployed quickly and efficiently in proportion to the evolving circumstances in Eastern Ladakh.



Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi : Leader of House in Rajya Sabha

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has announced the selection of Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, the Union Minister for Minority Affairs, as the Rajya Sabha's deputy leader. Naqvi takes over from Piyush Goyal, who has been

appointed to the position of House Leader in the Upper House.



Ariel Henry : prime minister of Haiti.

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Claude Joseph, who has been acting Prime Minister since President Jovenel Mose was assassinated, has agreed to step down and pass over power to challenger Ariel Henry, who has received international support.



Rashmi R Das has been appointed to UN Tax Committee.

Rasmi Ranjan Das, the Finance Ministry's Joint Secretary, has been named to the UN Tax Committee as a member for the period 2021-2025. Rasmi Ranjan Das works at the Ministry of Finance's Department of Revenue's Central Board of Direct Taxes as a Joint Secretary (FT&TR-I).

4: Award



Odia poet received Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar

Dr Rajendra Kishore Panda, an Odia poet, will be awarded the Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar for the year 2020. Panda was chosen for the coveted award by a three-member committee that included famed Kannada poet H S Shivaprakash, Agrahara Krishnamurthy, and eminent Bengali novelist Shyamal Bhattacharya.



'Decoding Shankar', wins at International Women's Film Festival

Deepti Pillai Sivan's film, Decoding Shankar, got the award at the Ranto Women's Film Festival. 'Decoding Shankar' is a documentary film on Shankar Mahadevan, a vocalist and music director. Rajeev Mehrotra created the 45-minute documentary for the Public Service Broadcasting Trust.



PM: "Focus On Making India Preferred Investment Destination"

'Invest India' has been named as the winner of the 2020 United Nations Investment Promotion Award by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The award was presented at the UNCTAD headquarters in Geneva. The Award honours and celebrates the great accomplishments.



Kaushik Basu awarded.

The 2021 Humboldt Research Award for economics has been awarded to Kaushik Basu, professor of economics and Carl Marks professor of International Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences and SC Johnson College of Business. The prize money is €60,000. Award winners are also invited to participate in a German for research

project.



Scripps National Spelling Bee is won by 14y/o girl.

Zaila Avant-garde, a 14-year-old from New Orleans, Louisiana, was named the winner of the Scripps National Spelling Bee 2021. Avant-garde, the first African American to win the bee in its 96-year existence, finished with the word "murraya."



Cannes Film Festival 2021

The 74th Cannes Film Festival's awards were presented at the event's closing ceremony in the Grand Theatre Lumiere on July 18, 2021. The Grand Prix, the festival's runner-up prize, was shared by two films. The films are 'Compartment No. 6' by Finnish director Juho Kuosmanen and 'A Hero' by Iranian Asghar Farhadi.



PM invites nominees for Padma award.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed individuals and those performing extraordinary work at the grassroots to nominate for the Padma awards 2022, noting that India has many bright people. The Padma awards are one of India's highest civilian honours, given out on the eve of Republic Day every year.



UNDP Equator Prize.

The UNDP Equator Prize was awarded to two Indian tribes this year. They received this coveted award for their outstanding performance in demonstrating innovative, local, and diverse nature-based solutions for addressing climate change and biodiversity loss while also meeting their local development goals.



Nitram star Caleb Landry Jones wins best actor award.

At the annual Cannes film festival, the actor who played Port Arthur mass killer Martin Bryant earned the best actor award. Nitram, a film depicting the events surrounding the massacre in Australia that murdered 35 people, was first accused of celebrating the killer.



Payal Kapadia wins Best Documentary Award.

At the 74th Cannes Film Festival, Payal Kapadia's "A Night of Knowing Nothing" won the Oeil d'or (Golden Eye) prize for best documentary. In a competitive field of 28 documentaries exhibited throughout the festival's many divisions, the Mumbai-based filmmaker's first feature won the prestigious award.



Mohun Bagan Ratna posthumously: Goalkeeper Shibaji Banerjee.

The club said that former India goalkeeper Shibaji Banerjee, who shone against Pele-led Cosmos Club in an exhibition match here in 1977, will be awarded the Mohun Bagan Ratna posthumously.



Alexander Dalrymple award.

The British government bestowed the coveted Alexander Dalrymple award on India's senior hydrographer, Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar, in appreciation of his contributions to hydrography and nautical cartography. At a brief ceremony, British High Commissioner Alex Ellis presented Vice Admiral Badhwar with the honour..

**Mirabai Chanu Wins a Silver.**

Ace Indian weightlifter Mirabai Chanu won a Silver medal in the women's 49kg weightlifting event, becoming the first Indian to win an Olympic medal at the 2020 Tokyo Games. Mirabai began with two solid snatch lifts before securing a Silver Medal in the clean and jerk with a fantastic first lift. Hou Zhihui of China won the gold medal because who was simply too good on the day.

**Asha Bhosle got selected for award.**

The Maharashtra Bhushan Selection Committee, chaired by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, picked iconic playback singer Asha Bhosle for the prestigious honour by a unanimous vote. The Maharashtra Bhushan Puraskar will be handed to iconic playback singer Asha Bhosle in 2021, according to Maharashtra cultural affairs minister Amit Deshmukh.

5: Banking News



RBI's new rules interest-on-unclaimed-matured-deposit

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) changed the rules for interest on money left unclaimed with the bank after a term deposit matured. Currently, if a term deposit matures with no proceeds, the sum left unclaimed with the bank earns the same rate of interest as savings deposits.



RBI imposes Rs25 lakh penalty on Punjab & Sind Bank

Punjab and Sind Bank was fined Rs 25 lakh by the Reserve Bank of India for failing to comply with certain requirements of the RBI's instructions on the "Cyber Security Framework in Banks." On May 16 and 20, 2020, the state-owned bank reported a few cyber attacks to

the RBI, according to the central bank.



Indian Overseas Bank becomes India's 2nd Biggest Govt Bank!

With a market capitalization of over Rs 50,000 crore, Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has become the second most valuable listed public sector bank (PSB). As Wall Street looks past the state-owned lender's privatisation, its shares have risen over 80% on the BSE in the last month.

Government securities auction methodology (RBI)	
Uniform Price auction	Multiple Price auction
benchmark securities of tenor	benchmark securities of tenor
•2-year,	•30-year,
•3-year,	•40-year
•5-year,	
•10-year,	
•14-year tenor and	
•Floating Rate Bonds (FRBs)	

The Reserve Bank of India has announced changes to the way government securities are auctioned.

The central bank said that it would switch to a "uniform price auction" for benchmark securities with terms of two, three, five, ten, and fourteen years, as well as variable rate bonds. The multiple price-based procedure

will be used to auction 30-year and 40-year bonds.



AI-powered virtual assistant: Federal Bank.

FEDDY, an Artificial Intelligence-powered virtual assistant, was unveiled by the Federal Bank to assist consumers with banking-related questions at any time. While most virtual assistants are only available on the bank's website, FEDDY may be reached via Alexa, Google Assistant, and WhatsApp.



Review of legal issues in GST.

This investigation is being carried out to clear the air on a number of concerns, including whether services offered by back offices of multinational corporations operating in the country constitute as tax-free exports.

This review is expected to streamline numerous rules and lessen the ever-increasing number of legal disputes.



IMF to keep 2021 global growth forecast at 6%.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecasts global growth of around 6% in 2021, the same as in April, but some nations are expanding faster than others. The IMF's Managing Director, Kristalina Georgieva, stated that economic recovery will be hampered until the COVID-19 immunisation rate picks up.



India's foreign exchange reserves touch record high.

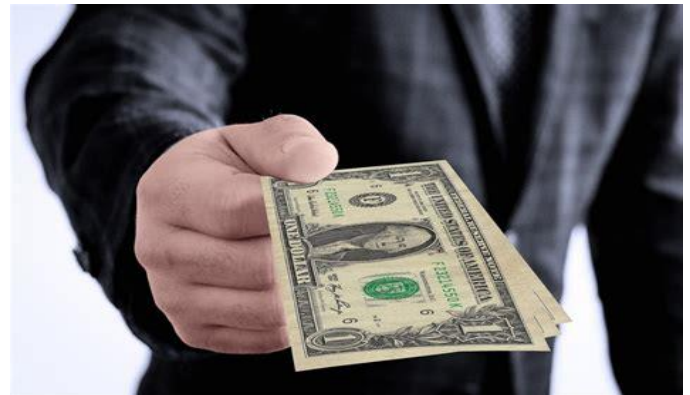
According to RBI data, the country's foreign exchange reserves increased by \$835 million to a new high of \$612.73 billion in the week ending July 16, 2021. The reserves increased by \$1.883 billion to \$611.895 billion in the week ending July 9, 2021.

**RBI loans policy.**

For the first time in 26 years, the Reserve Bank of India upped the cap on loans to directors or affiliates without board approval to Rs. 5 crore, up from Rs. 25 lakhs in 1996. Only personal loans disbursed to directors of other banks will be affected by the change in the threshold..

**Govt. may sell stakes in LIC.**

The government has decided that instead of selling a 10% share in Life Insurance Corporation of India in an initial public offering, it will sell a 5 or 6 percent stake followed by a second public offering. The LIC is yet to be completed, but it is expected to be worth roughly Rs 12-15 trillion.

**IFC lends \$250 mn.**

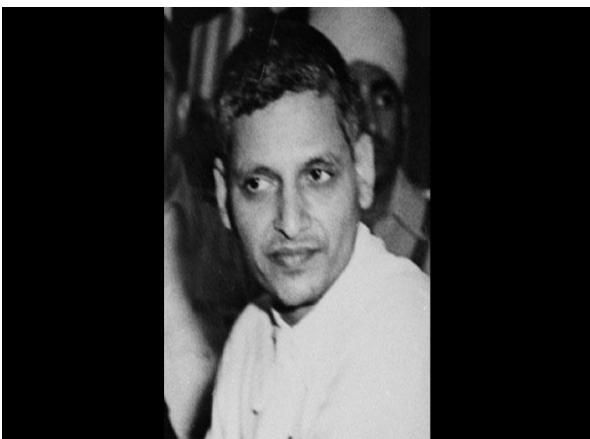
The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has given HDFC, India's largest housing finance business, a \$250 million (Rs 1,875 crore) loan to promote affordable green housing finance for low and moderate class borrowers. HDFC's efforts to expand its green affordable housing portfolio will be supported by IFC, the World Bank Group's private sector investment arm.

6: Books and Author



CJI NV Ramana release a book

Ravindran's book, "Anomalies in Law and Justice," uses simple terms to illustrate many flaws in the law that must be addressed so that the common man does not lose faith in the judiciary and legal system. NV Ramana, released the first glimpse of justice RV Raveendran's book titled "anomalies of law".



Nathuram Godse's biography

A biography of Mahatma Gandhi's killer, Nathuram Godse, places the man and his most defining deed in the greater context of modern Indian history, society, and politics. Pan Macmillan India will publish "Nathuram Godse: The True Story of Gandhi's Assassin" by Mumbai-based journalist Dhaval Kulkarni in 2022.



Kareena Kapoor present a book.

Kareena Kapoor has put another feather to her cap: she is now a novelist. Kareena, who has previously expressed interest in authoring a book about her pregnant experiences, has now completed it, and guess what? She just announced it on social media to her fans and followers.

7: Defence News



The US military has left Afghanistan's Bagram air base

Officials in the United States have stepped up preparations for an emergency evacuation of the American embassy in Kabul, citing concerns that the country's security situation could jeopardise the remaining military and diplomatic personnel, as well as other Americans.



Grene Robotics develops indigenous drone

Grene Robotics, based in Hyderabad, has constructed India's first indigenous drone defence dome, dubbed "Indrajaal." According to the business, the 'Indrajaal' drone defence dome is capable of independently protecting an area of 1000-2000 sq km from aerial threats.



Drones banned in Srinagar

Authorities in Srinagar prohibited the sale, possession, and use of unmanned aerial vehicles in the city, a week after a drone attack on an Air Force facility in Jammu. In the aftermath of the terror incident, officials in the Jammu region's border districts of Rajouri and Kathua imposed restrictions on the use of drones.



Army chief Naravane to inaugurate war memorial

Army Chief Gen. Manoj Naravane will inaugurate an Indian Army memorial in the Italian town of Cassino during an official visit to U.K. and Italy from July 5-8.

Italy has pushed for a central role for India in the European Union’s Indo-Pacific Initiative which is congruent with India’s own vision for the region.



For Border Deployment, the IAF will procure ten anti-drone systems.

New Delhi, India: In response to the drone attack on an Indian Air Force facility in Jammu, the Indian Air Force has decided to purchase ten anti-drone systems to prevent similar attacks in the future. Phased Array Radar, RF sensor, and Electro Optical and Infrared (EO/IR) system should all be included in the systems.



Indian Air Force signs a deal with Bharat Dynamics Ltd.

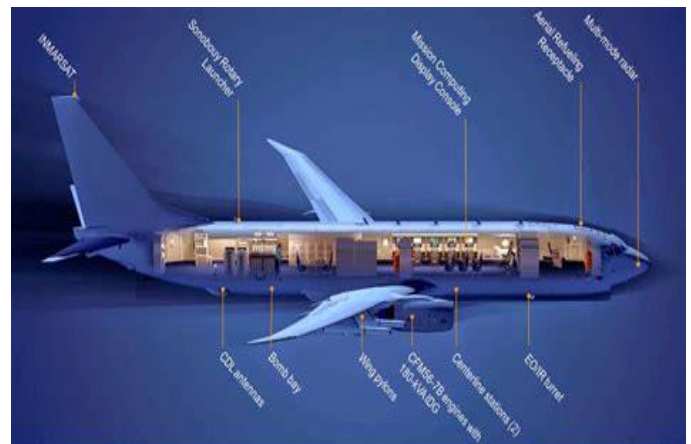
The Ministry of Defence has inked a deal with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) for the manufacture and supply of Akash missiles to the Indian Air Force (IAF). The

agreement is estimated to be worth Rs 499 crore in total. BDL's CMD, Commodore Siddharth Mishra (Retd), revealed that the Indian Army and Air Force are receiving Akash Missiles from BDL.



Indian Navy banned flying of drones.

The Indian Navy banned non-conventional aerial objects such as drones and UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) from flying within 3 kilometres of naval bases, naval units, and naval assets. The Navy made the decision after two people were injured in a drone strike on an Indian Air Force facility in Jammu last month.



Boeing has delivered 10th P-8I aircraft to Indian Navy.

According to a statement released, the Indian Navy has received its tenth anti-submarine warfare aircraft, the P-8I, from the US-based aerospace manufacturer Boeing. In 2009, the Defense Ministry secured a

contract for eight P-8I aircraft. It later signed a contract for four more P-8I aircraft in 2016.



Draft Drone Rules for 2021 are released by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

According to the new rules, the digital sky platform will have a limited human interface and most permissions will be self-generated. In the future, it will also alert users to safety features like as 'No Permission – No Take-off' (NPNT), real-time tracking beacons, geo-fencing, and so on.



India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives hold virtual exercise.

Sri Lanka, the Maldives, and India completed a two-day virtual trilateral tabletop exercise (TTX 2021), aiming at enhancing responses to a variety of marine threats and emergencies. The exercise focused on maritime crimes.



High strength Titanium alloy : DRDO.

The defence ministry announced that the DRDO has developed a high-strength beta titanium alloy for producing components for aeronautical purposes. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh praised the DRDO and the industry for developing the beta titanium alloy in-house.



Russia test-fires S-500 missile system.

For the first time, Russia has broadcast a video of the S-500 air defence system in action. According to the Russian Ministry of Defense, which took place during a test campaign near Astrakhan in southern Russia, reportedly downed a ballistic missile surrogate target.



21 MiG-29 jets from Russia to India.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is expected to sign an order for 21 twin-engine MiG-29 jets with Russia by December, according to ThePrint. The jets from the 1980s are no longer in production, although 21 of the original airframes survive in Russia.



India will receive 21 MIG-29 combat jets from Russia.

The Indian Air Force gained authorisation from the defence government in 2020 to purchase 21 MiG-29 fighter jets and 12 Sukhoi MK1 fighter jets from Russia. A representative for Russia's Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation has stated that Russia will supply India with 21 MiG-29 fighter jets.



Man-portable anti-tank guided missile.

India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully flight tested a guided missile known as the "Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)." This missile was launched using a man-portable launcher that was connected with a thermal site.



DRDO flight tests Akash-NG.

According to DRDO sources, India successfully flight tested the New Generation Akash (Akash-NG) missile from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted the test against a high-speed unmanned aerial target, which the missile successfully intercepted.

**Essential Defence Services Bill.**

The Essential Defence Services Bill attempts to prevent government-owned ordnance companies' employees from going on strike or engaging in any other type of protest. The factories serve as a hub for the manufacture of defence hardware and equipment in the country.

**India-Russia's Military Exercise.**

From August 1 to 13, 2021, Volgograd, Russia will host the 12th edition of the Indo-Russia joint military exercise INDRA 2021. The exercise will involve a joint force conducting counter-terror operations against foreign terror groups under the auspices of the United Nations.

8: Economy



Import taxes on crude palm oil have been reduced in India

For three months, India reduced the base import duty on crude palm oil from 15% to 10%, according to a government statement, as the world's largest vegetable oil buyer works to dampen near-record high prices. The lower tax rate will be in effect from June 30 to September 30, according to the administration.



India joins OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework tax deal

On July 1, 2021, India signed a high-level statement with the majority of countries of the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting. The statement lays out a framework for addressing the tax issues that have arisen as a result of the economy's digitization.



Current account surplus for first time in 17 years

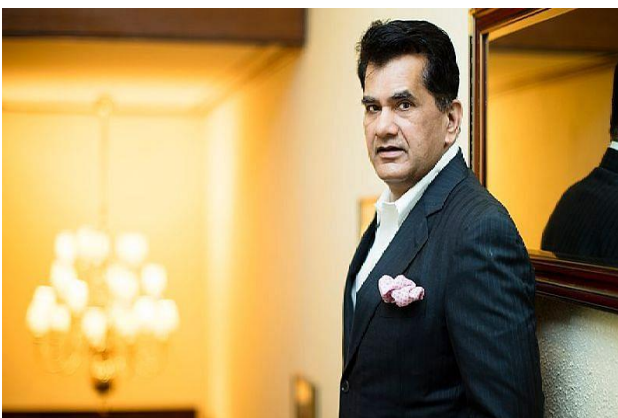
For the first time in seventeen years, India's current account balance was in surplus. The current account surplus in 2020-21 was 0.9 percent of GDP, down from 0.9 percent in 2019-20, thanks to a substantial reduction in the trade deficit to \$102.2 billion from \$157.5 billion in 2019-20.

9: International News



Saudi Arabia is planning to build a second national airline.

Despite an already saturated aviation sector grappling with the coronavirus pandemic, Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler announced intentions to build a second national airline. The airline would be in addition to Saudi Arabian Airlines, which has been losing money for years as part of a strategy to convert the kingdom into a logistics powerhouse.



Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant has been given a one-year extension.

The central government has prolonged Amitabh Kant's tenure as CEO of the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) for another year, till June 2022 – his third extension since taking over the

public policy think tank in 2016. The ACC, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, took the decision.



World Bank increases Coronavirus Vaccine Funding

The World Bank announced that it would increase available money for COVID-19 vaccine purchases and deployment from \$12 billion to \$20 billion, citing a substantial rise in total finance demand from developing countries. This money will be spent over the next 18 months, until the end of 2022.



WHO has declared China malaria-free

After a 70-year effort, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared China malaria-free. During the 1940s, China reported 30 million cases per year. Since then, eradication efforts have reduced the number of

cases. The country used a variety of measures to stop the parasite's transmission cycle via mosquitos.



Chinese astronauts complete first space walk

Two astronauts completed the first spacewalk outside China's new orbiting station using a robotic arm to instal cameras and other equipment, according to state media. Liu Boming and Tang Hongbo climbed out of the Tianhe or "Heavenly Harmony" module of the Tiangong space station's airlock.



Amazon's CEO, Jeff Bezos, resigns and is replaced by Andy Jassy.

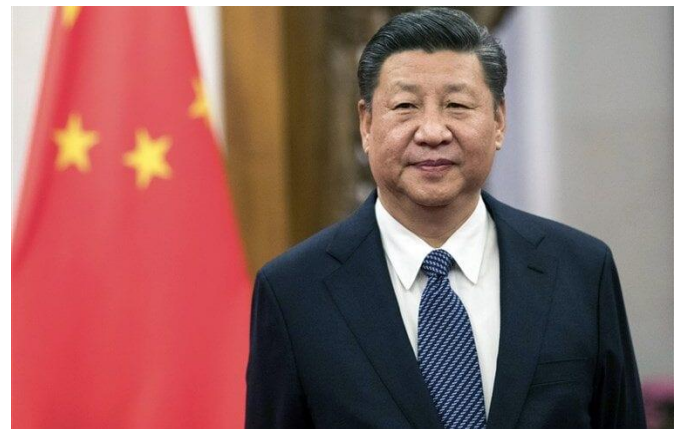
Mr. Bezos has moved back from much of Amazon's day-to-day business in recent years, focusing instead on strategic projects and outside businesses, such as his space start-up, Blue Origin, which has given his deputies

even more power.



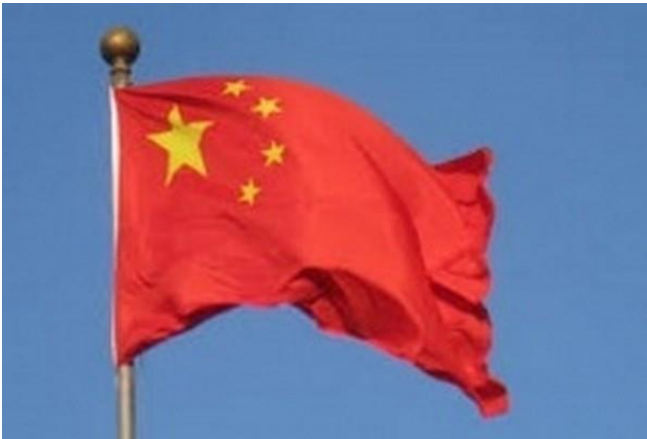
Authorities in the Philippines have warned that the Taal volcano might explode at any time.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said in a statement that "the highest levels of volcanic sulphur dioxide gas emission were reported at an average of 22,628 tonnes per day, the most ever recorded in Taal volcano."



China banned the construction of skyscrapers.

Following rising concerns about the quality of some projects, China is prohibiting the construction of the world's tallest skyscrapers in order to ensure public safety. In a notice issued, the National Development and Reform Commission stated that buildings taller than 500 metres (1,640 feet) are outright prohibited.

**China imposes fines on tech behemoths.**

The Associated Press reported that China's State Administration for Market Regulation fined 22 internet companies for their roles in anti-monopoly cases. Companies were fined 500,000 yuan (\$75,000) in 22 cases for actions such as acquiring stakes in other companies that could increase their market power improperly.

**World's Tallest Sandcastle, Denmark.**

In northern Denmark, the world's highest sandcastle was constructed. The castle in Blokhus, which stands at 21.16 metres (69.4 feet) high, is 3.5 metres (11.5 feet) taller than the previous Guinness world record, which was set in Germany in 2019 with 17.66 metres (58 feet).

**Madurai jasmine flowers exported to US, Dubai.**

Consignments of Geographical Indications (GI)-certified Madurai Malli (Jasmine) and other traditional flowers such as button rose, lily, and marigold were exported from Tamil Nadu to the United States and Dubai to ensure that Indians living abroad have fresh flowers for deities at home and temples.

**Afghanistan drew a lot of attention.**

S Jaishankar, India's External Affairs Minister, said the situation in Afghanistan occupied a lot of attention during his talks with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov, emphasising the need for both India and Russia to work together to ensure that the war-torn country's progress in economic, social, and democratic terms is maintained.



Israeli court upholds Jewish state law.

The Supreme Court maintained a contentious statute that designates Israel as the Jewish people's nation state, rejecting critics' arguments that it discriminates against minorities. The court acknowledged flaws in the so-called Nation State Law in its judgement.



India's Covishield vaccine.

Soumya Swaminathan, the WHO's top scientist, said that 15 European Union (EU) countries had formally recognised Covishield, a vaccine developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University and manufactured by the Serum Institute of India (SII).



Eric Garcetti - ambassador to India.

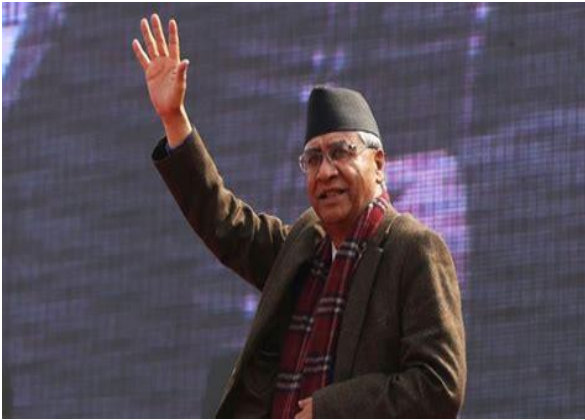
President Joe Biden has chosen Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti to be the United States' ambassador to India, the White House announced, appointing a high-profile ally to one of the most difficult diplomatic roles. If confirmed, Garcetti will be dispatched to India, which is dealing with a surge in coronavirus infections and deaths.



Malala Day.

Every year on July 12th, Malala Day is observed to honour Malala Yousafzai, a young activist. The United Nations established the day, and July 12 was chosen since Malala was born on that date in 1997. This day is dedicated to promoting women's education around the

world.



Sher Bahadur Deuba new PM of Nepal

The Nepal Supreme Court reinstated the dissolved lower house of Parliament and issued a mandamus directing Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba to be appointed Prime Minister within two days. Sher Bahadur Deuba, the president of the Nepali Congress, is scheduled to succeed KP Sharma Oli as Prime Minister of Nepal.



World's biggest floating solar panel.

Singapore showcased one of the world's largest floating solar panel farms, spanning 45 football fields and generating enough electricity to run the island's five water treatment plants. With 122,000 panels atop Tengeh Reservoir, the project is the country's most ambitious yet.



Sher Bahadur Deuba wins vote of confidence.

Sher Bahadur Deuba, the 75-year-old Nepali Congress president who was appointed prime minister on July 12 following Supreme Court intervention under Article 76(5) of the Constitution, received 165 votes in the 275-member assembly.



US, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan - quad group.

