

Monthly Current Affairs September 2021 मासिक समसामयिकी सितम्बर 2021

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September 2021**

मासिक समसामयिकी सितम्बर 2021

Important News: State

First edition of 'The Himalayan Film Festival, 2021'

Why in News

1. The first edition of **'The Himalayan Film Festival-2021' (THFF)** will begin from 24 to 28 September at Leh.
2. **Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur** will inaugurate it.

Key Points

1. The film festival is being organised by the Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh in collaboration with the Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.
2. The festival also aims to create an interactive and exposure platform to promote aspiring local filmmakers and to showcase Ladakh as an attractive film destination.

Source: ET

Integrated Aroma Dairy Entrepreneurship for Jammu & Kashmir

Why in News

1. Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology Dr Jitendra Singh has proposed **Integrated Aroma Dairy Entrepreneurship** for Jammu & Kashmir to augment the income of farmers.
2. The same can be effectively integrated with **Aroma Mission** which has already been launched in J&K by CSIR under the aegis of Union Ministry of Science & Technology.
3. Recently, **CSIR Floriculture Mission** has been launched in 21 States and Union Territories of India.

Key Points

About Aroma Mission:

1. The Aroma Mission, also popularly referred as **"Lavender or Purple Revolution"**, has started from J&K and transformed the lives of

farmers.

Nodal Agencies: The nodal laboratory is CSIR-Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Lucknow.

2. The participating laboratories are CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology, Palampur; CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu etc.
3. CSIR-IIIM-Jammu announced Aroma Mission phase-II in February, 2021 after the success of the first phase.

About Floriculture Mission:

1. The CSIR Floriculture Mission is expected to create opportunities for entrepreneurship development in floriculture.
2. The mission will focus on commercial floral crops, seasonal/annual crops, wild ornaments and cultivation of flower crops for honey bee rearing. Some of the popular crops include Gladiolus, Canna, Carnation, Chrysanthemum, Gerbera, Lilium, Marigold, Rose, Tuberose etc.

Note: The Indian floriculture market was worth Rs 15700 crore in 2018. The market is projected to reach Rs 47200 crore by 2024 during 2019-24.

Source: PIB

Guru Ghasidas National Park to become India's 53rd Tiger Reserve

Why in News

1. Guru Ghasidas National Park will become the country's 53rd Tiger Reserve, as soon as it gets approval from the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**.
2. It will be the **4th of Chhattisgarh** and 53rd of the country's Tiger Reserve.

Key Points

3. In the year 2019 a resolution was passed by Chhattisgarh Forest to make, Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla Sanctuary as Tiger Reserve.
4. Before the formation of Chhattisgarh, this was part of Sanjay National Park in United Madhya Pradesh.
5. The Tiger Reserve has been formed by combining Guru Ghasidas National Park of Korea and Tamor Pingla Sanctuary of Surguja.
6. At present there are **3 tiger reserves, Achanakmar, Udanti Sitanadi and**

Indravati in the state.

About National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA):

1. **NTCA** is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change constituted under enabling provisions of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, as amended in 2006.

About Project Tiger:

1. Project Tiger is a tiger conservation programme launched in April 1973 by the Government of India.
2. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme that provides the required support for the conservation of the tiger in the country.

Source: zeenews

India's largest open-air fernery in Uttarakhand

Why in News

1. India's largest open-air fernery was inaugurated in **Uttarakhand's Ranikhet**.

Key Points

About the Ranikhet fernery:

2. The fernery has the largest collection of fern species, second to only **Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanical Garden and Research Institute (TBGRI), Thiruvananthapuram**.
 3. However, it is the country's first open-air fernery in natural surroundings which is not under any poly-house/ shade house.
 4. The fernery spreads over 4 acres of land at an altitude of 1,800 metres.
 5. It has been developed by the Research Wing of Uttarakhand Forest Department over a period of three years, under **Central Government's CAMPA scheme**.
 6. **About CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority):** The CAMPA by the Ministry of Environment and Forests was introduced in 2004 to accelerate activities for the preservation of natural forests, management of wildlife, infrastructure development in forests, and other allied works.
1. The Ranikhet fernery has 120 different types of fern.

2. The fernery has a mix of species from the western Himalayan region, the eastern Himalayan region, and the Western Ghats.
3. It houses several rare species, including Tree Fern, a threatened species by the State Biodiversity Board of Uttarakhand.

About Ferns:

1. Ferns are non-flowering pteridophytes.
2. They have medicinal and edible purposes. Ferns clean the ecosystem and are good nitrogen fixating agents.

Note: Recently, **India's first cryptogamic garden** was inaugurated in July 2021 in **Uttarakhand's Dehradun district**.

Source: newsonair

Prime Minister inaugurates Sardardham Bhavan at Ahmedabad

Why in News

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **Sardardham Bhavan at Ahmedabad in Gujarat**.
2. He has also laid the foundation stone of **Sardardham Phase-II Kanya Chhatralay (Girls' Hostel)**.

Key Points

1. Sardardham Bhavan has been developed by Patidar Samaj.
2. Sardardham has been working towards educational & social transformation, upliftment of weaker sections of society and providing employment opportunities to the youth.

Source: TOI

Tamil Nadu to observe Periyar's birth anniversary as Day of Social Justice

Why in News

1. **Tamil Nadu government** has decided to celebrate the birth anniversary of social reformer **E.V. Ramasamy Periyar** as **'Day of Social Justice'** on **September 17 every year**.

Key Points

About E.V. Ramasamy Periyar:

2. Erode Venkatappa Ramasamy commonly known as Periyar, was an Indian social activist and politician who started the Self-Respect Movement and Dravidar Kazhagam.
3. He is known as the 'Father of the Dravidian movement'.
4. He promoted the principles of rationalism, self-respect, women's rights and eradication of caste.

Source: The Hindu

Uttarakhand Governor Baby Rani Maurya resigns

Why in News

1. Uttarakhand Governor Baby Rani Maurya resigned, two years before completing her tenure.

Key Points

2. Baby Rani Maurya tendered her resignation to President Ram Nath Kovind.
3. She was sworn in as the 7th governor of Uttarakhand on August 26, 2018.
4. She has the distinction of being the first woman mayor of Agra from 1995 to 2000.
5. She had also been a member of the National Commission for Women from 2002 to 2005.

Source: TOI

Chandigarh gets its first pollen calendar

Why in News

1. Chandigarh now has its first pollen calendar, which can identify potential allergy triggers and provide a clear understanding for clinicians as well as allergy sufferers about their causes to help limit their exposure during high pollen loads.
2. **PGIMER, Chandigarh** developed the first Pollen Calendar for Chandigarh city.

Key Points

About Pollen calendars:

1. Pollen calendars represent the time dynamics of airborne pollen present in a particular geographical area.
2. They yield readily accessible visual details about various airborne pollen taxa present throughout the year, with their seasonality in a single picture.
3. Pollen calendars are location-specific, with concentrations closely related to locally distributed flora.

Note: Europe, UK and the US are using regional pollen calendars in a big way to prevent and diagnose allergic rhinitis/hay fever and predict the timing and severity of the pollen season.

About Pollen:

1. Pollen grains are male biological structures with the primary role of fertilisation, but when inhaled by humans, they may strain the respiratory system and cause allergies.
2. About 20-30% of the population suffers from allergic rhinitis/hay fever in India, and approximately 15% develop asthma.
3. Pollen is considered major outdoor airborne allergens responsible for allergic rhinitis, asthma, and atopic dermatitis in humans.

Source: PIB

Tamil Nadu to set up India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve

Why in News

1. The **Tamil Nadu government** announced to set up **India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve** in the **Palk Bay** in **Tamil Nadu**.

Key Points

About Dugong:

2. Dugong, also called the sea cow, is a marine mammal.
3. They can grow upto three meters long, weigh about 300 kilograms, and live for about 65 to 70 years.
4. Dugong is listed as Vulnerable on the **IUCN Red List of Threatened Species**.

5. They are found in over 30 countries and in India are seen in the Gulf of Mannar, Gulf of Kutch, Palk Bay, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Note: Marine Conservation Reserve will be established over an area of 500km in Palk Bay.

Source: The Hindu

Assam cabinet drops Rajiv Gandhi's name from Orang National Park

Why in News

1. The Assam Cabinet has decided to drop former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's name from the Orang National Park.
2. Now the Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park will be known as the Orang National Park.
3. The decision to restore the original name of Orang National Park was taken following requests from the Adivasi groups in the State.

Key Points

About Orang National Park:

1. Situated about 120 km north-east of Guwahati, the 79.28 sq. km Orang is one of Assam's seven national parks and among the top three rhino habitats.
2. It also has one of the highest density of tigers in the country.
3. Orang was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1985 and was upgraded to a national park in 1999.
4. It became the Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park during the Congress government headed by Tarun Gogoi.
5. The national park was declared a Tiger Reserve by the National Tiger Conservation Authority in March 2016.

Note: Assam currently has seven national parks: Kaziranga, Manas, Orang, Nameri, Dibru-Saikhowa and more recently, Raimona and Dehing Patkai.

Source: The Hindu

Manipur CM launches e-ILP platform to regulate entry, exit and tracking of visitors

Why in News

1. **Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh** launched the **e-ILP platform** for effective regulation of the **Inner Line Permit (ILP)** system in the state.
2. The ILP system came into effect in Manipur on January 1, 2020.
3. Manipur issues 4 different categories of permissions: temporary, regular, special, and labour permits.

Key Points

About Inner Line Permit (ILP):

1. **ILP** is a document that Indian citizens from other states are required to possess in order to enter states like Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland and Manipur.
2. **e-ILP platform** will play a vital role in **regulating the entry, exit and tracking of visitors**.
3. e-ILP platform has a comprehensive dashboard system that actively shows varied information such as number of people entering the state on a particular day and time and a graphical break-up-based presentation of people visiting through different entry gates.
4. An Inner Line Permit Monitoring Cell with DIG (Intelligence) as its chairman had been set up to ensure proper reading of entry and exit and to track over stay.

Source: Indian Express

Ladakh declares Black-Necked Crane as its State Bird, Snow Leopard as State Animal

Why in News

1. The **Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh** declared the Black-Necked Crane (*Grus nigricollis*) and Snow Leopard (*Panther unica*) as its state bird and animal, respectively.

Key Points

2. Black-necked crane was previously the State bird of the former state of J&K, along with Hangul as the state animal.

About Black-necked crane:

3. Black-necked crane was chosen as the state bird since it is only found in the eastern region of Ladakh.
4. Crane is listed in Schedule I of the **Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972** and as **Near Threatened** on the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List**.

About Snow leopard:

1. Snow leopards are mainly found in the western and eastern regions of the Himalayas, including Ladakh, J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
2. Leopard is listed in Schedule I of the **Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972** and as **Vulnerable** on the **IUCN Red List**.

Note: The Centre on August 5, 2019 abrogated Article 370 of Constitution to end J&K's special status and pave the way for notification of UTs of Ladakh and J&K in October that year.

Source: TOI

Chandigarh Railway Station awarded 5-star 'Eat Right Station' certification

Why in News

1. Chandigarh Railway Station has been awarded a **5- star 'Eat Right Station' certification** by **FSSAI** for providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers.

Key Points

2. **Chandigarh Railway** Station becomes the **fifth station in India** to get this recognition.
3. The other railway stations with this certification include Anand Vihar Terminal Railway Station; (Delhi), Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus; (Mumbai), Mumbai Central Railway Station; (Mumbai) and Vadodara Railway Station.

About 'Eat Right Station' certification:

1. This certification is granted by **FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India)** to railway stations adhering to standard food storage and hygiene practices.
2. The certification is part of the '**Eat Right India**' movement of **FSSAI** to transform the country's food system to ensure safe, healthy food for all

Indians.

Source: PIB

Important News: India

National Single Window System for Investors and Businesses

Why in News

1. The **Ministry of Commerce & Industry** has launched the **National Single Window System (NSWS)** for Investors and Businesses.
2. The National Single Window System will usher in a change from the legacy of running to government offices and will promote the ease of doing business.

Key Points

About National Single Window System (NSWS):

1. **DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade)** along with **Invest India** initiated the process of developing the portal as a National Single Window System.
2. It will become a one-stop-shop for investors for approvals & clearances.
3. It will provide strength to other schemes e.g. Make in India, Startup India, PLI scheme etc.

Other Initiatives to improve Ease of Doing Business:

1. Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI)
2. India Industrial Land Bank System
3. Investment Clearance Cell (ICC)
4. Amendments to Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and Decriminalisation under Companies Act, 2013
5. Reduction of corporate tax from 30% to 25% for mid-sized companies

Note: India ranked 63rd out of 190 countries in Ease Doing Business 2020: World Bank Report

Source: The Hindu

Ministry of Education forms a National Steering Committee for the development of National Curriculum Frameworks

Why in News

1. The Ministry of Education has formed the **12 member National Steering Committee for the development of National Curriculum Frameworks** in line with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.

Key Points

2. The committee will be chaired by former **ISRO Chairman Dr K Kasturirangan**. He was also Chairman of the Drafting Committee of NEP, 2020.

Terms of Reference of the Committee:

3. As per the perspectives of the NEP 2020, the Committee will develop four National Curriculum Frameworks- i.e., the National Curriculum Framework for School Education, National Curriculum for Early Childhood Care and Education, National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education and National Curriculum Framework for Adult Education.
4. Tenure of the National Steering Committee will be three years from the date of its notification.

Source: PIB

High Level Expert Committee for a comprehensive review of NCC

Why in News

1. The **Ministry of Defence** has constituted a **15-member High Level Expert Committee** for a comprehensive review of the **National Cadet Corps (NCC)**.

Key Points

2. The committee will be chaired by former Member of Parliament (MP) **Baijayant Panda** and will include former **Indian cricket team captain MS Dhoni**, industrialist **Anand Mahindra** and former sports minister **Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore**.

Objective:

3. Committee to suggest measures to empower NCC cadets to contribute more effectively towards nation building
4. To propose ways for gainful engagement of NCC Alumni for betterment of the

organisation

5. To recommend best practices of similar international youth organisations for inclusion in NCC curriculum

About National Cadet Corps (NCC):

1. The NCC is the largest uniformed organisation which aims at developing character, discipline, a secular outlook and ideals of selfless service amongst young citizens.
2. The NCC is the youth wing of the Indian Armed Forces.
3. **Headquarters:** New Delhi
4. **Founded:** 16 April 1948

Source: PIB

KVIC launches SPIN (Strengthening the Potential of India) Scheme

Why in News

1. **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** launched a unique Scheme called **SPIN (Strengthening the Potential of India)**.
2. SPIN is a specially designed program to make potters self-sustainable.

Key Points

Salient Features of SPIN Scheme:

1. It is a no-subsidy program.
2. KVIC facilitates potters to get bank loans under Pradhan Mantri Shishu Mudra Yojana.

Other Related Schemes:

1. Terracotta Grinder
2. Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme
3. Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana

Source: TOI

Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana (RKVY)

Why in News

4. The **Ministry of Railways** launched **Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana** under the aegis of **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)**.

Key Points

About Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana (RKVY):

5. The aim is to impart training skills to the youth in various trades to bring qualitative improvement.
6. The training will be provided to 50000 candidates over a period of three years.
7. The training will be provided in 4 trades viz. Electrician, Machinist, Welder and Fitter.
8. The scheme is being launched for 1000 participants initially and will be over and above the training provided to apprentices under the **Apprentice Act 1961**.

About Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY):

1. It is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) implemented by National Skill Development Corporation.
2. The **1st version** of **PMKVY** was launched in **2015**.
3. **PMKVY 2.0** was launched for **2016-20**.
4. **PMKVY 3.0** was launched in **2021**.

Other Related Initiatives:

1. ASEEM (Atma Nirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping)
2. SANKALP (Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood)
3. STRIVE (Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement)
4. SHREYAS (Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills)
5. YuWaah Youth Skilling Initiative
6. National Career Service Project

Source: PIB

'Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India' Report: NITI Aayog

Why in News

1. **NITI Aayog** launched the report, titled '**Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India**'.

Key Points

About the Report:

2. The report has been developed by NITI Aayog, in consultation with concerned ministries and eminent experts in the domain of urban and regional planning.

Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity:

3. India is the second largest urban system in the world with almost 11% of the total global urban population living in Indian cities.
4. Urban growth is expected to contribute to 73% of the total population increase by 2036.
5. Over 75% of the urban population is in 10 States: Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Kerala.
6. Urban planning is the foundation for an integrated development of cities, citizens, and the environment. Unfortunately, it has received due attention so far.
7. **Report's main recommendation:** Programmatic Intervention for Planning of Healthy Cities: Every city must aspire to become a 'Healthy City for All' by 2030. The report recommends a Central Sector Scheme '500 Healthy Cities Programme', for a period of 5 years, wherein priority cities and towns would be selected jointly by the states and local bodies.

Schemes/Programmes Related to Urban Development:

1. AMRUT Mission
2. Smart Cities
3. Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban
4. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban
5. The National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY)

Source: PIB

Crime in India Report 2020: NCRB

Why in News

1. The **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** has released the **68th edition of Crime in India Report 2020**.

Key Points

Findings of the Report:

Communal riots:

2. Communal riots registered an increase of 96% in 2020 over the previous year (2019).
3. **Delhi Police** alone registered the highest 520 cases of communal riots in 2020.
4. **Uttar Pradesh** did not record a single case of communal violence in 2020.

Caste riots:

1. Caste riots saw an increase of close to 50%, agrarian riots 38% and riots during 'andolan/morcha' increased by 33%.
2. Cases of caste conflict increased from 492 in 2019 to 736 in 2020. Bihar recorded the highest number in this category at 208.

Traditional Crimes:

1. While 2020 — a year marked by months of a national lockdown due to the pandemic — saw fewer “traditional crimes” such as those committed against women and children, among others, it witnessed a big spike in civil conflicts.
2. The number of cases registered for crimes against women, children and senior citizens, theft, burglary, robbery and dacoity, among others, dropped by about 2 lakh.
3. Murder registered a marginal increase of 1% even as offences falling under the “violent crimes” category decreased by 0.5%.