To improve regional connectivity, the US, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Uzbekistan have agreed to build a new quadrilateral diplomatic platform. On July 16, 2021, the US State Department announced the creation of a new diplomatic platform to help promote regional economic connections.



Border Conflict Between Mizoram and Assam.

On July 10, without warning, a road was built from Assam to Buarcheap, and crops belonging to Mizo tribal members were destroyed by Assam officials with the help of the police. Furthermore, tribal people protesting the damage were forcibly ejected by Assam police officers.



World's first 600km/h high-speed maglev train.

The world's first high-speed maglev transportation system, with a high speed of 600 km/h, will make its public debut in Qingdao, Shandong Province, East China. High-speed maglev trains, unlike traditional vehicles on wheels, do not make contact with rail tracks.



2032 Olympics: Brisbane.

"Brisbane 2032 is the first prospective host to be elected under the new flexible approach to electing Olympic hosts, and to have fully profited from it," said IOC President Thomas Bach. According to Bach, concept fosters Olympic proposals that make use of existing and temporary venues.



The first 3D-printed steel bridge in the world.

The world's first 3D-printed steel pedestrian bridge was revealed in Amsterdam. The Oudezijds Achterburgwal canal in Amsterdam has been opened for this project. Máxima, the Queen of the Netherlands, was present during the bridge's opening ceremony.



Liverpool is no longer a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The result was reached after the UNESCO committee conducted a secret ballot. They voted to deprive Liverpool of its city status. Liverpool was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2004 in honour of its nautical history. It was one of the world's leading commerce centres in the 18th and 19th centuries.



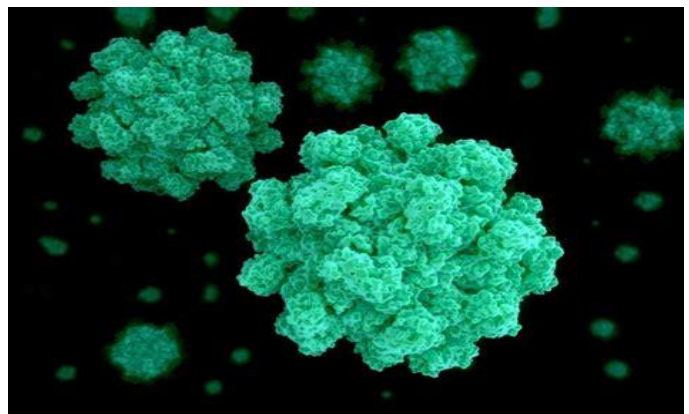
Drowning Prevention in Asia-Pacific, a WHO Report.

The World Health Organization (WHO) released its first Regional Status Report on Drowning Prevention in Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific on July 23. According to the data, the Asia Pacific area accounts for roughly two-thirds of all global drowning deaths. Drowning is the world's third most common cause of unintentional injury and death, accounting for 7% of all injury-related deaths.



IMF board approves policy reforms.

The IMF's Executive Board authorised measures to guarantee that the Fund can flexibly support the financing requirements of Low Income Countries (LICs) during the pandemic and recovery while continuing to provide concessional loans at zero interest rates.



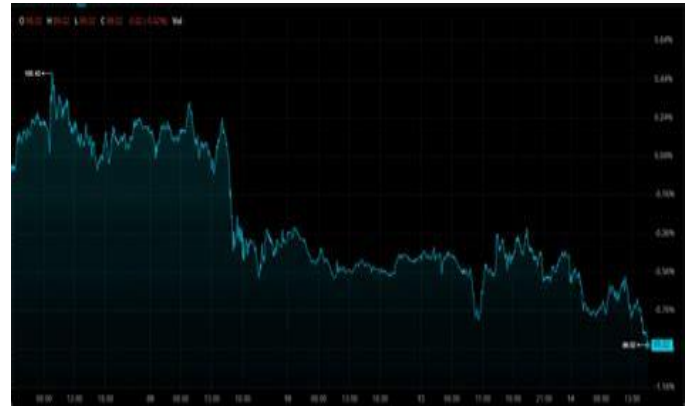
Outbreak of Norovirus.

On July 16, 2021, Public Health England (PHE) reported that the number of cases of the vomiting bug Norovirus in England increased from the end of May to July. The viral outbreak has largely been seen in nurseries and childcare centres, according to routine surveillance. In the last five weeks, 154 Norovirus outbreaks have been documented.



Private education companies reforms.

To relieve financial strains on families, China has announced new laws prohibiting profit tutoring in basic school disciplines. Following the disclosures, China's private educational institutions are braced for a hit. The regulatory revisions sent shockwaves across the country's private tutoring sector, causing a sell-off in educational company shares, including those US-listed Gaotu Techedu and TAL Education Group.



Warning of I.M.F.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has released its World Economic Outlook report, which predicts global economic growth of 6% in 2021. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) cautioned that the pandemic was expanding the divide between rich and poor countries, with low vaccination rates in emerging economies contributing to an uneven global recovery.

10: Miscellaneous News



New jumping spider species

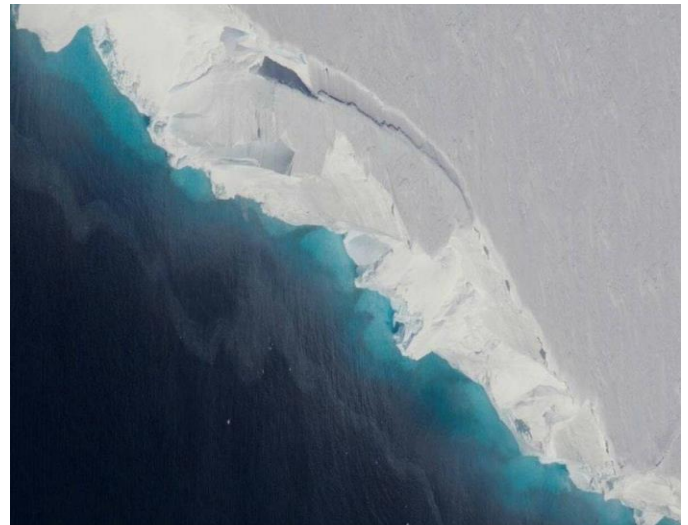
Icius Tukarami is a recently discovered spider species named after assistant sub-inspector Tukaram Omble, who gave his life to assist in the capture of terrorist Ajmal Kasab during the 26/11 terror attacks. The team of researchers who found the species made the choice to name it after the martyred police policeman Tukaram Omble.



By March 2022, Delhi plans to launch a cloud-based health project.

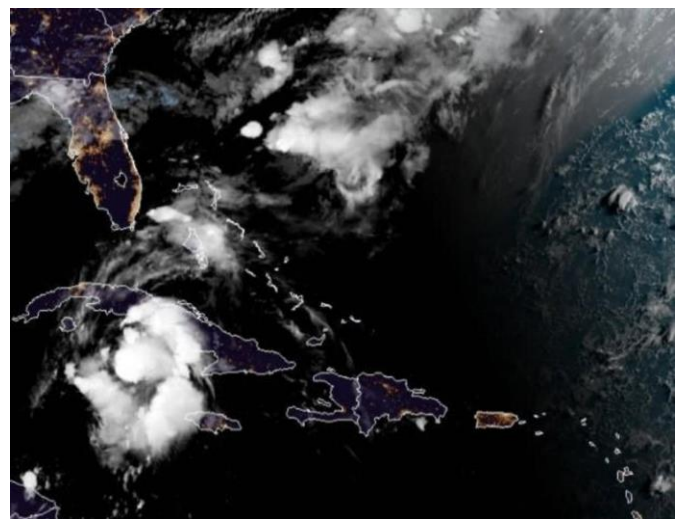
On July 1, 2021, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal assessed the progress of the ambitious cloud-based Health Care Information Management System (HIMS) and predicted that it will be operational by March 2022. In addition, the Delhi government intends to establish a

health helpline.



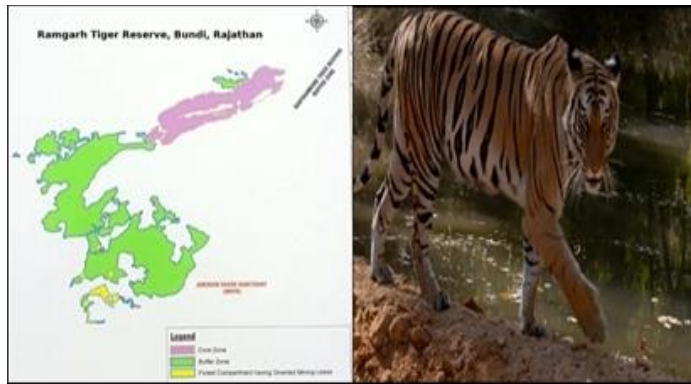
Antarctica logged record temperature

The World Meteorological Organization of the United Nations recognised a new record high temperature for Antarctica on July 1. The temperature at the Esperanza station (an Argentine research station on the Trinity Peninsula) was 18.3 degrees Celsius on February 6, 2020.



Tropical storm Elsa exits Cuba

Tropical cyclone Elsa's core passed just east of Havana churning northwards on its way to Florida, despite the unbalanced weather system continuing to dump heavy rains on the Caribbean's largest island in its wake. The U.S. NHC said in its 11 p.m. (0300 GMT) update that Elsa was advancing at just 19 km per hour.



Ramgarh Vishdhari is going to be Rajasthan's fourth tiger reserve.

The Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary in Rajasthan's Bundi district was authorised as the state's fourth tiger reserve by the ministry of environment, forest and climate change. The plan to turn the Sanctuary into a tiger reserve, which covers 1,071 square kilometres, was just approved.



Paytm has launched Postpaid Mini, a small-ticket quick loan to help people manage their monthly bills.

Paytm, in collaboration with Aditya Birla Finance Ltd, has introduced Postpaid Mini, an extension of its Buy

Now, Pay Later service, to help people who are new to credit become more affordable. Users will have more options with these small-ticket fast loans.



The Covid lockdown rules will be phased out on July 19th.

All legal COVID-19 lockdown limitations, including the requirement to wear face masks, will stop on July 19, according to British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, allowing people to make their own decisions about which safety recommendations to follow.



Morepen Labs started a test batch of the Sputnik V vaccine.

Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) and Morepen Laboratories announced in a statement that production of the test batch of Russia's Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine has begun at their plant in Himachal Pradesh. For

quality control, the first batch will be sent to Gamaleya Center.



Neha Parikh appointed new CEO of Waze App.

Neha Parikh, the former Indian-American president of the travel firm Hotwire, has been named the new CEO of Waze. The firm is a Google subsidiary and a crowd-sourced navigation app. Parikh was previously a board member of Carvana, an Israeli online car retailer and stepped down as the CEO of the company after 12 years.



Vidya Balan is honoured by the Indian Army.

The 'Vidya Balan Firing Range' is a military firing range in Gulmarg, Kashmir, that has been named after actor

Vidya Balan. Vidya Balan and her husband Siddharth Roy Kapur visited the Indian Army's Gulmarg Winter Festival earlier this year.



Razorpay, Mastercard launch interface.

In accordance with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) new guidelines, Bengaluru-based fintech startup Razorpay has partnered with Mastercard to launch MandateHQ, a new recurring payment interface. New deadline for implementing rules for recurring online payments is September 30.



Amazon launches, first Digital Kendra.

Amazon India announced the launch of its first Digital Kendra, which will serve as an ecommerce reference centre for micro, small, and medium businesses (MSMEs). The Digital Kendra, which is located in Surat, Gujarat, will give MSMEs with the opportunity to learn

about the benefits of ecommerce.



Movable freshwater tunnel aquarium.

Imagine a bright red octopus peering out of a wall at a crowded Bengaluru railway station. Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Ltd (IRSDC) unveiled its first mobile freshwater tunnel aquarium in a one-of-a-kind endeavour. Passengers and visitors will be enticed by this Aquatic Kingdom, which will not only be entertaining but also educational.



Twitter appoints interim chief compliance officer.

Twitter announced the appointment of an interim Chief Compliance Officer, whose details will be disclosed with the IT Ministry directly soon. The government had sent Twitter a notification offering it one more chance to comply with the new IT standards "quickly."



Dept Of Public Enterprises Under Finance Ministry.

In order to facilitate its ambitious disinvestment agenda, the government has moved the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) under the Finance Ministry. DPE once belonged to the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises. The government has set aside Rs 1.75 lakh crore from the sale of stakes in public sector enterprises in its budget.



A new underground spider, Assam.

Gravelyia boro and Dexippus kleini, two spider species, have been discovered in the Jharbari range of western Assam's Chirang Reserve Forest in India. In the Bodoland Territorial Region, both spider species shared the same space. The one buries, while the other leaps.

**Every minute, 11 people die of starvation.**

According to a new Oxfam research, eleven people die every minute due to hunger, and the number of people enduring famine-like circumstances has surged by six times in the last year. The death toll from famine outpaces that of COVID-19, which kills roughly seven people per minute, according to the report "The Hunger Virus Multiplies"

**India-UK hold financial market dialogue**

India and the United Kingdom (UK) convened the maiden meeting of the India-UK Financial Markets Dialogue ('the Dialogue'). The Dialogue was founded in October 2020 at the 10th Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) to strengthen bilateral financial ties.

**Yaks from the Himalayas will be insured.**

Thanks to the National Insurance Company Ltd, yak ranchers in the distant Himalayas may finally smile (NICL). Animal fatalities were a typical occurrence for these highlanders who lived in the worst of weather circumstances. The NICL has agreed to insure highly precious Himalayan livestock for the first time.

**Banks were asked to stop Libor soon.**

India's exposure to benchmark-linked borrowings is expected to be \$331 billion. The RBI has advised banks and other financial institutions to include adequate fallback clauses in all financial contracts that mature after the benchmark's declared discontinuation date.



Federal Bank receives approval to re-appoint Shyam Srinivasan.

Federal Bank, a private sector bank, announced that it had gained RBI clearance to re-appoint Shyam Srinivasan as its MD and CEO for another three years. On September 23, 2010, Srinivasan took over as the lender's MD and CEO. Srinivasan has been reappointed as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer by the RBI until September 22, 2021.



N.S. Srinivasa Murthy as HONORARY COUNSEL GENERAL.

Industrialist N.S. Srinivasa Murthy, located in Bengaluru, has been designated Honorary Counsel General of Vietnam for Karnataka as part of Vietnam's attempts to develop collaboration with various States.



PM Modi & Vietnam's Pham Minh Chinh conversation

Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussed his vision for an open, inclusive, peaceful, and rules-based Indian Ocean region with Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh. He also expressed gratitude to Vietnam and its people for their assistance during India's second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic.



Nirmala Sitharaman in meeting

Nirmala Sitharaman, the Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, took part virtually in the Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) Meeting, which was hosted by Italy. The two-day gathering covered a wide range of topics, including global economic problems and health issues.



First Liquefied Natural Gas plant in Nagpur.

Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari opened India's first private LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) plant in Nagpur. LNG, he said, is a clean and cost-effective fuel capable of lowering logistics costs. It also has the potential to generate a large number of job openings.



On the occasion of Ashadhi Bij, the PM greets the public.

On the auspicious occasion of Ashadhi Bij, the Kutchi New Year, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi greeted the people. "Kutchi New Year-on Ashadhi Bij my lakhs of wishes to the Kutchi brothers and sisters," the Prime Minister wrote in a tweet.



India imports apples from UK

UK Secretary of State for International Trade Liz Truss hailed the apple export as an indication of the UK-Indian trade partnership's strengthening. Apples were shipped as part of the Enhanced Trade Partnership, which was signed in May 2021 by the Prime Ministers of both countries. The Enhanced Trade Partnership is the forerunner to the Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA).



China is working on a new cyber-security strategic plan.

It is a three-year action plan for China's cyber-security industry development. By 2023, China's cyber-security is expected to be valued over 250 billion yuan (\$38.6 billion). This draught plan was developed in response to Chinese authorities' increased attempts to design regulations to better manage data storage, data

transport, and personal data privacy.



India's first 5-star hotel atop railway track.

In Gujarat's Gandhinagar Capital train station, which is part of Indian Railways' Western Railway zone, Indian Railways will soon acquire its first 5-star hotel atop a railway track. Indian Railways has refurbished the Gandhinagar Capital Station in Gujarat, and it will now have world-class modern passenger amenities.



Senari massacre of 1999.

On March 18, 1999, cadres of the defunct Maoist Communist Centre (MCC) forcibly removed 34 upper caste men from their houses in the Senari Village of Jehanabad district, and killed them near the village temple. Senari Massacre is the name given to this occurrence.



Mumbai Airport is taken over by the Adani Group.

With this acquisition, the Adani group has risen to the top of India's airport infrastructure corporations. By 2024, India will be the world's third largest aviation market. It will also assist Adani Group in forming a number of strategic alliances with its other B2B businesses. Mumbai International Airport is currently owned by Adani Airport Holdings, which owns a 74 %.



Pakistan approves a measure to prohibit torture and death in custody.

According to the bill, public servants who torture others will face up to ten years in prison and a fine of up to Rs. 2 million. If a public servant charged with preventing torture fails to do so, either knowingly or negligently, he or she faces up to five years in prison and a fine of up to

Rs. 1 million.



Climate Change Plans - EU.

The European Union proposed sweeping new legislation to help it accomplish its goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 55 percent over the next decade, including a contentious proposal to tax foreign firms for pollution they generate.



Withdrawal of FIRs under Sec 66A of IT Act.

The Centre directed states and union territories to direct police stations in their jurisdictions to "immediately remove cases filed under the repealed Section 66A of the Information Technology Act." The directive comes only days after the Supreme Court expressed surprise that the law was being used six years

after it was declared unconstitutional.



Skill India Mission's 6th anniversary.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised the importance of skill development in the country, calling it a national necessity and a vital pillar of Atmanirbhar Bharat. Mr. Modi said that when a society concentrates on the skills of the youth, the entire nation benefits. He was speaking to the youth on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day and the 6th Anniversary of the Skill India Mission.



Piyush Goyal - Rajya Sabha's house leader.

This change heralds the induction of a younger leader into a position that is traditionally filled by veterans. When Gehlot was the leader of the house, Piyush Goyal was the deputy leader. Karnataka Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot has been appointed. Goyal was the BJP

treasurer before becoming a minister in 2014. He was also in charge of polling operations.



Floods in Germany, Belgium.

More than 60 people died and dozens more went missing in Germany and Belgium as heavy floods turned streams and streets into roaring torrents that swept cars away and caused houses to collapse. 9 residents with disabilities were among those killed.



“COVID Teeka Sang Surakshit Van, Dhan aur Uddyam” Campaign.

Arjun Munda, India's Minister of Tribal Affairs, virtually started the "COVID Teeka Sang Surakshit Van, Dhan aur Uddyam" national campaign to speed up COVID

immunisation among tribals. It is a national programme in India to increase the rate of COVID vaccination among tribals.



First COVID-19 case : Tokyo Olympics.

Tokyo Olympic officials announced that the first inhabitant of the Olympic Village had tested positive for COVID-19. The Games begin in just over a week, on July 23, and officials said it was not an athlete.



To help ransomware victims US released Online hub.

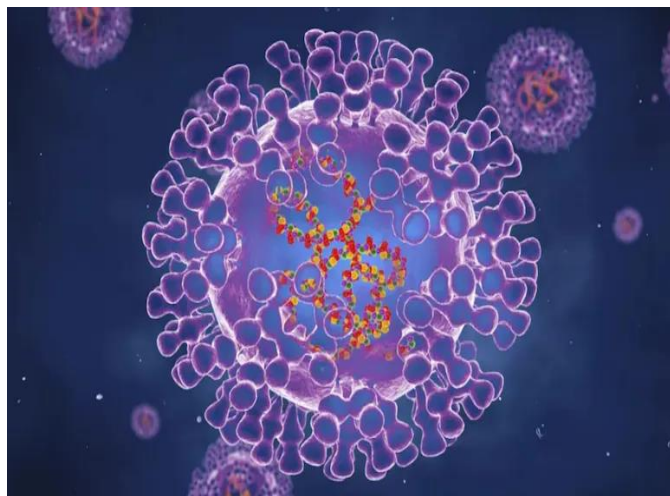
Ransomware is a type of malware that encrypts files on a device, making them unusable for the files and the systems that rely on them. Then, in exchange for decryption, malicious actors want a ransom. If the ransom is not paid, ransomware perpetrators

frequently threaten to sell.



Expected Loss-Based Rating : SEBI

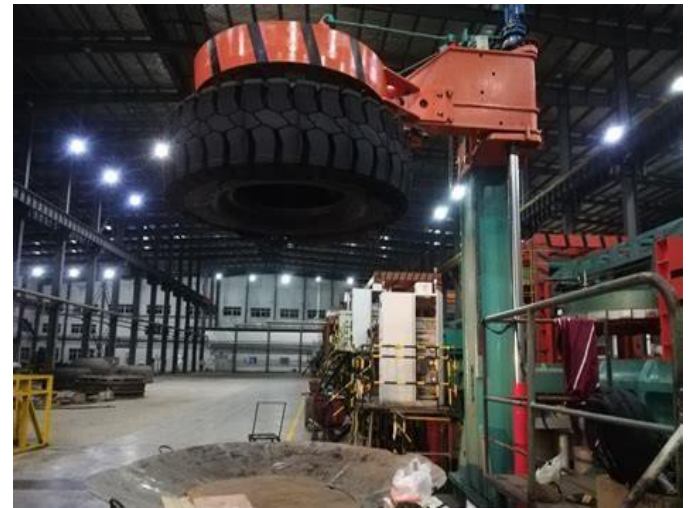
With the establishment of a new framework by markets regulator Sebi, credit rating firms will now be obligated to offer projected loss-based ratings for projects and products related with the infrastructure sector. The watchdog has devised an expected loss-based rating system with seven levels.



Monkeypox, first case detected in Texas.

Monkeypox was first found in 1958, when two outbreaks of a pox-like disease occurred in research colonies of monkeys, hence the name. During a period of increased effort to eradicate smallpox, the first human case of monkeypox was discovered in the

Democratic Republic of Congo in 1970.



Train between Jaynagar in India and Kurtha in Nepal.

The successful trial of railway transportation between Jaynagar, India, and Kurtha, Nepal, took place on July 18, 2021. This is the first stretch of the train line linking the two nations, connecting Kurtha in Nepal's Mahottari district to Jaynagar in Bihar's Madhubani district.



GST payable only on profit earned from resale of gold jewellery.

The Karnataka Authority for Advance Ruling (AAR) has ruled that when jewellers resell second-hand gold jewellery, they must only pay GST on the profit made from the sale. This is a significant relief for jewellers. The development, according to experts, will lower the GST charged on the resale of secondhand jewellery.



Athletes' Village at Tokyo Olympics, the first Covid case is discovered.

Six days before the opening ceremony, the Tokyo Olympics confirmed its first COVID-19 case, with an individual testing positive in the athlete's village, organisers announced on July 17, 2021. The Tokyo 2020 Olympics will begin on July 23. Seiko Hashimoto, the Chief Organiser of the Tokyo 2020 Games, stated that the organisers have done all possible to avoid any COVID-19 breakouts.



Male Guardian Requirement for Women Ends: Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi Arabia Ministry of Hajj, in a recent announcement, has given women permission to perform the pilgrimage without a male guardian. "Those wishing to perform Hajj will have to register individually. Women can register without a mahram

(male guardian) along with other women.



Liverpool Removed From UNESCO.

The English city of Liverpool was removed from UNESCO's list of world historic sites, the third site to be removed from the prestigious list, since new buildings detracted from the attractiveness of its Victorian ports..



Siberian wildfires: fueling wildfires.

Due to strong wind currents, more than 6.5 million acres of land in Russia's coldest city, Yakutsk, have been burnt, and the smoke from the wildfires is moving to Alaska. Uncontrollable wildfires have overtaken Russia's coldest city, Yakutsk, as well as most of Europe and parts of the United States, producing heatwaves in the country.



Kavitha Maloth Convicted Of Bribing Voters During 2019 Lok Sabha Elections.

A local court convicted Kavitha Maloth, a Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) MP from Mahabubabad in Telangana, to six months in prison for bribing voters during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. She was also fined Rs 10,000 by the court that hears matters involving MPs/MLAs in this city.



GDP expected to be 8.8-9%.

India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate is expected to be in the range of 8.8 to 9% in the current fiscal year, 2021-22, according to the Care Ratings agency (FY22). In fiscal 2020-21, the country's economy shrank by 7.3 percent.



Yusuffali to be vice-chairman.

M A Yusuff Ali, Chairman of the Lulu Group, has been named Vice-Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ADCCI). The crown prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, has issued a decision to form a new Board of Directors for the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



IMF cuts India's GDP growth.

The second wave of the epidemic has slowed India's economic recovery, according to the IMF, which has lowered India's growth prediction for the current fiscal year. According to the IMF's world economic outlook released on India's GDP will rise by 9.5 percent in FY22, down from 12.5 percent anticipated in April 2021.



DRDO to get 2% royalty.

Dr Reddy's Laboratory (DRL) would pay the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) a 2% royalty on the sale of anti-COVID medicine 2-DG, said Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt. The Defence Research and Development Organization is part of the Ministry of Defense. DRL is a private listed company.



'Raja Mircha' Exported To London.

A batch of Nagaland's 'Raja Mircha,' also known as king chilli, was flown to London for the first time by air through Guwahati. Nagaland King Chilli is a member of the Capsicum genus in the Solanaceae family. The Naga king chilli has long been regarded as the world's hottest chilli, consistently ranking in the top five on lists of the hottest chillies in the world based on SHUs.



Invitation for entries of new DFI's name, logo.

The finance ministry requested residents to submit names, taglines, and logos for the new Development Financial Institution (DFI), which is being hailed as a gamechanger in infrastructure funding in the country. The finance minister announced the creation of a DFI in Budget 2021-22.



National Gallery of Australia.

The National Gallery of Australia will return 14 art work to the Indian government from its Asian art collection. Thirteen of the pieces, for a total of \$3 million, were purchased from Art of the Past, the now-infamous New York gallery managed by the dealer and alleged antiquities smuggler Subhash Kapoor, between 2002 and 2010.



India's 14 tiger reserves set a global benchmark.

The Union environment ministry announced that 14 of India's 51 tiger reserves have received the Conservation Assured Tiger Benchmarks (CATS) accreditation for satisfying a set of standards for efficient big cat conservation. The criteria were developed by an international panel of specialists and managers of protected areas



Licence got cancelled by RBI.

The Reserve Bank of India cancelled the licence of Madgaum Urban Co-operative Bank Limited, Margao, Goa, citing the bank's inability to pay its current depositors in full due to its current financial situation. The process of compensating the depositors will begin with the termination of the licence and the start of liquidation proceedings.



AICTE creating database.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the All India Council of Technical Education is establishing a database of resources to allow universities to provide additional regional language programmes and has devised a mechanism to translate engineering information into 11 languages.



Factoring Regulation Amendment Bill.

The Factoring Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was passed by Parliament on July 29, 2021, with the Rajya Sabha voting in favour. The bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on July 26, 2021, without debate, despite opposition protests. Due to disturbances in the lower house caused by opposition protesters, the bill was passed without adequate debt.

11: National News



'Atmanirbhar Krishi app' for farmers

The 'Atmanirbhar Krishi App' was introduced by the Union Government on June 29, 2021, to give farmers with relevant agricultural analytics and weather notifications. Farmers, start-ups, Krishi Vighyan Kendras, Self Help Groups, and NGOs can use the app, which is accessible in 12 languages and is free to download on Android and Windows.

Japanese-style Zen Garden and Kaizen Academy

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a video-conference to open a Zen Garden and Kaizen Academy at the Ahmedabad Management Association (AMA). "The launching of the garden and school is a sign of the spontaneity and modernity of India-Japan relations," he remarked.



GST payers will get certificates of appreciation from the Finance Minister.

To honour the fourth anniversary of the historic Goods and Services Tax, the Treasury issued a letter of appreciation to more than 54,000 GST payers. The GST, which replaced 17 native levies such as service tax, and VAT, as well as 13 cesses, went into effect on July 1, 2017.



Electronic Vaccine Vouchers

The government has requested NPCI to create an electronic vaccine voucher platform. These vouchers will function similarly to electronic prepaid cards that can only be used for vaccinations. Employers can buy these vouchers in bulk and have them sent to the employee's smartphone or feature phone.



President Kovind lays foundation stone

While Prime Minister Narendra Modi later tweeted that the project would "further popularise" Ambedkar's values among the youth, Mayawati, the leader of the

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), questioned the timing of the inauguration, which comes just months before the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections.



Govt launches 6 tech innovation platforms

The government of India established six technology innovation platforms aimed at developing technologies for globally competitive manufacturing in the country. Through big challenges on the platforms, this will encourage the indigenous development of critical "mother" manufacturing technologies.



KVIC's Unique Project

Khadi and Village Industries Commission has launched a new scientific activity to support the combined national objectives of reducing desertification and providing livelihood, as well as multi-disciplinary rural industry support (KVIC). For developing green patches, KVIC has wisely picked bamboo.



At Kashmere Gate metro station, DMRC debuts India's first UPI-based cashless parking.

At the Kashmere Gate Metro Station, the Delhi Metro introduced India's first FASTag/UPI-based cashless parking facility. The DMRC said in a statement that Dr Mangu Singh, MD, DMRC, has introduced a FASTag/UPI based cashless parking option at the Kashmere Gate Metro Station for the first time in the country.



Emergency use of Covaxin vaccine.

The World Health Organization's Emergency Use Listing (EUL) of Bharat Biotech's Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin will not be a lengthy process. According to Suchitra Ella, joint managing director of Bharat Biotech, the decision is likely in the first week of August.

**The Parliament's Monsoon Session.**

The Monsoon Session of Parliament will take place from July 19 to August 13, and will last 19 business days, according to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. The speaker, when taking stock of preparations for the upcoming session, also stated that the session will run from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. for both Houses.

**First monk fruit cultivation.**

Scientists from the Indian Institute of Himalayan Bio-resource Technology (IHBT) and CISR have successfully grown a fruit that had previously only been grown in China. Monkfruit (*Siraitia grosvenorii*) is a nutrient-dense, delicious, and low-calorie fruit.

**India's first 'Grain ATM'.**

Consumers will no longer have to wait in huge lines or make round after round at ration depots. For the first time, India has developed a one-of-a-kind 'Grain ATM' that would ensure that the correct amount of food is delivered to the correct beneficiary without any complaints.

**Krishna and Godavari river management boards.**

With the formation of the boards, the Centre handed over control of all projects in two river basins in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, including hydel electricity generating. From October 14, 2021, it will be in effect. The Ministry of Jal Shakti issued a notification (MoJS).



IITH develops affordable COVID-19 testing kit.

According to an official press release, the kit has the potential to work at home without the need for professional supervision because it does not require RT-PCR, an expert human resource, or a BSL-2 lab facility for RNA extraction.



Navy receives MH-60 Romeo helicopters.

The Indian Navy has received the first two of its MH-60R Multi Role Helicopters (MRH) from the US Navy after a longer wait of more than a decade. These helicopters were handed off during a ceremony at the US Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego.



“Kisan Sarathi” initiative for farmers.

A digital portal called KisanSarathi was inaugurated jointly by Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, and others to help farmers access the "correct information at the right time" in their preferred language.



2014 - 2019, India filed 326 sedition cases, only 6 convictions.

Between 2014 and 2019, 326 charges were filed in the country under the contentious colonial-era penal legislation on sedition, with only six people being convicted. According to data from the Union Home Ministry, 326 instances of sedition were filed between 2014 and 2019, with Assam having the highest number of 54 cases.



Monsoon session of Parliament.

The Monsoon session of Parliament 2021 began on July 19, 2021, with the Central Government preparing to introduce 17 new bills. The Government and the opposition will clash during the session over simmering issues such as the farmers' strike, the COVID-19 pandemic, vaccination policy, and gasoline price hike.



India To Build Six Submarines

The Defence Ministry officially launched the much-anticipated tender for the construction of six sophisticated conventional diesel-electric submarines within India under its 'Project 75-India initiative', marking a significant development for the Indian Navy and the Make in India project.



India's first green hydrogen plant.

IOC, India's largest oil company, will construct the country's first 'green hydrogen' plant at its Mathura refinery in order to meet rising demand for both oil and cleaner energy sources in the future. This will be the first green hydrogen power plant in the nation.



'Indian Institute of Heritage' to be set up at Noida.

Culture Minister Kishan Reddy told Parliament that the government has chosen to establish the Indian Institute of Heritage in Noida. This will be established, with an emphasis on the country's rich heritage and the goal of imparting instruction on the country's cultural features.



4th national serosurvey.

According to the fourth national serosurvey conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) between June 14 and July 6, 67.6% of India's population over the age of six has developed antibodies against Covid-19. Antibodies to Covid-19 were found in 85.2 percent of the healthcare personnel polled.



TMC MP Santanu Sen suspended.

After a motion was carried in the Rajya Sabha on Friday, July 23, Trinamool Congress MP Santanu Sen was suspended from the Rajya Sabha for the remainder of the Monsoon Session of Parliament. M Venkaiah Naidu, the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, expressed his displeasure with the happenings of Thursday in the House on Friday.



India plans to build Power Islanding systems.

India intends to build power islanding systems in many locations to defend key infrastructure from potential attacks on the country's electricity grid. Bengaluru and Jamnagar, which are home to two of India's major oil refineries, are among the cities being considered for an islanding scheme.



46.2% Indians report poor quality of life.

Danone India, a French packaged foods and beverages firm, and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) undertook a research of more than 2,700 persons in India to assess their psychological and physical well-being, social ties, and environment. It was discovered that 46.2 percent of Indians had a low quality of life.

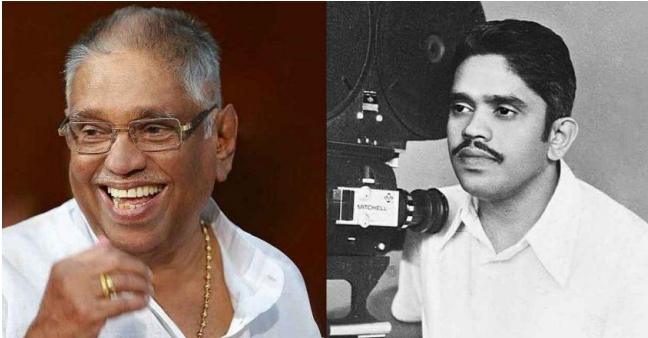
**Marine Aids to Navigation Bill.**

Parliament cleared a bill to replace a nearly nine-decade-old law controlling lighthouses with a new framework for establishing and managing vessel traffic services. It was passed by the Lok Sabha on March 22, 2021, during the previous session.

**Rakesh Asthana appointed Delhi Police Commissioner.**

Rakesh Asthana, a senior IPS officer from the Gujarat cadre, was named Commissioner of Delhi Police. Asthana, who is currently the Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF), would take over as the Delhi Police Commissioner with immediate effect, according to a Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) directive.

12: Obituaries



Award-winning cinematographer and director Sivan passes away

Sivan, a veteran cinematographer and director in Mollywood, died lately. With the images he took for the film Chemeen, the ace cameraman catapulted to prominence in the Malayalam film industry. In his career, he has earned three National Awards. Abhayam, Yagam, Keshu, Oru Yathra, and other films are among his most popular.



Donald Rumsfeld, the former US Defense Secretary, died at the age of 88.

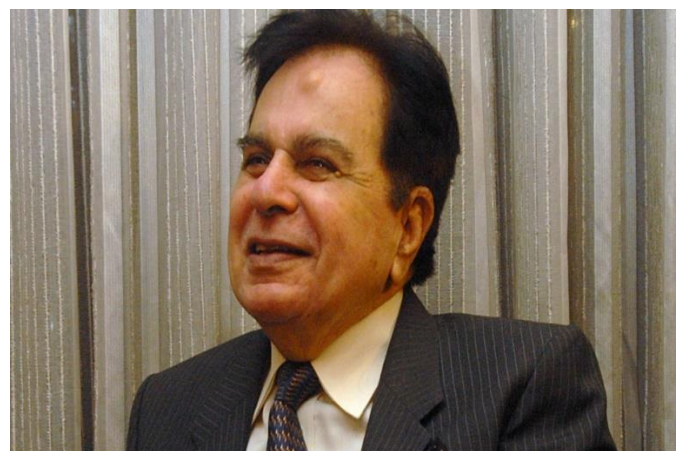
Donald Rumsfeld, the controversial and hard-charging defence secretary who planned and oversaw the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq and advocated for rapid military modernization, has died. He was 88 years old when he died. Rumsfeld died at Taos, New Mexico, surrounded by his family, according to a statement

released by his family.



Donald Rumsfeld, the former US Defense Secretary, has died.

Donald Rumsfeld, a two-term US defence secretary who was a key architect of the Iraq war, died at the age of 88. He was a leading proponent of the "war on terror" following the 9/11 attacks while serving under President George W. Bush. In 2003, US forces attacked Iraq, saying the country possessed weapons of mass destruction.



Actor Dilip Kumar passes away.

Dilip Kumar, one of India's most well-known actors, has died. He was best known for his appearances as tragic heroes in Bollywood films. Kumar was 98 years old and

had been ill for some time, according to one of the doctors who was treating him.



Richard Donner, the director, has died.

LOS ANGELES — Richard Donner, the filmmaker of the "Lethal Weapon" film series, "The Goonies," and the first "Superman" film, has passed away. He was 91 years old when he died. Variety received confirmation from Donner's production business that he had died. The reason for the death was not revealed.



keshav-datt-passes-away.

Hockey India and the Sports Authority of India (SAI) have paid their respects to hockey legend Keshav Chandra Datt, who passed away. When he passed away, he was 95 years old. According to Hockey India President Gyanendro Ningombam, Keshav Datt's death is a big loss for the hockey community all around the world.



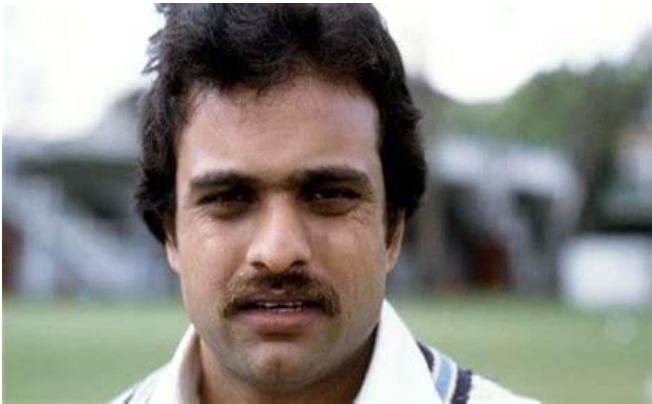
Haiti President Jovenel Moïse assassinated.

Jovenel Moise, the president of Haiti, was assassinated. He was assassinated in his Port au Prince home. The country's acting prime minister, Claude Joseph, confirmed the news, saying that gunmen broke into the president's residence and killed Moise. He denounced the murder, calling it heinous, inhumane, and barbaric act.



Virbhadr Singh has died.

Virbhadr Singh, the former chief minister of Himachal Pradesh and a senior Congress figure, died after a long illness. He was 87 years old when he died. At 3.40 a.m., the veteran leader passed away at Indira Gandhi Medical College (IGMC).



Yashpal Sharma passed away.

On July 13, 2021, Yashpal Sharma, a member of the Indian cricket team that won the 1983 Cricket World Cup, died of a heart attack at the age of 66. His wife, two daughters, and son are the only survivors of the late cricketer. The former cricketer was considered as a talented middle-order batsman during his glittering cricket career, which spanned the late 1970s and 1980s.



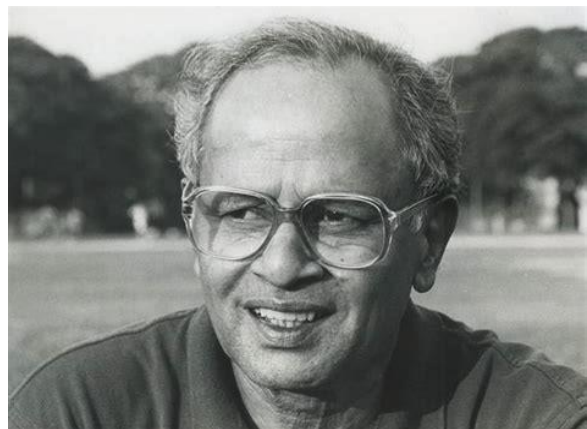
Mike Hendrick died.

Mike Hendrick, a former seam bowler for England, Derbyshire, and Nottinghamshire, died at the age of 72. Hendrick, who took 87 wickets in 30 Tests from 1974 to 1981, had recently been diagnosed with bowel and liver cancer. He played in three Ashes-winning series and 22 one-day internationals, including the 1979 World Cup final against the West Indies.



Danish Siddiqui killed in Afghanistan.

Danish Siddiqui, the lead photographer for Reuters India, was slain while reporting on battles in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Siddiqui, was murdered while reporting on a battle between Afghan security troops and Taliban terrorists near a Pakistani border crossing.



Nandu Natekar passes away.

Nandu Natekar, a legendary Indian badminton player who became the first Indian to win an international title in 1956, has died. In a 15-year career, he won over 100 national and international trophies for India. He was the first laureate of the Arjuna Award, which was established in 1961.

13: Ranks & Reports



India is ranked 10th, in the Cybersecurity Index

India is placed 10th in the United Nations' International Telecommunication Union's Global Cyber Security Index (GCI). This is a significant improvement from the index's previous edition, which rated India 47th in 2018. India is ranked fourth in the Asia-Pacific area. United States has been ranked first and is followed by United Kingdom.



Report on UDISE 2019-20 for School Education launched

The Unified District Information System for Education Plus report (UDISE+) 2019-2020 was released by Union minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank. The UDISE+ report revealed some fascinating statistics regarding India's school education system, both favourable and negative.



Telangana power distributors.

In the Ninth Annual Integrated Rating for State Power Distribution Utilities, which was released in Delhi on Saturday, July 17, 2021, the Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited (TSSPDCL) received a 'B' and TSNPDCL received a 'C+'.



ADB downgrades India's FY22 economic growth.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) lowered India's economic growth prediction for the current fiscal year to 10% from 11% earlier this year, citing the negative

impact of the coronavirus outbreak as the main reason.



India gets its 39th World Heritage Site.

UNESCO listed the Kakatiya Rudreswara Temple (also known as the Ramappa Temple) in Palampet, Mulugu district, near Warangal in Telangana, on the World Heritage list during the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee. With this recent addition, India now has a total of 39 World Heritage Sites..



Harappan city in world heritage list.

Dholavira, a Harappan city in Gujarat's Kutch area, was selected the 40th Indian site to be inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List on July 27, 2021. Dholavira is the first site in India to be listed in the list of Indus Valley Civilization sites.



Brazil landscape garden-world heritage status.

UNESCO has added the Sitio Burle Marx property, a landscape garden in Rio de Janeiro, to its list of World Heritage monuments. The garden contains about 3,500 species of plants native to Rio and is used as a testing ground for botanical and landscape research.

14: Schemes & Committee



The Cabinet has approved a Rs 3 trillion budget for the Power Reform Scheme.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the 3.03 trillion power distribution company (discom) reform proposal with the Centre contributing 97,631 crore. It's a reform-driven, results-driven power distribution sector strategy. It will remain in effect till 2025-2026. It was revealed in the Union Budget for the year 2021.



Centre approves 14 eligible applicants

The PLI Scheme for IT Hardware, which was announced on March 3, 2021, provides qualifying enterprises with a four-year incentive ranging from 4% to 2% /1% on net incremental sales (over the base year of FY 2019-20) of

items in target areas that are manufactured in India (FY2021-22 to FY 2024-25).



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister has launched 'YSR Bima' scheme

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy unveiled new guidelines for the 'YSR Bima' plan, under which the government will immediately pay the insurance amount to the deceased's family, making insurance claims easier. To support 1.32 lakh families through, the State government allocated Rs 750 crores.



Union Education Minister launches NIPUN Bharat Programme

On July 5, 2021, Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' inaugurated the NIPUN Bharat initiative, which stands for National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy. This announcement concerning the launch was issued lately by the Ministry of Education.



The Delhi government has launched a financial aid programme for Covid victims' families.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced a scheme and an online platform to help families who have lost loved ones to COVID-19, and urged officials not to discover flaws in their claim applications.



'Matsya Setu' app is launched for aqua farmers.

New Delhi, July 6 (PTI) Union Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Minister Giriraj Singh introduced a smartphone app called 'Matsya Setu' to help aqua farmers learn about the newest freshwater aquaculture technologies. The ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture developed the app (ICAR-CIFA).



RBI Retail Direct.

Individual investors can invest in Government Securities (G-Sec) through the RBI's Retail Direct Scheme, which is a one-stop shop. Retail investors will be able to open and maintain Retail Direct Gilt Accounts (RDG Accounts) with the RBI under this plan.



Biden extends the Child Tax Credit programme in USA.

The programme will be extended through its December deadline. This statement came on the same day that the Internal Revenue Service began distributing funds under the American Rescue Plan. Initially, the American president intends to extend this credit for four years with the goal of making it permanent.



Training program to train Teachers.

On July 16, 2021, Dharmendra Pradhan, the Union Minister of Education, and Arjun Munda, the Minister of Tribal Affairs, jointly launched the "School Innovation Ambassador Training Program." This programme was launched for 50,000 teachers in public schools. It will go into effect on July 20.



Fasal Bima Yojana Deadline extended.

The central government extended the deadline for farmers to enrol in the PM Fasal Bima Yojana for the Kharif season 2021 from July 15 to July 23. The Maharashtra government had requested that the PM's Crop Insurance Scheme PMFBY's deadline be extended till July 23.



Longevity finance hub.

The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), which was formed as a unified regulator to create and oversee financial products, services, and institutions in India's IFSCs, has convened an expert panel to draught a road plan for a longevity finance hub in Gujarat's GIFT city.



'One Block, One Product' scheme.

To encourage and promote small industries in rural areas, the Haryana government will soon introduce the "One Block, One Product" scheme. The state government intends to connect every block in the state to some form of industrial vision under the scheme, and the government is working quickly to implement it.



Stand Up India scheme.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the Stand-Up India scheme has brought great advantages since its debut in 2016, and that it will be sustained for the entire period coinciding with the 15th Finance Commission period of 2020-25.



Removal of age barrier for transgenders.

The decision to abolish the maximum age limit was made in order to encourage transgender students in the state to enrol in various postgraduate and undergraduate programmes. In the year 2015, Kerala became the first state in India to announce transgender coverage.



Centre to invest Rs 324 crore.

The central government will establish 42 virology research and diagnosis centres. During the years 2021-22 to 2025-26, this will be set up under a centralised plan. This project is estimated to cost Rs324 crore. The scheme is administered by the Indian Council of Medical Research's Department of Health Research (DHR) (ICMR).



Green Sohra Afforestation Campaign.

Visiting Union home minister Amit Shah launched two major development projects in Cherrapunji as part of his second day of activities in Meghalaya before landing in Guwahati in the afternoon. For the benefit of residents, Shah established the Green Sohra Afforestation Campaign and the Greater Sohra Water Supply Scheme.



24/7 helpline number for women.

Smriti Irani, the Minister of Women and Child Development, has inaugurated a 24/7 helpline for women who have been victims of abuse. 7827170170 is the phone number for the hotline. The Minister commended the National Commission for Women and said the helpline sends a message to women that their government and Commission would be there for them anytime they need it.



National quota in medical seats.

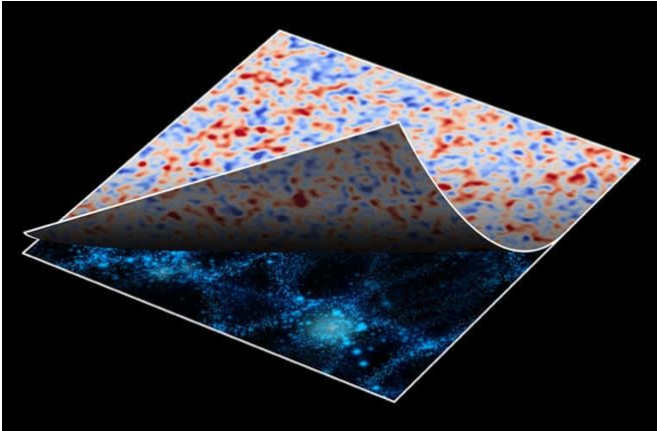
From the current academic year, 2021-22, the central government approved a 27% quota for the Other Backward Casts (OBCs) and a 10% reservation for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) under the All-India Quota programme for undergraduate and postgraduate medical and dentistry courses.



Rs 1.13 cr houses sanctioned under PMAY-Urban.

Approximately one crore 13 lakh dwellings have been sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban, according to the government. More than 84 lakh dwellings have been erected, with more than 50 lakh completed and delivered to the recipients.

15: Science & Technology



AI use to uncover the Universe's True Shape.

A novel artificial intelligence (AI) technology created by Japanese astronomers has been developed to eliminate noise in astronomy data caused by random variations in galaxy forms. After intensive training and testing on enormous dummy data generated by supercomputer simulations, the technique was established.



Scientists have discovered a new source of gravitational waves.

The collision of a neutron star and a black hole has produced gravitational waves for the first time, which are ripples in the fabric of space-time. The discovery proves that systems with a neutron star and a black

hole exist.



Satellite Connectivity in Telecom Networks is cleared by DCC.

Satellite connectivity will be employed via a VSAT terminal to provide services in remote places where laying an optical fibre network is challenging. The DCC also approved a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the BharatNet project, which would provide broadband services to villages in 16 states through a public-private partnership.



Virgin Galactic Space Flight takes to the skies.

This Virgin Galactic Space Flight marks a significant milestone for Richard Branson's 17-year-old company.

Six Virgin Galactic Holding Inc personnel, including Branson, boarded the spaceship. He has hailed this expedition as a forerunner to a new era of space tourism, which the firm launched in 2004.



National Dolphin Research Centre in Patna.

The study center's opening will be a significant step forward in the endangered Gangetic River dolphin's conservation. The NDRC will be built on 4,400 square metre parcels of land in the grounds of Patna University, near the banks of the Ganga, to house the research centre.



The planets Mars, Venus, and the Moon are poised to align.

This week, a rare celestial occurrence will grace us with its presence. Venus and Mars, two solar system neighbours, are approaching each other and will collide

with the moon in the sky. We shall be able to glimpse the planets for the first time with our naked eyes.



US has granted a licence for human space flight.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) authorised a Blue Origin licence to launch humans into space using the New Shepard launch system on Monday (July 13). On July 20, former Amazon.com CEO Jeff Bezos flew to the edge of space on Blue Origin's first crewed mission.



India's largest solar park.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has given the green light to NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd, a 100% subsidiary of NTPC, to build a 4750 MW renewable energy park at Rann of Kutch in Khavada, Gujarat. This will be India's largest solar park, developed

by the country's largest power producer.



Human genome editing recommendation is issued by WHO.

In two years, 18 committee members prepared a report. They also created a number of new products and initiatives.

A collection of two articles called the Governance Framework on Human Genome Editing provides advice and recommendations on institutional, national, regional, and global governance systems for human genome editing.



ISRO – Gaganyaan.

ISRO has progressed in its preparations for Gaganyaan, the first human space mission. The core L110 liquid stage (engine) of the human-rated Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk III had its third long-

duration hot test of the liquid propellant Vikas Engine (GSLV Mk III).



Real-Time Bus Tracking.

Google will provide real-time information such as arrival and departure times, as well as their routes. To supply this information, Google and the Delhi Transport Ministry reached an agreement. Users will receive an estimate of how long their trip will take and whether or not their bus will be delayed under the terms of the agreement.



IISc's 'warm' Covid vaccine.

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru has created a COVID-19 vaccine formulation that is heat resistant. It was discovered to be effective against all existing SARS-CoV-2 types of concern during animal

testing. The study was published in the American Society for Infectious Diseases publication.



IIT-Madras develops AI algorithm, 'NBDriver'.

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras have created the 'NBDriver' mathematical model, which uses artificial intelligence to identify cancer-causing changes in cells. The programme employs a relatively new methodology of leveraging DNA composition to identify genetic changes linked to cancer growth, which is difficult to achieve with current methods.



In India, Google Cloud has launched its second 'Cloud Region.'