Offences against the State:

1. The year also saw a significant drop in cases related to 'Offences against the State', with a drop of 27% over 2019.
2. Uttar Pradesh, however, was the only major state to record an increase in this category, mostly due to the large number of 'Damage to Public Property' cases registered by the state, many of them during the anti- CAA protests.

3. It includes cases related to sedition and waging war against the nation, those falling under provisions of the Official Secrets Act, Unlawful Activities Prevention Act and Damage to Public Property Act.

Source: Indian Express

Connect Karo 2021 **Why in News**

1. **Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri** addressed the inaugural session of 'Connect Karo 2021 - Towards Equitable, Sustainable Indian Cities' program.
2. It was organized by the **World Resources Institute (WRI) India**.

Key Points

Minister's Address:

1. **By 2030, almost 70% of the national GDP** will come from our cities as rapid urbanisation facilitates efficiencies of agglomerations.
2. The best-performing cities globally contribute **five times more to national GDP** than comparable Indian cities.
3. By 2030, the urban population in India will almost double to 630 million.
4. Improved urban ecosystems will have quantifiable positive impacts on not just the targets of **SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)** but also on other national priorities such as poverty, health, education, sanitation, energy, and climate action, the Minister added.

Related Government Initiatives:

1. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana
2. Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT Mission)
3. Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework
4. Urban Transport scheme
5. Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban)
6. Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)

Source: PIB

Prime Minister lays the foundation stone of Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh State University in Aligarh

Why in News

1. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone of **Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh State University in Aligarh**.
2. **Prime Minister** also visited the exhibition models of the **Aligarh node of Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor** and Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh State University.

Key Points

About Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh State University:

1. The University is being established by the Uttar Pradesh State Government in the memory and honour of Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh.
2. The University is being set up in a total area of over 92 acres at village Lodha and village Musepur Kareem Jarouli of Aligarh's Koil tehsil.

About Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh:

1. Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh was born in the Hathras District of Uttar Pradesh on 1 December 1886.
2. He was an Indian freedom fighter, journalist, writer, revolutionary.
3. He was a member of the second Lok Sabha in 1957–1962.
4. He was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1932.

About UP's Defense Industrial Corridor:

1. The establishment of a Defense Industrial Corridor in Uttar Pradesh was announced by the Prime Minister while inaugurating the UP Investors Summit in Lucknow on February 21, 2018.
2. A total of 6 nodes – Aligarh, Agra, Kanpur, Chitrakoot, Jhansi and Lucknow – have been planned in the Defense Industrial Corridor.

Source: PIB

Swachh Survekshan Grameen (SSG) 2021

Why in News

1. The Minister of State, Jal Shakti Ministry, Prahlad Singh Patel launched

Swachh Survekshan Grameen (SSG) 2021 under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase –II.

2. He also released the SSG 2021 Protocol document; SSG 2021 Dashboard and the mobile App for Citizens feedback.

Key Points

1. The **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS)** will undertake Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021.
2. DDWS had commissioned Swachh Survekshan Grameen on two occasions earlier in 2018 and 2019.
3. One of the country's largest such survey with around 17,475 villages, it not only gives huge publicity to the programme and ODF Plus goals, but at the same time engages districts and states in enhancing their reputation in sanitation, overall cleanliness and waste management.

About Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase –II:

1. SBM (G) Phase-II will focus on Open Defecation Free Plus (ODF Plus), which includes ODF sustainability and Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM).
2. It will be implemented from 2020-21 to 2024-25 with a total outlay of Rs. 1,40,881 crores.

Other Schemes as part of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM):

1. GOBAR-DHAN (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources) Scheme
2. Individual Household Latrines
3. Swachh Vidyalaya Abhiyan

Source: PIB

National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2021

Why in News

1. **Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Education Minister** released the **India Rankings 2021** instituted by the **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)**.

Key Points

About National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF):

2. NIRF, launched in November 2015 by the Ministry of Education, was used for this edition as well as for the past 5 editions of India Rankings released for the years 2016 to 2021.
3. This is the sixth consecutive edition of India Rankings of HEIs in India.
4. During its maiden year in 2016, rankings were announced for the University category as well as for three domain-specific rankings, namely Engineering, Management and Pharmacy institutions.
5. Over the period of six years, three new categories and five new subject domains were added to bring the total tally to 4 four categories, namely Overall, University, College and Research Institutions and 7 subjects, namely Engineering, Management, Architecture, Medical, Pharmacy, Law and Dental in 2021.
6. Research institutions have been ranked for the first time in India Rankings 2021.
7. Parameter: These are Teaching, Learning & Resources, Research and Professional Practice, Graduation Outcomes, Outreach and Inclusivity, Perception.

Number of Participants: In all, 6272 applications for ranking were made by these 4030 unique applicant institutions under various categories / domains.

Key Highlights of India Rankings 2021:

1. **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** retains 1st Position in **Overall Category** as well as in **Engineering** for the third consecutive year.
2. **Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru** tops the **University** as well as **Research Institution category** introduced for the first time in India Rankings 2021.
3. **IIM Ahmedabad** tops in **Management subject** and **All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi** occupies the top slot in **Medical** for the fourth consecutive year.
4. **Jamia Hamdard** tops the list in **Pharmacy subject** for the third consecutive year.
5. **Miranda College** retains 1st position amongst **colleges** for the fifth consecutive year.
6. **IIT Roorkee** takes the top slot for the first time in **Architecture subject** displacing IIT Kharagpur.

7. **National Law School of India University, Bangalore** retains its first position in **Law** for the fourth consecutive year.
8. **Manipal College of Dental Sciences, Manipal**, secures 1st position in **“Dental”** category.

Source: PIB

ATL Space Challenge 2021

Why in News

1. **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog** in collaboration with the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** and **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)** launched the **ATL Space Challenge 2021**.

Key Points

About ATL Space Challenge 2021:

2. It has been designed for all the school students, mentors and teachers across the country who not only are associated with schools having ATL labs but for all the non ATL schools as well.
3. This is to ensure that students of classes 6 to 12 are given an open platform where they can innovate and enable themselves to solve digital age space technology problems.
4. It aligns with the **World Space Week 2021** which is being observed from 4 to 10 October each year at the global level in order to celebrate the contributions of space science and technology.

About Atal Innovation Mission (AIM):

1. AIM is the Government of India's flagship initiative to create and promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship across India.
2. AIM's objective is to develop new programs and policies for fostering innovation in different sectors of the economy, provide platforms and collaboration opportunities for different stakeholders, and create an umbrella structure to oversee the innovation & entrepreneurship ecosystem of the country.

Major Initiatives:

1. Atal Incubation Centers

2. Atal Tinkering Labs
3. Atal Research and Innovation for Small Enterprises
4. Atal New India Challenges
5. Atal Community Innovation Center

Source: PIB

India's first Indigenously Designed High Ash Coal Gasification Based Methanol Production Plant

Why in News

1. **BHEL, Hyderabad** demonstrated India's first Indigenously Designed High Ash Coal Gasification Based Methanol Production Plant.

Key Points

Methanol:

2. It is utilized as a motor fuel, to power ship engines, and to generate clean power all over the world.
3. Methanol is also used to generate di-methyl ether (DME), a liquid fuel that is very similar to diesel — existing diesel engines simply need to be minimally changed to use DME instead of diesel.

Reason:

1. The majority of worldwide methanol production is derived from natural gas.
2. Since India doesn't have much of the natural gas reserves, producing methanol from imported natural gas leads to outflow of foreign exchange and sometimes uneconomical due to excessive prices of natural gas.
3. The next best option is to utilise India's abundant coal.
4. To address this issue, BHEL R&D centre at Hyderabad began working on Indian high ash coal gasification in 2016 with support from the NITI Aayog to produce 0.25 ton per day methanol.
5. With 4 years of hard work BHEL demonstrated a facility to create 0.25 TPD Methanol from high ash Indian coal using a 1.2 TPD Fluidized bed gasifier.
6. The methanol purity of the crude methanol produced is between 98 and 99.5 percent.

Note: This is part of NITI Aayog's 'Methanol Economy' programme.

Source: PIB

“PRANA” Portal

Why in News

1. Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav launched the **“PRANA” – Portal for Regulation of Air-pollution in Non-Attainment cities** under the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)** on the occasion of the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies (September 7).
2. He also inaugurated the **first functional smog tower in India at Anand Vihar, Delhi**. The tower has been built by **Tata Projects Limited with NBCC (India) Ltd. as the project management consultant**.
3. Earlier, India's Tallest Air Purifier was inaugurated in Chandigarh and a Smog Tower was also installed in Delhi's Connaught Place.

Key Points

About PRANA:

1. **“PRANA” (Portal for Regulation of Air-pollution in Non-Attainment cities)** is a portal for monitoring the implementation of the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**.
2. The portal will support tracking of physical as well as financial status of city air action plan implementation and disseminate information on air quality to the public.
3. City-specific action plans for improving air quality for 132 Non- attainment cities/Million Plus Cities targeting city specific air polluting sources (Soil & Road Dust, Vehicles, Domestic Fuel, MSW Burning, Construction Material and Industries) have been prepared and are already being implemented.

Note: 86 cities showed better air quality in 2019 in comparison to 2018, which increased to 104 cities in 2020.

About National Clean Air Programme (NCAP):

1. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) are implementing the National Clean Air Programme in the country since 2019 with targets to achieve 20 to 30 % reduction in Particulate Matter (PM10 and PM2.5) concentrations by 2024 across the country.

Related Initiatives:

2. Air Quality Index
3. New Commission for Air Quality Management
4. Reducing Vehicular Pollution

Source: PIB

Prime Minister releases a special commemorative coin on the occasion of 125th Birth Anniversary of Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

Why in News

1. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** released a special commemorative coin on the occasion of the **125th Birth Anniversary of ISKCON founder Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada**.

Key Points

2. Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada founded the **ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness)** commonly known as the **“Hare Krishna movement”**.
3. He also established over a hundred temples and wrote several books, teaching the path of Bhakti Yoga to the world.
4. ISKCON has translated Shrimad Bhagvad Geeta and other Vedic literature in 89 languages, playing a stellar role in the dissemination of Vedic literature across the world.

Source: PIB

Shikshak Parv 2021

Why in News

1. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** addressed the inaugural conclave of Shikshak Parv 2021.
2. He also launched **multiple key initiatives in the Education Sector** on the occasion.
3. The **Ministry of Education** is celebrating **Shikshak Parv, 2021** from **September 5-17** in recognition of the valuable contributions of teachers and

to take National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 a step forward.

4. The **theme** of 'Shikshak Parv-2021' is "Quality and Sustainable Schools: Learnings from Schools in India".

Key Points

Five Initiatives launched by Prime Minister:

1. **Indian Sign Language dictionary** of 10,000 words (audio and text embedded sign language video for the hearing impaired, in conformity with Universal Design of Learning)
2. **Talking Books** (audio books for visually impaired)
3. **School Quality Assurance and Assessment Framework (S.Q.A.A.F.)** of CBSE

4. NISHTHA teachers' training programme for NIPUN Bharat

NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement) is a capacity building programme for "Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training".

NIPUN (National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy) Bharat was launched to ensure that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 3, by 2026-27.

5. **Vidyanjali 2.0 portal** (For facilitating education volunteers/ donors/ CSR contributors for school development)

Related Recent Initiatives:

1. Samagra Shiksha Scheme 2.0
2. Academic Bank of Credit
3. Vidya Pravesh
4. Structured Assessment For Analyzing Learning Levels (SAFAL)
5. National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR)
6. National Education Technology Forum (NETF)

Note:

1. **National Teachers' Day:** 05th September
2. President Ram Nath Kovind on National Teachers' Day (05th September 2021)

conferred the **National Teachers' Awards on 44 teachers.**

3. **World Teachers' day:** 05th October

Source: PIB

"AYUSH	AAPKE	DWAR"	Campaign
Why in News			

1. **Ayush Ministry** launched the campaign "AYUSH AAPKE DWAR" from more than 45 locations across the country.

Key Points

2. The **National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB)** and **Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Science (CCRA), Ministry of Ayush** distributed medicinal saplings and Ayurvedic medicines to the public.
3. **Aim:** The campaign aims to distribute medicinal plant saplings to **75 lakh households across the country in one year.**
4. The medicinal plants include Tejpatta, Stevia, Ashoka, Jatamansi, Giloy/Guduchi, Ashwagandha, Kumari, Shatavari, Lemongrass, Guggulu, Tulsi, Sarpagandha, Kalmegh, Brahmi and Amla.

About Ministry of AYUSH:

1. The Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy (abbreviated as AYUSH) is purposed with developing education, research and propagation of indigenous alternative medicine systems in India.
1. It was established on November 9, 2014.
2. The Ministry of Ayush includes the seven traditional systems of healthcare.

Source: PIB

'Y-Break' Yoga protocol App
Why in News

1. **Union Minister of Ayush Sarbanand Sonowal** launched the **'Y-Break' mobile application (Yoga protocol App).**

Key Points

About 'Y-Break' Yoga protocol App:

2. It has been developed by **Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, New Delhi**.
3. The **five-minute Yoga protocol**, especially designed for working professionals to de-stress, refresh and re-focus at their workplace to increase their productivity, consists of Asanas, Pranayam and Dhyana.
4. The Y- Break application will bring awareness about different Yoga practices and help the masses to practice Yoga anytime with ease.

Note: This module was launched in January, 2020 as a pilot project basis in six major Metro cities in coordination with different stake-holders.

Source: PIB

Mission Poshan 2.0

Why in News

1. The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has decided to celebrate the **POSHAN Maah** across the nation throughout the month of September starting from September 1, 2021.

Key Points

About POSHAN Abhiyaan:

2. **POSHAN (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition) Abhiyaan** is Government of India's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, adolescent Girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
3. It was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of International Women's Day on 8 March, 2018 from Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan.
4. Focusing on the aims of POSHAN Abhiyaan, Mission Poshan 2.0 (Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0) has been announced in the Budget 2021-2022 as an integrated nutrition support programme.
5. Every year, the month of September is celebrated as POSHAN Maah across the country.

About Mission Poshan 2.0:

1. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has planned a series of

activities throughout the month (September) in tandem with the States and Union Territories.

2. The weekly themes are Plantation Activity as PoshanVatika, Yoga and AYUSH for Nutrition, Distribution of 'Regional Nutrition Kit' to Anganwadi beneficiaries of High Burdened Districts and Identification of severe acute malnourished children and distribution of nutritious food.

Source: PIB

Important News: World

New Global Air Quality Guidelines: WHO

Why in News

1. The **World Health Organisation (WHO)** revised its air quality guidelines for the first time since 2005.

Key Points

2. WHO has revised air quality levels for **six pollutants** that include particulate matter (PM 2.5 and PM10), ozone (O₃), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and carbon monoxide (CO).
3. Air pollution kills at least seven million people prematurely each year.
4. Air pollution affects all parts of the body, from the brain to a growing baby in a mother's womb.
5. In 2019, a total of 90 percent of the global population was breathing air considered unhealthy by the 2005 guidelines, according to WHO data.
6. Some countries, including India, still have national standards that are lower than those 2005 recommendations. The new guidelines indicate that almost the entirety of India would be considered a polluted zone.

Source: TOI

India – United Arab Emirates Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

Why in News

1. Piyush Goyal, India's Minister of Commerce and Industry and Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, United Arab Emirates Minister of State for Foreign Trade,

have formally launched negotiations on the **India-United Arab Emirates Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**.

Key Points

About Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA):

2. Looking to build on the progress made by both countries under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership signed in 2017; both Ministers expressed a desire to reach a mutually beneficial economic deal.

Significance:

3. Both Ministers emphasized that CEPA will create new jobs, raise living standards, and provide wider social and economic opportunities in both nations.
4. A new strategic economic agreement is expected to increase bilateral trade in goods to USD 100 billion within five years of the signed agreement and increase trade in services to USD 15 billion.

India-UAE Economic Relations:

1. The **UAE is currently India's third-largest trading partner** with bilateral trade in 2019-2020 valued at USD 59 billion.
2. The **UAE is also India's second-largest export destination** after the US, with exports valued at approximately USD 29 billion in 2019-2020.
3. The **UAE is the eighth-largest investor in India**, having invested USD 11 billion between April 2000 and March 2021, while investment by Indian companies in the UAE is estimated to be over USD 85 billion.

Other Types of Trade Agreements:

1. Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA)
2. Free Trade Agreement (FTA)
3. Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)
4. Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)
5. Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT)

Source: PIB

21st Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO

Why in News

1. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** participated virtually in the **21st Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation)** and through video-message in the **Joint SCO-CSTO Outreach Session on Afghanistan**.
2. It was held on 17 September 2021 in **Dushanbe, Tajikistan**.
3. It was chaired by **Emomali Rahmon, the President of Tajikistan**.

Note: Iran became a full member of SCO during the summit. So far Iran was an observer member of the SCO.

Key Points

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address:

1. The Prime Minister highlighted the problems caused by growing radicalisation and extremism in the broader SCO region, which runs counter to the history of the region as a bastion of moderate and progressive cultures and values.
2. He noted that recent developments in Afghanistan could further exacerbate this trend towards extremism.
3. He suggested that SCO could work on an agenda to promote moderation and scientific and rational thought, which would be especially relevant for the youth of the region.

Joint SCO-CSTO Outreach Session on Afghanistan:

1. The SCO Summit was followed by an Outreach session on Afghanistan between **SCO** and the **Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO)**.
2. Prime Minister suggested that SCO could develop a code of conduct on 'zero tolerance' towards terrorism in the region, and highlighted the risks of drugs, arms and human trafficking from Afghanistan.

Facts about SCO:

Formed: 15 June 2001

Members: China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan and **Iran (Newest Member)**.