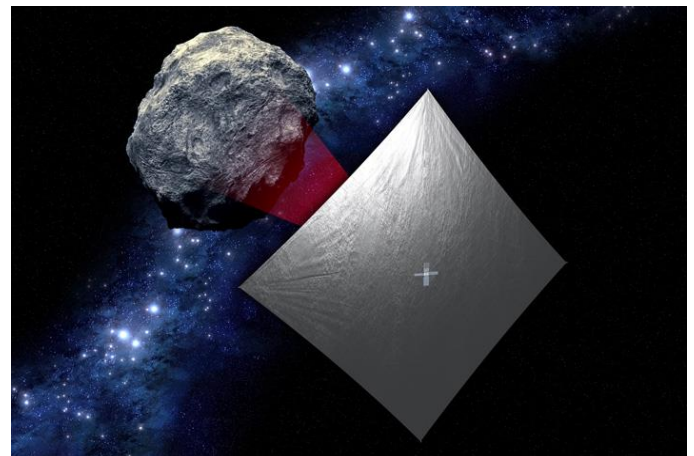
For clients and the public sector in India and across Asia Pacific, Google Cloud has announced the creation of a new Cloud Region in Delhi NCR. Customers in the country will benefit from decreased latency and better performance of their cloud-based workloads and data

thanks to the new region.



Pegasus spyware.

According to Amnesty International and Forbidden Stories, a French media non-profit, Israeli spy software Pegasus was used to spy on around 300 Indians on July 18, 2021, including around 40 journalists, scientists, government officials, a constitutional authority, three opposition leaders, and two cabinet ministers in the Central government.



NEA Scout.

A team from NASA's Advanced Exploration Systems (AES) and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Marshall Space Flight Center has picked NEA Scout as an exciting new mission. This low-cost idea will map an asteroid and set a number of technological milestones.



IIT-K establishes a technology innovation.

The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K) launched the country's first technology innovation hub to find cyber security solutions for anti-drone technologies, intrusion detection systems, blockchain, and cyber physical systems. Following a thorough application process, 13 start-ups and 25 principal investigators in research and development were chosen.



ISRO'S merchandiser.

Multiple enterprises have joined the Indian Space Research Organisation's tailored space-themed products programme in collaboration with industry. Scale models, T-shirts, mugs, space-themed educational games, science toys, and other licenced products

related to ISRO's missions and work will now be available for purchase.



World's largest floating solar farm.

Sunseap Group, based in Singapore, has announced intentions to invest \$2 billion in Batam, Indonesia, to develop the world's largest floating solar farm and energy storage system, doubling the city's renewable energy producing capacity. According to Sunseap, the floating solar system would have a capacity of 2.2 GWp and span around 1600 hectares, making it the world's largest to date.



Intel launches 'AI For All'.

Intel announced the launch of the 'AI For All' programme in conjunction with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and the Ministry of Education, with the goal of providing everyone in India with a fundamental grasp of artificial intelligence (AI).

16: Sports News



First female cricketer to receive a doping suspension.

The National Anti-Doping Agency has issued Madhya Pradesh allrounder Anshula Rao a four-year ban, retroactive to July 2020, for failing a drug test. Rao is thus the first female cricketer to be sanctioned for doping. She had already been found guilty of using the illegal anabolic steroid '19- Norandrosterone'.



Abhimanyu Mishra becomes youngest ever chess Grandmaster

According to a source, Indian-American prodigy Abhimanyu Mishra became the youngest ever chess Grandmaster after earning his third Grandmaster norm in Budapest, Hungary. From International Master, the

12-year-old from New Jersey in the United States became a GM.



Mariyappan Thangavelu: The Indian Flagbearer

The Indian Paralympic Committee chose Mariyappan Thangavelu as the flag-bearer or commander of the Indian Paralympic Contingent for the Tokyo Paralympics. From August 24, 2021, the big event will be held in Tokyo, Japan's capital city. Mariyappan made our country proud when he leaped 1.89 m in the Rio 2016 Paralympics.



In Jaipur, India's second largest cricket stadium will be built.

JAIPUR (Rajasthan): The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has awarded the Rajasthan Cricket

Association (RCA) a Rs 100 crore grant to construct India's second-largest stadium in Jaipur. The first phase of the stadium's development is expected to take 24 to 30 months.



Women's Asian Cup 2022.

The Asian Football Confederation has dropped Bhubaneswar and Ahmedabad and will be held in Mumbai and Pune as venues for next year's women's Asian Cup in India in order to reduce travel time for participants and ensure a "optimum environment" for a bio-secure bubble.



Udayan Mane has qualified for the Tokyo Olympics.

Udayan Mane, the gentle giant who, after Anirban Lahiri, became the second Indian golfer to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics, aims to use the "positive vibes" he has with Japan to give it his all in the biggest show on earth..



CEO Manu Sawhney leaves ICC.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) Board stated on July 8 (Thursday) that Manu Sawhney, the suspended ICC CEO, will resign with immediate effect. Greg Barley, who headed the emergency meeting, made the decision. He also accused them of making choices that were one-sided, opaque, and biased.



Ashleigh Barty won.

On July 10, 2021, Ashleigh Barty won her first Wimbledon title by defeating Karolina Pliskova in three sets (6-3 67(4) 63). Barty has won the Wimbledon women's singles title for the first time since 1980. Ashleigh Barty's success came 50 years after her idol, Evonne Goolagong Cawley of Australia, won her maiden Wimbledon championship.



Wimbledon Tennis Championship.

The 134th Wimbledon Championship took place in 2021, marking the start of the 53rd Open Era and the third Grand Slam Tournament of the year. For the first time since World War II, the championship competition in 2020 has been cancelled owing to the COVID-19 epidemic. The tournament began on June 28, 2021, and the finals were held on July 11, 2021, in London, England.



India will send a squad of 228 contingent to Tokyo Olympics.

There are 67 male athletes and 52 female athletes among the 119 competitors. In 18 sports categories, 119 participants from 22 states will represent 130 crore Indians. India is competing in 85 different events for medals. It will be the largest group of Indian athletes ever to compete in the Olympics. The first contingent for Tokyo, consisting of 90 athletes and officials, will depart on July 17.



Chris Gayle shining.

On July 13, 2021, Chris Gayle became the first batsman in T20 history to amass 14,000 runs. The 'Universe Boss' achieved the milestone during the third T20I between West Indies and Australia, as he led the Caribbean team to a comfortable 6 wicket victory.



India in AFC Women's Club Championship.

15 July, New Delhi (IANS) Gokulam Kerala FC (GKFC) has been nominated by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) to represent India in the AFC Women's Club Championship 2020-21. Odisha Sports, in collaboration

with the AIFP, planned to host the fifth edition of the IWL in Bhubaneswar.



Sparkassen Trophy – CHESS.

India's GM Viswanathan Anand won the Sparkassen Trophy after drawing with longtime opponent Vladimir Kramnik of Russia in his fourth and final round 'No Castling' game. Anand, a previous world champion, won the match 2.5-1.5 by settling for a draw in 40 moves while playing white in a Tarrasch variation.



Lewis Hamilton wins British Grand Prix.

There were thrills, spills, and controversy as 140,000 spectators at Silverstone witnessed a British Grand Prix to remember, won by Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton at his home track. The seven-time world champion started second behind Red Bull's Max Verstappen, who created Formula One history by winning the inaugural sprint

race and securing pole for the main event.



Sparkassen Trophy won by Viswanathan Anand.

Viswanathan Anand defeated Vladimir Kramnik to win the Sparkassen Trophy on July 18, 2021, in a thrilling match between two former World champions played over four games in a fresh new chess format.



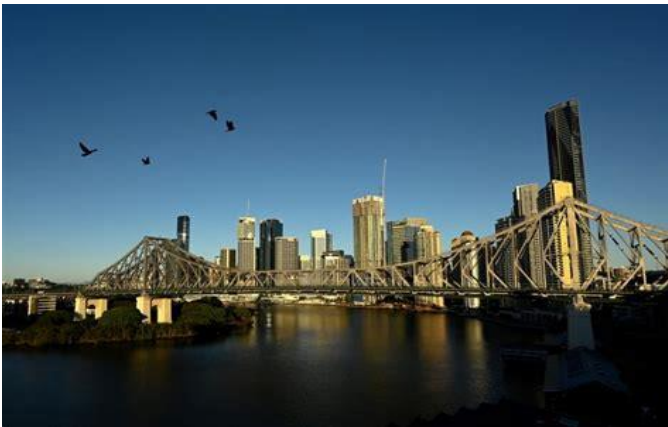
Mongolia, Tajikistan and Switzerland as new Members: ICC.

At its 78th Annual General Meeting, the ICC welcomed three new members: Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Switzerland. Mongolia and Tajikistan joined the Asia region as the 22nd and 23rd members, respectively. Switzerland became the 35th member of the European Union.



List of athletes who will play Tokyo 2020 from India.

Over a hundred Indian competitors have qualified for the Tokyo Olympics, which start on July 23. Two relay teams and two hockey teams are among the participants. Each of the last three Olympic Games has seen an increase in the number of competitors competing.



Brisbane will host 2032 Olympic Games.

After winning approval from the International Olympic Committee's executive board, Brisbane, Australia, will host the 2032 Olympics and Paralympics (IOC). After Sydney in 2000 and Melbourne in 1956, Brisbane becomes the third Australian city to host the Games.



Priya Malik won a gold.

Priya Malik, an Indian juvenile wrestler, won the 73kg category gold medal at the Cadet World Championships in Budapest, Hungary. The Cadet World Championship is a competition in which the "best Greco-Roman, Freestyle, and Women wrestlers" under the age of 17 compete from across the world.



Japan's youngest gold medallist.

Momiji Nishiya, a 13-year-old Japanese skateboarder, won the gold medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. She became one of the Olympic Games' youngest gold medalists ever. Nishiya won gold in the women's street competition on July 26, 2021, which appeared for the first time at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

**National women online chess title.**

Vantika Agarwal beat off a tough competition to win the National women's online chess title. Vantika earned 9.5 out of 11 rounds in a field led by R. Vaishali and featured past National winners like Tania Sachdev, Bhakti Kulkarni, Padmini Rout, and seasoned names like Mary Ann Gomes, Soumya Swaminathan, and Esha Karavade.

**World's youngest mountaineer.**

19-year-old Pakistani climber became the world's youngest person to reach the top of K2, the world's second-highest peak. Mr. Shehroze Kashif of Lahore was the first person to scale the 8,611-meter peak using bottled oxygen.

17: State News



Uttarakhand's next chief minister will be Pushkar Singh Dhami.

Pushkar Singh Dhami, who was elected as the BJP legislature party's leader took oath as Uttarakhand's 11th Chief Minister. Dhami, will take over for Tirath Singh Rawat, who resigned following a constitutional crisis over his election to the state Assembly.



Export of GI certified Bhalia Wheat.

The first shipment of Geographical Indication (GI) certified Bhalia type of wheat was sent from Gujarat to Kenya and Sri Lanka, with the goal of increasing value added wheat exports. The GI certified wheat is high in protein and has a sweet flavour.



Zika Virus Cases, Kerala

According to Kerala State Health Minister Veena George, a 24-year-old pregnant woman has been diagnosed with the mosquito-borne disease. In the coastal state, this is the first incidence of a mosquito-borne disease. Thiruvananthapuram has 13 more instances of the virus suspected.



New population control policy, UP

On July 11, World Population Day, the Uttar Pradesh government proposed a new population policy for the years 2021-2030. Those who assist in population control are likely to get government incentives under the

scheme.



Jammu-Kashmir, Terrorists.

Officials in Jammu and Kashmir claimed that 11 of their employees, including two police officers, had been fired for allegedly functioning as overground workers for terrorist organisations. Four employees are from Anantnag, three are from Budgam, and one is from each of Baramulla, Srinagar, Pulwama, and Kupwara.



Himachal Pradesh is experiencing a cloudburst.

Officials in India's Himachal Pradesh state stated that flash floods were caused by a cloudburst at a famous tourist spot. A senior police officer told Sputnik that the cloudburst happened in the morning in Kangra District. So yet, there have been no recorded casualties.



Maharashtra has announced a new EV policy.

The Maharashtra government introduced its new electric vehicle (EV) policy, with the goal of reaching a 10% share of total registrations by 2025. Additional Chief Secretary (Transport) Ashish Singh and state environment minister Aaditya Thackeray, among others, unveiled the new policy, which updates the one issued in 2018.



Key Railway Projects.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will use video conferencing to open and dedicate several significant railway projects in Gujarat to the nation. He will also inaugurate the Aquatics and Robotics Gallery, and Nature Park in Gujarat Science City during the event.



Telangana- 'Bonalu' festivities.

Bonalu is a Hindu festival dedicated to Goddess Mahakali. It is an annual celebration held in Telangana, India, in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad, as well as other regions of the state. Bonalu is generally observed during Ashada Masam, which occurs in July/August.



Covid vaccination campaign for pregnant women.

The "Mathrukavacham" Covid immunisation programme for pregnant women started in Kerala. As part of the model programme, vaccination will be accessible in all district hospitals. Covid vaccination will be provided to 100 pregnant women through spot registration in the beginning.



EV Policy 2021.

The Maharashtra government launched its new electric vehicle strategy, with the goal of achieving a 10% share of new car registrations for EVs by 2025. Aditya Thackeray, the state's environment minister, and other dignitaries unveiled the strategy.



EWS Quota In Education : Andhra Pradesh.

In compliance with the Constitution 103 Amendment Act, the Andhra Pradesh government has issued new instructions for the implementation of 10% quota for economically weaker sections (EWS) in education and employment.



J&K High Court renamed.

The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has been renamed the 'High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh' by the Indian government. President of India Ram Nath Kovind signed the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2021, putting the amendment into effect on July 16, 2021, using powers granted under Section 103 (1) of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.



MyGov-Meri Sarkar.

Yogi Adityanath, the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, launched the 'MyGov-Meri Sarkar' webpage on July 26, 2021. The citizens of the state can provide varied comments to the government using this portal, and the UP government can also tell them about the state's numerous programmes.



BS Yediyurappa resigns.

BS Yediyurappa, the Chief Minister of Karnataka, announced his resignation during a two-year celebration of his government. This announcement puts an end to weeks of uncertainty over calls from a BJP faction in the state to have him removed. He will continue to serve as caretaker Chief Minister of the state until his party chooses a successor.

18: Summits & Conferences



PM meeting with NE states CMs.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi did a video conference with the Chief Ministers of eight north-eastern states to discuss the COVID-19 situation in their region. The Chief Ministers of Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, and Mizoram will meet with PM Modi.



APEC meeting.

US President Joe Biden, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, and other international leaders will convene digitally for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to discuss the Covid-19 outbreak and its economic consequences.



Dushanbe meet.

The meeting was dominated by the deterioration of Afghanistan's security situation. Representatives from nations with SCO observer status as well as SCO members attended the meeting. S Jaishankar, India's external affairs minister, highlighted these concerns when he met with his SCO counterparts.



Abdulla Shahid calls on PM Modi in New Delhi.

Abdulla Shahid, the President-elect of the United Nations General Assembly's 76th session and the Maldives' Foreign Minister, paid a visit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mr. Modi congratulated Mr. Shahid on his landslide election victory, adding that it shows the Maldives' expanding international status.

SECTION 2

Detailed Analysis of Important Events

Economics

Retail Direct Scheme for G-Secs

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : G-Secs

Mains level : Not Much

The RBI has announced a scheme under which retail investors will be allowed to open retail direct gilt accounts (RDG) directly with the central bank.

Retail Direct Scheme

- Individual investors can invest in government securities (G-secs) through this plan, which is a one-stop shop.
- Accounts can be formed under RDG schemes through a dedicated online portal, which will give registered customers access to primary government securities issuance as well as NDS-OM.

What is a gilt account?

- A “Gilt Account” means an account opened and maintained for holding Government securities, by an entity or a person including ‘a person resident outside India’ with a “Custodian” permitted by the RBI.

About Government Securities

- These are debt instruments issued by the government to borrow money.
- The two key categories are:
 1. Treasury bills (T-Bills) – short-term instruments which mature in 91 days, 182 days, or 364 days,

and

2. Dated securities – long-term instruments, which mature anywhere between 5 years and 40 years

Note: T-Bills are issued only by the central government, and the interest on them is determined by market forces.

Why G-Secs?

- G-secs are not tax-free like bank fixed deposits.
- Because they are backed by the government, they are widely regarded as the safest form of investment. As a result, the danger of default is essentially non-existent.
- They are not without risk, however, because they are sensitive to interest rate swings.
- The Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation, on the other hand, only guarantees bank fixed deposits up to Rs 5 lakh (DICGC).

Retail investors and G-Secs

- Small investors can indirectly invest in g-secs by purchasing mutual funds or policies offered by life insurance companies.
- The government and the RBI have taken many initiatives in recent years to attract direct investment.
- Through their Demat accounts, retail investors can put non-competitive bids in government bond auctions.
- Retail bids are aggregated and facilitated by stock exchanges.

Bhutan becomes first neighbor to use BHIM UPI

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : BHIM, UPI, IMPS

Mains level : Mobile banking facilities in India

Bhutan becomes the first country, in India’s immediate neighbourhood, to use the BHIM app for mobile-based payments and “to adopt UPI standards for its QR deployment”.

Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM)

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) developed BHIM, an Indian mobile payment app based on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- It was named after B. R. Ambedkar and introduced on December 30, 2016. Its goal is to encourage cashless transactions by facilitating e-payments directly through banks.
- All Indian banks that use UPI, which is built on the Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) infrastructure and allows users to transfer money between bank accounts of any two parties, are supported by the app.
- It is compatible with all mobile devices.

Note: *Bhutan has become the first country to adopt India’s Unified Payment Interface (UPI) standards for its quick response (QR) code. It is also the second country after Singapore to have BHIM-UPI acceptance at merchant locations, NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL).*

What is UPI?

- The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is a real-time payment system designed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to facilitate inter-bank transactions.

- The Reserve Bank of India regulates the interface, which works by transferring payments between two bank accounts on a mobile platform in real time.

Answer this PYQ in the comment box:

Q. With reference to digital payments, consider the following statements:

1. *BHIM app allows the user to transfer money to anyone with a UPI-enabled bank account.*
2. *While a chip-pin debit card has four factors of authentication, BHIM app has only two factors of authentication.*

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct? (CSP 2018)

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

[pib] Gold Reserves in India

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Gold Reserves in India

Mains level : Not Much

The Minister of Mines and Coal has provided useful information regarding gold reserves in India.

Gold Reserves in India

- According to the National Mineral Inventory, the country’s total gold ore (primary) reserves/resources were estimated at 501.83

million tonnes in 2015.

- Out of this, 17.22 million tonnes were classified as reserves, while the remaining 484.61 million tonnes were classified as remaining resources.
- Bihar (44 percent) has the most primary gold ore resources in India, followed by Rajasthan (25 percent), Karnataka (21 percent), West Bengal (3 percent), Andhra Pradesh (3 percent), and Jharkhand (3 percent) (2 percent).
- Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu have the remaining 2% of ore resources.

Who takes up their mapping?

- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) is involved in geological mapping and mineral exploration (survey) for a variety of minerals, including gold.
- The goal of GSI is to find potential mineral-rich zones and develop resources.
- Every year, GSI undertakes mineral exploration projects in various parts of the country to supplement mineral resources, as per the approved annual Field Season Program.

- The Government of India has changed the MEMC Rules to allow for the sale of composite licences at the G4 level for deep-seated minerals such as gold.

Answer this PYQ in the comment box:

Consider the following statements:

1. *In India, State Governments do not have the power to auction non-coal mines.*
2. *Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand do not have goldmines.*
3. *Rajasthan has iron ore mines.*

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 3 only

Enviro & Diversity

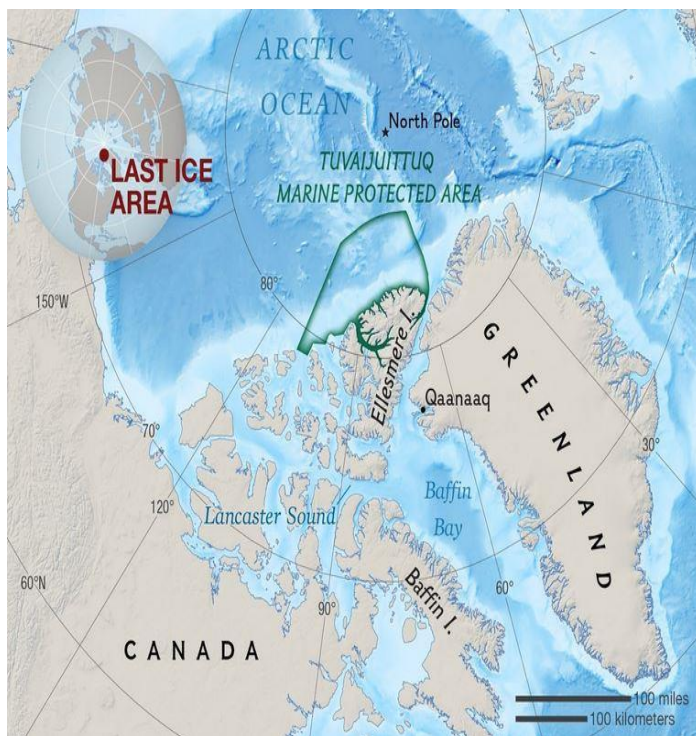
Arctic's 'Last Ice Area'

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Last Ice Area

Mains level : Climate Change



A part of the Arctic's ice called the "Last Ice Area", located north of Greenland, has melted before expected. Scientists had believed this area was strong enough to withstand global warming.

What is the Last Ice Area?

- Climate forecasts predict the total elimination of summer ice in the Arctic by 2040, according to a 2015 article published by National Geographic.

- However, this ice area known as the "Last Ice Area" would be the only site that could resist a warming environment.
- But, despite the fact that the ice above northern Canada and Greenland was predicted to remain the longest, it is beginning to melt.
- WWF-Canada claims to have been the first to name this area the "Last Ice Area."

Why is the area important?

- In 2018, the first signs of change in LIA were noticed.
- Furthermore, sea ice demonstrated its "vulnerability" to the long-term effects of climate change in August of last year.
- LIA's ice has been gradually thinning over the years, similar to other regions of the Arctic Ocean.

When did the area start changing?

- The first sign of change in LIA was observed in 2018.
- Further, in August last year, sea ice showed its "vulnerability" to the long-term effects of climate change.
- The ice in LIA has been thinning gradually over the years much like other parts of the Arctic Ocean.

What are the reasons that explain the change?

- Weather-related variables such as winds that break up and move the ice around account for about 80% of the thinning.
- The remaining 20% is attributable to the thinning of the ice over time as a result of global warming.

Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)

Mains level : Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)

Fearing any surge in coronavirus cases in the national capital, which is witnessing a decline in cases of infection, the Delhi government has chalked out the ‘Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).’

Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)

- When a WHO report revealed that Delhi was the world's most polluted city in 2014, fear swept among the federal and state governments.
- The plan was formulated following multiple discussions between the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) and state government officials and experts, and was approved by the Supreme Court in 2016.
- As a result, a strategy was created that formalised the steps to be done if air quality deteriorated.
- GRAP can also be used in an emergency.
- It includes harsh measures such as a ban on heavy vehicle entry, odd-even road rationing limits, and a halt to building activity – all of which are likely to be unrealistic at a time when the pandemic is wreaking havoc on the economy and public transportation is considered as a source of infection.

For covid purposes

COLOUR-CODED PLAN

ALERT LEVEL: 1/YELLOW
CRITERIA
 A) More than 0.5% positivity rate for 2 consecutive days (B) 1,500 cumulative positive cases for 7 days (C) 500 average oxygenated bed occupancy for 7 days
ACTIVITIES
 (A) All construction activities are allowed (B) Shops/ establishments dealing with non-essential goods and services allowed (odd-even 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.) (C) Malls open (odd-even 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.) (D) Restaurants with 50% capacity (8 a.m. to 10 p.m.) and bar with 50% capacity allowed (12 noon to 10 p.m.) (E) Delhi Metro open with 50% of the seating capacity, no standing allowed (F) Barbers shops/saloons/beauty parlours allowed; (G) Night curfew from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.

ALERT LEVEL: 2/AMBER
CRITERIA
 A) More than 1% positivity rate for 2 consecutive days (B) 3,500 cumulative positive cases for 7 days (C) 700 average oxygenated bed occupancy for 7 days
ACTIVITIES
 (A) All construction activities allowed (B) Shops/ establishments dealing with non-essential goods & services (odd-even 10a.m. to 6 p.m.) (C) Malls open (odd-even 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) (D) Restaurants and bars closed, only home delivery and take away allowed for restaurants (E) Delhi Metro open with 33% seating capacity, no standing allowed (F) Barbers shops/saloons/beauty parlours closed (G) Night curfew from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.

ALERT LEVEL: 3/ORANGE
CRITERIA
 A) More than 2% positivity rate for 2 consecutive days (B) 9,000 cumulative positive cases for 7 days (C) 1,000 average oxygenated bed occupancy for 7 days
ACTIVITIES
 (A) Construction activities allowed only where workers are residing on-site (B) Shops/ establishments dealing with non-essential goods & services allowed (C) Malls closed; only standalone shops allowed (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) (D) Restaurants and bars closed; only home delivery and take away allowed for restaurants (E) Delhi Metro closed (F) Barbers shops/saloons/beauty parlours closed (G) Night curfew from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.

ALERT LEVEL: 4/RED
CRITERIA
 A) More than 5% positivity rate for 2 consecutive days (B) 16,000 cumulative positive cases for 7 days (C) 3,000 average oxygenated bed occupancy for 7 days
ACTIVITIES
 (A) Construction activities allowed only where workers are residing on-site (B) Shops/ establishments dealing with non-essential goods & services allowed (C) Malls closed; only standalone shops allowed (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) (D) Restaurants and bars closed; only home delivery and take away allowed for restaurants (E) Delhi Metro closed (F) Barbers shops/saloons/beauty parlours closed (G) Total curfew

- It was agreed this time to alert the GRAP, which will “objectively and transparently” assure a “institutional and automatic” response to enforcement actions, lockdowns, and unlock activities.
- The strategy was created by comparing ascension data from the four waves at specified positive rates of 0.5 percent, 1 percent, 2 percent, and 5%, as well as considering the previous four waves.

Sikkim is home to 27% of India’s flowering plants

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Flora of Sikkim

Mains level : NA

Sikkim, the smallest State with less than 1% of India’s landmass, is home to 27% of all flowering plants found in the country, reveals a recent publication by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI).

Flora of Sikkim

- In the tiny Himalayan state of Sikkim, there are 4,912 naturally occurring blooming species, according to Flora of Sikkim - A Pictorial Guide.
- The country's overall number of naturally occurring blooming plants is around 18,004 species, and Sikkim's diversity of flowering plants, distributed over an area of 7,096 square kilometres, is highly distinctive, with 4,912 species.

Why is Sikkim a host to such large biodiversity?

- Sikkim, which is part of the Kanchenjunga biosphere landscape, contains a variety of altitudinal environments in which plants and trees can grow and thrive.
- The state also has borders with China, Bhutan, and Nepal, as well as the West Bengal Darjeeling Hills.
- The State contains a wide variety of vegetation, ranging from subalpine to temperate to tropical, which explains why the flora is so diverse.
- The elevation ranges from 300 to 8,598 metres above sea level, with the summit of Mt. Kanchenjunga serving as the highest point (8,586 metres).

Contribution by the Public

- The inhabitants of Sikkim have a special relationship with trees and nature.
- According to the Sikkim Forest Tree (Amity & Reverence) Rules, 2017, any person can form a Mith/Mit or Mitini relationship with trees on his or her private land or on public land.
- People were asked to adopt a tree "as if it were his or her own child, in which case the tree shall be dubbed an adopted tree," according to the announcement.

Answer this PYQ in the comment box:

Q. Which one of the following National Parks lies completely in the temperate alpine zone?

- (a) Manas National Park
- (b) Namdapha National Park
- (c) Neora Valley National Park
- (d) Valley of Flowers National Park

Why the Amazon forests are no longer acting as a carbon sink

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Amazon forests

Mains level : Climate Change



The Amazon forests in South America, which are the largest tropical forests in the world, have started emitting carbon dioxide (CO2) instead of absorbing carbon emissions.

Note the countries bordered by the Amazon forests.

Amazon forests

- The Amazon rainforest is a moist broadleaf tropical rainforest that encompasses the majority of South America's Amazon basin.
- This basin covers 7,000,000 sq km, with the rainforest covering 5,500,000 sq km.
- Brazil has 60 percent of the rainforest, followed by Peru with 13%, Colombia with 10%, and minor quantities in Bolivia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname, and Venezuela.
- It covers more than half of the planet's remaining rainforests and is the world's largest and most biodiverse tropical rainforest tract.

Why in news?

- Deforestation in eastern and southeastern Brazil has converted the forest into a source of CO₂, which has the potential to warm the planet.
- Not only the Amazon rainforests, but also other Southeast Asian forests have become carbon sources in recent years as a result of crops and fires.

What have the researchers found?

- The Amazon trees have absorbed CO₂ from the atmosphere over time as global fossil-fuel emissions have increased, helping to moderate the global temperature.
- However, experts do not claim that there has been a long-term decline in rainfall and increase in temperatures during the dry season as a result of large amounts of deforestation (over the course of 40 years).
- The eastern Amazon forests are no longer carbon sinks as a result of these factors, whilst the more intact and wetter forests in the centre and western regions are neither carbon sinks

nor emitters.

- The conversion of forests to agricultural land is another cause for the eastern region's inability to absorb as much CO₂ as it once did.

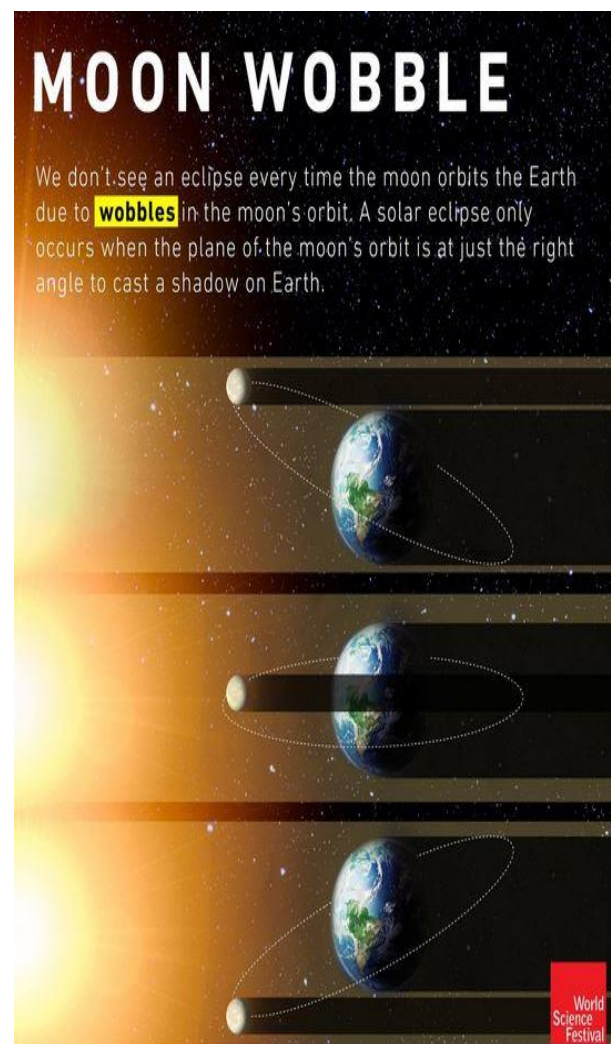
How the Moon 'Wobble' affects rising tides

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Moon wobble

Mains level : Moon wobble and climate change



US coastlines will face increasing flooding in the mid-2030s due to a regular lunar cycle called the wobble effect that will magnify rising sea levels caused by climate change.

What is the Moon Wobble?

- The moon wobble is nothing more than the moon's orbit wobbling.
- It was documented for the first time in 1728.
- This wobble takes 18.6 years to complete and repeats itself in a cyclic pattern.

How does this wobble occur?

- The pull of the moon's gravity on a spinning Earth is the primary source of high tides on this planet. Every 24 hours, there would be two high tides on most beaches.
- The moon similarly orbits the Earth roughly once a month, and its orbit is slightly inclined.
- The orbital plane of the moon around the Earth is at a 5-degree angle to the orbital plane of the Earth around the sun.
- As a result, the path of the moon's orbit appears to change with time, with a full cycle — also known as a nodal cycle — occurring every 18.6 years.
- The moon's gravitational pull arrives from such an angle at certain moments during the cycle that it yanks one of the day's two high tides a little higher at the expense of the other.
- This does not imply that the moon is swaying, nor that its gravitational pull on our oceans is either stronger or weaker than usual.

What impact does this wobble have on Earth?

- Influences the ebb and flow of tides: The moon wobbles, which affects the moon's gravitational pull and, as a result, the ebb and flow of tides here on Earth.

- The tides are suppressed for half of the 18.6-year cycle, which means that high tides are lower and low tides are greater than normal.
- When this cycle is over, the tides are magnified in the following cycle, with high tides increasing higher and low tides getting lower.
- By mid-2030, the lunar cycle will have shifted again, and the tides will begin to intensify once more.

Moon wobble and climate change

- The forthcoming moon cycle adjustments will represent a severe hazard, as enhanced high tides combined with rising sea levels will increase the risk of floods in all coastal places throughout the world.
- According to the study, high tide-related floods, often known as nuisance floods or sunny day floods, may occur in clusters that last months or even longer!
- The position of the Moon, Earth, and Sun will all play a role in this surge.
- When the Moon and Earth align with one other and the Sun in precise ways, the accompanying gravitational pull and ocean response may leave city people dealing with floods every day or two.

Microplastics Pollution in Ganga

Note4Students

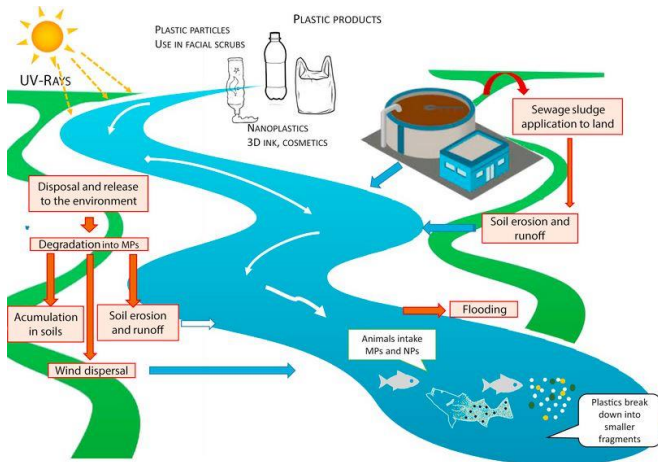
From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Microplastic pollution

Mains level : Water Pollution

The Ganga is heavily polluted with microplastics at Varanasi, Haridwar, and Kanpur, Delhi-based non-profit Toxics Link claimed.

What are Microplastics?



- Microplastics are plastics with a diameter of less than 5 mm that are a significant source of marine contamination.
- As the river travels through multiple highly populated cities, untreated sewage, industrial garbage, and religious gifts wrapped in non-biodegradable plastics load pollutants into the river.
- Plastic items and waste materials that are released or dumped in rivers degrade and eventually break down into microparticles.
- The rivers eventually transport considerable amounts of plastic downstream into the ocean, which is the ultimate sink for all human-made plastics.

Microplastics in Ganga

- Its investigation discovered that non-biodegradable plastics frequently enter the Ganga through industrial waste or religious contributions packing.
- Because individuals living along the river's banks discharged a considerable amount of pollutants directly into the river, the density of population in the three cities exacerbated the situation.
- In comparison to the other two cities, the Toxics

Link study discovered that sites in Varanasi had the highest amount of microplastics in the Ganga's water.

- This could be owing to industrial and human activity, as well as cumulative downstream contamination.

On a global high

- The researchers compared the concentration of microplastics in Ganga water to similar investigations on other rivers across the world.
- It includes Europe's Rhine, North America's Patapsco, Magothy, and Rhode, and South America's Elqui, Maipo, Biobio, and Maule rivers.
- They discovered a substantially higher level of microplastic pollution in the Ganga.
- This was despite the fact that European countries, as well as North and South America, had higher per capita plastic usage than India.

How does it impact people?

- The Ganga provides water not just for drinking and bathing, but also for agriculture to a significant extent.
- If consumed by humans or other creatures, microplastics in river water can induce toxicity in a variety of ways.
- These microplastics are poisonous not only in and of themselves, but they also have a proclivity for absorbing other pollutants found in water, including deadly compounds.
- Although some of the consequences of microplastics on public health are known, much more research is needed.

Answer this PYQ in the comment box:

Q. Why is there a great concern about the 'microbeads' that are released into the environment? (CSP 2019)

- (a) They are considered harmful to marine ecosystems.
- (b) They are considered to cause skin cancer in children.
- (c) They are small enough to be absorbed by crop plants in irrigated fields.
- (d) They are often found to be used as food adulterants.

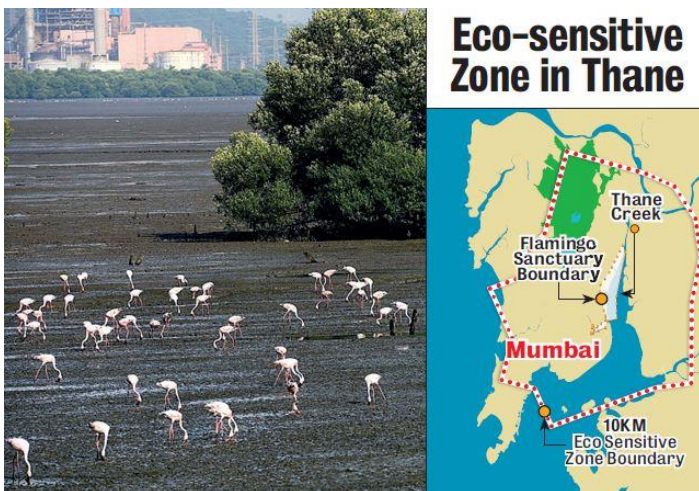
Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary proposed as Ramsar Site

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary

Mains level : Not Much



The Mumbai Metropolitan Region is likely to get its first Ramsar site at the Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary.

Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary

- Since 2015, the Maharashtra government has designated the region along Thane Creek's western bank as the "Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary."

- After the Malvan Marine Sanctuary, it is Maharashtra's second marine sanctuary.
- The Bombay Natural History Society has designated it as a "Important Bird Area."

About Ramsar Convention

- The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (also known as the Ramsar Convention) is an international agreement that promotes wetlands protection and smart use.
- It is the only international pact that focuses solely on a single ecosystem.
- The convention was adopted at Ramsar, Iran, in 1971 and went into effect in 1975.
- Wetlands, once thought to be a wasteland or a breeding ground for disease, now provide fresh water and food, as well as acting as nature's shock absorber.
- Wetlands, which are essential for biodiversity, are fast vanishing, with latest estimates indicating that 64% or more of the world's wetlands have perished since 1900.
- Wetland loss and degradation are thought to be caused by major changes in land use for agriculture and grazing, water diversion for dams and canals, and infrastructure development.

What does one mean by Ramsar Site?

- The Ramsar Convention designates a wetland area of worldwide importance as a Ramsar Site.
- It establishes a framework for national and international action to conserve and wisely utilise wetlands and their resources.

Governance

Dismissal of govt employees: What the Constitution says

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Article 311

Mains level : Civil services reforms

Lt Governor has dismissed 11 Jammu and Kashmir government employees for alleged terror links under provisions of Article 311(2)(c) of the Constitution.

What is Article 311?

- Dismissal, removal, or reduction in rank of persons engaged in civil capacities under the

Union or a State is addressed under Article 311 of the Constitution.

- No civil worker can be "dismissed, demoted, or reduced in rank unless following an inquiry in which he has been told of the charges and given a reasonable opportunity to be heard in respect of those charges," according to Article 311(2).
- However, subsection (c) of the provision states that this article does not apply "where the President or the Governor, as the case may be, is convinced that it is not expedient to undertake such inquiry in the interest of the State's security."

Remedy available

- The only available remedy to a terminated employee is to challenge the government's decision in the High Court.

History

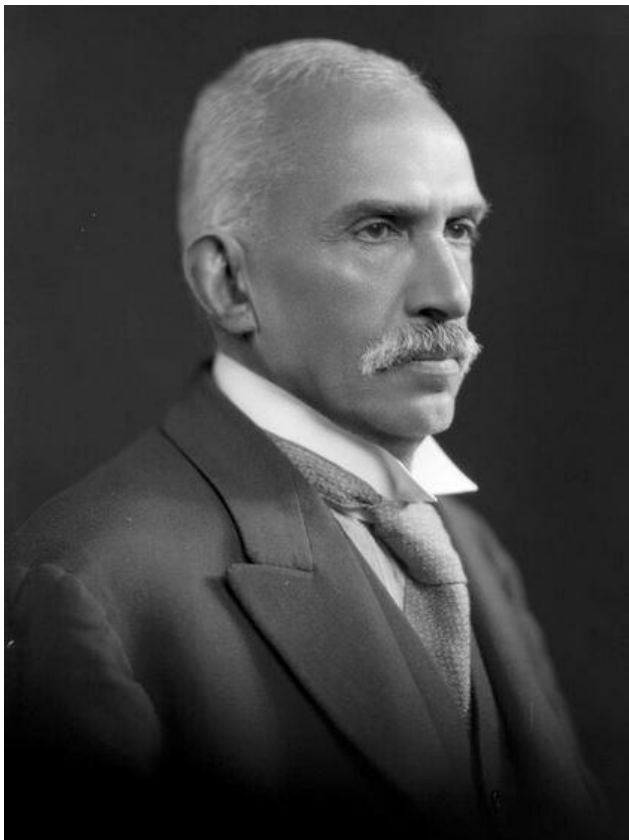
Person in news: Sir Chettur Sankaran Nair

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Sir Chettur Sankaran Nair

Mains level : Not Much



A noted filmmaker has recently announced his decision to produce the biopic of Sir Chettur Sankaran Nair, an acclaimed lawyer and judge in the Madras High Court and one of the early builders of the Indian National Congress.

Sir Chettur Sankaran Nair

- Nair was born in the village of Mankara in the Malabar district of Palakkad in the year 1857.
- His great grandpa was appointed by the East India Company to maintain peace in the Malabar region, and he came from a noble family.
- His grandfather worked for the Civilian Divisional Officer as the head officer.

His legal career

- While attending Presidency College in Madras for his degree, Nair was intrigued to the field of law.
- Sir Horatio Shepherd, who eventually became the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, employed him after obtaining his law degree.
- Nair has been recognised for his combative demeanour since his early days as a lawyer.
- He defied a Madras resolution passed by Indian vakils (advocates) prohibiting any Indian vakil from working as a junior to an English lawyer.

Legacy

- Nair was noted for being an outspoken supporter of social reforms and a fervent believer in India's right to self-determination.
- But it was a courtroom struggle he fought against the Lieutenant-Governor of Punjab, Michael O'Dwyer, that really stood out in his long and illustrious career.
- In his book, 'Gandhi and Anarchy,' Nair accused O'Dwyer of being responsible for the crimes during the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.
- As a result, he was up against an Englishman in an English court, presided over by an English

jury.

- In every way, the case was destined to go down in history.

Key positions held

- In 1897, he became the INC's youngest president in the party's history, and the first Malayali to hold the position.
- By 1908, he had been appointed to the Madras High Court as a permanent judge. Lord Curzon named him to the Raleigh University Commission in 1902.
- The King-Emperor made him a Companion of the Indian Empire in 1904, and he was knighted in 1912.
- In 1915, he was appointed to the Viceroy's Council and given responsibility for the education portfolio.

Career as judge

- His most well-known rulings as a Madras High Court judge demonstrate his devotion to social reforms.
- He made a groundbreaking decision in *Budasna v Fatima* (1914), ruling that persons who converted to Hinduism could not be considered as outcasts.
- He supported inter-caste and inter-religious marriages in a few additional cases.

When were Tilak and Gandhi tried under the Sedition Law?

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Sedition in colonial times

Mains level : Not Much

Recently, Chief Justice of India N V Ramana observed that the “colonial law” was used by the British to silence Mahatma Gandhi and Bal Gangadhar Tilak.

Use of sedition law through history

- The prosecution of newspaper editor Jogendra Chandra Bose in 1891, according to the LOC blog, was the first known implementation of the statute.
- The trials of Tilak and Gandhi are two other notable examples of the law's use.
- Apart from that, sedition charges were levelled against Jawaharlal Nehru, Abul Kalam Azad, and Vinayak Damodar Savarkar.

When was sedition law used against Gandhi and Tilak?

- Gandhi was detained in Bombay in 1922 on charges of sedition for participating in anti-colonial protests.
- He was sentenced to six years in prison, but due to medical reasons, he was released after two years.
- Tilak was tried three times for sedition before Gandhi, and he was imprisoned twice.
- In 1897, he was charged with sedition and sentenced to 12 months in prison for writing an article in his weekly publication, *Kesari*.
- In 1908, he attempted again, this time with the help of MA Jinnah. His bail plea was denied, and he was sentenced to six years in prison.
- He was tried a second time because of his writings, one of which referred to the murder of European women in Muzzafarpur when Bengali revolutionaries threw bombs.
- Justice DD Davar, who delivered Tilak's punishment in the second trial, had already represented him in his first trial in 1897

International Relations

EAM hands over relics of 17th century Georgian Queen St. Ketevan to Georgia

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Black Sea mapping

Mains level : India-Georgia ties

After a long-standing request of Georgia, External Affairs Minister handed over the holy relics of 17th century Georgian Queen St. Ketevan nearly 16 years after they were found in Goa.

Who was St. Ketevan?

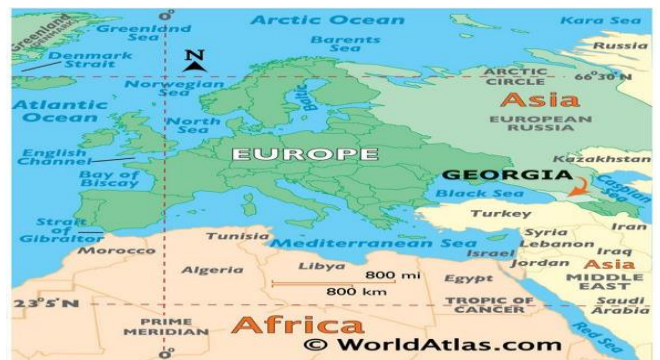
- Queen Ketevan was a Georgian queen from the seventeenth century.
- She was tortured and slain at Shiraz in 1624 during the reign of the Safavid dynasty. She was from Kakheti, a kingdom in eastern Georgia.

Importance of Georgia for India

- Georgia is a vital country located at the crossroads of Eastern Europe and Western Asia.
- Georgia and India have had a long history of friendship.
- Georgian folklore was influenced by the Panchatantra. Georgian missionaries, travellers, and traders visited India during the mediaeval period.
- Some Georgians served in the Mughal rulers' courts, and a few even attained to the position of governor.
- On December 26, 1991, India became one of the first countries to formally recognise

Georgia.

- Georgia is a net exporter of Indian goods.



Q.Consider the following pairs:

Sea	Bordering Country
1. Adriatic Sea	Albania
2. Black Sea	Croatia
3. Caspian Sea	Kazakhstan
4. Mediterranean Sea	Morocco
5. Red Sea	Syria

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched? (CSP 2019)

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 2 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Polity

Government creates Ministry of Cooperation

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Creation of new ministry

Mains level : Cooperatives in India

The Union Government has created a new Ministry of Cooperation with an aim to strengthen the cooperative movement in the country.

With the creation of the Ministry of Cooperation, there will now be a total of 41 central government ministries. Several of these ministries also have separate departments and organizations under them.

What defines a Cooperative?

- A cooperative is defined as "an independent association of people who have voluntarily joined together to achieve their common economic, social, and cultural needs and ambitions through a jointly-owned firm."
- Members own cooperatives democratically, with each member having one vote in the election of the board of directors.

Ministry of Cooperation

- The ministry was established to carry out the vision of 'sahkar se samridhhi' (through cooperation to prosperity).
- The NGO Sahakar Bharati, whose founder Satish Kashinath Marathe is a part-time director on the RBI board, claims to have been the first to advocate for the establishment of a separate

ministry for cooperatives.

- It will establish a distinct administrative, legal, and policy structure for the country's cooperative movement.
- It will contribute to the development of cooperatives as a truly grassroots movement.
- The ministry will aim to improve cooperatives' 'ease of doing business' by streamlining processes and facilitating the formation of multi-state cooperatives (MSCS).

Why need such Ministry?

- A cooperative-based economic growth model, in which each member works with a sense of responsibility, is highly relevant in our country.
- This move demonstrates the company's strong commitment to community-based development partnerships.

Second new ministry created so far

- The Ministry of Cooperation is the second ministry to be established since the Modi administration retook power in 2019.
- The administration established the Jal Shakti ministry shortly after gaining office.
- The Ministry of Cooperation, on the other hand, was not entirely new.
- It was formed by merging two existing water ministries: Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, and Drinking Water and Sanitation.

Mekedatu Dam Project

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Mokedatu Project

Mains level : Inter-state river disputes



Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are again at the crossroads against the Mokedatu dam project in the Cauvery River Basin.

What is the Mokedatu Project?

- Mokedatu, which means "goat's leap," is a steep gorge located near the junction of the Cauvery and Arkavathi rivers in the Kanakapura taluk of Karnataka's Ramanagara district, about 100 kilometres from Bengaluru.
- Karnataka declared in 2013 that it would build a multi-purpose balancing reservoir.
- The project's goal was to help the Bengaluru and Ramanagara districts with their drinking water issues.

Issues with the project

- TN opposed to the project's approval or environmental clearance shortly after it was announced.
- It stated the project was in contravention of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal's final ruling,

which could cause damage to the lower riparian state of TN.

- According to the report, the project will have a significant impact on the natural flow of the Cauvery River and will have a significant impact on irrigation in Tennessee.

What do the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and the Supreme Court say?

- Apart from the Union Territory of Puducherry, the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal issued allocations to all riparian States — Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu — in its final ruling in February 2007.
- It further stated that Karnataka would make "tentative monthly deliveries during a typical year" to Tamil Nadu.
- The States had appealed to the Supreme Court, dissatisfied with the final ruling for several reasons.
- In February 2018, the court altered the water distribution in its verdict, increasing Karnataka's share by 14.75 million cubic feet (tmc ft) at the expense of Tamil Nadu.

What is Karnataka planning?

- Karnataka has set out to pursue the Mokedatu project, buoyed by the Supreme Court's decision, which it regards as a vindication of its position.
- The updated Mokedatu dam project, which was originally intended as a hydroelectric project, serves multiple purposes.
- A approximately 400 MW hydropower facility has also been proposed.
- As stipulated by the Tribunal and the Supreme Court, the proposed reservoir will regulate the flow to Tamil Nadu on a monthly basis, according to the Karnataka government.

Science Tech Art & Culture

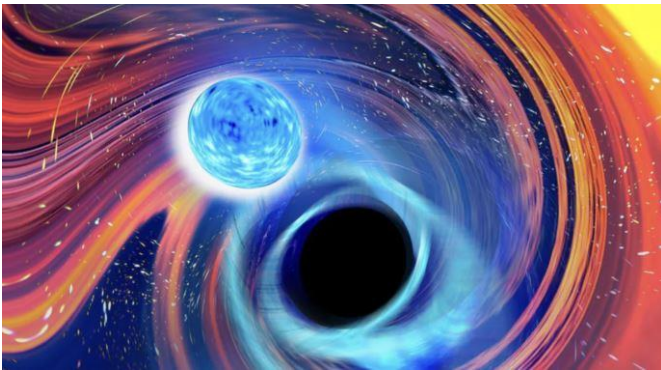
Black Hole swallows Neutron Star

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Neutron star, Black Holes

Mains level : Gravitational waves observation



In an entirely strange phenomenon, astronomers have spotted two neutron stars being swallowed by different black holes.

What are Black Holes?

- A black hole is an area of spacetime where gravity is so powerful that nothing can escape it, including particles and electromagnetic waves like light.
- Neutron stars and black holes are among the universe's most extreme things. They're the remnants of huge, long-dead stars.
- When a star eight times the mass of the Sun runs out of fuel, it explodes in a magnificent explosion known as a supernova.
- It's possible that what's left is a neutron star or a black hole.

There is no upper limit to how massive a black hole can

be, but all black holes have two things in common: a point of no return at their surface called an "event horizon", from which not even light can escape and a point at their centre called a "singularity", at which the laws of physics as we understand them break down.

What about Neutron stars?

- Neutron stars are typically 1.5 to two times the mass of the Sun, but they are so dense that all of their mass is crammed into a city-sized object.
- Atoms can no longer maintain their structure at this density and disintegrate into a stream of free quarks and gluons, which are the building components of protons and neutrons.

What is the news observation?

- Gravitational waves are created when astronomical objects collide, causing ripples in the fabric of space-time that travel all the way to Earth's detectors.
- A global network of gravitational wave detectors picked up the reverberations from the two cosmic objects.

What makes this strange phenomenon?

- Scientists have witnessed gravitational waves from both a neutron star and a black hole for the first time.
- Previous detections of gravitational waves have revealed black holes colliding and neutron stars merging, but not both at the same time.