Headquarter: Beijing, China

Source: Indian Express

15th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting Why in News

1. Recently, Krishan Pal Gurjar, Union Minister of State for Power attended the **15th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting (15th EAS EMM) 2021**.
2. It was hosted by **Brunei Darussalam**.

Key Points

1. The **theme** of the meeting **“We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper”**, aimed at coordinating efforts of ASEAN countries in pursuing the goal of energy security and energy transition.
2. India confirmed that ASEAN is a region of great importance for us. Engagement with ASEAN has been, and will remain, a critical element of India's 'Act East' policy and strategy; Acting East is now a central element in India's Indo-Pacific vision.
3. The Minister provided a brief status of the Indian energy transition plans, policies, challenges and efforts towards decarbonisation.

About East Asia Summit (EAS):

1. The EAS process was initiated in 2005 with the convening of the 1st East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
2. At its inception, the EAS comprised 16 participating countries, namely ASEAN Member States, Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea.
3. The US and Russia joined at the 6th EAS in Bali, Indonesia on 19 November 2011.

Other Related Groupings:

1. ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) Plus
2. ASEAN Regional Forum

Source: PIB

Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue

Why in News

1. **India and the United States (USA)** launched the “**Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD)**”.
2. The **CAFMD** is one of the **two tracks** of the **India-U.S. Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 partnership** launched at the Leaders' Summit on Climate in April 2021, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden.
3. Earlier, the **revamped U.S.-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP) (first track)** was launched.

Key Points

1. The dialogue was launched by **Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Bhupender Yadav** and **John Kerry, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate** in **New Delhi**.
2. The dialogue will help to demonstrate how the world can align swift climate action with inclusive and resilient economic development, taking into account national circumstances and sustainable development priorities.

Note:

1. The launch was preceded by a bilateral meet where both sides discussed at length a wide range of climate issues relating to COP26, Climate Ambition, Climate Finance, Global Climate Initiatives including International Solar Alliance, Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM4C).
1. Currently India's installed power capacity is projected to be 476 GW by 2021-22 and is expected to rise to at least 817 GW by 2030.

Source: The Hindu

6th edition of SCO Peaceful Mission Exercise 2021

Why in News

1. The **Indian military contingent** comprising of an all arms combined force of 200 personnel to include 38 personnel from the Indian Air Force is participating in the **6th edition of SCO Peaceful Mission Exercise 2021**.
2. The Exercise is being hosted by **Russia** in the **Orenburg Region of South West Russia** from 13 to 25 September 2021.

Key Points

About SCO Peaceful Mission Exercise:

1. Joint Counter Terrorism Exercise Peaceful Mission is a Multilateral Exercise, which is conducted biennially as part of military diplomacy between **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** member states.
2. The aim is to foster close relations between SCO member states and to enhance abilities of the military leaders to command multi-national military contingents.

Facts about Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO):

1. SCO or Shanghai Pact is a Eurasian political, economic and security alliance.
2. **Formed:** 15 June 2001
3. **Members:** China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India & Pakistan.
4. **Headquarter:** Beijing, China

Source: PIB

First 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue between India and Australia

Why in News

1. **Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar of India and Minister for Defence Peter Dutton and Minister for Foreign Affairs Marise Payne of Australia** held the first 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue between India and Australia in **New Delhi**.

Key Points

2. A number of issues were discussed during the meeting, including possibilities of further expanding bilateral strategic and economic cooperation, the common approach of both countries towards the Indo-Pacific region, and the growing importance of the Indian community in Australia as a human-bridge between both sides.

India-Australia Relations

3. Geo-Political Relations
4. **Defence Relations:** Bilateral naval exercise (AUSINDEX), EX PITCH BLACK (Australia's multilateral air combat training exercise), Ex AUSTRA HIND (Bilateral Exercise with Army) and multilateral Malabar Exercise (Quad countries).

Multilateral Cooperation:

1. Both Australia and India are part of Quad that resolved to work towards ensuring a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific. The other two members of the Quad are the US and Japan.
2. Further, recently India-Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE) was also organised.

Note: India also holds '2+2' Dialogue with Japan and the USA.

Source: Indian Express

U.S.-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP)

Why in News

1. **Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas** co-chaired a virtual Ministerial meeting with **Jennifer Granholm, U.S. Secretary of Energy** to launch the **revamped U.S.-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP)**.
2. The SCEP is launched in accordance with **U.S.-India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership** announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden at the Leaders Summit on Climate held in April this year (2021).

Key Points

About Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP):

1. The SCEP organizes inter-governmental engagement across five pillars of cooperation: (1) Power and Energy Efficiency; (2) Responsible Oil and Gas; (3) Renewable Energy; (4) Sustainable Growth and (5) Emerging Fuels.
2. A new **India-US Task Force on Biofuels** was also announced to build on the scope of work on cooperation in the biofuels sector.
3. The two sides also announced rechristening of the **Gas Task Force to India-US Low Emissions Gas Task Force**.
4. Both sides have initiated institutionalization of **India Energy Modeling Forum**.
5. Joint Committees have been set up to deliberate on **Energy Data Management, Low Carbon Technologies and Just Transition in the Coal Sector**.

6. The two sides agreed to expand the scope of the work to include smart grid and grid storage as part of the second phase of the **Partnership to Advance Clean Energy (PACE)-R** initiative.
7. The meeting also reviewed the progress on the **India-US Civil Nuclear Energy cooperation**.

Recent Updates on US-India Relations:

1. India-US Agreement on Air-launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (ALUAV)
2. NISAR (NASA and ISRO are collaborating on developing an SUV-sized satellite called NISAR)
3. 25th edition of Malabar Exercise

Source: The Hindu

Mullah Mohammad Hasan Akhund named as acting Prime Minister of Afghanistan

Why in New

1. The Taliban named Mullah Mohammad Hasan Akhund as acting Prime Minister of Afghanistan.
2. Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar and Molavi Abdul Salam Hanafi have been appointed as the deputy Prime Ministers of Afghanistan.

Key Points

1. Mullah Mohammad Hasan Akhund has been the head of the Taliban's Rehbari Shura or Leadership council, for more than 20 years.
2. He had also served as foreign minister and deputy prime minister during the Taliban's previous government in Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001.

Source: TOI

13th BRICS Summit

Why in News

1. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired** the 13th BRICS Summit on 9

September 2021 virtually.

2. The **Summit's theme** was **BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus.**
3. The Summit saw the participation of all other BRICS Leaders - President Jair Bolsonaro of Brazil, President Xi Jinping of China, President Vladimir Putin of Russia and President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa.

Key Points:

Prime Minister's Address:

1. The Prime Minister expressed his appreciation for the cooperation received from BRICS partners during **India's Chairship this year (2021)**, which allowed the achievement of several new initiatives.
2. These included the first BRICS Digital Health Summit; the first BRICS Ministerial Joint Statement on multilateral reforms; a BRICS Counter-Terrorism Action Plan; an Agreement on cooperation in field of remote-sensing satellites; a virtual BRICS vaccine Research & Development Centre; BRICS Alliance on Green Tourism, etc.
3. Highlighting the leading role that BRICS countries can play in the post-COVID global recovery, Prime Minister called for enhanced BRICS cooperation under the motto of 'Build-back Resiliently, Innovatively, Credibly and Sustainably'.
4. The leaders also adopted the 'New Delhi Declaration'.

About 'New Delhi Declaration': The declaration called for reforms of the principal organs of the United Nations including that of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Note: It is the third time India hosted the BRICS Summit after 2012 and 2016.

Facts about BRICS:

1. **Formation:** 2009
2. **Countries:** Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa
It is an important grouping bringing together the major emerging economies from the world, comprising:
 3. 41% of world population
 4. Total combined area of 29.3% of the total land surface of the world
 5. 24% of global GDP

6. 16% of world trade

Note: The above data is based on World Bank data (2019).

Source: PIB

Sri Lanka declares Economic Emergency to contain Inflation

Why in News

1. The **President of Sri Lanka Gotabaya Rajapaksa** had declared an economic emergency due to rapidly **depleting forex reserves, depreciating currency,** and **rising food prices** in the country.
2. The emergency was declared under the **Public Security Ordinance** to prevent the hoarding of essential items, including sugar and rice.

Key Points

Reasons for Sri Lankan Economic Crisis:

1. Sri Lanka during the COVID-19 pandemic suffered a severe setback in its tourism industry which contributes to over 10 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and brings in foreign exchange.
2. Due to the depletion in the forex reserves, the country had to increase the amount of money to purchase the foreign exchange to import goods. This increase has led to the depreciation of the Sri Lankan rupee by approximately 8 percent so far in 2021.
3. Since Sri Lanka heavily relies on imports to fulfill the basic food supplies in the country, the depreciating currency has further led to a rise in the price of food items.
4. The ban on the use of chemical fertilizers in farming by the government has led to a reduction in the agricultural production sector.

Measures Taken Under Economic Emergency Crisis:

1. The Sri Lankan government has ascertained that the rise in food prices is due to speculators hoarding essential supplies.
2. The government has appointed a **former Army General as Commissioner of essential services** who is authorized to seize food stocks held by traders and retailers and regulate their prices.
3. The army has also been given powers to ensure that forex reserves be used

only for the purchase of essential goods.

Source: The Hindu

New Development Bank admits UAE, Uruguay and Bangladesh as new members

Why in News

1. The **New Development Bank (NDB)** has admitted the **United Arab Emirates (UAE), Uruguay and Bangladesh** as the first batch of new members as part of its expansion drive.

Key Points

2. **New Development Bank** has initiated its membership expansion and started formal negotiations with prospective members in late 2020.
3. After a round of successful negotiations, NDB approved the admission of the UAE, Uruguay and Bangladesh as its first new member countries.
4. New members will have in NDB a platform to foster their cooperation in infrastructure and sustainable development.

About New Development Bank (NDB):

1. It is a multilateral development bank established by the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries.
2. It is headquartered in Shanghai, China.
3. On 15 July 2014, the first day of the 6th BRICS summit held in Fortaleza, Brazil, the BRICS states signed the Agreement on the New Development Bank.

Authorized Capital: NDB has an authorized capital of US\$ 100 billion, which is open for subscription by members of the United Nations.

1. Since the beginning of its operations, the bank approved about 80 projects in all of its members, totalling a portfolio of USD 30 billion.

Projects: Projects in areas such as transport, water and sanitation, clean energy, digital infrastructure, social infrastructure and urban development are within the scope of the bank.

Source: newsonair

6th Eastern Economic Forum 2021

Why in News

1. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** recently addressed the plenary session of the **6th Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) 2021 in Vladivostok, Russia.**
2. The **theme** of the forum was **"The Opportunities for the Far East in a World under Transformation"**.
3. It may be recalled that the Prime Minister was the Chief Guest for the 5th EEF in 2019, the first by an Indian Prime Minister.

Key Points

Highlights of Prime Minister's Address:

1. Applauding President Putin's vision for the development of the Russian Far East, Prime Minister reiterated India's commitment as part of its 'Act East Policy' of being a reliable partner of Russia in this regard.
2. He underlined the natural complementarities of India and Russia in the development of the Russian Far East.
3. He stressed on the importance of greater economic and commercial engagement between the two sides in line with the 'Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership'.

About Eastern Economic Forum (EEF):

1. EEF was established by the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin in 2015.
2. The Forum business programme includes a number of business dialogues with leading partner countries in the Asia-Pacific region, and with ASEAN.

India-Russia Relations:

1. Russia is the largest investment destination for the Indian oil and gas companies and Indian public sector companies have made investments in Russia of about \$16 billion, including in the Far East and East Siberia, in oil and gas assets such as Sakhalin-1, Vankor and Taas-Yuryakh.
2. Russia is also the largest investor in India's oil and gas sector.
3. India is the second largest market for the Russian defence industry.

Source: PIB

India and US sign Project Agreement for Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle

Why in News

1. **Ministry of Defence, Government of India and United States (US) Department of Defence** signed a **Project Agreement (PA) for Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (ALUAV)** under the Joint Working Group Air Systems in the **Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI)** on July 30, 2021.

Key Points

2. The **Project Agreement (PA)** outlines the collaboration between Air Force Research Laboratory, Indian Air Force, and Defence Research and Development Organisation towards design, development, demonstration, testing and evaluation of systems to co-develop an ALUAV Prototype.

Background:

1. The PA for ALUAV falls under the Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation (RDT&E) Memorandum of Agreement between Ministry of Defence and US Department of Defence, which was first signed in January 2006 and renewed in January 2015.

Significance:

2. The agreement is a significant step towards deepening defence technology collaboration between the two nations through co-development of defence equipment.

Aim of the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI):

3. The main aim of DTTI is to bring sustained leadership focus to promote collaborative technology exchange and create opportunities for co-production and co-development of future technologies for Indian and US military forces.
4. Under DTTI, Joint Working Groups on land, naval, air, and aircraft carrier technologies have been established to focus on mutually agreed projects in respective domains.

Source: The Hindu

UNSC adopts resolution on Afghanistan

Why in News

1. The **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**, under **India's Presidency**,

adopted a strong **resolution 2593 (2021) on Afghanistan**.

Key Points

2. The resolution, sponsored by the United Kingdom, France and United States, was adopted with 13 members, including India.
3. But permanent and veto-wielding members Russia and China abstained.
4. This was the first resolution adopted by the powerful 15-nation Council on the situation in Afghanistan following the takeover of Kabul by the Taliban and came on the penultimate day of India's Presidency of the Security Council for the month of August, 2021.
5. **The resolution-** The territory of Afghanistan is not to be used to threaten any country or shelter terrorists, and that the international community expects the Taliban to adhere to the commitments they made regarding the safe and orderly departure of Afghans and all foreign nationals from the country.

India's steps:

6. India has directed a high-level group composed of EAM (External Affairs Minister) S. Jaishankar, NSA (National Security Adviser) Ajit Doval and Other Senior officials to monitor the ground situation in Afghanistan with a focus on the immediate priorities of India.

Source: Indian Express

Leaded Petrol Eradicated Globally: UNEP

Why in News

1. The **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** announced that the use of leaded petrol has been eradicated from the globe.
2. The **last country** to switch was **Algeria in July 2021**.

Key Points

3. The successful enforcement of the ban on leaded petrol is a huge milestone for global health, economy and environment.
4. It will prevent **more than 1.2 million premature deaths** and save **world economies over \$2.4 trillion annually**.
5. Leaded petrol causes heart disease, stroke and cancer. It also affects the development of the human brain, especially harming children, with studies

suggesting it reduced 5-10 IQ points.

Leaded Petrol History:

1. Until the 1970s almost all the gasoline/ petrol sold across the globe contained lead.
2. When UNEP launched its campaign **(PCFV)** in 2002, many major powers had already stopped using the leaded fuel, including the United States, China and India.

About the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV):

1. In 2002, PCFV was set up at the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
2. UNEP hosted the Secretariat with the aim of eliminating leaded petrol globally and provided support to many countries and regional initiatives.

Need of Eradication:

1. The transport sector is responsible for nearly a quarter of energy-related global greenhouse gas emissions and is set to grow to one third by 2050, adding that 1.2 billion new vehicles would hit the streets in the coming decades.

Significance:

2. The end of leaded petrol is expected to support the realization of multiple Sustainable Development Goals, including good health and well-being (SDG3), clean water (SDG6), clean energy (SDG7), sustainable cities (SDG11), climate action (SDG13) and life on land (SDG15).

About United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP):

3. UNEP is responsible for coordinating responses to environmental issues.
4. **Headquarters:** Nairobi, Kenya
5. **Founded:** 5 June 197

Source: unep.org

8th Meeting of Agricultural Experts of BIMSTEC Countries

Why in News

1. **India** hosted the 8th Meeting of Agriculture Experts of **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic**

Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Countries.

Key Points

Objective: To enhance the engagement and deepen the cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors amongst the BIMSTEC Member States by encouraging the exchange of knowledge, germplasm, students and experts.

About Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC):

2. The BIMSTEC provides a unique link between **South and South-East Asia with 5 countries - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka from South Asia and 2 countries - Myanmar and Thailand from South-East Asia.**
3. The **BIMSTEC was founded in 1997** with an ambition to pursue mutual trade, connectivity and cultural, technical and economic development in the region.
4. Initially, six sectors- trade, technology, energy, transport, tourism and fisheries were included for sectoral cooperation which was later expanded to 14 areas of cooperation.
5. Agriculture is one of the 14 sectors. As about 1.7 billion+ people i.e., 22 percent of the global population live in BIMSTEC countries, agriculture & allied activities are central to the economic and social development of the region.

Source: PIB

Important News: Environment

Sea Cucumber

Why in News

1. The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** has seized two tonnes of sea cucumber, a banned marine species, in **Tamil Nadu's Mandapam.**
2. The teams were deployed in the **Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay** areas to effectively cordon the likely escape by sea route.

Key Points

1. **Sea cucumbers** are marine invertebrates commonly found in tropical regions.
2. Sea cucumber helps keep up a balance the marine ecosystem.
3. Sea cucumber in India is treated as an **endangered species** listed under

schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.

Note: The Lakshadweep Islands administration created the world's first conservation area — 239 sq. km — for endangered sea cucumbers in 2020.

Source: PIB

Tamil Nadu's Kovalam beach, Puducherry's Eden get Blue Flag certification

Why in News

4. The **Kovalam beach in Tamil Nadu and Eden beach in Puducherry** have been awarded the prestigious Blue Flag certification, an international eco-level tag.
5. India now has **10 Blue Flag beaches**.

Key Points

1. **Foundation for Environment Education (FEE) in Denmark** which accords the globally recognized eco-label - Blue Flag certification, has also given re-certification for 8 nominated beaches **Shivrajpur-Gujarat, Kappad-Kerala, Ghoghla-Diu, Kasarkod and Padubidri-Karnataka, Rushikonda- Andhra Pradesh, Golden-Odisha and Radhanagar- Andaman and Nicobar**, which were awarded the Blue Flag certificate in 2020.
2. **India** started its journey of sustainable development of coastal regions on **World Environment Day in June 2018** by launching its beach cleaning campaign I-AM- SAVING-MY-BEACH simultaneously at 13 coastal states and thereafter implementing the ministry's coveted program **BEAMS (Beach Environment & Aesthetics Management Services)**.
3. The Ministry is further committed to develop and deliver 100 more beaches under its **Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) initiative** in the ensuing 5 years of the Ministry's vision agenda.