Why study this?

- The evolution of stars can be pieced together using neutron star-black hole systems.
- Gravitational-wave astronomers are similar to

stellar fossil hunters, studying the remnants of exploding stars to learn more about how huge stars create, live, and die.

Answer this PYQ in the comment box:

Q. "Event Horizon" is related to (CSP 2018):

- (a) Telescope
- (b) Black hole
- (c) Solar glares
- (d) None of the above

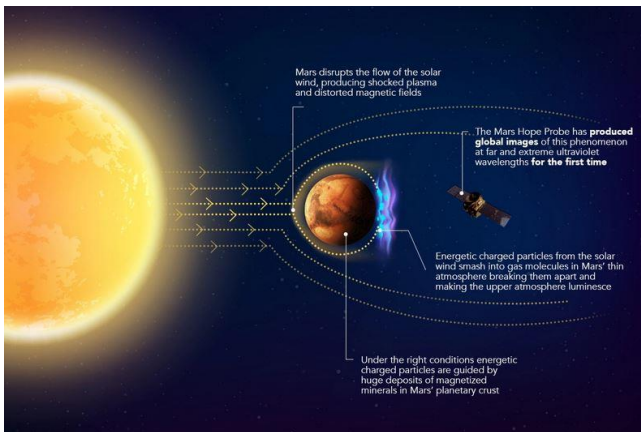
Discrete Auroras on Mars

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Aurora, Hope Mission

Mains level : Study of Mars



The UAE’s Hope spacecraft, which is orbiting Mars since February this year, has captured images of glowing atmospheric lights in the Red Planet’s night sky, known as discrete auroras.

What causes an Aurora on Earth?

- Charged particles expelled from the Sun's surface, known as solar wind, penetrate the

Earth's atmosphere, causing auroras.

- These particles are dangerous, and our planet is shielded from them by the geomagnetic field, which protects us from the solar wind.
- At the north and south poles, however, some of these solar wind particles can continue to stream down and mix with various gases in the atmosphere, resulting in a display of light in the night sky.
- This phenomenon, known as an aurora, can be observed all year long from the Earth's high latitude regions (known as the auroral oval).

Where are they observed on Earth?

- The aurora borealis, often known as the Northern Lights, can be viewed in the northern hemisphere from the United States (Alaska), Canada, Iceland, Greenland, Norway, Sweden, and Finland.
- The aurora australis, often known as the southern lights, is a natural phenomenon that can be seen from high latitudes in Antarctica, Chile, Argentina, New Zealand, and Australia.

So, how are Martian auroras different?

- Unlike on Earth, where auroras can only be seen around the north and south poles, individual auroras can be visible all over Mars at night.
- Unlike Earth, which has a strong magnetic field, Mars' magnetic field has almost completely vanished.
- This is due to the cooling of the molten iron at the planet's core, which causes magnetic.
- However, some magnetism remains in the Martian crust, which cemented billions of years ago when the magnetic field was still present.
- Magnetism on Mars is unevenly distributed, with fields strewn throughout the planet and varying in direction and strength, in contrast to

Earth, which behaves like a single bar magnet.

- As charged particles interact with atoms and molecules in the sky, creating “discrete” auroras over the entire surface of the planet, as they do on Earth, these disjointed fields channel the solar wind to different parts of the Martian atmosphere, creating “discrete” auroras over the entire surface of the planet.

Why is it important to study them?

- Scientists are interested in studying Martian auroras because they may provide insight into why the Red Planet lost its magnetic field and dense atmosphere, both of which are necessary for life to survive.

Answer this PYQ in the comment box:

Q. Which region of Mars has a densely packed river deposit indicating this planet had water 3.5 billion years ago?

- (a) Aeolis Dorsa
- (b) Tharsis
- (c) Olympus Mons
- (d) Hellas

Hope Orbiter

- The Arab world's first mission to Mars, the Hope Probe, launched from Earth in July of last year and has been orbiting Mars since February.
- The mission's principal goal is to investigate Martian weather dynamics.
- The probe will investigate how weather affects the escape of hydrogen and oxygen into space by comparing lower and upper atmospheric conditions.
- Scientists will be able to investigate why Mars lost so much of its early atmosphere and liquid water by detecting how much hydrogen and

oxygen is pouring into space.

- It will be the first time a full picture of the planet's atmosphere will be created.
- Scientists will have a better knowledge of the climate dynamics of different layers of Mars' atmosphere because to the data collected throughout the expedition.

Mars

- Mars is the fourth planet from the Sun and the Solar System's second-smallest planet, only Mercury being smaller.
- Mars is known as the "Red Planet" in English because it bears the name of the Roman god of battle.
- The latter refers to the effect of the iron oxide present on Mars' surface, which gives it a characteristic reddish hue among the visible celestial bodies.
- Mars is a terrestrial planet with a thin atmosphere and surface features that are similar to the Moon's impact craters and Earth's valleys, deserts, and polar ice caps.
- Because the rotational period and inclination of the rotating axis relative to the ecliptic plane are similar, the days and seasons are equivalent to those of Earth.
- Mars is home to Olympus Mons, the Solar System's tallest volcano and highest known mountain, as well as Valles Marineris, one of the Solar System's largest canyons.

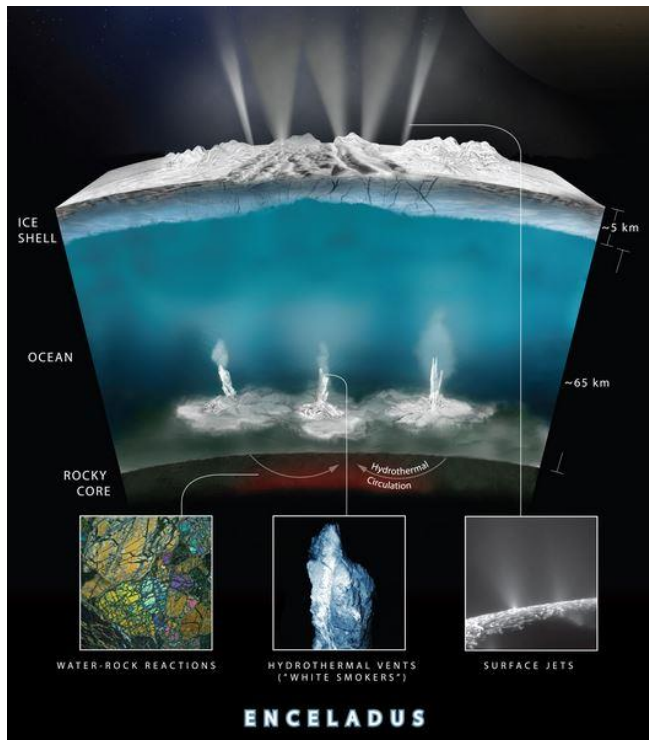
Possibility of life on Saturn’s Moon

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Methanogens on saturn's moon

Mains level : Hunt for extra-terrestrial life



NASA’s Cassini spacecraft has detected an unusually high concentration of methane, along with carbon dioxide and dihydrogen, in the moons of Saturn by flying through their plumes.

What is the new observation?

- The spacecraft has found that Titan has methane in its atmosphere and Enceladus has a liquid ocean with erupting plumes of gas and water.

Are there methane-producing organisms on Earth?

- The majority of methane on the planet comes from biological sources.
- Methanogens are microorganisms that can produce methane as a metabolic byproduct.
- They don't need oxygen to live and can be found in abundance in nature.
- They've been discovered in marshes, dead organic waste, and even human intestines.

- They are known to be able to survive in extreme temperatures, and computer tests have suggested that they can exist on Mars.
- Methanogens have been extensively researched to see if they can contribute to global warming.

Could there be methanogens on Enceladus?

- We can't rule out the possibility of life in the Enceladus ocean.
- It's the possibility that the hydrothermal vents on Enceladus could support Earth-like microbes.
- Life hypotheses are possible.

What other processes could have produced the methane?

- The chemical breakdown of organic materials in Enceladus' core could produce methane.
- The generation of carbon dioxide and methane may be aided by hydrothermal reactions.
- On Earth, methane is known to be released from hydrothermal vents on seafloors, although at a very slow rate.
- This theory is conceivable, but only if Enceladus was produced by the accretion of organic-rich comet material.
- The findings show that methane generation from hydrothermal vents is insufficient to account for the high methane concentrations found in the plumes by Cassini.
- Cassini's observations could be matched by an additional amount of methane created via biological methanogenesis.

2020 Millennium Technology Prize

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important:

Prelims level : Next-generation DNA sequencing

Mains level : Not Much

The 2020 Millennium Technology Prize has been awarded to Shankar Balasubramanian and David Klenerman, for their development of revolutionary Next-generation DNA sequencing techniques.

About Millennium Technology Prize

- One of the world's largest technological rewards is the Millennium Technology Prize.
- It is given out every two years by Technology Academy Finland, a non-profit organisation founded in partnership by Finnish business and the Finnish government.

What is next-generation DNA sequencing?

- NGS stands for next-generation sequencing, which is a massively parallel sequencing technique that provides ultra-high throughput, scalability, and speed.
- The method is used to determine the nucleotide order of entire genomes or specific DNA or RNA portions.
- These technologies make it possible to sequence DNA and RNA much more swiftly and cheaply than previously possible.
- NGS has changed biology, allowing labs to undertake a wide range of applications and analyse biological systems at a level never before feasible.
- More than a million base pairs can be sequenced, corresponding to hundreds of genes or perhaps an organism's whole genome.
- This is conceivable because hundreds of bits of DNA are sequenced at the same time.

What is sequencing, btw?

- The genetic material of life forms, DNA (or RNA

in some viruses), is made up of four bases (A, T, G and C; with U replacing T in the case of RNA).

- A chromosome is the duplex of a long linear chain of these – and information – the blueprint for life – is contained in the DNA sequence.
- DNA replication occurs when an enzyme called DNA polymerase synthesises a complementary strand using an existing DNA strand as a template.
- Balasubramanian and Klenerman's breakthrough concept was to use this strand production process to sequence DNA (or RNA).
- They tweaked their ATGC bases in such a way that each one glowed in a different colour.
- Using microscopic optical and electronic devices, the “coloured” copy of DNA may be read just by looking at the colours.

What about the cost of all this sequencing?

- The Human Genome Project was believed to have cost \$3 billion when it released the first near-complete sequence of our genome.
- Because our chromosomes have a total of 3 billion base pairs, the computation is simple: one dollar per sequenced base.
- By 2020, NGS technologies will have reduced the cost of sequencing to a few thousand rupees.

What is a Bitcoin Hardware Wallet and how it works?

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Cryptocurrencies

Mains level : Issues with Cryptocurrencies



Last week, Twitter CEO announced his payments firm Square would soon build a hardware wallet to store bitcoin.

Bitcoin Hardware Wallet

- The wallet will be a plug-in device that stores, maintains, and secures a user's crypto assets, similar to a USB pen drive.
- To allow people to access a digital asset, it is connected to a cryptographic password known as a "private key."
- Cryptocurrencies are protected by this key from theft and unauthorised access.
- With the help of a secure hardware wallet, the asset owner can access the private key from anywhere and purchase and sell crypto assets.
- Users can manage several accounts with most hardware wallets, and some even connect to their Google or Facebook accounts.
- Trezor, Ledger, KeepKey, and Prokey are some of the most popular hardware wallets.

How is it different from a software wallet?

- Cryptocurrency keys can be kept in either software or physical wallets.
- Software wallets are similar to smartphone apps that store private keys digitally.

- Most software wallets do not charge customers to keep private keys, but they may charge a fee for trading using the programme.
- These wallets may be infected with malware.
- Cold storage for confidential keys is provided via hardware wallets and physical devices. Because the passwords are protected by a PIN and the information is not available to the Internet, hackers will have a difficult time extracting private keys..

The upsides of a hardware wallet

- Hardware wallets are believed to be useful since they may be linked to trade exchanges and used to complete transactions.
- Hardware wallets are typically stored in a secure microcontroller and cannot be transferred out of the device, making them extremely secure.
- The assets' separation from the Internet also reduces the chance of them being hacked. It also does not rely on any third-party software.

Limitations

- The device could be stolen or damaged because the wallet is in physical form.
- Malicious actors could utilise them to steal sensitive information.
- In comparison to software wallets, the equipment can be costly.
- Some hardware wallets include complicated features that are difficult to grasp for newcomers.

Answer this PYQ in the comment box:

Q. With reference to "Blockchain Technology", consider the following statements:

1. It is a public ledger that everyone can inspect

but which no single user controls.

2. The structure and design of block chain is such that all the data in it are about crypto currency only.
3. Applications that depend on basic features of blockchain can be developed without anybody's permission.

Which of the statement given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1 and 3

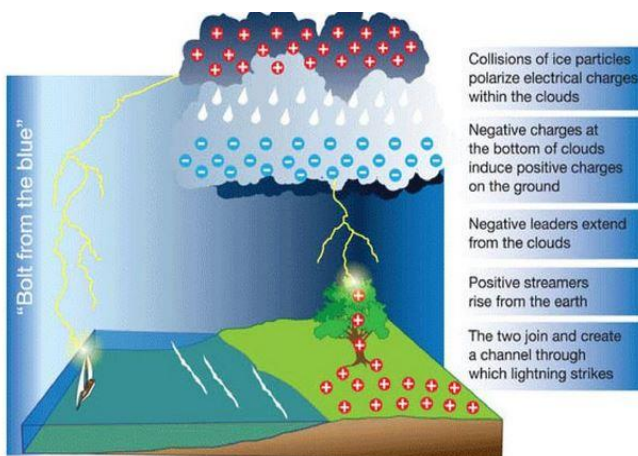
What is lightning, and how does it strike?

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Lightninging and Thunderstorms

Mains level : Not Much



With the monsoon making a slow revival over several parts of India, except the northwest region, there is a rise in lightning-linked deaths.

What is lightning?

- Lightning is a vast — and extremely rapid — discharge of electricity in the atmosphere, with part of it directed toward the Earth's surface.
- These discharges are caused by massive moisture-bearing clouds that reach a height of 10-12 kilometres.
- These clouds typically have a base that is within 1-2 kilometres of the Earth's surface and a top that is 12-13 kilometres away.
- Temperatures near the tops of these clouds are in the - 35 to minus 45 Celsius range.

How does it strike?

- The dropping temperature causes water vapour to condense as it goes upward in the cloud.
- The process generates heat, which causes the water molecules to rise higher.
- The water droplets become into little ice crystals as the temperature drops below zero degrees Celsius. They continue to rise, accumulating mass, until they become so massive that they begin to descend to Earth.
- This results in a system in which smaller ice crystals move up and larger crystals move down at the same time.
- Collisions follow and initiate the release of electrons, which is quite similar to the formation of electrical sparks.
- A chain reaction occurs as the moving free electrons produce more collisions and more electrons.
- As a result of this process, the cloud's top layer becomes positively charged, while the middle layer becomes negatively charged.

Making of the thunder

- The difference in electrical potential between

the two layers is enormous, on the order of a billion to ten billion volts.

- A large current, on the scale of 100,000 to a million amperes, begins to flow between the layers in a very short period.
- A tremendous quantity of heat is produced, which causes the air column between the two layers of the cloud to heat up.
- During lightning, this heat causes the air column to turn crimson. As the heated air column increases, shock waves are produced, resulting in thunder.

How does this current reach the Earth from the cloud?

- The Earth is electrically neutral, despite being a good conductor of electricity.
- However, when compared to the cloud's centre layer, it becomes positively charged.
- As a result, roughly 15 percent to 20% of the current is also directed towards the Earth.
- The destruction of life and property on Earth is caused by this current movement.
- Lightning has a higher chance of striking towering objects like trees, towers, or skyscrapers.
- Lightning tends to change course towards these taller objects after it is roughly 80-100 metres away from the surface.
- This occurs because air is a poor conductor of electricity, and electrons travelling through air seek a better conductor as well as the quickest path to the Earth's surface, which is relatively positively charged.

What precautions should be taken against lightning?

- Lightning rarely strikes people directly, but when it does, it almost invariably kills them.
- People are frequently struck by what are known

as "ground currents."

- After striking a huge item on Earth (such as a tree), the electrical energy spreads laterally over the ground for a short distance, causing electrical shocks to everyone in the region.
- If the ground is moist (as it often is due to the rain), or if there is metal or other conducting material on it, it becomes more dangerous.
- Many people are struck by lightning while standing in flooded rice fields because water acts as a conductor.
- Taking cover under a tree is harmful for the reasons stated above. Lying flat on your back can also put you at risk.
- During a storm, people should seek shelter indoors; nevertheless, they should avoid touching electrical fittings, wires, metal, or water.

Answer this PYQ in the comment box:

Q. During a thunderstorm, the thunder in the skies is produced by the:

1. *meeting of cumulonimbus clouds in the sky*
2. *lightning that separates the nimbus clouds*
3. *violent upward movement of air and water particles*

Select the correct option using the codes given below (CSP 2011):

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) None of the above

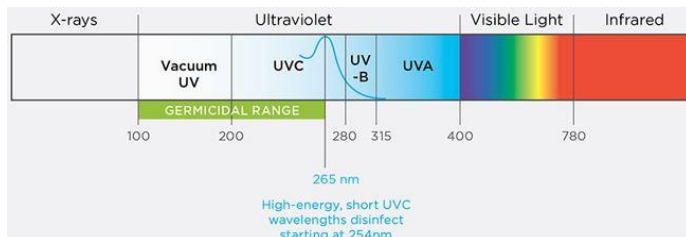
What is UV-C technology?

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : UV technology for disinfection

Mains level : Not Much



The Union Ministry for Science and Technology has informed that Ultraviolet-C or UV-C Disinfection Technology will soon be installed in Parliament for the mitigation of airborne transmission of SARS-COV-2.

UV-C air duct disinfection system

- CSIR-CSIO developed the UV-C air duct disinfection technology (Central Scientific Instruments Organisation).
- The device is designed to fit into any existing air ducts, and the virucidal dosages based on UV-C intensity and residence period can be adjusted to meet the available space.
- The virus is killed in any aerosol particles by calibrated quantities of UV-C radiation, according to the statement. It is suitable for usage in auditoriums, shopping malls, educational institutions, air-conditioned buses, and trains.

What is Ultraviolet (UV)?

- The Sun emits ultraviolet (UV) light, which is a form of light or radiation. It has a wavelength range of 100 to 400 nanometers. Human visible light has a wavelength range of 380–700 nm.
- UV-C (100-280 nm), UV-B (280-315 nm), and UV-A (315-400 nm) are the three bands (315-

400 nm).

- The Sun's UV-A and UV-B rays pass through our atmosphere, but the ozone layer filters out all UV-C.
- UV-B rays can only reach the epidermis, or outer layer of our skin, and can cause sunburns as well as skin cancer.
- UV-A rays can reach your skin's main layer or dermis, causing skin cells to age and causing indirect DNA damage.
- Skin burns and eye damage have been linked to UV-C radiation from man-made sources.

So, can UV-C kill coronavirus?

- UV-C radiation (wavelength around 254 nm) has been utilised in hospitals, labs, and water treatment for decades to disinfect the air.
- However, because these traditional germicidal treatments can create health problems, they are only performed in empty rooms.
- It has the ability to destroy the SARS-outer Coronavirus's protein coating.

Is it safe for humans?

- The device is specifically developed to disinfect non-living things.
- UV-C radiation used in this device could be harmful to the skin and eyes of living beings.

Answer this PYQ in the comment box:

Q. What is the role of ultraviolet (UV) radiation in the water purification systems?

1. *It inactivates/kills the harmful microorganisms in water.*
2. *It removes all the undesirable odours from the water.*
3. *It quickens the sedimentation of solid particles, removes turbidity and improves the clarity of*

water.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(CSP 2010)**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

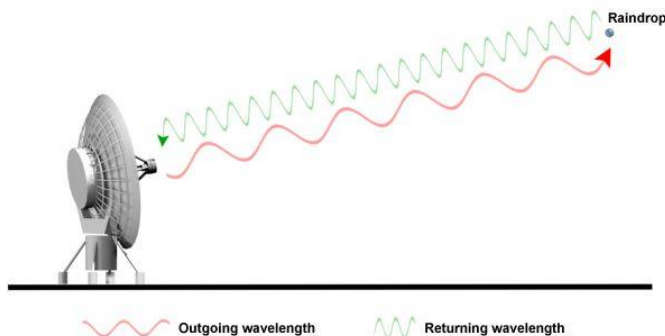
What are Doppler Radars?

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Doppler Radar

Mains level : Not Much



The India Meteorological Department’s (IMD) Doppler Radar in Mumbai, which surveys weather patterns and forecasts, stopped working after heavy rainfalls.

How does a Doppler radar work?

- An antenna in a radar emits a beam of energy known as radio waves.
- When this beam hits an item in the atmosphere, it scatters energy in all directions, with part of it reflecting back to the radar.
- The quantity of energy received by the radar

increases as the size of the object diverting the beam grows.

- Weather forecasting departments can "see" droplets in the atmosphere and determine their distance from the radar by measuring the time it takes for the beam to be sent and returned to the radar.

What makes a Doppler radar special?

- It has the ability to offer information on both the location and movement of targets.
- This is accomplished by tracking the ‘phase’ of transmitted radio wave pulses, which refers to the shape, position, and form of the pulses.
- Raindrop movement can be determined using computers that measure the phase shift between the initial pulse and the received echo.
- As a result, it is able to determine whether precipitation is flowing toward or away from the radar.

Types of Doppler radar

- Doppler radars of various frequencies — S-band, C-band, and X-band — are widely employed in India.
- They aid in the tracking of weather systems and cloud bands, as well as the measurement of rainfall throughout a 500-kilometer coverage area.
- The radars assist meteorologists, especially during extreme weather occurrences such as cyclones and the resulting heavy rainfall.
- Thunderstorms and lightning are detected using an X-band radar, whereas cyclones are tracked using a C-band radar.

Why are they called ‘Doppler’ radars?

- The phase shift in these radars is similar to the so-called "Doppler effect" in sound waves.

- Because sound waves are compressed as they approach the observer, the sound pitch of an item approaching the observer is higher (a change in their phase).
- The sound waves extend as the item moves away from the viewer, resulting in a lower frequency.
- This is why the whistle of an arriving train sounds louder than the whistle of a departing train.
- Christian Doppler, an Austrian physicist from the 19th century, is credited with discovering the phenomena.

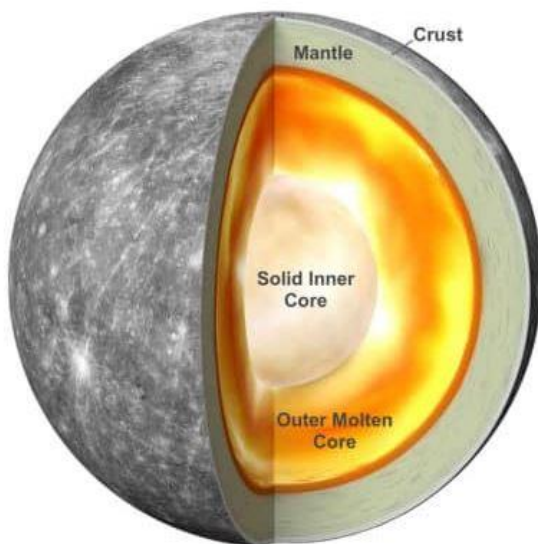
Why does Mercury have such a big iron core?

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Our planetary system

Mains level : Not Much



Researchers have developed a model showing that the density, mass and iron content of a Mercury’s core is

influenced by its distance from the Sun’s magnetic field.

About Mercury

- Mercury is our solar system's first and smallest planet.
- It is also the planet that is nearest to Earth.
- Mercury has a core covered by a mantle and a crust, just like the other three terrestrial planets.
- Mercury's core, however, unlike any other planet, takes up a bigger fraction of the globe.
- Between 2011 and 2015, the NASA robotic space mission MESSENGER orbited Mercury, researching its chemical composition, geology, and magnetic field.
- Mercury's core is solid, according to the MESSENGER mission's study.

Mystery over the core

- Mercury's core is made up of liquid metal, which has been known for a long time.
- The diameter of the core is around 3,600 kilometres. A 600-kilometer thick mantle surrounds it.
- Then there's the crust, which is estimated to be 100-200 kilometres thick.
- Narrow ridges that run for hundreds of kilometres are known to exist in the crust.
- Mercury's enormous core has long considered one of the most perplexing mysteries.

Why does Mercury have a large core?

- The cause, according to a recent study, is the sun's magnetic.
- Mercury's density, mass, and iron content are all influenced by the sun's magnetic field.
- Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars, the four core

planets of our solar system, are made up of differing quantities of metal and rock.

- As the planets go further away from the sun, the metal concentration in their cores decreases.
- The researchers explain how this happened by demonstrating that the distribution of basic materials in the early solar system was controlled by the sun's magnetic field.

What are the key propositions?

- The sun's magnetic field drew iron grain toward the centre during the early development of the solar system, when a swirling dust storm and gas ringed the sun.
- Planets closer to the sun concentrated more iron into their centres during planet formation from clumps of that dust and gas than planets farther away.
- During planetary formation, scientists discovered that the density and amount of iron in the planet's core coincide with the strength of the magnetic field around the sun.
- The pace at which gas and dust were dragged into the centre of our solar system during its creation was calculated using existing planetary formation models.
- The magnetic field that the sun would have produced when it exploded into existence, and how that magnetic field would pull iron through the dust and gas cloud

Cooling led solidification

- Dust and gas that were not attracted into the sun began to clump together when the early solar system began to cool.
- The clumps nearest to the sun would have been subjected to a stronger magnetic field, containing more iron than those further away.
- Gravitational forces dragged the iron into the

planets' cores as the clusters consolidated and cooled into spinning planets.

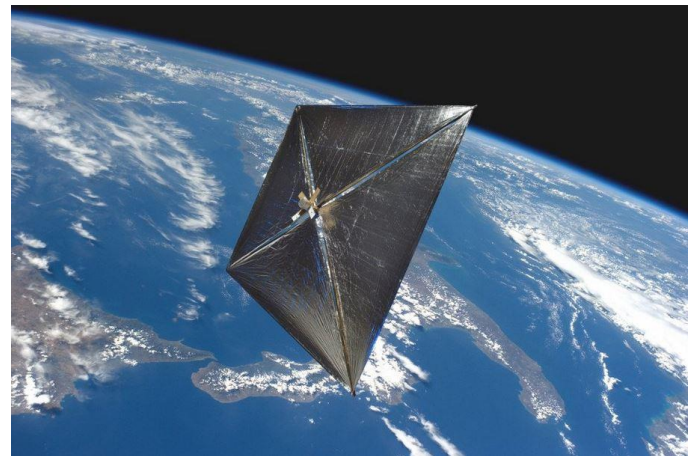
Near-Earth Asteroid Scout Mission

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Near-Earth Asteroid Scout

Mains level : Study of asteroids



Last week, NASA announced that its new spacecraft, named NEA Scout, has completed all required tests and has been safely tucked inside the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket.