About Blue Flag certification:

1. It is a globally recognised eco-label accorded on the basis of 33 stringent criteria in four major heads which are environmental education and information, bathing water quality, environmental management and conservation and safety and services in the beaches.
2. The Blue Flag label is accorded by the international jury composed of eminent members - United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), Denmark-based NGO Foundation for

Environmental Education (FEE), UNESCO and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Source: PIB

Discovery of new species of Hybodont Shark

Why in News

1. Researchers from the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** and the **Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee** have discovered a new extinct species of **Hybodont Shark** from the **Jaisalmer Basin of Rajasthan**.

Key Points

2. The newly discovered crushing teeth from Jaisalmer represent a new species named by the research team as *Strophodusjaisalmerensis*.
3. The genus *Strophodus* has been identified for the first time from the Indian subcontinent and is only the third such record from Asia, the other two being from Thailand and Japan.
4. Hybodont sharks have been reported for the first time from the Jurassic rocks (approximately, between 160 and 168 million-years-old) of the Jaisalmer region of Rajasthan.

About Hybodont Sharks:

1. Hybodonts, an extinct group of sharks, was a dominant group of fishes in both marine and fluvial environments during the Triassic and early Jurassic time.
2. Hybodonts finally became extinct at the end of the Cretaceous time 65 million years ago.

Significance:

1. This discovery marks an important milestone in the study of Jurassic vertebrate fossils in the Jaisalmer region of Rajasthan.

Source: Indian Express

World's first '5-country biosphere reserve' in 'Amazon of Europe'

Why in News

1. **UNESCO** designated **Mura-Drava-Danube (MDD)** as the world's first '5-

country biosphere reserve'.

Key Points

About Mura-Drava-Danube (MDD):

2. The biosphere reserve covers 700 kilometres of the Mura, Drava and Danube rivers and stretches across Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and Serbia.
3. The total area of the reserve — a million hectares — in the so-called 'Amazon of Europe', makes it the largest riverine protected area on the continent.
4. The new reserve "represents an important contribution to the European Green Deal and contributes to the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy in the Mura-Drava-Danube region."

Biosphere Reserve:

1. Biosphere reserves are sites established by countries and recognized under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Program to promote sustainable development.
2. There are 727 biosphere reserves in 131 countries, including 22 transboundary sites.

Biosphere Reserves in India:

1. Presently, there are 18 Biosphere Reserves in India.
2. Twelve of the eighteen biosphere reserves are a part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, based on the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme list.

Source: DTE

Climate change can force 216 million people to migrate within their own countries by 2050

Why in News

1. The **World Bank's updated Groundswell report** released recently finds Climate change can force some 216 million people in 6 world regions to move within their own countries by 2050.
2. Hotspots of internal climate migration can emerge as early as 2030 and continue to spread and intensify by 2050.

Key Points

About the Report:

1. The updated report includes projections and analysis for 3 regions: **East Asia and the Pacific, North Africa, and Eastern Europe and Central Asia.**
2. It builds on the pioneering modeling approach of the previous World Bank Groundswell report from 2018, which covered **Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America.**

Findings:

1. By 2050, Sub-Saharan Africa could see as many as 86 million internal climate migrants; East Asia and the Pacific, 49 million; South Asia, 40 million; North Africa, 19 million; Latin America, 17 million; and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, 5 million.
2. The report finds that immediate and concerted action to reduce global emissions, and support green, inclusive, and resilient development, could reduce the scale of climate migration by as much as 80 percent.

Global Efforts:

1. Cancun Adaptation Framework, 2010
2. UNFCCC Task Force on Displacement, 2013
3. Paris Agreement, 2015
4. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015-30
5. UN Global Compact on Refugees, 2016

Source: DownToEarth

Important News: Economy

FDI inflows in April-July, 2021-22

Why in News

1. **India** has attracted total **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** inflows of US\$ 27.37 billion during the **first four months (April-July) of F.Y. 2021-22** which is 62% higher as compared to corresponding period of F.Y. 2020-21 (US\$ 16.92 billion).

Key Points

2. FDI equity inflow grew by 112% in the first four months of F.Y. 2021-22 (US\$ 20.42 billion) compared to the year ago period (US\$ 9.61 billion).

3. **'Automobile Industry'** has emerged as the **top sector** during the first four months of F.Y. 2021-22 with 23% share of the total FDI Equity inflow followed by Computer Software & Hardware (18%) and Services Sector (10%) respectively.
4. Under the sector 'Automobile Industry', majority of FDI Equity inflow (87%) was reported in the state of Karnataka during the first four months of the current financial year (2021-22).
5. **Karnataka** is the **top recipient state** during the F.Y. 2021-22 (upto July, 2021) with 45% share of the total FDI Equity inflows followed by Maharashtra (23%) and Delhi (12%).

About Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):

1. **FDI** is an investment in the form of a controlling ownership in a business in one country by an entity based in another country.
2. **Routes through which India gets FDI:** Government Route, Automatic Route
3. **Government Measures to promote FDI:** Measures taken by the Government on the fronts of FDI policy reforms, investment facilitation and ease of doing business have resulted in increased FDI inflows into the country.

Source: PIB

Cabinet approves major Reforms in Telecom Sector

Why in News

4. The Union Cabinet approved a number of structural and process reforms in the Telecom sector.
5. These are expected to protect and generate employment opportunities, promote healthy competition, protect interests of consumers, infuse liquidity, encourage investment and reduce regulatory burden on **Telecom Service Providers (TSPs)**.

Key Points

About the Main Reforms:

6. Rationalization of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR): Non-telecom revenue will be excluded on prospective basis from the definition of AGR.
7. **Spectrum Tenure:** In future Auctions, tenure of spectrum increased from 20 to 30 years. Surrender of spectrum will be permitted after 10 years for

spectrum acquired in the future auctions.

8. **FDI:** To encourage investment, **100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under automatic route** permitted in Telecom Sector.
9. Auction calendar fixed - Spectrum auctions to be normally held in the last quarter of every financial year.
10. Moratorium/Deferment of upto four years in annual payments of dues arising out of the AGR judgement, with however, by protecting the Net Present Value (NPV) of the due amounts being protected.

Source: PIB

Task Force and Expert Committee to prepare road map for Coal based Hydrogen Production

Why in News

1. The **Ministry of Coal** has constituted a Task Force and Expert Committee to prepare a road map for Coal based Hydrogen Production.
2. **Chairman of the Task Force-** Vinod Kumar Tiwari, Additional Secretary Coal
Note: Task Force is responsible to coordinate with the **Coal Gasification Mission** and NITI Aayog.
3. **Chairman of the Expert Committee-** R.K. Malhotra, Director General (FIPI)

Key Points

About Coal based Hydrogen Production:

4. **Coal** is one of the important sources of **hydrogen making (Brown Hydrogen)** apart from **Natural Gas (Grey Hydrogen)** and **renewable energy (Green Hydrogen)** through electrolysis.
5. However, Coal has not been encouraged elsewhere because of the fear that while extracting hydrogen via coal there may be carbon emission.
6. Almost **100% of Hydrogen produced in India is through Natural Gas.**
7. Globally, 73 MT Hydrogen is used for refining, ammonia making and other pure use and about 42 MT is used for Methanol, steel making and other mixed uses.
8. Cost of Hydrogen produced from coal can be cheaper and less sensitive to imports when compared with hydrogen production through electrolysis and

Natural Gas respectively.

Related Initiatives:

1. Green Hydrogen Mobility project
2. National Hydrogen Energy Mission
3. Hydrogen Fuel Cell Based Vehicles

Source: PIB

NITI Aayog launches 'Shoonya' Campaign

Why in News

4. **NITI Aayog, with RMI and RMI India's** support, launched 'Shoonya' Campaign.
5. It is an initiative to promote zero-pollution delivery vehicles by working with consumers and industry.

Key Points

About 'Shoonya' Campaign:

6. The **campaign aims** to accelerate adoption of **Electric Vehicles (EVs) in the urban deliveries segment**.
7. As part of the campaign, a corporate branding and certification programme is being launched to recognise and promote industry's efforts towards transitioning to Electric Vehicles for final-mile deliveries.
8. An **online tracking platform** will share the campaign's impact through data such as vehicle kilometers electrified, carbon savings, criteria pollutant savings and other benefits from clean delivery vehicles.

Need:

1. Urban freight vehicles account for 10 percent of freight transportation-related CO₂ emissions in India, and these emissions are expected to grow by 114 percent by 2030.
2. Electric Vehicles emit no tailpipe emissions, which can contribute immensely to an improved air quality.
3. Even when accounting for their manufacture, they emit 15-40 percent less CO₂ compared to their internal combustion engine counterparts and have

lower operational cost.

Initiatives Taken:

1. National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage
2. National Electric Mobility Mission Plan
3. Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME India)

Source: PIB

Digital Agriculture

Why in News

1. The **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** signed **5 MoUs with private companies** for taking forward **Digital Agriculture**.
2. MoUs were signed for **pilot projects** with **CISCO, Ninjacart, Jio Platforms Limited, ITC Limited and NCDEX e-Markets Limited (NeML)**.
3. The MoUs are on the line of the **Digital agriculture mission**.

Key Points

About Digital Agriculture:

1. Digital Agriculture is “ICT and data ecosystems to support the development and delivery of timely, targeted information and services to make farming profitable and sustainable while delivering safe, nutritious and affordable food for all.”

Benefits:

2. Based on these pilot projects farmers will be able to take informed decisions on what crop to grow, what variety of seed to use and what best practises to adopt to maximise the yield.
3. The agriculture supply chain players can plan their procurement and logistics on precise and timely information.

About Digital agriculture mission:

1. A Digital agriculture mission has been initiated for 2021 -2025 by the government for projects based on new technologies like artificial intelligence, block chain, remote sensing and GIS technology, use of drones and robots etc.

Related Other Government Initiatives:

2. Unified Farmer Service Platform
3. "Digital agri-stack", a hi-tech national farmers' database
4. National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGP-A)
5. Kisan Call Centres
6. Kisan Suvidha App
7. Soil Health Card (SHC) Portal
8. Agri Market App

Source: PIB

'Main Bhi Digital 3.0' Campaign

Why in News

1. **The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** in collaboration with the **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology** launched the 'Main Bhi Digital 3.0' - A special Campaign for Digital Onboarding and Training for street vendors under **PM SVANidhi scheme** across 223 cities in the country.

Key Points

2. **Participating agency:** The BharatPe, Mswipe, Paytm, PhonePe, Aceware are participating in this drive to issue UPI IDs, QR code and provide digital training.
3. Digital Payment Aggregators will handhold the street vendors to bring about enhanced adoption of digital transactions and behaviour change.

Loans and Amounts:

1. So far, 45.5 lakh applications have been received. Out of these, 27.2 lakh loans have been sanctioned and 24.6 lakh loans have been disbursed.
2. The amount disbursed so far is ₹2,444 Cr.

About PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme:

1. It was launched on June 1, 2020 as a Central Sector Scheme.
2. The scheme facilitates affordable working capital loans of up to ₹10,000 with an interest subsidy @7% on regular repayment.

3. The street vendors also stand a chance to avail a loan of ₹20,000 and ₹50,000 in the second and third tranches respectively on timely repayment of the loan.
4. **SIDBI** has been appointed as the implementation agency for scheme administration.

Source: PIB

Rs. 56,027 crore to be released under various Export Promotion Schemes

Why in News

1. Government of India has decided to budget Rs 56,027 crore in this Financial Year FY 21-22 itself in order to disburse all pending export incentives due to exporters under various Export Promotion Schemes.
2. Merchandise exports for April-August, 2021 was nearly \$164 billion, which is an increase of 67% over 2020-21 and 23% over 2019-20.

Key Points

1. This amount includes claims relating to Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS), Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS), Rebate of State Levies (RoSL), Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL), other scrip based schemes relating to earlier policies and the remission support for Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) and RoSCTL for exports made in the 4th quarter of FY 20-21.
2. Benefits would be disbursed to more than 45,000 exporters, out of which about 98% are small exporters in the MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) category.
3. This amount is over and above duty remission amount of Rs 12,454 crore for the RoDTEP scheme and Rs 6,946 crore for RoSCTL scheme already announced for exports made in this year i.e. FY 2021-22.

Significance:

1. Benefits would help sectors to maintain cash flows and meet export demand in international market
2. Employment generation
3. Lower Current Account Deficit
4. Help Bring in Foreign Exchange

Source: PIB

Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) Scheme

Why in News

1. **The Ministry of Commerce & Industry** has revised the "**Transport and Marketing Assistance**" (TMA) scheme for **Specified Agriculture Products**'.

Key Points

About Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) Scheme:

2. In February 2019, the Department of Commerce had introduced 'Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) for Specified Agriculture Products Scheme' to provide assistance for the international component of freight, to mitigate the disadvantage of higher freight costs faced by the Indian exporters of agriculture products.
3. In the year **2018**, the government approved an **Agriculture Export Policy** with an aim to double the shipments to USD 60 billion by 2022.
4. **APEDA** works towards expanding the export potential of Indian agricultural and food products.
5. The scheme was initially applicable for exports affected during the period from 01.03.2019 to 31.03.2020 and was later extended for exports affected up to 31.03.2021.
6. Now the Department has notified **Revised Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) for Specified Agriculture Products Scheme** for exports affected **on or after 01.04.2021 up to 31.03.2022**.
7. Enhanced assistance under the revised scheme is expected to help Indian exporters of agricultural products to meet rising freight and logistics costs.

About APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority):

1. It was established by the Government of India under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act passed by the Parliament in December, 1985.

About Agri Export Policy (AEP):

2. AEP was launched in 2018 with an emphasis on agricultural export-oriented production, export promotion, improved price realization to farmers, and

synchronization with Government's different policies and programmes.

3. The policy focuses on a "Farmers' Centric Approach" to increase revenue.

Source: PIB

IIT Ropar's startup company introduces World's first 'Plant based' smart air-purifier "Ubreathe Life"

Why in News

1. Scientists of **Indian Institutes of Technology, Ropar and Kanpur and Faculty of Management Studies of Delhi University** have developed a living-plant based air purifier "Ubreathe Life".
2. It amplifies the air purification process in the indoor spaces. These indoor spaces can either be hospitals, schools, offices and Homes.

Key Points

1. **IIT Ropar's startup company, Urban Air Laboratory**, that has developed the product claims it to be the world's first, state-of-the art 'Smart Bio-Filter' that can make breathing fresh.
2. It has been incubated at IIT Ropar, which is a designated iHub - AWaDH (Agriculture and Water Technology Development Hub) by the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India.

About Air purifier "Ubreathe Life":

1. The technology works through the air-purifying natural leafy plant.
2. The room-air interacts with leaves and goes to the soil-root zone where maximum pollutants are purified.
3. The novel technology used in this product is 'Urban Munnar Effect' along with patent pending "Breathing Roots" to exponentially amplify the phytoremediation process of the plants.
4. Phytoremediation is a process by which plants effectively remove pollutants from the air.

Note: According to a World Health Organization (WHO) report the indoor air spaces are five times more polluted than outdoor air space.

Source: PIB

Loan Guarantee Scheme for COVID-affected Sectors

Why in News

1. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman asked all stakeholders to conclude **Rs 50,000 crore Loan Guarantee Scheme for COVID-affected Sectors (LGSCAS)**, aimed at shoring up healthcare infrastructure in non-metros in time to deal with any future third wave.
2. The Scheme is aimed at upscaling the medical infrastructure in the country specifically targeting underserved areas.

Key Points

About Loan Guarantee Scheme for COVID-affected Sectors (LGSCAS):

1. LGSCAS was approved by the Union Cabinet on 30th June 2021.
2. Loans under the scheme are made available at a cheaper interest rate of 7.95%.
3. It is expected to provide the help the country needs in getting the much-needed healthcare infrastructure and provide employment opportunities after the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic.
4. This is necessary across the country, from metro cities to small towns as well as rural areas.
5. It provides a guarantee of 50 percent for brownfield projects and 75 per cent to greenfield projects for loans sanctioned up to Rs.100 crore, set up at urban or rural locations other than 8 Metropolitan Tier 1 cities (Class X cities).
6. For aspirational districts, the guarantee cover for both brownfield expansion and greenfield projects is 75%.
7. The Scheme is applicable to all eligible loans sanctioned up to 31.03.2022, or till an amount of Rs. 50,000 crore is sanctioned, whichever is earlier.

Note:

1. Recently, the **Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance** has released an amount of **Rs. 13,385.70 crore to 25 States for providing grants to the Rural Local Bodies**.
2. This Grant-in-aid is the 1st installment of Tied grants of the year 2021-22.
3. The grants have been released as per the recommendations of the **15th Finance Commission**.

Source: PIB

India's first green hydrogen electrolyzer gigafactory

Why in News

1. USA-based renewable energy start-up, **Ohmium International**, has launched India's first green hydrogen electrolyzer gigafactory at Bengaluru through its India subsidiary.

Key Points

About Green Hydrogen:

2. Green Hydrogen is the pollution-free fuel of the future.
3. With zero carbon footprint, the green hydrogen can be utilized for fertilizer production, refinery processing, steel production, conventional vehicle transportation with methanol blending, and direct hydrogen transportation in fuel-cell-based vehicles.
4. Green Hydrogen can also be stored and transported.
5. Green hydrogen is made from non-fossil sources, while blue hydrogen is made from fossil sources.
6. To produce green hydrogen through any process, electrolysis is required.

About Gigafactory:

1. It will manufacture India-made PEM (Proton Exchange Membrane) hydrogen electrolyzers with an initial manufacturing capacity of about 500 MW per year and will scale it up to 2 GW per year.
2. The PEM hydrogen electrolyzer is the main equipment for the **production of green hydrogen** as it uses power generated from renewable resources to break water into hydrogen and oxygen.

Note:

1. India has already set a target of achieving 450 GW renewable energy by 2030.
2. According to industry data, the world is currently producing around 70 million metric tonnes of hydrogen (blue), out of which 6 MT is coming from India.

Source: TOI

e-Shram Portal

Why in News

1. **Minister for Labour and Employment, Bhupender Yadav** launched **e-Shram portal**.
2. Portal will help build a comprehensive **National Database of Unorganized Workers (NDUW)** in India.
3. For the first time in India, a system is being made **to register 38 crore Unorganised Workers**.

Key Points

About e-Shram Portal:

1. The registration under the e-Shram portal is totally free and workers do not have to pay anything for his or her registration at Common Service Centres (CSCs) or anywhere.
2. It will not only register them but would also be helpful in delivering various social security schemes being implemented by the Central and State Governments.
3. After registration, the workers shall be issued an **e-Shram card with a unique Universal Account Number (UAN)** and will be able to access the benefits of the various social security schemes through this Card anywhere anytime.

Insurance Coverage:

1. If a worker is registered on the e-Shram portal and meets with an accident, he will be eligible for Rs 2.0 Lakh on death or permanent disability and Rs 1.0 lakh on partial disability.

Other Initiatives to Support Unorganised Sector:

2. Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana
3. Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan
4. Labour Code
5. PM SVANidhi
6. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission
7. PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana
8. One Nation One Ration Card
9. Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana

10. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi

Source: PIB

e-GOPALA & IMAP web portal

Why in News

1. **Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying** launched the **National Dairy Development Board's web version of e-GOPALA application and IMAP web portal**.
2. It is a digital platform for dairy farmers to provide real-time information on animal health, nutrition and breed development.

Key Points

About e-GOPALA:

1. The web version of e-GOPALA application has been developed by **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)**.
 2. The e-GOPALA platform helps farmers manage their livestock including buying and selling of disease-free germplasm in all forms; informs about availability of quality breeding services and guides farmers for animal nutrition, treatment of animals using appropriate Ayurvedic ethno veterinary medicine.
 3. **Note:** The e-GOPALA app was launched in September 2020 as a breed improvement marketplace for the direct use of farmers.
1. **IMAP web portal** will facilitate real time checking of coverage and progress of various projects and government schemes.

Source: The Hindu

Important News: Defense

3rd edition of Bilateral Maritime Exercise 'Samudra Shakti'

Why in News

1. **Indian Navy** and **Indonesian Navy** participated in the **3rd edition of Bilateral Maritime Exercise 'Samudra Shakti'** at **Sunda Strait, Indonesia** from September 20 to 22, 2021.

Key Points

2. **Indian Naval Ships Shivalik and Kadmat** participated in the Exercise.
3. The aim of the exercise is to strengthen the bilateral relationship, enhance mutual understanding and interoperability in maritime operations.

Note: In pursuance of India's Act East Policy, Exercise 'Samudra Shakti' was conceived in 2018 as a bilateral IN-IDN exercise.

Other Exercises with Indonesia:

1. **Military Exercise:** Garuda Shakti
2. **Maritime Exercise:** IND-INDO CORPAT, IND-INDO BILAT

Source: PIB

AUKUS- a new trilateral security partnership for Indo-Pacific

Why in News

3. The **US, UK and Australia** have announced the formation of AUKUS – a new trilateral security partnership for the Indo-Pacific region.
4. It was announced in a joint address by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison and US President Joe Biden with a vision for a safer and more secure Indo-Pacific.

Key Points

5. Under the AUKUS alliance, the 3 nations have agreed to enhance the development of joint capabilities and technology sharing, foster deeper integration of security and defence-related science, technology, industrial bases and supply chains.
6. Under the first major initiative of AUKUS, Australia would build a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines with the help of the US and the UK, a capability aimed at promoting stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Other Groups:

7. ANZUS (Australia, New Zealand and the US)
8. Quad (The US, India, Japan and Australia)
9. Five Eyes (US, UK, Australia, Canada and New Zealand)

Source: TOI

15th Edition of Indo - Nepal Joint Military Training Exercise 'Surya Kiran'

Why in News

1. **15th Edition of Indo - Nepal Joint Military Training Exercise 'Surya Kiran'** between Indian Army and Nepali Army commenced from 20 September 2021 at **Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand**.
2. It will continue till 03 October 2021.

Key Points

1. During this exercise, an Infantry Battalion from Indian Army and an equivalent strength from Nepali Army would be sharing their experiences gained during the conduct of various counter-insurgency operations over a prolonged period in their respective countries.
2. Also, there would be a series of Expert Academic Discussions on various subjects such as Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, High Altitude Warfare, Jungle Warfare etc.
3. The exercise is part of an initiative to develop inter-operability and sharing expertise between the two nations.
4. **Note:** Last edition of Exercise Surya Kiran was conducted in Nepal in 2019.

Source: PIB

First satellite and nuclear missile tracking ship INS Dhruv

Why in News

1. India has launched its first satellite and nuclear missile tracking ship INS Dhruv in Visakhapatnam.

Key Points

About INS Dhruv:

2. INS Dhruv, with its anti-ballistic missile capabilities, will act as an early warning system for enemy missiles headed towards Indian cities and military establishments.
3. It is India's first naval vessel that is capable of tracking nuclear missiles at a long range, which assumes a special significance with an increasing threat of nuclear ballistic warfare in the Indo-Pacific region.

4. It was built by the **Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.** in collaboration with the **National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO)** and the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.

Note: India now joins an elite list of countries that presently consists of only **France, the US, the UK, Russia, and China**, who possess and operate such vessels.

Source: Hindustan Times

India's first Emergency Landing Facility for Indian Air Force in Barmer, Rajasthan

Why in News

1. **Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister and Nitin Gadkari, Minister for Road Transport and Highways** jointly inaugurated **Emergency Landing Facility (ELF)** for the Indian Air Force at Satta-Gandhav stretch on **NH-925A near Barmer, Rajasthan**.

Key Points

2. This is the first time that a National Highway has been used for emergency landing of aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF).
3. The NHAI has developed the 3 kilometre section as an ELF for the Indian Air Force.
4. It is part of the newly-developed two-lane paved shoulder of Gagariya-Bakhasar & Satta-Gandhav Section having total length of 196.97 kilometres and costing Rs 765.52 crore under Bharatmala Pariyojana.
5. The work commenced in July 2019 and was completed in January 2021.

Source: The Hindu

Delegation of Financial Powers to Defence Services (DFPDS) 2021

Why in News

1. **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** released an order on **Delegation of Financial Powers to Defence Services (DFPDS) 2021**, providing enhanced delegation of Revenue Procurement powers to the Armed Forces.
2. DFPDS 2021 is another big step in the series of defence reforms to strengthen the security infrastructure of the country.

3. It will overcome procedural delays, bring about greater decentralisation and operational efficiency.

Key Points

1. The enhanced delegation of Financial Powers to functionaries in Service Headquarters and lower formations would result in quicker decision making at all levels leading to better planning and operational preparedness of the Services in a quicker time frame and optimum utilisation of resources.
2. The DFPDS 2021 consists of guidelines related to the following Schedules of Financial Powers:

Army Schedules of Powers-2021 (ASP-2021)

Navy Schedules of Powers-2021 (NSP-2021)

Air Force Schedules of Powers-2021 (AFSP- 2021)

IDS Schedules of Powers-2021 (ISP-2021)

1. Delegated Financial Powers of Vice Chiefs of the Services have been increased by 10 percent, subject to an overall ceiling of Rs 500 crore.

Recent Reforms in Defence Sector:

2. Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020
3. Creation of Chief of Defence Staff
4. Indigenisation of Defense Technology: Project 75, LCA Tejas, etc.
5. Establishment of Department of Military Affairs
6. Participation of Women in Armed Forces

Source: PIB

C-295MW transport aircraft for Indian Air Force

Why in News

1. **Cabinet Committee on Security** approved the procurement of **56 C-295MW transport aircraft** for the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** under the **'Make in India' initiative**.
2. It will be purchased from **M/s Airbus Defence and Space S.A., Spain**.

Key Points

About C-295MW aircraft:

1. It is a transport aircraft of 5-10 Tonne capacity with contemporary technology that will replace the ageing Avro aircraft of IAF.

Project Execution:

2. 16 aircraft will be delivered in flyaway condition from Spain within 48 months of signing of the contract and 40 aircraft will be manufactured in India by **TATA Consortium** within 10 years of signing of the contract.
3. This is the **first project of its kind** in which a military aircraft will be manufactured in India by a **private company**.
4. During the process of manufacturing in India, it is expected that all the suppliers of TATA Consortium who will be involved in special processes will gain and maintain globally recognized **National Aerospace and Defence Contractors Accreditation Program (NADCAP)** accreditation.

Significance of the Deal:

1. The project will give a boost to the aerospace ecosystem in India wherein several MSMEs spread over the country will be involved in manufacturing of parts of the aircraft.
2. The programme will provide a major boost to the **`Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'** as it offers a unique opportunity for the **Indian Private Sector**.

Employment Generation:

3. The programme will act as a catalyst in employment generation in the aerospace ecosystem of the country and is expected to generate 600 highly skilled jobs directly, over 3000 indirect jobs and an additional 3000 medium skill employment opportunities with more than 42.5 lakh man hours of work within the aerospace and defence sector of India.

Source: PIB

President's Colour presented to Naval Aviation Why in News

1. Shri **Ram Nath Kovind, President of India and the Supreme Commander of Indian Armed Forces**, presented the **President's Colour** to **Indian Naval Aviation** at INS Hansa, Goa.

Key Points

2. Award of the President's Colour to Indian Naval Aviation, is in recognition of the yeoman service rendered both during peace and combat.
3. The Naval Aviation arm came into being with acquisition of the first Sealand aircraft on 13 Jan 1951 and commissioning of INS Garuda, at Kochi on 11 May 1953.
4. Today, Naval Aviation boasts of nine Air Stations and three Naval Air Enclaves, along the Indian coastline and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
5. Over the past seven decades, it has transformed into a modern, technologically advanced and highly potent force, with more than 250 aircraft.

About President's Colour:

1. It is bestowed on a military unit, in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the Nation, both in peace and in war.
2. The Indian Navy was the first Indian Armed Force, to receive the President's Colour, from Dr Rajendra Prasad, the then President of India on 27 May 1951.

Source: PIB

'AUSINDEX 21'- a bilateral maritime exercise between Australia and India

Why in News

1. The **Royal Australian Navy (RAN)** and **Indian Navy (IN)** conduct the **4th edition** of bilateral exercise – '**AUSINDEX** 'in **Australia** from 06 to 10 September, 2021.

Key Points

2. Indian Navy Task Group comprising IN Ships Shivalik and Kadmat participated in the exercise.
3. From Australia, Royal Australian Navy Anzac Class Frigate, HMAS Warramunga participated.
4. The exercise will provide an opportunity for both Navies to further bolster inter-operability, gain from best practices and develop a common understanding of procedures for Maritime Security Operations.
5. The exercise is a true representation of Joint Guidance signed by the Chief of the Naval Staff, IN and Chief of Navy, RAN on 18 Aug 2021.
6. This important document is aligned to the '**2020 Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**' between the two nations and aims to further consolidate shared

commitment to regional and global security challenges promoting peace, security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Note: Commenced in 2015 as a bilateral IN-RAN maritime exercise, AUSINDEX has grown in complexity over the years and the 3rd edition of the exercise, held in 2019 in the Bay of Bengal.

Source: PIB

Karbi Anglong Agreement

Why in News

1. A tripartite agreement '**Karbi Anglong Agreement**' among **five insurgent groups of Assam**, the **Centre** and the **State government** was signed to end years of violence in the Karbi Anglong region.
2. It was signed in the presence of Union Home Minister, Amit Shah.
3. The Karbi Agreement is another milestone in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Insurgency free prosperous North East".

Key Points

Highlights of the Karbi-Anglong Agreement:

1. The insurgent groups which signed the peace accord include Karbi Longri North Cachar Hills Liberation Front (KLNLHF), People's Democratic Council of Karbi Longri (PDCK), United People's Liberation Army (UPLA), Karbi People's Liberation Tigers (KPLT) and the Kuki Liberation Front (KLF).
2. With this historic agreement, over 1000 armed cadres have abjured violence and joined the mainstream of society.
3. A Special Development Package of Rs. 1000 crores over five years will be given by the Union Government and Assam Government to undertake specific projects for the development of Karbi areas.
1. This Memorandum of Settlement will ensure greater devolution of autonomy to the **Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC)**, protection of identity, language, culture, etc. of Karbi people and focused development of the Council area, without affecting the territorial and administrative integrity of Assam.
2. The Assam government shall set up a Karbi Welfare Council for focused development of Karbi people living outside the KAAC area.

About Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC):

1. It is an autonomous district council in the state of Assam for development and protection of tribals living in areas namely Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong district.
2. The council is constituted under the **Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India** and administratively functions under the Government of Assam.

Other Recent Peace Agreements of the Northeast:

1. NLFT Tripura Agreement, 2019
2. Bru Accord, 2020.
3. Bodo Peace Accord

Source: PIB

12th edition of DefExpo

Why in News

1. **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani** jointly reviewed the preparations of DefExpo-2022, at Kevadia, Gujarat.
2. **A memorandum of understanding (MoU)** was signed between the Ministry of Defence and Gujarat Government for organising DefExpo-2022.
3. The 12th edition of DefExpo will be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat between March 10 and 13, 2022.

Key Points

About DefExpo-2022:

1. DefExpo is India's flagship event showcasing the land, naval, air as well as homeland security systems.
2. The aim is to build upon the vision to achieve 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence and reach USD 5 billion defence exports target by 2024.

Note: The previous edition (11th) of DefExpo was held at Uttar Pradesh capital Lucknow in February 2020.

Source: PIB

Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) 2021

Why in News

1. The **28th edition of Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX)** was conducted from 02 to 04 Sep 2021.
2. Owing to the ongoing pandemic-related constraints, this year's SIMBEX was planned without any physical interactions as an 'at-sea only' exercise hosted by the **Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN)** in the **southern fringes of the South China Sea**.

Key Points

1. The Indian Navy was represented by Guided Missile Destroyer INS Ranvijay with a ship borne helicopter, ASW Corvette INS Kiltan and Guided Missile Corvette INS Kora and one P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft.

About Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX):

2. SIMBEX is an annual bilateral naval exercise conducted by the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).
3. The exercise has been held annually since 1994.
4. Both navies have a representation in each other's Maritime Information Fusion Centres and have also recently signed an agreement on mutual submarine rescue support and coordination.

Source: PIB

Indian Army to participate in Multilateral Exercise ZAPAD, 2021 in Russia

Why in News

1. A 200 personnel contingent of the Indian Army will participate in **ZAPAD 2021**, a multi-nation military exercise being held at Nizhniy, Russia from 3rd to 16th September 2021.

Key Points

2. ZAPAD 2021 is one of the theatre level exercises of the Russian Armed Forces and will focus primarily on operations against terrorists.
3. The exercise aims to enhance military and strategic ties amongst the participating nations while they plan & execute this exercise.
4. Over a dozen countries from Eurasian and South Asian Region will participate

in this signature event.

Participating countries:

1. In all, **17 countries** have been invited by Russia for the exercise.
2. Of these **9 are Participating countries** which include Mongolia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Russia, India and Belarus.
3. The other **8 countries are Observers** which include Pakistan, China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Uzbekistan and Sri Lanka, the source added.

The **NAGA Battalion group (India)**, participating in the exercise will feature an all Arms combined task force.

Exercise between India and Russia:

4. Indra: Joint Exercise (Army, Navy, Air Force)

Source: The Hindu

Indian Navy's Maiden Exercise with Algerian Navy

Why in News

1. As part of her ongoing goodwill visit to Europe and Africa, **INS Tabar** took part in a **Maritime Partnership Exercise** with **Algerian Navy ship 'Ezzadjer'** on 29 Aug 21.
2. This naval exercise was conducted off the **Algerian coast**.

Key Points

1. As part of the exercise, diverse activities including co-ordinated manoeuvring, communication procedures and steam past were undertaken between the Indian and Algerian warships.
2. The exercise enabled the two navies to understand the concept of operations followed by each other, enhanced interoperability and opened the possibility of increasing interaction and collaboration between them in future.

Source: PIB

Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Vigraha'

Why in News

1. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh dedicated to the Nation, **indigenously built**

Coast Guard Ship 'Vigraha' in Chennai.

2. **ICGS Vigraha** is the last vessel in the series of **7 Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs)** built by L&T under a Ministry of Defence contract signed in 2015.
3. Other OPVs are **Vikram, Vijaya, Veera, Varaha, Varad and Vajra.**

Key Points

About Vigraha:

1. ICGS Vigraha will be based at Visakhapatnam and operate on India's Eastern Seaboard under the Operational and Administrative Control of the Commander, Coast Guard Region (East).
2. The 98 meters OPV has been designed and built indigenously by **M/s Larsen & Toubro Ship Building Ltd.,** and is fitted with advanced technology Radars, Navigation and Communication Equipment, Sensor and Machinery capable of operating in tropical sea conditions.
3. The ship, on joining the Coast Guard Eastern fleet, will be deployed extensively for EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) surveillance and other duties as enshrined in the Coast Guard Charter, to safeguard the maritime interests of India.

Note: The Indian Coast Guard with this ship joining the fleet, will have 157 Ships and 66 Aircraft in its inventory.

Source: PIB

Army Sports Institute Stadium, Pune renamed after Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Neeraj Chopra

Why in News

1. **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** renamed the Army Sports Institute Stadium of Army Sports Institute (ASI), Pune after Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Neeraj Chopra.