For landing on Moon

- Artemis I is slated to launch in November, and NEA Scout is one of several payloads that will accompany it.
- The Orion spacecraft and SLS rocket will be tested uncrewed in Artemis I.
- NASA's Artemis programme aims to put a woman on the Moon for the first time in 2024, as well as create long-term lunar exploration missions by 2030.

What is NEA Scout?

- The NEA Scout, or Near-Earth Asteroid Scout, is a small spacecraft about the size of a large shoebox. Its primary objective is to fly by a near-Earth asteroid and collect data.
- It will also be the first interplanetary trip for the United States to use unique solar sail propulsion.
- This method of propulsion is particularly beneficial for small, light spacecraft that are unable to carry huge volumes of conventional rocket propellant.
- The NEA Scout will include stainless steel alloy booms and a 925-square-foot aluminum-coated sail.
- By reflecting sunlight, the large-area sail will generate thrust.
- Sunlight's energetic particles bounce off the solar sail, giving it a modest but continual push.

How will it study the asteroid?

- The NEA Scout has special cameras that can take pictures with resolutions ranging from 50 cm/pixels to 10 cm/pixels.
- It can also analyse images and decrease file sizes before sending them to the Deep Space Network from Earth via its medium-gain antenna.
- The spacecraft will travel to the asteroid in roughly two years and will be around 93 million miles from Earth during the encounter.

Why should we study near-Earth asteroids?

- Some of these minor asteroids, despite their size, could pose a threat to Earth.
- Understanding their qualities may aid in the development of methods for minimising potential harm in the event of a hit.
- Scientists will utilise this information to evaluate what is needed to reduce risk, increase

efficacy, and improve robotic and human space exploration design and operations.

What is Monkey B virus?

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Monkey B Virus

Mains level : Zoonotic Diseases

China has reported the first human death case with the Monkey B virus (BV).

What is Monkey B virus?

- The virus is an alphaherpesvirus that is enzootic in macaques of the genus Macaca. It was first discovered in 1932.
- The B virus is the only known old-world monkey herpes virus with severe human pathogenicity.

Answer this question from our AWE initiative:

How is it transmitted?

- The virus is spread via direct contact and the interchange of bodily secretions between monkeys, and it has a fatality rate of 70% to 80%.
- Macaque monkeys are regularly infected with this virus, which can be discovered in their saliva, faeces, urine, or brain or spinal cord tissue, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Cells from an infected monkey in a lab could also contain the virus. The B virus can persist on surfaces for hours, especially if they are wet.

When can a human get infected with B virus?

- Humans can get infected if they are bitten or scratched by an infected monkey.

Symptoms

- Symptoms usually develop one month after exposure to the B virus, although they can appear in as short as three to seven days.
- Flu-like symptoms, such as fever and chills, muscle aching, weariness, and headache, are usually the initial signs of B virus infection.
- Following this, tiny blisters may appear in the wound or other portion of the body that came into contact with the monkey.
- Shortness of breath, nausea and vomiting, abdominal discomfort, and hiccups are some of the other symptoms of the infection.
- As the disease progresses, the virus travels to the brain and spinal cord, causing inflammation (swelling) and neurologic and inflammatory symptoms.

Is there a vaccine against B virus?

- Currently, there are no vaccines that can protect against B virus infection.

Who are at higher risk for infection?

- The virus could be dangerous to laboratory workers, veterinarians, and others who come into contact with monkeys or their specimens.
- Only one example of an infected person transferring the B virus to another person has been documented thus far.

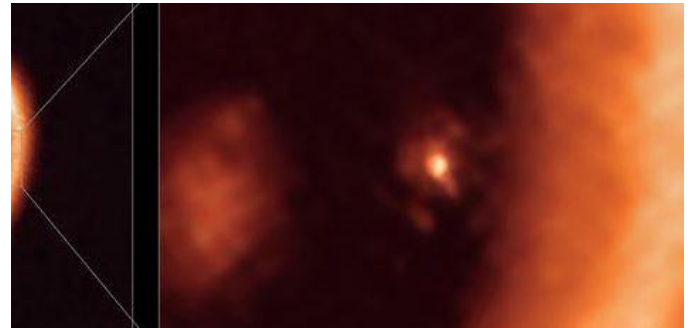
Moon-forming region seen around an exoplanet for the first time

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Exoplanets

Mains level : Core accretion



Scientists for the first time have spotted a Moon-forming region around an exo-planet beyond our solar system.

What are Exoplanets?

- Exoplanets are planets that have been discovered outside of our solar system.
- The majority of exoplanets orbit other stars, while rogue planets, or free-floating exoplanets, orbit the galactic centre and are unattached to any star.
- Except for the two child gas planets orbiting PDS 70, no circumplanetary discs have been discovered until today because all known exoplanets were found in “mature” – completely matured – solar systems.

What is the new finding?

- A disc of spinning material has been discovered collecting around one of two young planets, according to the researchers.
- They were discovered circling a young star called PDS 70, which is only 370 light-years away from Earth.
- It's known as a circumplanetary disc, and it's from this that moons emerge.
- The discovery adds to our understanding of how planets and moons develop.

Focus of the finding: Formation of disc

- The spectacular rings of Saturn, a planet with more than 80 moons orbiting it, are a relic of a primordial moon-forming disc in our solar system.
- PDS 70, an orange-colored star with nearly the same mass as our Sun, is just about 5 million years old— a blink in cosmic time.
- Even younger are the two worlds. Jupiter, a gas giant, is similar to both planets (but Jupiter is larger).
- A Moon-forming disc was discovered surrounding one of the two planets, designated PDS 70c.

Observing birth of a moon: Core Accretion

- Within clouds of interstellar gas and dust dispersed throughout galaxies, stars erupted.
- Planets form from leftover material spinning around a young star, and circumplanetary discs around some planets produce moons in the same way.
- "Core accretion" is the major mechanism assumed to underpin planet creation.
- Small ice-coated dust grains get larger and larger as they collide with other grains in this scenario.
- This process continues until the grains reach the size of a planetary core, at which point the newborn planet's gravitational potential is strong enough to accrete gas that will create its atmosphere.
- Some embryonic planets attract a disc of material around them, resulting in the production of moons around planets by the same process that produces planets around stars.
- The disc surrounding PDS 70c has enough material to form up to three moons the size of

Earth's moon, with a diameter about comparable to the distance between the Earth and the sun. The disc around PDS 70c, with a diameter about equal to the distance of the Earth to the sun, possesses enough mass to produce up to three moons the size of Earth's moon.

Russia's Nauka Module for ISS

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : International Space Station (ISS), Nauka

Mains level : Not Much



Pirs is a Russian module on the International Space Station (ISS) that serves as a docking port for spacecraft and a spacewalk door for cosmonauts. Roscosmos, Russia's space agency, will replace it with the Nauka module, which will be substantially larger.

What does Russia's new Nauka module do?

- According to the original ISS plan, Nauka, which is 42 feet long and weighs 20 tonnes, was meant to be launched as early as 2007.
- Nauka, which means "science" in Russian, is Russia's largest space laboratory to date, and it will primarily operate as a research centre.
- It will also deliver another oxygen generator, a spare bed, a new toilet, and a robotic cargo crane manufactured by the European Space Agency to the International Space Station (ESA).
- The new module was launched into orbit on

July 21 by a Proton rocket, Russia's most powerful spacecraft, and will take eight days to reach the ISS.

What kind of research goes on at the International Space Station?

- A space station is a huge spacecraft that spends a significant amount of time in low-Earth orbit.
- It functions as a big laboratory in orbit, allowing astronauts to come aboard and stay for weeks or months to conduct microgravity research.
- Humans have been living and doing scientific study on the \$150 billion International Space Station (ISS) for nearly 20 years, allowing them to make discoveries in research that would not be possible on Earth.

Back2Basics: International Space Station (ISS)

- The International Space Station is a huge spacecraft that orbits the Earth and houses humans. It launched its first piece in 1998.
- The International Space Station (ISS) is currently the only operational space station in Earth's orbit.
- On November 2, 2000, the first crew of the space station arrived.
- With two restrooms, a gymnasium, and a large bay window, the space station can accommodate a minimum of six astronauts.
- It's a collaboration involving NASA (USA), Roscosmos (Russia), JAXA (Japan), ESA (Europe), and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) (Canada).

Geo-imaging satellite EOS-03

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : EOS-03, SSLV

Mains level : Not Much

Geo-imaging satellite for earth observation EOS-03, which would enable near real-time monitoring of natural disasters like floods and cyclones, is scheduled for launch in the third quarter of 2021.

EOS-03

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has developed a geo-imaging satellite called "EOS-03" for Earth Observation from Geostationary Orbit.
- The EOS-03 can image the entire country four to five times per day, allowing for near real-time surveillance of natural calamities such as floods and cyclones.
- EOS-03 would be able to monitor water bodies, crops, vegetation conditions, and changes in forest cover in addition to natural disasters.

Other developments: Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)

- The Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) will make its first developmental flight from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota in the fourth quarter of 2021.
- The SSLV is a three-stage, all-solid launch vehicle that can carry a payload of 500 kg to 500 km planar orbit or 300 kg to Sun-Synchronous Polar Orbit.
- It's suitable for launching small satellites on demand and with a short turnaround time.
- Flexible nozzle control with electro-mechanical actuators for all stages, downsized avionics, and a velocity trimming module in the upper stage for precise satellite injection are among the primary technologies developed as part of SSLV.

Security Issues

Indian Army Memorial in Italy

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Not much

Mains level : World History: India's contribution in two World Wars

During his four-day visit to the UK and Italy, the Indian Army Chief will inaugurate the Indian Army Memorial at Cassino in Italy, about 140 km away from Rome.

What is the memorial about?

- The memorial commemorates over 3,100 Commonwealth servicemen who took part in the effort to liberate Italy in World War II.
- Apart from this, 900 Indian soldiers were also commemorated on this memorial.

What was happening in Italy in WWII?

- In 1936, Italy joined Nazi Germany under Benito Mussolini, and in 1940, it entered WWII (1939-1945) against the Allies.
- However, Mussolini was deposed in 1943, and Italy declared war on Germany.
- The Allies' invasion of Italy coincided with the signing of an armistice with the Italians.
- Despite this, the National Army Museum in the United Kingdom states that Italy was one of the war's most "exhausting campaigns" for two years because they were up against a smart and resolute foe.

What was India's involvement in World War II?

- India was still under British administration in the first half of the 1940s, and the Indian Army fought in both world wars.
- It was made up of both Indian and European troops.
- There was also the East India Company Army, which recruited both Indian and European men, as well as the British Army, which was also present in India.

India the largest volunteer

- During WWII, the Indian Army was the greatest volunteer army, with over 2.5 million (over 20 lakh) Indians serving.
- As part of the Allies, these men battled the Axis countries (Germany, Italy, and Japan).
- By 1945, the Allies had triumphed, Italy had been liberated, Adolf Hitler had been assassinated, and India was just a few years away from independence.
- Despite the fact that millions of Indians took part, their efforts are not always recognised.

New online platform maps Pegasus spread

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Pegasus

Mains level : Whatsapp snooping

An online database about the use of the spyware Pegasus was recently launched by the Forensic Architecture, Amnesty International and the Citizen Lab to document attacks against human rights defenders.

What is Pegasus?

- WhatsApp's revelations that 1,400 of its users had been hacked by Pegasus, a spyware tool from Israeli firm NSO Group, was one of the biggest stories in cyberspace last year.
- Spyware does exactly what it says on the tin: it watches people's phones.
- Pegasus operates by delivering an exploit link to the target user, who then clicks on it, allowing the malware or code to be loaded on the user's phone.
- A newer version of the malware, it appears, does not even require the target victim to open a link.
- Once Pegasus is installed, the attacker has complete control over the phone of the target victim.

Why is Pegasus dangerous?

- Pegasus is particularly deadly since it destroys all facet of a person's identity. It makes older surveillance tactics appear comparatively harmless.
- It can listen in on all calls and SMS, read all emails, and keep track of all chat apps.
- Pegasus has access to the phone's location data and can manipulate the camera and microphone.
- The programme claims to be able to perform "file retrieval," which implies it can access any document a target has stored on their phone.

What is the new threat?

- Pegasus has progressed from its earlier spear-phishing methods, which used text links or messages, to 'zero-click' attacks, which do not require the phone user to take any action.
- This has increased the potency of what was already the most powerful malware available, making it nearly hard to detect or stop.

How do zero-click attacks work?

- A zero-click attack allows viruses such as Pegasus to take control of a device without the need for human intervention or error.
- Given their nature, zero-click assaults are difficult to detect and even more difficult to prevent.
- In encrypted situations, where there is no view of the data packets being sent or received, detection becomes even more difficult.
- The majority of these assaults target software that receives data before determining whether or not it is trustworthy, such as an email client.

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

Trivia

Festival in news: Harela Festival

Note4Students

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Harela Festival

Mains level : Paper 1- Festivals in India

Villagers across Uttarakhand celebrated Harela, a festival of greenery, peace, prosperity and environmental conservation.

Harela Festival

- Harela, which means "green day," is a Hindu festival held in the month of Shravan (the fifth lunar month) to honour Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati.
 - Greenery is associated with prosperity in Uttarakhand, particularly in the Kumaun region.
 - Maize, til (sesame), urad (black gramme), mustard, and oats are among the five to seven crops sown in donas (leaf bowls) or ringalare (hill bamboo baskets) nine days before the festival.
- On the ninth day, they are harvested and handed to neighbours, friends, and family.
 - The abundance of crops foreshadows good fortune in the coming year.
 - A day before the festival, people make clay figurines of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati, known as Dikare, and worship them.
 - Harela is closely tied to the Barahnaza system (12 types of crops), a regional crop diversification approach.

Answer this PYQ in the comment box:

Q.Consider the following pairs:

Tradition: State

- 1. Chapchar Kut: festival Mizoram*
- 2. Khongjom Parba ballad: Manipur*
- 3. Thang Ta dance: Sikkim*

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3

SECTION 3

Practice Questions with Answers

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. PM Modi recently launched Japanese style Zen Garden in which city of India?

- A) Surat
- B) Guwahati
- C) Ahmedabad
- D) Pune

2. Which country has pledged \$9.3 million in aid to India to help build a cold-chain system to combat Covid?

- A) USA
- B) Germany
- C) Russia
- D) Japan

3. What would be India's GDP growth rate for FY22, according to credit rating agency Ind-Ra?

- A) 10.1%
- B) 8.5%
- C) 9.6%
- D) 7.2%

4. What is the name of the new Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force?

- A) Shirish Baban Deo
- B) Vivek Ram Chaudhari
- C) Raghunath Nambiar
- D) Norman Anil Kumar Browne

5. How much money has the World Bank committed to

funding Covid-19 vaccinations in developing countries till 2022?

- A) \$ 25 billion
- B) \$12 billion
- C) \$8 billion
- D) \$20 billion

6. What was the profession of Raj Kaushal who has passed away recently at the age of 49?

- A) Politician
- B) Sportsman
- C) Journalist
- D) Filmmaker

7. What is the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme interest rate for the second quarter (July-September) of 2021-22?

- A) 7.7%
- B) 7.1%
- C) 7.9%
- D) 7.4%

8. Which startup has introduced the Shopsy app to assist Indians in starting their own online enterprises without having to invest any money?

- A) Google
- B) Amazon
- C) Flipkart
- D) PayTM

9. Who received the Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar in 2020?

- A) Rajendra Kishore Panda
- B) Brajanath Rath
- C) Sitakanta Mohapatra
- D) Balarama Dasa

- A) 0.5%
- B) 0.9%
- C) 0.8%
- D) 0.6%

10. Which state/UT government has introduced the 'Students Credit Card,' which offers a soft loan up to Rs. 10 lakh for higher education?

- A) West Bengal
- B) Odisha
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Haryana

14. Which of the following companies has its first product, OmniCard – India's First Omni-channel Pre-paid Card, designed specifically for the YOUNG Generation and aimed at empowering them?

- A) Eroute Technologies
- B) Finoit Technologies
- C) Agnitio Technologies
- D) Infosys Technologies

11. Which state/UT government launched the 'SUKOON' initiative, a mental health helpline?

- A) Jharkhand
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Delhi
- D) Jammu and Kashmir

15. The Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with which of the following organisations to help India's micro, small, and medium enterprise (MSME) exporters?

- A) Transport Corporation of India
- B) Turbo
- C) Delhivery Logistics
- D) Aramex India

12. On July 1, 2021, which Indian newspaper celebrated its 200th anniversary?

- A) Mumbai Samachar
- B) Gujarat Mitra
- C) Janmabhoomi
- D) Loksatta

16. Who will win the Austrian Grand Prix in 2021?

- A) Lewis Hamilton
- B) Max Verstappen
- C) Valtteri Bottas
- D) Charles Leclerc

13. According to RBI data, India had a current account surplus of what percentage of GDP in the pandemic-stricken FY21?

17. According to the Reserve Bank of India's Financial Stability Report (FSR), banks' gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) ratio could reach what percentage by

March 2022?

- A) 6.1%
- B) 9.8%
- C) 9.6%
- D) 11%

18. Karsten Warholm recently set a new world record in the 400m hurdles, clocking 46.7 seconds, eclipsing the previous mark of 46.78 seconds set 29 years ago. Which country is the athlete Warholm from?

- A) Norway
- B) India
- C) UAE
- D) Africa

19. Which river is the 'Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam' located on?

- A) Ganga
- B) Yamuna
- C) Nile
- D) Congo

20. Which country's Bagram Airfield is the main base of US military troops?

- A) India
- B) Pakistan
- C) Nepal
- D) Afghanistan

21. In which Indian city is the country's first Maritime Arbitration Centre being established?

- A) Agra

- B) Gandhinagar
- C) Pune
- D) Hyderabad

22. In which country was the world's tallest sandcastle recently inaugurated?

- A) India
- B) Pakistan
- C) Bangladesh
- D) Denmark

23. Keshav Datt, a legendary Indian player who won two Olympic gold medals, has died. Which sport did he play for a long time?

- A) Football
- B) Cricket
- C) Hockey
- D) Baseball

24. Which bank has teamed with Creditas Solutions to provide its loan and credit card customers with a guided and customised debt management solution?

- A) HDFC Bank
- B) City Union Bank
- C) Federal Bank
- D) ICICI Bank

25. Who is the chairman of the Union Commerce Ministry's committee to combat digital monopolies in the country?

- A) RS Sharma
- B) Vinit Sachdeva

C) KL Pal

D) Suresh Jain

26. Who is the head of the cement industry's development council, whose job it is to advise ways to decrease waste, increase output, enhance quality, lower costs, and promote product standardisation?

A) Vinod Malhotra

B) Pritam Yadav

C) Puneet Dalmia

D) Sachin Gaba

27. FlexiLoans.com, an MSME-focused digital lending platform, has partnered with which of the following to provide flexible loans to their merchant base?

A) BharatPe

B) PhonePe

C) PayTM

D) Google Pay

28. Which country is having the world's first 3D-printed school?

A) USA

B) Japan

C) Malawi

D) India

29. For which bank's managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO), Shyam Srinivasan, has been re-appointed?

A) State bank of India

B) Bank of India

C) Federal bank

D) HDFC

30. With which country did India adopt the 2030 Roadmap and hold the maiden meeting of the Financial Markets Dialogue?

A) Canada

B) USA

C) France

D) UK

31. According to a WWF-UNEP assessment, which Indian mammal has 35 % of its range outside of protected areas?

A) Wolf

B) Leopard

C) Elephant

D) Tiger

32. In Serbia, who won the Silver Lake Open chess tournament?

A) Anish Giri

B) Nihal Sarin

C) Vidit Gujrathi

D) Srinath Narayanan

33. Who along with Venu Madhav Govindu, co-wrote a book called "The Fourth Lion: Essays for Gopalkrishna Gandhi."?

A) Srinath Raghavan

B) Mukul Kesavan

C) Shashi Bhandari

D) KL Gupta

34. Which field did Kumar Ramsay work in before he died?

A) Politician

B) Scientist

C) Film maker

D) Tech expert

35. Which business created the New Shepard launch system, which recently received unanimous approval?

A) ISRO

B) NASA

C) Virgin Galactic

D) Blue Origin

36. According to the yearly Lightning Report, which Indian state/UT had the most deaths due to lightning strikes in 2020-21?

A) Jharkhand

B) Bihar

C) UP

D) Goa

37. Which temple's mahant was Rameshwar Puri, who died recently?

A) Maa Durga Mandir

B) Rampuri Mandir

C) Kadampuzha Devi Temple

D) Annapurna Math Mandir

38. Mahmudullah of Bangladesh has announced his retirement from which sport?

A) Cricket

B) football

C) wrestler

D) basketball

39. Devotees of the Hindu religion traditionally hold the 'Bol Bom Yatra' in which Indian state?

A) Delhi

B) Madhya Pradesh

C) Odisha

D) Uttar Pradesh

40. Which country's national day is Bastille Day, which was recently celebrated?

A) Japan

B) China

C) Russia

D) France

41. Where would India's first 'Grain ATM' be located in order to prevent long lines for rations and receiving less ration from shopkeepers?

A) Mumbai

B) Ratanagiri

C) Agra

D) Gurugram

42. Which city topped the latest list of India's most popular cities for All India Radio Live-streams on the News On Air App?

A) Bangalore

B) Pune

C) Hyderabad

D) Delhi

43. Which field did Surekha Sikri work in before she died?

A) Politician

B) Dancer

C) Actress

D) Singer

44. Which city will host the 2023 Sudirman Cup Finals?

A) Wuhan

B) Hangzhou

C) Suzhou

D) Beijing

45. The "School Innovation Ambassador Training Program" was inaugurated by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda for which of the following?

A) Tribal students

B) School teachers

C) school students

D) tribal teachers

46. Which state government has announced the launch of the 'Kisan Mitra Urja Yojna,' under which farmers in the state will receive Rs 1,000 monthly grant?

A) Rajasthan

B) West Bengal

C) Telangana

D) Kerala

47. For expedited performance enhancement, state-run CIL has hired which company as a consultant to digitalize mining processes in seven of its choice opencast blocks?

A) Dell

B) Infosys

C) TCS

D) Accenture

48. After the RBI barred Mastercard from onboarding new clients on July 22, which card provider has RBL Bank partnered with to provide credit cards?

A) Indian Express

B) Rupay

C) Visa

D) SBI

49. India's Deep Ocean Mission and marine resources, according to Earth Sciences Minister Jitendra Singh, aim for a total of how much Blue Economy?

A) Rs 50 billion

B) Rs 100 billion

C) Rs 150 billion

D) Rs 200 billion

50. Which countries participated in India's recent virtual maritime exercise, "Exercise Shield"?

A) Japan and China

B) Bangladesh and Nepal

C) Sri Lanka and Maldives

D) USA and Canada

51. Which country is implementing the 'Child Tax

Credit scheme' as a flagship programme?

- A) India
- B) UAE
- C) USA
- D) China

52. In 2021, which country will host the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation?

- A) India
- B) China
- C) New Zealand
- D) Nepal

53. What does the 'Common High Court of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and the UT of Ladakh' stand for now?

- A) High court Of J&K
- B) Special High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh
- C) Common High Court of UT of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh
- D) High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh

54. Who will be the International Olympic Committee's second recipient of an Olympic Laurel at the Tokyo Olympics 2021?

- A) Amir Kapoor
- B) Iqbal Quadir
- C) Alan Jolis
- D) Muhammad Yunus

55. Who is the author of the book "The Ramayana of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji"?

- A) Rohit Patel
- B) Mukul Rocky
- C) Vikram Rony
- D) Baljit Kaur Tuls

56. The Equator Prize 2021 has been awarded to two Indian organisations. Which organisation bestows the biennial award?

- A) UNESCO
- B) UNEP
- C) UNDP
- D) CBO

57. According to the International Olympic Committee, which city will host the Summer Olympic Games in 2032?

- A) New Jersey
- B) New Zealand
- C) Berlin
- D) Brisbane

58. In which championship did Aman Gulia and Sagar Jaglan become the new world champions?

- A) Cricket
- B) Boxing
- C) Badminton
- D) Wrestling

59. Which profession was KTS Padannayil associated with when he died?

- A) Lyricist
- B) Film maker

C) Stunt man

D) Actor

60. Satish Kalsekar, who recently died, was a well-known poet in which language?

A) Marwari

B) Haryanvi

C) Sanskrit

D) Marathi

61. The RBI has boosted the amount of money that banks can lend to directors or associates of other banks without getting board approval. What exactly is the increased limit?

A) Rs 3 crore

B) Rs 4 crore

C) Rs 5 crore

D) Rs 6 crore

62. 'Jogajog' is a social media site comparable to Facebook. Which country is responsible for the development of the new platform?

A) Nepal

B) India

C) Russia

D) Bangladesh

63. With a silver medal, Saikhom Mirabai Chanu has started India's medal tally at the upcoming Tokyo Olympics 2020. In which event does she represent her country?

A) Running

B) Wrestling

C) High Jump

D) Weightlifting

64. What is the name of the book 'Bank with a Soul: Equitas' author?

A) C K Garyali

B) RJ manik

C) Raju singh

D) Ramachandran Nagaswamy

65. Rubina Francis is a para athlete from India who has been awarded an Olympic quota for the present Tokyo Games. Which sport does she compete in?

A) Horse Riding

B) Boxing

C) Discuss throw

D) Shooting

66. Jayanthi Ji, who recently passed away, was one of the most well-known figures in which field?

A) Singer

B) Politician

C) Film industry

D) Scientist

67. Every year on July 27, the CRPF commemorates Raising Day. The force will commemorate which of its Raising Day in 2021?

A) 96

B) 89

C) 84

D) 83

68. The Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed every year since 1999 on which day?

- A) 24 July
- B) 25 July
- C) 26 July
- D) 27 July

- A) 38
- B) 39
- C) 40
- D) 37

69. Every year on the occasion of the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem, an international ceremony is held on which date?