Key Points

About Neeraj Chopra:

2. Neeraj Chopra is an Indian track and field athlete who competes in the javelin throw.
3. As of August 2021, he is ranked second internationally by World Athletics.
4. Chopra is the first track and field athlete to win a gold medal for India at the

Tokyo Olympics 2020.

About Army Sports Institute (ASI), Pune:

1. Established in 2001 under the Indian Army's Mission Olympic programme, ASI is a multi-disciplinary sports training institute.
2. The institute imparts training in seven fields: Archery, Athletics, Boxing, Diving, Wrestling, Fencing and Weightlifting.

Source: Indian Express

Awards and Honours

Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina conferred with SDG Progress Award

Why in News

1. **Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina** has been conferred with **SDG Progress award** for Bangladesh's steady progress in achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

Key Points

About SDG Progress Award:

2. It was conferred by the **UN sponsored Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)**.
3. The SDSN was set up in 2012 under the auspices of the UN Secretary General.

About SDG (Sustainable Development Goals):

1. The SDGs are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all".
2. The SDGs were set up in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by the year 2030.

Source: newsonair

National Florence Nightingale Award 2020 to Brigadier S V Saraswati

Why in News

1. **Deputy Director General of Military Nursing Service (MNS) Brig S V**

Saraswati has been bestowed with the National Florence Nightingale Award 2020.

2. **President Ram Nath Kovind** conferred the award for her immense contribution to the MNS as nurse administrator.

Key Points

1. Brig Saraswati hails from Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh and was commissioned into the MNS on December 28, 1983.
2. The **National Florence Nightingale Award** is the highest national distinction a nurse can achieve for selfless devotion and exceptional professionalism.

Source: The Hindu

'Super 30' founder Anand Kumar conferred with Swami Brahmanand Award 2021

Why in News

1. **Anand Kumar, Mathematician** was conferred with the **Swami Brahmanand Award 2021** for his contribution in the field of education through his 'Super 30' initiative.

Key Points

About Swami Brahmanand Award:

2. The award is given every year to people who have done special work in the education sector or for the welfare of the cow.
3. It has been instituted in the name of Swami Brahmananda, a freedom fighter, former MP and a saint known for his sacrifices and his contribution in the field of education.
4. **Note:** Friederike Irina Bruening, a German national, received the first Swami Brahmanand Award for cow protection in 2019.

Source: TOI

Sahitya Akademi Fellowship 2021

Why in News

5. The Sahitya Akademi announced Sahitya Akademi Fellowship 2021 for eight writers, including eminent **English author Ruskin Bond** and **Hindi writer**

Vinod Kumar Shukla.

Key Points

6. The others who received the Fellowship are **Sirshendu Mukhopadhyay (Bengali), M Leelavathy (Malayalam), Dr. Bhalchandra Nemade (Marathi), Dr Tejwant Singh Gill (Punjabi), Swami Rambhadracharya (Sanskrit), Indira Parthasarthy (Tamil).**
7. The general council of Sahitya Akademi had met under the chairmanship of President Dr. Chandrashekhar Kambar to announce the winners of the literary honour- Sahitya Akademi fellowship.
8. The Sahitya Akademi Fellowship is a literary honour in India bestowed by the **Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters.**

Source: TOI

Kaushalacharya Awards 2021

1. **Union Education Minister and Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** presented **Kaushalacharya Awards 2021** to **41 skill trainers** for their exemplary contribution to the skill ecosystem.
2. These **41 trainers** are from several initiatives and training programmes of **Skill India— Directorate General of Training (DGT), Apprenticeship, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) and Entrepreneurship.**

Source: PIB

Earthshot Prize 2021

Why in News

1. **Two Indian Projects** have been selected to get the first ever **Earthshot Prize 2021.**

Key Points

2. **Vinisha Umashankar, a 14-year-old Tamil Nadu schoolgirl's** solar-powered ironing cart project and **Vidyut Mohan (Co-founder of Takachar), a Delhi entrepreneur's** agricultural waste recycling concept were named among 15

finalists for the first-ever Earthshot Prize 2021.

About Earthshot Prize:

3. It is a prize awarded annually from 2021 to 2030, to five winners each year whose solutions substantially help the environment.
4. The Prize is given by the **Royal Foundation**, headquartered in London, England.
5. The Earthshot Prize was launched in 2020 by **Prince William, Duke of Cambridge and David Attenborough**, with the support of a broad range of individuals and organizations dedicated to climate action.

Source: Indian Express

UNESCO Literacy Prize awarded to NIOS

Why in News

1. The **National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)** of India won the prestigious **UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize 2021** for Innovation in Education.

Key Points

2. **NIOS** won this award for 'enabling education of persons with disabilities through technology-enabled inclusive learning materials, with a specific focus on Indian Sign language-based content'.
3. Every year, the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes focus on a specific theme. This year, the spotlight was on inclusive distance and digital literacy learning.
4. Along with NIOS, this year's UNESCO International Literacy Prizes were awarded to five other outstanding literacy programmes from Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Guatemala, Mexico, and South Africa.

Source: India Today

Hyderabad-based ICRISAT wins Africa Food Prize 2021

Why in News

1. Hyderabad-based **International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)** has been awarded the **Africa Food Prize 2021** for improving food security in sub-Saharan Africa.

Key Points

2. Africa Food Prize 2021 was awarded at the **Africa Forum for Green Revolution 2021 Summit in Nairobi, Kenya.**
3. ICRISAT got the award for the Tropical Legumes Project that has improved food security across 13 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

About ICRISAT: It is a non-profit, non-political public international research organization that conducts agricultural research for development in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa with a wide array of partners throughout the world.

Source: Indian Express

INSPIRE Awards - MANAK

Why in News

1. The 8th **National Level Exhibition and Project Competition (NLEPC)** for the **INSPIRE Awards – MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge)**, has commenced.
2. It is showcasing the innovative ideas from 581 students representing various States and UTs of the country.

Key Points

About The INSPIRE Awards - MANAK scheme:

1. The INSPIRE Awards - MANAK scheme is aligned with the 'Start-up India'.
2. It aims to motivate students in the age group of 10-15 years and studying in classes 6 to 10 to become future innovators and critical thinkers.

About INSPIRE scheme:

1. **Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)** was approved by the **Government of India** for implementation through the **Department of Science & Technology** to promote science and attract talents for pursuing career in research.
2. It was launched by the Prime Minister on 31st December, 2008.
3. INSPIRE Scheme has included **three programs and five components.**

Three programs:

- i) Scheme for Early Attraction of Talents for Science (SEATS)

- ii) Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE)
- iii) Assured Opportunity for Research Careers (AORC)

Five components:

- i) INSPIRE Awards - MANAK
- ii) INSPIRE Internship
- iii) INSPIRE Scholarship
- iv) INSPIRE Fellowship
- v) INSPIRE Faculty

Related Initiatives:

1. Swarna Jayanti Fellowship (It provides special assistance and support to a selected young scientists)
2. Science Technology and Innovation Policy, 2020
3. SERB-POWER Scheme (For women scientists)

Source: PIB

Behler Turtle Conservation Award 2021

Why in News

1. **Indian biologist Dr. Shailendra Singh** has been awarded the **Behler Turtle Conservation Award 2021** for bringing **three critically endangered turtle** conservation species again from the brink of extinction.
2. There are **29 species of freshwater turtles and tortoises** in India.

Key Points

1. These **critically endangered turtles** are being conserved as part of TSA India's analysis, conservation breeding and training programme in numerous elements of the nation.
2. The Northern River Terrapin (Batagur baska) is being conserved on the Sunderbans; the Crimson-crowned Roofed Turtle (Batagur kachuga) at Chambal; and the Black Softshell Turtle (Nilssonina nigricans) at completely different temples in Assam.

About Behler Turtle Conservation Award:

3. It was established in 2006 to recognise excellent achievements, contributions and management excellence in worldwide turtle conservation and biology.
4. It carries an honorarium of \$5000 and is widely considered the “Nobel Prize” of turtle conservation and biology.
5. It is co-presented by the Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA), IUCN/SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group, Turtle Conservancy, and the Turtle Conservation Fund.

Protection Status:

1. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List: Critically Endangered
2. CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)
3. Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

Source: The Hindu

Ramon Magsaysay Award 2021 Winners

Why in News

1. Recently, the 63rd Ramon Magsaysay Award 2021 was announced.

Key Points

List of Ramon Magsaysay Award 2021 Awardees:

2. Dr. Firdausi Qadri, Bangladesh (Affordable Vaccine Champion)
3. Roberto Ballon, Philippines (Fisherman, Community Environmentalist)
4. Steven Muncy, Southeast Asia (Humanitarian, Peace Builder)
5. Muhammad Amjad Saqib, Pakistan (Poverty Alleviation Visionary)
6. Watchdoc, Indonesia (Media Truth Crusaders)

About Ramon Magsaysay Award:

1. It was established in April 1957 and is regarded as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize.
2. The award is named after Ramon Magsaysay, the third president of the Republic of the Philippines after World War II.

3. The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation gives the prize to Asian individuals achieving excellence in their respective fields.
4. The Award is presented in a formal ceremony in Manila, Philippines on August 31st each year.

Source: The Hindu

POWERGRID wins the global ATD BEST Award 2021

Why in News

1. **Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID)**, a Maharatna CPSU under Ministry of Power, Government of India has been awarded the coveted **“Association for Talent Development (ATD) 2021 BEST Award”**.
2. It secured **8th rank** among the 71 organizations from around the globe.

Key Points

1. POWERGRID has won this International recognition for its diligent efforts in talent development practices and programmes.
2. The talent development initiative in POWERGRID is driven by **POWERGRID Academy of Leadership (PAL)**.

About the Award:

1. The Association for Talent Development (ATD, formerly ASTD) is the world's largest association dedicated to those who develop talent in organizations and ATD's BEST Award is the talent development industry's most rigorous and coveted recognition.

Source: PIB

Ranks and Indices

3rd State Food Safety Index: FSSAI

Why in News

1. **Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mansukh Mandaviya** released the 3rd State Food Safety Index (SFSI).
2. He also flagged off **19 Mobile Food Testing Vans (Food Safety on Wheels)** to supplement the food safety ecosystem across the country taking the total

number of such mobile testing vans to 109.

Key Points

Rankings of States:

1. The Union Minister felicitated 9 leading States/UTs based on the ranking for the year 2020-21 for their impressive performance.
2. **Among the larger states**, Gujarat was the top ranking state, followed by Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
3. **Among the smaller states**, Goa stood first followed by Meghalaya and Manipur.
4. **Among UTs**, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and New Delhi secured top ranks.

About State Food Safety Index:

5. The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has developed State Food Safety Index to measure the performance of states on 5 significant parameters of Food Safety.
6. **Parameters:** Human Resources and Institutional Data, Compliance, Food Testing – Infrastructure and Surveillance, Training & Capacity Building and Consumer Empowerment
7. The Index is a dynamic quantitative and qualitative benchmarking model that provides an objective framework for evaluating food safety across all States/UTs.
8. The first State Food Safety Index (for 2018-19) was announced on the first-ever World Food Safety Day on 7th June 2019.

Related Initiatives:

1. Eat Right India Movement
2. Eat Right Research Awards and Grants
3. Eat Right Station Certification

Source: PIB

Global Innovation Index 2021

Why in News

1. **India** has climbed 2 spots and has been **ranked 46th** in the **Global Innovation Index (GII) 2021** rankings.
2. India has been on a rising trajectory, over the past several years in the Global Innovation Index, from a rank of 81 in 2015 to 46 in 2021.

Key Points

Global Performance:

1. **Rank 1:** Switzerland
2. **Rank 2:** Sweden
3. **Rank 3:** U.S.
4. **Rank 46:** India

India's Performance:

1. The consistent improvement in the GI ranking is owing to the immense knowledge capital, the vibrant start-up ecosystem, and the amazing work done by the public and the private research organizations.
2. The Scientific Departments like the Department of Atomic Energy; the Department of Science and Technology; the Department of Biotechnology and the Department of Space have played a pivotal role in enriching the National Innovation Ecosystem.
3. India ranks 2nd among the 34 lower middle-income group economies.
4. India ranks 1st among the 10 economies in Central and Southern Asia.

About Global Innovation Index (GII) 2021:

1. The GI report is published by **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)** in partnership with the Portulans Institute, with support of corporate network partners, such as the Confederation of Indian Industry, Brazilian National Confederation of Industry, Ecopetrol Group (Colombia), and the Turkish Exporters Assembly.
2. The 2021 edition of the GI presents the latest global innovation ranking of 132 economies, relying on 81 different indicators.

Source: PIB

World Bank discontinues 'Ease of Doing Business' report

Why in News

3. The World Bank Group has decided to discontinue the 'Ease of Doing Business' report.
4. The World Bank has now said that a new approach will be worked out to assess countries' business and investment climates.

Key Points

5. In August 2020, World Bank paused the publication of the Doing Business report following a number of irregularities were reported regarding changes to the data.
6. The international financial institution later confirmed that the changes were inconsistent with the Doing Business methodology.

About Ease of Doing Business Report:

1. The Ease of Doing Business Report was introduced in 2003 to provide an assessment of objective measures of business regulations and their enforcement across 190 economies.

India's Performance:

2. In 2014, India was at 142nd position on the Ease of Doing Business Index and made significant improvements after the government launched an ambitious program of regulatory reforms.
3. India moved to 63rd position on World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Ranking 2020.

Other World Bank's major report:

1. World Development Report
2. Human Capital Index

Source: The Hindu

THE World University Rankings 2022

Why in News

1. The **Times Higher Education (THE)** released **World University Rankings 2022**.

Key Points

Global Ranking:

2. The **University of Oxford, UK** tops the ranking for the sixth consecutive year.
3. Colleges from the United States continue to dominate the top 20 ranks, with **California Institute of Technology, Harvard University and Stanford University** taking the second, third and the fourth spot respectively.

India's Ranking:

1. **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru** is the country's top performing institute, but is ranked in the 301-350 bracket.
2. It is followed by IIT Ropar and JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research. Both are in the 351-400 bracket.
3. Overall, India is home to 35 of the world's top 1,000 universities.

About THE World University Rankings 2022:

1. The THE World University Rankings 2022 include more than 1,600 universities across 99 countries and territories, making them the largest and most diverse university rankings to date.
2. The table is based on 13 carefully calibrated performance indicators that measure an institution's performance across four areas: teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook.

About Times Higher Education (THE):

1. Times Higher Education, formerly The Times Higher Education Supplement, is a magazine reporting specifically on news and issues related to higher education.

Related India's Initiatives:

2. National Education Policy, 2020
3. Institutions of Eminence (IoE) Scheme
4. Uchhatar Avishkar Yojana
5. Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT)

Source: Indian Express

BGCI launches the State of the World's Trees Report 2021

Why in News

1. **Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)** launched the **State of the World's Trees Report 2021**.
2. Almost a third of the world's tree species are at risk of extinction, while hundreds are on the brink of being wiped out.

Key Points

1. According to the State of the World's Trees report 17,500 tree species – some 30% of the total – are at risk of extinction, while 440 species have fewer than 50 individuals left in the wild.
2. Among the most at-risk trees are species including magnolias and dipterocarps – which are commonly found in Southeast Asian rainforests. Oak trees, maple trees and ebonies also face threats.
3. Thousands of varieties of trees in the world's top 6 countries for tree-species diversity are at risk of extinction. The greatest single number is in Brazil. The other 5 countries are Indonesia, Malaysia, China, Colombia and Venezuela.
4. The top three threats facing tree species are crop production, timber logging and livestock farming, while climate change and extreme weather are emerging threats.

Need of saving Trees:

1. Trees help support the natural ecosystem and are considered vital for combating global warming and climate change.
2. They store 50% of the world's terrestrial carbon and provide a buffer from extreme weather, such hurricanes and tsunamis.

India's Related Initiatives:

1. National Mission for a Green India
2. Nagar Van (Urban Forest) Scheme
3. Sankalp Parva
4. National Afforestation Programme
5. Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act

Source: Indian Express

Weather disasters killed 2 million in last 50 years, UN Agency

Why in News

1. According to the **WMO 'Atlas of Mortality and Economic Losses from Weather, Climate and Water Extremes (1970 – 2019)' report**, weather disasters killed 2 million in last 50 years.
2. **WMO (World Meteorological Organization)** is a specialized **agency of the United Nations** responsible for promoting international cooperation on atmospheric science, climatology, hydrology and geophysics.

Key Points

Findings of the Report:

1. The number of disasters has increased by a factor of five over the 50 year period, driven by climate change, more extreme weather and improved reporting.
2. Due to improved early warnings and disaster management, the number of deaths decreased almost three-fold from 1970 to 2019.
3. From 1970 to 2019, weather, climate and water hazards accounted for 50% of all disasters, 45% of all reported deaths and 74% of all reported economic losses.
4. More than 91% of these deaths occurred in developing countries.
5. During the 50 year period, US\$ 202 million dollars in damage occurred on average every day. Economic losses have increased sevenfold from the 1970s to the 2010s.
6. Storms were the most prevalent cause of damage, resulting in the largest economic losses around the globe.

Failure of Sendai Framework:

1. The failure to reduce disaster losses as set out in the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction adopted by UN Member States in 2015** is putting at risk the ability of developing countries to eradicate poverty and to achieve other important **SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)**.

India's Recent Initiatives:

1. National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP)
2. Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)

3. National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

Source: public.wmo.int

The Climate Crisis is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index, UNICEF Report

Why in News

1. **UNICEF** in collaboration with **Fridays for Future (FFF)** has launched the report named '**The Climate Crisis is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index**' 2021.
2. The report is the first comprehensive analysis of climate risk from a child's perspective.

Key Points

About Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI):

1. It ranks countries based on children's exposure to climate and environmental shocks, such as cyclones and heat waves, as well as their vulnerability to those shocks, based on their access to essential services.
2. The report finds approximately **1 billion children** – nearly half the world's 2.2 billion children – live in one of the **33 countries classified as "extremely high-risk"**.
3. These children face a deadly combination of exposure to multiple climate and environmental shocks with a high vulnerability due to inadequate essential services, such as water and sanitation, healthcare and education.

CCRI Rank:

1. Rank 1: Central African Republic
2. Rank 2: Chad, Nigeria
3. Rank 26: India

Recommendations:

1. Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions
2. Increase investment in climate adaptation and resilience
3. Provide Climate Education

4. Ensure Pandemic Recovery is Inclusive
5. Include Young People in Decisions

Source: unicef.org

Books and Authors

A book titled 'Human Rights and Terrorism in India' by Subramanian Swamy

Why in News

1. A book titled 'Human Rights and Terrorism in India' authored by **Rajya Sabha member Subramanian Swamy**, has been released.

Key Points

2. The book traces how the combating of terrorism can be harmonised with human and fundamental rights within reasonable restrictions that is permitted by the Constitution and upheld by the Supreme Court.

Source: the Hindu

The book "Gita Govinda: Jaydeva's Divine Odyssey" and program 'Bujurgon ki Baat-Desh Ke Saath'

Why in News

1. **Union Minister of Culture Gangapuram Kishan Reddy** launched the book **"Gita Govinda: Jaydeva's Divine Odyssey"** written by Padma Shri Dr. Utpal K. Banerjee and program **'Bujurgon ki Baat-Desh Ke Saath'** in New Delhi.

Key Points

About 'Bujurgon ki Baat-Desh Ke Saath' Programme:

2. The programme aims at enhancing the interaction between the youth and the elder persons who are 95 years and above and thus have spent around 18 years in India before independence.

About "Gita Govinda: Jaydeva's Divine Odyssey" Book:

3. Gita Govinda was originally written by 12th century poet Jayadeva.
4. It describes the relationship between Krishna and Radha.

Source: PIB

New Appointments

Justin Trudeau wins third term as Canada's PM

Why in News

1. Justin Trudeau has won a third term as Canada's Prime Minister after his party won the 2021 election.

Key Points

2. Justin Trudeau is a Canadian politician who is the 23rd and current Prime Minister of Canada since November 2015 and the leader of the Liberal Party since 2013.
3. Trudeau is the second-youngest prime minister in Canadian history after Joe Clark.

Facts about Canada:

1. **Capital:** Ottawa
2. **Currency:** Canadian Dollar

Source: Indian Express

Air Marshal V R Chaudhari appointed next Chief of Air Staff

Why in News

1. Government has decided to appoint **Air Marshal V R Chaudhari**, presently Vice Chief of Air Staff, as the next **Chief of the Air Staff** after the retirement of Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria on 30th September, 2021.

Key Points

2. V R Chaudhari was commissioned into the Fighter stream of Indian Air Force on 29th December 1982 and has held various Command, Staff and Instructional Appointments at various levels including the present one as Vice Chief of Air Staff.
3. Chaudhari is a recipient of the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and the Vayu Sena Medals.

Source: Indian Express

Charanjit Singh Channi takes oath as Punjab CM

Why in News

1. **Congress leader Charanjit Singh Channi** took oath as **16th Chief Minister of Punjab**.
2. **Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa** and **Om Prakash Soni** took oath as **Deputy Chief Ministers**.

Key Points

1. Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit administered the oath of office and secrecy at the Raj Bhawan in Chandigarh.
2. Channi a three-time MLA from Rupnagar's Chamkaur Sahib - is the first Dalit to hold this post in the state.

Note: Captain Amarinder Singh resigned from the post of Chief Minister of Punjab on 18 September 2021.

Source: Indian Express

Bhupendra Patel sworn-in as new chief minister of Gujarat

Why in News

1. Bhupendra Patel has been sworn-in as the 17th chief minister of Gujarat.

Key Points

2. Governor Acharya Devvrat administered the oath of office to him at Rajbhavan.
3. Bhupendra Patel is a MLA from the Ghatlodia constituency in Ahmedabad.
4. Bhupendra Patel replaced Vijay Rupani, who unexpectedly stepped down from the chief minister of Gujarat.

Source: indiatoday

New Governors appointed for Uttarakhand, Punjab, Nagaland & Tamil Nadu

Why in News

1. President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed new governors in four states, namely, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Nagaland & Tamil Nadu.

Key Points

Uttarakhand:

2. **Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh** (retd), former deputy chief of Army, has been appointed Governor of Uttarakhand.
3. **Note:** Recently, the President of India had accepted the resignation of Baby Rani Maurya as Governor of Uttarakhand.

Punjab:

1. **Banwarilal Purohit**, Governor of Tamil Nadu holding additional charge of the Governor of Punjab is appointed as regular Governor of Punjab.

Nagaland:

2. **Jagdish Mukhi**, who is presently the governor of Assam, has been appointed to discharge the functions of the governor of Nagaland in addition to his charge till a fresh appointment is made.

Tamil Nadu:

3. The incumbent Governor of Nagaland, **R N Ravi** is shifted to Tamil Nadu.

Source: TOI

Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura takes charge as the Chairman, National Commission for Minorities

Why in News

4. Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura took charge as the Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM).

Key Points

5. Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura was the former IPS officer from Punjab.

About National Commission for Minorities (NCM):

1. The Union Government had set up the NCM under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.
2. Initially five religious communities, namely, **Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis)** were notified as minority communities by the Union Government. Further, on January 27, 2014, **Jains** were also notified as another minority community.

Source: PIB

Pankaj Kumar Singh appointed as BSF director general

Why in News

1. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs to appoint **Pankaj Kumar Singh as director general (DG) of Border Security Force (BSF)**.

Key Points

About Pankaj Kumar Singh:

2. He is a 1988-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from Rajasthan cadre.
3. **Note:** Singh's father and retired IPS officer Prakash Singh also headed the Border Security Force as its DG in the past.

Other Appointments:

4. The government also appointed 1988-batch IPS Officers **Sanjay Arora** (Tamil Nadu cadre) and **Balaji Srivastav** (AGMUT cadre) as the new heads (**director general**) of the **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** and the **Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD)**.

Source: TOI

Obituaries

Akhara Parishad's President, Narendra Giri passes away

Why in News

1. **Mahant Narendra Giri**, president of the **Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad**, passed away.

Key Points

2. Narendra Giri was elected president of the all-powerful Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad, the apex decision-making body of the 13 recognised Hindu monastic orders of the country in 2014 for five years.
3. He was re-elected to the post at a meeting of the Akhara Parishad held in Haridwar in October 2019.

Source: HT

Noted litterateur Manorama Mohapatra passes away

1. Eminent litterateur, social worker and former editor of Odia daily 'The Samaja' Manorama Mohapatra passed away at 87.
2. Mohapatra has more than 40 books and novels to her credit.
3. She was honoured with **Sahitya Akademi Award** in 1984, Soviet Nehru Award in 1988, Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar Samman in 1991, Utkal Sahitya Samaj Award, Gangadhar Meher Samman, Sarala Award and Sucharita Award etc.
4. For her immense contribution to the field of literature, she was appointed as secretary of Utkal Sahitya Samaj from 1982 to 1990 and President of Odisha Sahitya Akademi in 1991, the first woman to hold this post, till 1994.

Source: Indian Express

Former Union Minister Oscar Fernandes passes away

1. Former Union Minister and member of Rajya Sabha Oscar Fernandes passed away.
2. He was an Indian politician, a senior Indian National Congress leader and was the Union Cabinet Minister for Transport, Road and Highways and Labour and Employment in the UPA government.
3. He represented Udupi constituency in the Lok Sabha 5 times and was elected to the Rajya Sabha 4 times.

Source: The Hindu

J B Mohapatra appointed CBDT chairman

1. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of J B Mohapatra, as chairman, **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**.
2. He has been holding the additional charge of CBDT chairman since May 31, 2021 after the extended tenure of incumbent P C Mody had ended.
3. Mohapatra, a 1985-batch Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax) officer, is

currently the member in the board that frames the policy for the Income Tax department.

Source: The Hindu

Former Rajya Sabha MP and senior journalist Chandan Mitra passes away

1. Former Rajya Sabha MP and senior journalist Chandan Mitra passed away at 65.
2. Mitra was a nominated member of the Rajya Sabha from August 2003 to 2009.
3. In June 2010, BJP got him elected to the upper house from Madhya Pradesh. His term ended in 2016.
4. In July 2018, Mitra, Editor and Managing Director of The Pioneer, resigned from the BJP and joined the Trinamool Congress (TMC).

Source: Indian Express

Important Days

September 23, International Day of Sign Languages

Why in News

1. The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** has proclaimed 23 September as the **International Day of Sign Languages (IDSL)** in order to raise awareness of the importance of sign language.

Key Points

2. The 2021 **theme**, declared by the World Federation of the Deaf, is **“We Sign For Human Rights”**.

Background:

3. The proposal for the Day came from the **World Federation of the Deaf (WFD)**, a federation of 135 national associations of deaf people.
4. The International Day of Sign Languages was first celebrated in 2018 as part of the International Week of the Deaf.
5. The International Week of the Deaf was first celebrated in September 1958.

Note:

1. According to the World Federation of the Deaf, there are more than 70 million deaf people worldwide.
2. More than 80% of them live in developing countries. Collectively, they use more than 300 different sign languages.

Source: un.org

September 21, International Day of Peace

Why in News

1. Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September.

Key Points

2. The 2021 **theme** for the International Day of Peace is **“Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world”**.

Background:

3. The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly.
4. Two decades later, in 2001, the General Assembly unanimously voted to designate the Day as a period of non-violence and cease-fire.

Source: un.org

September 16, International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

Why in News

1. September 16 was designated by the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.

Key Points

2. The **theme** for 2021 is ‘Montreal Protocol – keeping us, our food and vaccines cool’.
3. The **ozone layer**, a fragile shield of gas, protects the Earth from the harmful portion of the rays of the sun, thus helping preserve life on the planet.

Background:

1. On 19 December 1994, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 16 September the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, commemorating the date, in 1987, on which the **Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer** was signed.

Source: [un.org](https://www.un.org/)

September 15, International Day of Democracy

Why in News

1. The International Day of Democracy is celebrated around the world on 15 September each year.

Key Points

History:

2. It was established through a resolution passed by the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** in 2007, encouraging governments to strengthen and consolidate democracy.
3. The International Day of Democracy owes its existence to the Universal Declaration on Democracy, which was adopted on September 15, 1997 by the **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)**, which is an international organisation of national parliaments.

Source: [Hindustan Times](https://www.hindustantimes.com/)

September 15, Engineer's Day

Why in News

1. India celebrates Engineer's Day to commemorate the birth anniversary of the greatest Indian Engineer, **Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya**, on September 15 every year.

Key Points

2. Engineer's Day is observed to acknowledge the efforts of various engineers who have made contributions in this field to make our present lives comfortable.
3. A prolific civic engineer, educationist, economist, scholar of the 20th century,

M Visvesvaraya made significant contributions in the field of engineering.

4. He received India's highest honour, the Bharat Ratna, in 1955.

Note: World Engineer's Day- March 4

Source: India Today

September 14, Hindi Diwas

Why in News

1. Hindi Diwas or National Hindi Day is celebrated every year on the 14th of September, to commemorate the adoption of Hindi in Devanagari script as one of the official languages in different Hindi speaking states of India.

Key Points

History:

2. On 14 September 1949, Hindi was adopted as the official language in India.
3. Under Article 343 of the Indian Constitution, Hindi written in Devanagari script was adopted as one of the official languages. In all, there are **22 Scheduled languages of India**.

Related Awards:

1. Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar and Rajbhasha Gaurav Puraskar

Note: World Hindi Day (Vishwa Hindi Divas)- January 10

Source: indiatoday

September 08, International Literacy Day

Why in News

1. **International Literacy Day (ILD) 2021** is an international observance, celebrated each year on 8 September.

Key Points

2. The **theme** of ILD 2021 is **"Literacy for a human-centred recovery: Narrowing the digital divide"**.

History:

3. 8th September was proclaimed International Literacy Day by UNESCO in 1966 to remind the international community of the importance of literacy for individuals, communities and societies.
4. The issue of literacy is a key component of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and the **UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.
5. The UN's Sustainable Development Agenda, adopted by world leaders in September 2015, promotes universal access to quality education and learning opportunities throughout people's lives.
6. **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4** has as one of its targets ensuring all young people achieve literacy and numeracy and that adults, who lack these skills are given the opportunity to acquire them.

Recent Facts:

1. 773 million adults and young people lack basic literacy skills.
2. 617 million children and adolescents are not achieving minimum proficiency levels in reading and mathematics.

Source: un.org

Sports

Raja Rithvik becomes India's 70th Chess Grandmaster

Why in News

1. **R Raja Rithvik** from **Telangana** has become **India's 70th Chess Grandmaster (GM)**, achieving his third and final norm at a recent event in Hungary.

Key Points

2. Rithvik, who earned his first GM norm in 2019, achieved his second and third norms in less than a month.

Note:

3. Viswanathan Anand became the 1st GM from India in 1988.
4. Pune's Harshit Raja became India's 69th GM in August 2021

Source: The Hindu

MS Dhoni's appointment as Team India mentor for T20 World

Cup 2021

Why in News

1. **BCCI** has appointed MS Dhoni as the mentor of the Indian national team for the T20 World Cup 2021.

Key Points

2. T20 World Cup is scheduled to be played in Oman and the UAE from October 17 to November 14.
3. Notably, India last won an ICC trophy back in 2013 when they defeated England in the final of the Champions Trophy, under the leadership of Dhoni.
4. Dhoni remains the only captain to win all three major ICC tournaments – the Champions Trophy, T20 World Cup and 50-over World Cup.

Source: Indian Express

Lasith Malinga announces retirement from all forms of cricket

Why in News

1. **Sri Lanka fast bowler Lasith Malinga** announced his retirement from all forms of cricket, ending a decorated 16-year international career that began in 2004.

Key Points

2. Malinga had already ended his Test and ODI career, and by announcing his decision to step away from T20 cricket, He marked his retirement from all forms.
3. Malinga played 30 Tests, 226 ODIs and 84 T20Is for Sri Lanka in which he picked 546 wickets (101 in Tests, 338 in ODIs and 107 in T20Is) across formats.

Source: India Today

US Open Tennis Championships 2021

1. The 2021 US Open was the 141st edition of the tournament and took place in New York City, New York, United States.

2. It was the fourth and final Grand Slam event of the year (2021).

3. List of winners:

Men's singles	Women's singles	Men's doubles	Women's doubles	Mixed doubles
Winner- Daniil Medvedev (Russia)	Winner- Emma Raducanu (Britain)	Winner- Rajeev Ram (America), Salisbury (Britain)	Winner- Samantha Stosur (Australia), Zhang Shuai (China)	Winner- Desirae Krawczyk (America), Joe Salisbury (Britain)
Runner-up- Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Runner-up- Leylah Fernandez (Canada)	Runner-up- Bruno Soares (Brazil), Jamie Murray (Britain)	Runner-up- Coco Gauff (America), Caty McNally (America)	Runner-up- Giuliana Olmos (Mexico), Marcelo Arevalo (El Salvador)

Source: The Hindu

Tokyo 2020 Paralympics Games

- Place:** Tokyo, Japan (24 August- 5 September 2021)
- 16th Paralympics Mascot:** Someity

India at Tokyo Paralympics:

- India's flag bearers in the opening ceremony- Tek Chand (Shot-putter)
- India's flag bearers in the closing ceremony- Avani Lekhara (Shooter)

Rank	Countries	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	96	60	51	207
2	Britain	41	38	45	124

3	United States	37	36	31	104
24	India	5	8	6	19

India's performance:

1. **Avani Lekhara** won the Gold Medal in Shooting. She became the **first Indian woman to win a Gold medal at the Paralympics Games**. She is only the Indian to **win multiple medals in a single edition** of the Games (1 Gold, 1 Bronze in Shooting in Tokyo 2020 Paralympics Games).
2. Sumit Antil won the Gold medal in Javelin throw.
3. Pramod Bhagat won the Gold Medal in Badminton.
4. Manish Narwal won the Gold Medal in Shooting.
5. Krishna Nagar won the Gold Medal in Badminton.

Source: olympics.com



Attempt This Monthly Current Affairs Quiz
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1. Consider the following statements regarding the 21st Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO):

- i. The meeting was chaired by the President of Russia.
- ii. Sri Lanka became a full member of SCO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

2.Which country hosted the 15th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting 2021?

- A. Vietnam
- B. Brunei
- C. Malaysia
- D. Indonesia
- E. None of the above/ More than one of the above

3.Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan presented Kaushalacharya Awards 2021 to how many skill trainers?

- A. 51
- B. 21
- C. 41
- D. 31

4.How many Indian Projects have been selected to get the first ever Earthshot Prize 2021?

- A. 2
- B. 4
- C. 3
- D. 5

5.Consider the following statements regarding the 15th Edition of Joint Military Training Exercise 'Surya Kiran'.

- i. It was held between India and Nepal.
- ii. It was held at Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

6.In September 2021, the World Bank has decided to discontinue which report?

- A. Ease of Doing Business Report

- B. Global Economic Prospect Report
- C. Global Financial Stability Report
- D. World Development Report

7. With which countries, the United States has recently announced a new trilateral security partnership for the Indo-Pacific region?

- A. United Kingdom and India
- B. United Kingdom and Japan
- C. United Kingdom and Australia
- D. United Kingdom and France
- E. None of the above/ More than one of the above

8. When is International Day of Peace observed?

- A. September 11
- B. September 21
- C. September 19
- D. September 17

9. Who took oath as the 16th Chief Minister of Punjab?

- A. Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa
- B. Navjot Singh Sidhu
- C. Om Prakash Soni
- D. Charanjit Singh Channi
- E. None of the above/ More than one of the above

10. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Global Innovation Index 2021?

- i. The index was released by the World Bank.
- ii. India has climbed 2 spots and has been ranked 46th.
- iii. Sweden has been ranked first.