- A) 24 July
- B) 25 July
- C) 26 July
- D) 27 July

73. What is the name of Karnataka's new Chief Minister who has taken over from BS Yeddyurappa?

- A) Basavaraj S Bommai
- B) Rahul Mishra
- C) Krishna Dubey
- D) Manu Singh

70. According to CARE Ratings, India's GDP growth rate in FY22 is expected to be in the range of _____?

- A) 5.1-6.3%
- B) 7.8-9.1%
- C) 6.6-7.6%
- D) 8.8-9%

74. On which day is World Hepatitis Day commemorated each year?

- A) 24 July
- B) 28 July
- C) 26 July
- D) 27 July

71. Which of the following countries/regions topped the World Trade Organization's (WTO) list of the world's greatest agricultural exports in 2019?

- A) India
- B) Nepal
- C) Hong Kong
- D) European Union

75. The World Nature Conservation Day is commemorated on which date?

- A) 26 July
- B) 25 July
- C) 28 July
- D) 27 July

72. How many Indian sites have been designated as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO?

76. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), what is India's predicted GDP growth rate for 2021-22?

- A) 5.1%
- B) 8.5%

C) 7.6%

D) 9.5%

77. In which state did the first-ever Bamboo Industrial Park of the Northeast lay its foundation stone?

A) Kerala

B) Assam

C) Gujarat

D) Rajasthan

78. Dholavira is the most recent Indian site to be added to the UNESCO World Heritage List. What is the location of Dholavira?

A) Rajasthan

B) Gujarat

C) Goa

D) Pune

79. What is the total number of ordnance factories in India?

A) 21

B) 31

C) 41

D) 51

80. Which state's administration system is related with the name "Gaon Buras"?

A) Rajasthan

B) Delhi

C) Assam

D) Bihar

81. What is the FDI ceiling for renewable energy

projects under the automated route?

A) 10 %

B) 50 %

C) 76 %

D) 100 %

82. Which programme has the Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Padhati (BPKP) as a sub-scheme?

A) Fazal Bima yojana

B) PM matru Vandana yojana

C) PM KISAN

D) Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana

83. The AERAI (Amendment) Bill 2021 raised the annual passenger traffic threshold in a major airport to?

A) 35 lakh

B) 45 lakh

C) 27 lakh

D) 59 lakh

84. Which state was the first in the country to implement a universal newborn hearing screening programme that included an automated auditory brainstem response system (AABR)?

A) Gujarat

B) Himachal Pradesh

C) Haryana

D) Punjab

85. Which insurance company recently released Optima Secure, a new health indemnity insurance product aimed at redefining the value clients can gain

from their insurance plan?

- A) LIC
- B) Reliance Health Insurance
- C) TATA AIG
- D) HDFC ERGO General Insurance

86. Which bank has partnered with SMC Global Securities Limited to provide customers with online trading services?

- A) Axis Bank
- B) Karnataka Bank
- C) Dhanlaxmi bank
- D) Federal Bank

87. Which company joined with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in July 2021 to address India's shortfall of tech-skilled workers and provide job opportunities for millions in the digital economy?

- A) Google
- B) Infosys
- C) Cisco
- D) Intel

88. Which payments bank has partnered with Multilink, a fintech company, to build agent points across India?

- A) Dhanlaxmi bank
- B) DCB Bank
- C) Federal Bank
- D) NSDL payments bank

89. According to the Mercer 2021 Cost of Living Survey,

which city in India is the most expensive for foreign workers?

- A) Chennai
- B) Hyderabad
- C) Bengaluru
- D) Mumbai

90. The International Asteroid Day is observed annually on _____

- A) 28 June
- B) 30 June
- C) 29 June
- D) 27 June

91. Who wrote the book "Policymaker's Journal: From New Delhi to Washington, D.C."?

- A) Ranjan Ray
- B) Kaushik Basu
- C) Amartya Sen
- D) Tapan Mitra

92. Who has been named the new head of the Whatsapp Payments India division?

- A) Vishal Puruswami
- B) Mitu Singh
- C) Manesh Mahatme
- D) Harshit Malik

93. In which state has the SALT programme been created to transform basic learning over the next five years?

- A) Karnataka

B) Tamil Nadu

C) Kerala

D) Andhra Pradesh

94. Which countries participated in the Mustafa Kemal Ataturk 2021 joint military exercise?

A) Germany and Turkmenistan

B) Russia and Kazakhstan

C) Turkey and Azerbaijan

D) Italy and Kyrgyzstan

95. Who is India's Attorney General, who has been reappointed for another year until June 2022?

A) K K Venugopal

B) Mukul Rohatgi

C) Sharad Arvind Bobde

D) Prashant Bhushan

96. When is the International Day of Parliamentarism observed by the United Nations?

A) June 30

B) June 27

C) June 29

D) June 28

97. Which city will host the Mobile World Congress (MWC) in 2021?

A) Madrid

B) London

C) Lisbon

D) Barcelona

98. In which event did Rahi Sarnobat just win a gold medal for India?

A) Boxing

B) Shooting

C) Archery

D) Badminton

99. How many national highways have been built in 2020-21, according to Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari?

A) 13,284 km

B) 13,871 km

C) 13,037 km

D) 13,327 km

100. How much has been sanctioned under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, according to Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Narayan Rane?

A) Rs 2.73 lakh crore

B) Rs 5 lakh crore

C) Rs 3.73 lakh crore

D) Rs 4 lakh crore

ANSWERS**1. Correct Answer: C**

On June 27, 2021, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi virtually launched a Zen Garden and Kaizen Academy on the premises of the Ahmedabad Management Association (AMA) in Ahmedabad. These two new programmes are part of Prime Minister Modi's plan to turn Gujarat into a "Mini-Japan."

2. Correct Answer: D

Japan has declared that it will supply India with USD 9.3 million in cold chain equipment and related assistance to aid in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Correct Answer: C

According to credit rating firm India Ratings and Research, the Indian economy is expected to increase by 9.6% in the current fiscal year 2021-22.

4. Correct Answer: B

On July 1, 2021, Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari was sworn in as the new Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force.

5. Correct Answer: D

The World Bank has pledged an additional \$8 billion in funding for developing country Covid-19 vaccinations. The total funding available for the Covid-19 vaccine now stands at \$20 billion. The World Bank has previously announced \$12 billion for the project.

6. Correct Answer: D

The writer-director-filmmaker Raj Kaushal, who was the husband of veteran television actress Mandira Bedi, has passed away after a massive heart attack. He was 49 years old at the time.

7. Correct Answer: D

The rate of interest on Small Savings Schemes for the

second quarter (July-Sept) of 2021-22 would stay constant from the previous quarter (April-June) of 2021-2022, according to the Government of India.

8. Correct Answer: C

Flipkart has launched Shopsy app that will enable Indians to start their online businesses without any investment. Flipkart aims to enable over 25 million online entrepreneurs by 2023 with the help of Shopsy.

9. Correct Answer: A

Dr. Rajendra Kishore Panda, an Odia poet, has been chosen for the Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar, a national prize established in remembrance of the late poet laureate.

10. Correct Answer: A

The West Bengal government has introduced an education loan scheme for students pursuing higher education.

11. Correct Answer: D

The State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) unveiled the 'Sukoon,' the union territory's first 247 counselling helpline number to provide mental health therapy, as part of efforts to promote the mental well-being of the people of Jammu and Kashmir during COVID-19. The toll-free number 1800-1807159 can be used to access services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

12. Correct Answer: A

On July 1, India's oldest newspaper, Mumbai Samachar, celebrated its 200th anniversary.

13. Correct Answer: B

According to figures issued by the Reserve Bank of India, India had a current account surplus of 0.9 percent of GDP in the pandemic-hit FY21, compared to a deficit

of 0.9 percent in FY20.

14. Correct Answer: A

Eroute Technologies Private Limited, a card-based payment company, launched its first product, OmniCard – India's First Omni-channel Pre-paid Card, exclusively for the YOUNG Generation, with the goal of empowering them by providing them with independence and a cutting-edge mobile app in the rapidly growing Indian payment industry.

15. Correct Answer: D

The Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) has signed a memorandum of understanding with Aramex India, a logistics service provider, to promote India's micro, small, and medium enterprise (MSME) exporters.

16. Correct Answer: B

The 2021 Austrian Grand Prix was won by Max Verstappen [Netherlands-Red Bull] on July 4, 2021. Verstappen has already won five times in the 2021 Formula One season.

17. Correct Answer: B

According to the Reserve Bank of India's Financial Stability Report (FSR), the gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) percentage of banks could climb to 9.8% by March 2022, up from 7.48 percent in March 2021, under a baseline scenario.

18. Correct Answer: A

Karsten Warholm, a sprinter and hurdler from Norway, has set a new world record in the 400m men's hurdles by clocking 46.7 seconds at the Bislett Games in Oslo on July 1, 2021.

19. Correct Answer: C

The 'Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam' will be Africa's largest hydropower project when completed. According

to Egypt and Sudan, Ethiopia has begun the second phase of filling the upper Blue Nile dam's reservoir.

20. Correct Answer: D

The Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan serves as a major base for US military forces. According to the base's new commander, the US forces recently left Bagram Airfield in the middle of the night without informing the Afghans.

21. Correct Answer: B

The Gujarat Maritime University and the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) in GIFT City have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish the Gujarat International Maritime Arbitration Centre (GIMAC). GIMAC will be the first of its type in India, managing arbitration and mediation proceedings for maritime and shipping-related issues.

22. Correct Answer: D

A sandcastle in Denmark has set a new Guinness World Record for becoming the world's tallest sandcastle.

23. Correct Answer: C

Due to age-related diseases, Keshav Datt, one of India's best hockey players and a two-time Olympic gold medalist, has gone away. He died at the age of 95.

24. Correct Answer: A

For its loan and credit card customers, HDFC Bank has teamed with Creditas Solutions to provide a guided and customised debt management service.

25. Correct Answer: A

The Union Commerce Ministry has announced the formation of a nine-member advisory council to address the country's digital monopolies. The National Health Authority's CEO, RS Sharma, will chair the advisory committee.

26. Correct Answer: C

Under the leadership of Dalmia Bharat Group CMD Puneet Dalmia, the government has established a 25-member development council for the cement sector, which would recommend measures to decrease waste, increase output, enhance quality, lower costs, and encourage product standardisation.

27. Correct Answer: D

FlexiLoans.com, a digital lending platform for small businesses, has announced a partnership with Google Pay to provide flexible loans to their merchant base.

28. Correct Answer: D

14Trees, an African affordable housing venture, has built the world's first 3D-printed school in Malawi, leveraging technology to address the continent's school shortfall.

29. Correct Answer: C

For Federal Bank's Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Shyam Srinivasan, has been re-appointed.

30. Correct Answer: D

The inaugural meeting of the India-UK Financial Markets Dialogue took place between India and the United Kingdom. In October 2020, it was created at the 10th Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD).

31. Correct Answer: D

According to a new analysis by WWF and UNEP, 35% of India's tiger ranges are currently outside of protected areas.

32. Correct Answer: B

In Serbia, Nihal Sarin won the Silver Lake Open chess event. With eight points from nine rounds, the third-seeded Indian won the tournament.

33. Correct Answer: A

Venu Madhav Govindu and Srinath Raghavan recently co-authored a book titled "The Fourth Lion: Essays for Gopalkrishna Gandhi."

34. Correct Answer: C

The eldest of the Ramsay Brothers, screenwriter and filmmaker Kumar Ramsay, died after a heart arrest. He was 85 years old at the time.

35. Correct Answer: D

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has given Blue Origin permission to launch humans into space using the New Shepard launch vehicle. Jeff Bezos, the former CEO of Amazon, is the creator of Blue Origin, an American aerospace business..

36. Correct Answer: B

According to India's second annual Lightning Report, Bihar had the highest number of lightning-related deaths (401) from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021, followed by Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

37. Correct Answer: D

Rameshwar Puri, the mahant of Kashi Annapurna Math Mandir, died in a private hospital in the city. He was 67 years old at the time.

38. Correct Answer: A

In the middle of a one-off match against Zimbabwe, Bangladesh all-rounder Mahmudullah announced his retirement from Test cricket.

39. Correct Answer: C

In the month of 'Shravan,' devotees begin their barefoot journey to Shiva temple to offer holy water at Shiva shrines during the 'Bol Bom' yatra, which is generally held in the state of Odisha.

40. Correct Answer: D

Every year on July 14, Bastille Day, also known as France's National Day, is celebrated. Across the country, fireworks and parades are held to celebrate the day.

41. Correct Answer: D

Consumers in Gurugram will no longer have to line for extended periods of time or worry about shopkeepers giving them less rations, as India's first 'Grain ATM' has been installed as a test project in the region.

42. Correct Answer: B

For the fourth week in a row, Pune and Bengaluru remain first and second in the latest rankings of top cities in India where All India Radio Live-streams on News On Air App are most popular. Hyderabad has supplanted Chennai to reclaim third place.

43. Correct Answer: C

Surekha Sikri, a veteran actress, died at the age of 75 after suffering a heart arrest. She had been dealing with the aftereffects of a second brain stroke.

44. Correct Answer: C

Suzhou, China has been given the hosting rights for the Sudirman Cup Finals 2023, according to the Badminton World Federation (BWF). The World Mixed Team Championships were scheduled to take place in Suzhou in 2021, but due to BWF's inability to hold any tournaments in China this year, the event was moved to Vantaa, Finland.

45. Correct Answer: B

The "School Innovation Ambassador Training Program" was launched by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda for 50,000 school teachers. The one-of-a-kind teacher training programme intends to train 50,000 teachers in areas such as innovation, entrepreneurship, intellectual property rights, design thinking, product creation, and

idea generating.

46. Correct Answer: A

The 'Kisan Mitra Urja Yojna,' which was introduced by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot in the state, will provide farmers in Rajasthan with a monthly stipend of Rs 1,000.

47. Correct Answer: D

CIL has engaged Accenture Solutions as a consultant to digitalize mining processes in seven of its choice opencast blocks.

48. Correct Answer: C

RBL Bank has partnered with Visa Worldwide (Visa) to issue Visa payment network-enabled credit cards. Because Mastercard will not be able to onboard any new domestic clients (debit, credit, or prepaid) on its card network after July 22, the bank had to partner with Visa.

49. Correct Answer: B

According to Earth Sciences Minister Jitendra Singh, India plans for a Blue Economy of over Rs 100 billion through its Deep Ocean Mission and marine resources.

50. Correct Answer: C

The Indian and Sri Lankan Navies, as well as the Maldives National Defence Force, participated in 'Exercise Shield,' a tri-nation tabletop anti-narcotics and maritime search and rescue exercise.

51. Correct Answer: C

As part of an expanded income-support programme, the US government has begun issuing monthly payments. Eligible families get an initial monthly payment of up to \$300 for each kid under the age of six and up to \$250 for each older child through the Child Tax Credit programme, which has been expanded under

the recent COVID-19 stimulus.

52. Correct Answer: C

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum is hosted by New Zealand on a rotating basis. The company's headquarters are in Singapore. New Zealand recently presided over an exceptional meeting in preparation for a formal summit in November.

53. Correct Answer: D

The name of the court has been changed from "Common High Court of UT of Jammu and Kashmir and UT of Ladakh" to "High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh." The order was issued by the Law Ministry's Department of Justice.

54. Correct Answer: D

The IOC (International Olympic Committee) announced that Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh will receive the Olympic Laurel at the Tokyo Games for the second time. Kip Keino, a Kenyan former Olympian who created a children's home, a school, and an athletes' training centre in his home country, received the award for the first time in the 2016 Rio Olympics.

55. Correct Answer: D

The first copy of "The Ramayana of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji," penned by the late Baljit Kaur Tulsi, mother of famed lawyer KTS Tulsi, was presented to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

56. Correct Answer: C

The UNDP Equator Prize for 2021 has been awarded to two Indian communities: Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar Producer Company Limited and Snehakunja Trust. The award is now in its 12th edition.

57. Correct Answer: D

Brisbane, Australia, will host the 2032 Summer Olympic

Games, according to the International Olympic Committee. The Paralympic Games will also be held in Brisbane.

58. Correct Answer: D

India put up a great show on the second day of the Cadet World Championship, with young wrestlers Aman Gulia and Sagar Jaglan emerging as new world champions in their respective divisions.

59. Correct Answer: D

Noted KTS Padannayil, a Malayalam film actor noted for his comedic roles, died of age-related diseases.

60. Correct Answer: D

Satish Kalsekar, a well-known Marathi poet and writer, died of a heart attack. He was 78 years old at the time.

61. Correct Answer: C

The Reserve Bank of India has increased the ceiling on loans that a bank can grant without board permission to any director or associate of another bank to Rs 5 crore. Previously, the ceiling was Rs 25 lakh.

62. Correct Answer: D

Bangladesh's government is developing a social media platform known as "Jogajog." Aside from that, the government is working on a communication app called 'Alapan' as a replacement for Whatsapp.

63. Correct Answer: D

Saikhom Mirabai Chanu, an ace weightlifter from India, won a silver medal in the Women's 49kg division at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics on July 24, 2021.

64. Correct Answer: A

On July 17, 2021, Shri. Duvvuri Subbarao, the former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, published a book titled "Bank with a Soul: Equitas." Dr. C K Garyali, a retired IAS officer and founder trustee of EDIT, wrote

the book (Equitas Development Initiative Trust).

65. Correct Answer: D

Rubina Francis, an Indian para shooter, won gold in the women's 10-meter air pistol para event at the Para World Cup Shooting in Lima, Peru.

66. Correct Answer: C

Jayanthi, a well-known southern actor, died owing to age-related diseases. She was 76 years old at the time. Jayanthi began her acting career in 1963 and has since appeared in more than 500 films in five languages: Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, and Hindi.

67. Correct Answer: D

On July 27, 2021, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) celebrated its 83rd Raising Day.

68. Correct Answer: C

Since 1999, Kargil Vijay Diwas has been observed on July 26 to commemorate India's victory over Pakistan in the Kargil conflict.

69. Correct Answer: C

The International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem (or World Mangrove Day) is observed every year on July 26 to raise awareness of mangrove ecosystems as "a unique, exceptional, and vulnerable ecosystem" and to propose solutions for their sustainable management, conservation, and usage.

70. Correct Answer: D

India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate is expected to be in the range of 8.8 to 9% in the current fiscal year, 2021-22, according to the Care Ratings agency (FY22).

71. Correct Answer: D

The European Union (EU) has a 16.1% share (ranked

second in 1995); the United States has a 13.8 percent share (ranked first in 1995 with 22.2 percent); and Brazil has a 7.8% stake (ranked third in 1995 with 4.8 percent)

72. Correct Answer: C

Dholavira is the 40th property in India to be designated as a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

73. Correct Answer: A

Basavaraj S Bommai was unanimously elected as the new Chief Minister of Karnataka by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) parliamentary party on July 27, 2021.

74. Correct Answer: B

Every year on July 28th, World Hepatitis Day is commemorated to increase global awareness of the global burden of viral hepatitis, a liver inflammation that can lead to a variety of health concerns, including liver cancer.

75. Correct Answer: C

Every year on July 28, the world commemorates World Nature Conservation Day

76. Correct Answer: D

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has slashed India's economic growth forecast for fiscal year 2021-22 by 300 basis points, from 12.5 percent to 9.5 percent (FY22). India's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow at 8.5 percent in FY23 (2022-23), according to the IMF.

77. Correct Answer: B

On July 26, 2021, Assam Chief Minister Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma lay the foundation stone of the Northeast's first-ever Bamboo Industrial Park at Manderdisa in Assam's Dima Hasao district.

78. Correct Answer: B

UNESCO listed the historic Harappan city of Dholavira in the Rann of Kutchch, Gujarat, on the World Heritage list on July 27, 2021, during the World Heritage Committee's 44th session.

79. Correct Answer: C

The Bill for Essential Defence Services was recently introduced in the Lok Sabha. The bill gives the government the authority to define certain services as vital defence services. The Essential Defence Services Bill aims to restrict strike action by employees at government-owned ordnance companies. A total of 70,000 people work in 41 ordnance factories around the country.

80. Correct Answer: C

Gaon Buras, who work at the village level for the district government, would henceforth be known as Gaon Pradhans, according to the Assam Cabinet. The British selected the village's oldest resident as the head, who would be in charge of land and revenue concerns. In Assam, they were known as 'Gaon Bura.'

81. Correct Answer: D

Under the automatic method, the government has allowed up to 100 percent foreign direct investment (FDI) in renewable energy projects, including offshore wind energy projects.

82. Correct Answer: D

Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Padhati (BPKP) is a sub-scheme of the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) that the Union Government has been implementing since 2020-21.

83. Correct Answer: A

The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2021, was cleared by a Parliamentary Standing Committee with no amendments. The bill

expands the definition of a "major airport" to encompass a collection of airports. It also raised the yearly passenger traffic threshold for a major airport to 35 lakh.

84. Correct Answer: D

The Punjab government launched an automated auditory brainstem response system (AABR) as part of a universal newborn hearing screening programme to address hearing loss in newborns and early children. Punjab has thus become the first state in the country to use the method.

85. Correct Answer: D

Optima Secure, a new health indemnity insurance product from HDFC ERGO General Insurance, aims to redefine the value clients can gain from their insurance plan.

86. Correct Answer: C

Customers will be able to trade online thanks to a strategic agreement between Dhanlaxmi Bank and SMC Global Securities Limited.

87. Correct Answer: C

Cisco Networking Academy and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) have teamed up to address India's tech skills shortfall and provide job opportunities for millions of people in the digital economy.

88. Correct Answer: D

Multilink, one of India's fastest-growing fintech companies with a network of over a lakh agents spread across the country, announced that it will begin a strategic partnership with NSDL Payments Bank to build agent points across the country, as well as provide banking services to rural and urban areas through NEO banking systems.

89. Correct Answer: D

Mumbai, the most expensive city in India, is the most expensive city in the world. It is now ranked 78th. It was ranked 60th in the world in 2020. Other Indian cities in the list are New Delhi (117), Chennai (158), Bengaluru (170), and Kolkata (181).

90. Correct Answer: B

The International Asteroid Day, commonly known as Asteroid Day, is a United Nations-proclaimed day marked every year on June 30 to raise awareness about asteroids and what may be done to safeguard the Earth, its people, and future generations from a catastrophic occurrence.

91. Correct Answer: B

About July 6, 2021, Indian economist Kaushik Basu will release "Policymaker's Journal: From New Delhi to Washington D.C.", a new book on policymaking.

92. Correct Answer: C

Manesh Mahatme, a former Amazon Pay executive, has been hired as the Director of Whatsapp Payments India by Facebook-owned WhatsApp.

93. Correct Answer: D

The state of Andhra Pradesh has launched the Supporting Andhra's Learning Transformation (SALT) programme, which aims to transform the education sector in the next five years.

94. Correct Answer: C

On June 28, 2021, the joint military exercise "Mustafa Kemal Atatürk – 2021" between Turkey and Azerbaijan began in Baku.

95. Correct Answer: A

Senior Advocate K K Venugopal's term as Attorney General for India has been extended for another year by the Central Government, with effect from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022.

96. Correct Answer: A

On June 30, the United Nations observes the International Day of Parliamentarism to honour parliaments and the ways in which parliamentary forms of governance improve people's lives around the world.

97. Correct Answer: D

The Mobile World Congress 2021 (MWC), the world's largest mobile event, began in a hybrid style on June 28 in Barcelona, Spain, with the COVID-19 pandemic in mind. The festival will run till July 1, 2021.

98. Correct Answer: B

In shooting, Indian shooter Rahi Sarnobat clinched the 25m pistol gold medal at the ISSF Shooting World Cup in Osijek, Croatia. The tournament is being held from June 22 to July 03, 2021.

99. Correct Answer: D

Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari announced that his ministry will build 13,327 kilometres of National Highways in 2020-21, averaging 37 kilometres per day.

100. Correct Answer: A

Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Narayan Rane announced the introduction of the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, which will provide MSMEs with an emergency credit line of up to 4.5 lakh crore rupees backed by a 10% Central Government guarantee. Mr. Rane stated in a written reply in the Lok Sabha that the plan has been sanctioned for 2.73 lakh crore rupee

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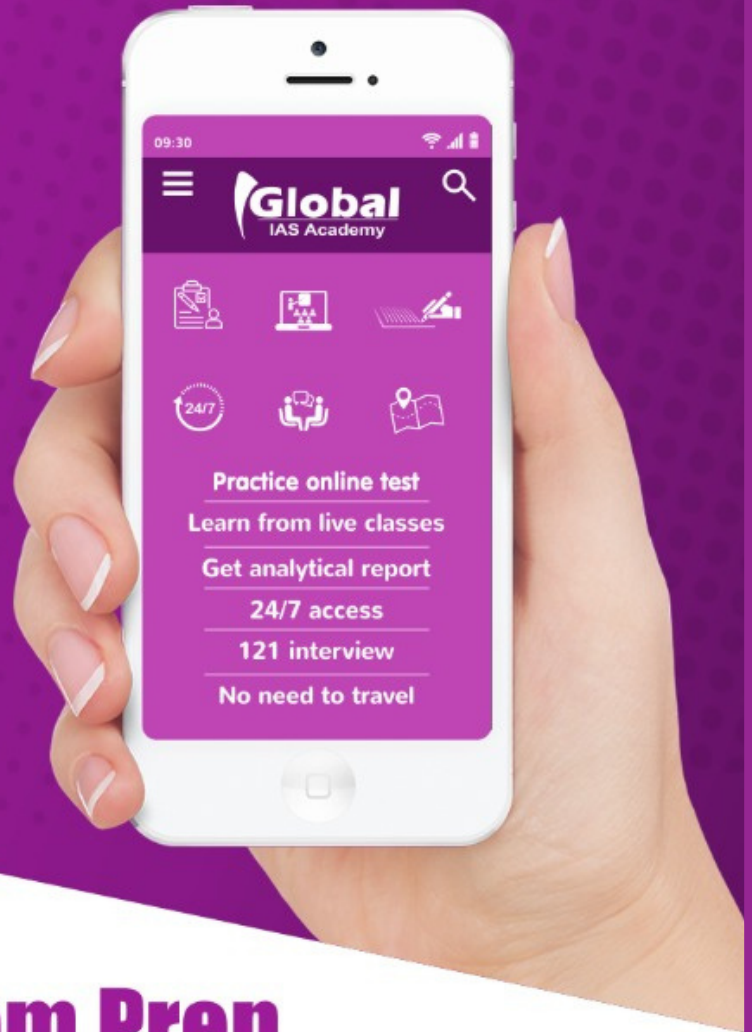
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