- A. ii only
- B. i and ii only
- C. ii and iii only
- D. i, ii and iii

11. Consider the following statements regarding the 3rd State Food Safety Index.

- i. The index was developed by NITI Aayog.
- ii. Among the larger states, Gujarat was the top ranking state.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

12. Who is the head of the committee constituted by the Ministry of Defence for a comprehensive review of the National Cadet Corps (NCC)?

- A. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore
- B. Anand Mahindra
- C. MS Dhoni
- D. Baijayant Panda
- E. None of the above/ More than one of the above

13. Which country participated with India in the 3rd edition of Bilateral Maritime Exercise 'Samudra Shakti'?

- A. Indonesia
- B. Vietnam
- C. Thailand
- D. Sri Lanka
- E. None of the above/ More than one of the above

14. Who was/were selected for the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship 2021?

- A. Vinod Kumar Shukla
- B. Ruskin Bond
- C. Sirshendu Mukhopadhyay
- D. Srilal Shukla
- E. None of the above/ More than one of the above

15. Narendra Giri who has passed away recently, was the president of which organisation?

- A. Gorakhnath Math
- B. Juna Akhara
- C. Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad
- D. Anand Akhara Parishad

16. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Blue Flag certification in India?

- i. In September 2021, Kovalam beach in Tamil Nadu and Eden beach in Puducherry were awarded the Blue Flag certification.
- ii. India now has 14 Blue Flag beaches.
- iii. The certification is awarded by the Denmark-based non-profit Foundation for Environmental Education.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. ii only
- B. i and ii only
- C. i and iii only
- D. i, ii and iii

17. Who is the head of the National Steering Committee constituted by the Ministry of Education for the development of National Curriculum Frameworks?

- A. K Kasturirangan
- B. Anil D Sahasrabudhe
- C. S C Sharma
- D. D P Singh
- E. None of the above/ More than one of the above

18. When is International Day of Sign Languages observed?

- A. September 13
- B. September 23
- C. September 29
- D. September 19

19. Who has been appointed as the next Chief of the Air Staff?

- A. Harjinder Singh
- B. V R Chaudhari
- C. Pratap Chandra Lal
- D. S K Sinha
- E. None of the above/ More than one of the above

20. Which State/UT will organise the first edition of 'The Himalayan Film Festival-2021' (THFF)?

- A. Ladakh
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Jammu & Kashmir
- E. None of the above/ More than one of the above

21. Name the Prime Minister of Canada who has won a third term after winning the general election 2021.

- A. Andrew Scheer
- B. Naftali Bennett
- C. Justin Trudeau
- D. Boris Johnson

22. Who has been conferred with the SDG Progress Award by the UN sponsored Sustainable Development Solutions Network?

- A. Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- B. Prime Minister Boris Johnson
- C. Prime Minister Naftali Bennett
- D. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina
- E. None of the above/ More than one of the above

23. Which of the following was conferred with the National Florence Nightingale Award 2020?

- A. Brig Vibha Dutta
- B. Brig Deepshikha
- C. Brig S V Saraswati
- D. Brig Madhuri Kanitkar

24. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the BRICS Summit 2021?

- i. It was the 13th BRICS Summit.
- ii. Russian President Vladimir Putin chaired it.
- iii. The summit adopted the BRICS Counter-Terrorism Action Plan.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. ii only
- B. i and iii only
- C. ii and iii only
- D. i, ii and iii

25. Consider the following statements regarding the India Rankings 2021 instituted by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF):

- i. Indian Institute of Technology, Madras has got 1st Position in Overall Category.
- ii. Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru has topped the University Category.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

26. With reference to the recent appointment of new governors in states, which pair is not correctly matched?

- A. R N Ravi: Tamil Nadu
- B. Banwarilal Purohit: Punjab
- C. Jagdish Mukhi: Nagaland
- D. Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh: Uttar Pradesh

27. Where has been India's first Indigenously Designed High Ash Coal Gasification

Based Methanol Production Plant set up?

- A. BHEL Hyderabad
- B. BHEL Bhopal
- C. BHEL Jhansi
- D. BHEL Haridwar

28. Who took charge as the Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities?

- A. Vijay Sampla
- B. Jagdish Mukhi
- C. Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura
- D. Bhagwan Lal Sahni

29. Consider the following statements regarding the Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021.

- i. The Ministry of Rural Development launched it.
- ii. It was launched under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase –II.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

30. India's first Emergency Landing Facility for the Indian Air Force on National Highway has been inaugurated in which state?

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Bihar
- C. Punjab
- D. Uttar Pradesh

31. When is Hindi Diwas observed?

- A. September 14
- B. September 11
- C. September 24

D. September 5

32. In September 2021, Mullah Mohammad Hasan Akhund was appointed as the acting Prime Minister of which country?

- A. Bangladesh
- B. Afghanistan
- C. Kuwait
- D. Iran

33. Who has been sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Gujarat?

- A. Jagdish Mukhi
- B. Bhupendra Patel
- C. Nitinbhai Patel
- D. Banwarilal Purohit

34. Consider the following statements regarding the US Open Tennis Championships 2021

- i. Daniil Medvedev defeated Rafael Nadal to win the Men's Singles trophy.
- ii. Emma Raducanu has won the Women's Singles trophy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

35. In September 2021, India's largest open-air fernery was inaugurated in which state?

- A. Arunachal Pradesh
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Sikkim
- D. Himachal Pradesh

36. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated Sardardham

Bhavan in which state?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Punjab
- C. Gujarat
- D. Madhya Pradesh

37. Which ministry has launched the 'Bujurgon ki Baat–Desh Ke Saath' program?

- A. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- B. Ministry of Jal Shakti
- C. Ministry of Culture
- D. Ministry of Women and Child Development

38. Consider the following statements regarding the INS Dhruv.

- i. It is India's first satellite and nuclear missile tracking ship.
- ii. It was built by the Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

39. When is the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer observed?

- A. September 16
- B. September 18
- C. September 11
- D. September 26

40. Which organisation has been awarded the Africa Food Prize 2021?

- A. Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow
- B. International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics, Hyderabad
- C. National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research, New Delhi
- D. Central Island Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair

41. Who is the author of the book 'Human Rights and Terrorism in India'?

- A. Piyush Goyal
- B. Bipin Rawat
- C. Subramanian Swamy
- D. Ajit Doval
- E. None of the above/ More than one of the above

42. India has launched the "Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD)" with which country?

- A. United Kingdom
- B. France
- C. Australia
- D. United States

43. Which country hosted the 6th edition of SCO Peaceful Mission Exercise 2021?

- A. Russia
- B. India
- C. China
- D. Kazakhstan

44. Who has been appointed as the mentor of the Indian national team for the T20 World Cup 2021?

- A. Sachin Tendulkar
- B. MS Dhoni
- C. Kapil Dev
- D. Saurav Ganguly
- E. None of the above/ More than one of the above

45. Lasith Malinga has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. He played for which country?

- A. Pakistan
- B. Bangladesh
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. South Africa

46. Consider the following statements regarding the SIMBEX 2021

- i. It was a maritime bilateral exercise between Sri Lanka and India.
- ii. It was held in the southern fringes of the South China Sea.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

47. Which has released the 'Atlas of Mortality and Economic Losses from Weather, Climate and Water Extremes (1970 – 2019)' report?

- A. United Nations Environment Programme
- B. International Maritime Organization
- C. World Meteorological Organization
- D. World Economic Forum

48. Which state has recently launched the e-ILP platform to regulate entry, exit and tracking of visitors?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Meghalaya
- C. Karnataka
- D. Manipur

49. Which one is not the recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award 2021?

- A. Firdausi Qadri
- B. Roberto Ballon
- C. Shuggie Bain
- D. Muhammad Amjad Saqib

50. Which of the following countries are the first new members of the New Development Bank (NDB)?

- i. United Arab Emirates

ii. Uruguay

iii. Bhutan

iv. Bangladesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- A. i and iv only
- B. i, ii and iv only
- C. i, ii and iii only
- D. ii, iii and iv only

51. Consider the following statements regarding the Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park.

i. The Assam Cabinet has recently decided to drop former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's name from the Orang National Park.

ii. It was upgraded to a national park in 1999.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

52. Which has released the 'State of the World's Trees Report 2021'?

- A. World Meteorological Organization
- B. World Wide Fund for Nature
- C. Botanic Gardens Conservation International
- D. United Nations Environment Programme

53. Who has been appointed as the chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)?

- A. Dinesh Kumar Khara
- B. J B Mohapatra
- C. Swati Bansal
- D. G R Chintala

54. Who has become the first Indian woman to win a Gold medal at the Paralympics Games?

- A. Deepa Malik
- B. Bhavinaben Patel
- C. Avani Lekhara
- D. Swati Narang

55. Indian para-athlete Sumit Antil has won Gold medal in which event at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics Games?

- A. Javelin throw
- B. Long Jump
- C. Shot put
- D. Discuss throw

56. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Karbi Anglong Agreement?

- i. It is a tripartite agreement among five insurgent groups of Arunachal Pradesh, the Centre and the State government.
- ii. Rs. 1000 crores over five years will be given by the government to undertake specific projects for the development of Karbi areas.
- iii. Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council is constituted under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

- A. ii only
- B. i and ii only
- C. ii and iii only
- D. i, ii and iii

57. The INSPIRE Awards – MANAK is constituted / given by which Ministry?

- A. Ministry of Education
- B. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- C. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- D. Ministry of Science and Technology
- E. None of the above/ More than one of the above

58. Which country has recently declared an economic emergency?

- A. Pakistan
- B. Sudan
- C. Bangladesh
- D. Sri Lanka

59. The 12th edition of DefExpo will be held in which state?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Gujarat
- C. Karnataka
- D. Rajasthan

60. When is International Literacy Day observed?

- A. September 5
- B. September 18
- C. September 8
- D. September 14

61. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the 'Shikshak Parv 2021'?

- i. The Ministry of Education is celebrating 'Shikshak Parv 2021' from September 5-14
 - ii. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the inaugural conclave of 'Shikshak Parv 2021'
 - iii. He also launched the 9 initiatives in the Education Sector on the occasion.
- A. ii only
 - B. i and ii only
 - C. ii and iii only
 - D. i, ii and iii

62. In September 2021, Royal Australian Navy and Indian Navy conducted which edition of the bilateral exercise – 'AUSINDEX'?

- A. 4th
- B. 7th
- C. 3rd
- D. 6th

63. In September 2021, the President of India presented the President's Colour to which of the following?

- A. INS Tabar
- B. DRDO
- C. Naval Aviation
- D. Naval Science & Technological Laboratory

64. Which State/UTs has got its first pollen calendar?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Chandigarh
- C. Kerala
- D. Delhi

65. Which state government has announced to set up India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve?

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Kerala
- D. Gujarat
- E. None of the above/ More than one of the above

66. In which city, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav has inaugurated the first functional smog tower?

- A. Lucknow
- B. Jaipur
- C. Delhi
- D. Kanpur

67. On whose 125th Birth Anniversary, Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently released a special commemorative coin?

- A. Swami Dayananda Saraswati
- B. Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada
- C. Uppuluri Ganapathi Sastry
- D. Swami Vidya Prakashananda Giri

68. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the First edition of North Eastern Region (NER) District SDG Index 2021–22?

- i. NITI Aayog released it.
- ii. It measures the performance of the districts of the 6 States.
- iii. East Sikkim ranks first in the region.

- A. i only
- B. i and iii only
- C. ii and iii only
- D. i, ii and iii

69. Name the exercise that was held in August 2021 among the Navies of India, the United States, Japan, and Australia off the coast of Guam in the Pacific Ocean.

- A. JIMEX
- B. SANGAM
- C. Yudha Abhyas
- D. Malabar

70. The 7th meeting of the BRICS Environment Ministerial was held under the chair of which country?

- A. Brazil
- B. China
- C. India
- D. Russia
- E. None of the above/More than one of the above

71. When is National Sports Day observed?

- A. August 29
- B. August 9
- C. August 27

D. August 6

72. Which country has hosted the 25th edition of Exercise Malabar?

- A. United States
- B. India
- C. Japan
- D. Australia

73. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the "KAZIND-21"?

- i. It was the 9th edition of the Indo- Kazakhstan Joint Training Exercise.
 - ii. It was conducted in India.
 - iii. It was between the Armies of India and Kazakhstan.
- A. iii only
 - B. i and iii only
 - C. ii and iii only
 - D. i, ii and iii

74. When Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) was launched by the Government of India?

- A. August 2013
- B. August 2015
- C. August 2017
- D. August 2014

75. Who hosted the inaugural meeting of IBSA (India-Brazil-South Africa) National Security Advisers?

- A. Ajit Doval
- B. Amit Shah
- C. M.M. Naravane
- D. Rajnath Singh

76. Who has been awarded Sahitya Akademi Awards 2020 in Odia Language?

- A. Omcherry N.N. Pillai
- B. Swapnil Shah
- C. Yashodhara Mishra
- D. Sukanti Mohapatra

77. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the e-Shram Portal?

- i. The Ministry of Labour and Employment launched it.
- ii. It aims to register 38 crore Organised Workers.

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

78. The web version of e-GOPALA application has been developed by which of the following?

- A. Department of Science and Technology
- B. National Dairy Development Board
- C. National Institute of Animal Health
- D. National Informatics Centre

79. Which country hosted the 8th Meeting of Agriculture Experts of BIMSTEC Countries?

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. Thailand
- C. Bangladesh
- D. India

80. Which has launched the Climate Crisis is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index?

- A. ILO
- B. UNDP
- C. UNICEF
- D. UNESCO

81. Which stadium has been named as 'Neeraj Chopra Stadium'?

- A. TT Nagar Stadium, Bhopal
- B. Army Sports Institute Stadium, Pune
- C. Indian Army Stadium, Saharanpur
- D. GMC Athletic Stadium, Bambolim

82. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the POSHAN Abhiyaan?

- i. It is Government of India's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, adolescent Girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
 - ii. It was launched on the occasion of International Women's Day on 8 March, 2018.
 - iii. Every year, the month of August is celebrated as POSHAN Maah across the country.
- A. ii only
 - B. i and ii only
 - C. ii and iii only
 - D. i, ii and iii

83. Which company has launched India's first green hydrogen electrolyzer gigafactory at Bengaluru?

- A. Saudi Aramco
- B. Essar Oil Limited
- C. Ohmium International
- D. Indian Oil Corporation Limited

84. INS Tabar took part in a Maritime Partnership Exercise with which country's Navy ship 'Ezzadger'?

- A. Singapore
- B. Thailand
- C. Japan
- D. Algeria

85. Who has been appointed as the new director general of Border Security Force

(BSF)?

- A. Balaji Srivastav
- B. Pankaj Kumar Singh
- C. Manoj Kumar Rai
- D. Sanjay Arora

86. Who has been appointed as the new director general of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)?

- A. Pankaj Kumar Singh
- B. Balaji Srivastav
- C. Sanjay Arora
- D. Dinesh Maurya

87. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Exercise ZAPAD 2021?

- i. A 200 personnel contingent of the Indian Army participated in Exercise ZAPAD 2021.
 - ii. It is a multi-nation exercise being held at Nizhniy, Russia from 03 to 16 September 2021.
- A. i only
 - B. ii only
 - C. Both i and ii
 - D. Neither i nor ii

88. Consider the following statements regarding the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh.

- i. Ladakh declared the Black-Necked Crane and Snow Leopard as its state bird and animal, respectively.
- ii. The Black-Necked Crane was chosen as the state bird since it is only found in the eastern region of Ladakh.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii

D. Neither i nor ii

89. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC), under India's Presidency, adopted a resolution on Afghanistan. Name the resolution.

- A. Resolution 2597
- B. Resolution 2593
- C. Resolution 2498
- D. Resolution 2699

90. Which of the following railway stations has been recently awarded 5-star 'Eat Right Station' certification?

- A. Jaipur Railway Station
- B. Chandigarh Railway Station
- C. Howrah Railway Station
- D. Charbagh, Lucknow Railway Station

Answers:

1. Ans. D.	21. Ans. C.	41. Ans. C.	61. Ans. A.	81. Ans. B.
2. Ans. B.	22. Ans. D.	42. Ans. D.	62. Ans. A.	82. Ans. B.
3. Ans. C.	23. Ans. C.	43. Ans. A.	63. Ans. C.	83. Ans. C.
4. Ans. A.	24. Ans. B.	44. Ans. B.	64. Ans. B.	84. Ans. D.
5. Ans. C.	25. Ans. C.	45. Ans. C.	65. Ans. B.	85. Ans. B.
6. Ans. A.	26. Ans. D.	46. Ans. B.	66. Ans. C.	86. Ans. C.
7. Ans. C.	27. Ans. A.	47. Ans. C.	67. Ans. B.	87. Ans. C.
8. Ans. B.	28. Ans. C.	48. Ans. D.	68. Ans. B.	88. Ans. C.
9. Ans. D.	29. Ans. B.	49. Ans. C.	69. Ans. D.	89. Ans. B.
10. Ans. A.	30. Ans. A.	50. Ans. B.	70. Ans. C.	90. Ans. B.
11. Ans. B.	31. Ans. A.	51. Ans. C.	71. Ans. A.	
12. Ans. D.	32. Ans. B.	52. Ans. C.	72. Ans. A.	
13. Ans. A.	33. Ans. B.	53. Ans. B.	73. Ans. A.	

14. Ans. E.	34. Ans. B.	54. Ans. C.	74. Ans. D.	
15. Ans. C.	35. Ans. B.	55. Ans. A.	75. Ans. A.	
16. Ans. C.	36. Ans. C.	56. Ans. C.	76. Ans. C.	
17. Ans. A.	37. Ans. C.	57. Ans. D.	77. Ans. A.	
18. Ans. B.	38. Ans. C.	58. Ans. D.	78. Ans. B.	
19. Ans. B.	39. Ans. A.	59. Ans. B.	79. Ans. D.	
20. Ans. A.	40. Ans. B.	60. Ans. C.	80. Ans. C.	