

## Daily Current Affairs 25/03/2021

### 1. India, Pakistan, China to participate in SCO joint anti-terrorism exercise



- India, Pakistan, China and other members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) will hold a joint anti-terrorism exercise in 2021.
- The decision to hold the joint exercise "**Pabbi-Antiterror-2021**" was announced during the **36th meeting of the Council of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)** held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- **Note:** The next meeting of the Council of the RATS

SCO is scheduled to be held in September in Uzbekistan.

- **RATS**, headquartered in Tashkent, is a permanent organ of the SCO which serves to promote cooperation of member states against terrorism, separatism and extremism.
- **Facts about SCO:** Shanghai Cooperation Organisation or Shanghai Pact, is a Eurasian political, economic and security alliance.

**Formed:** 15 June 2001

**Members:** China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India & Pakistan.

**Headquarter:** Beijing, China

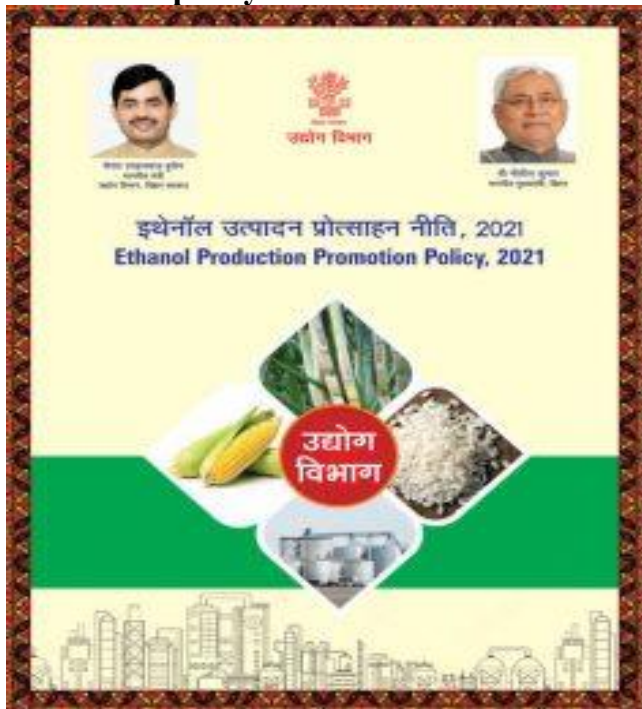
### 2. Government to launch Poshan Abhiyan for the Elderly



- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment aims to launch a Poshan Abhiyan for the Elderly, to provide nutrition support to the indigent elders, who are not staying in the Old Age Homes and are victims of severe malnutrition.
- The Gram Panchayats and Urban Municipalities will be the implementing agencies of the Scheme.
- The fund for the Scheme will be provided by the **Senior Citizens Welfare Fund**.

- **About Poshan Abhiyan:** Government is implementing Poshan Abhiyan, earlier known as National Nutrition Mission, since 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017 to address the problem of malnutrition in the country.

### 3. Bihar becomes first state in country to implement ‘Ethanol Production Promotion policy 2021’



- Bihar has become the first state in the country to implement ‘Ethanol Production Promotion policy 2021’ that would allow investors to directly make ethanol from maize, molasses, broken rice and rotten grains.
- The Central government has already given permission for direct production of ethanol in December 2020 in consonance with **National Policy of Biofuels, 2018**.
- An investor will get an additional government subsidy of 15% of the cost of plant and

machinery up to a maximum of Rs 5 crore, in addition to the existing incentives under the **Bihar Industrial Investment Promotion Policy, 2016**.

- **Note:** Currently, **India** produces 5.30 thousand barrel of ethanol, which is very low compared to countries like the USA and Brazil.
- At present, **Bihar** has been producing 12 crore litre ethanol per year and is the fifth highest ethanol-producing state in the country.
- **Uttar Pradesh** is the highest ethanol-producing state in the country.

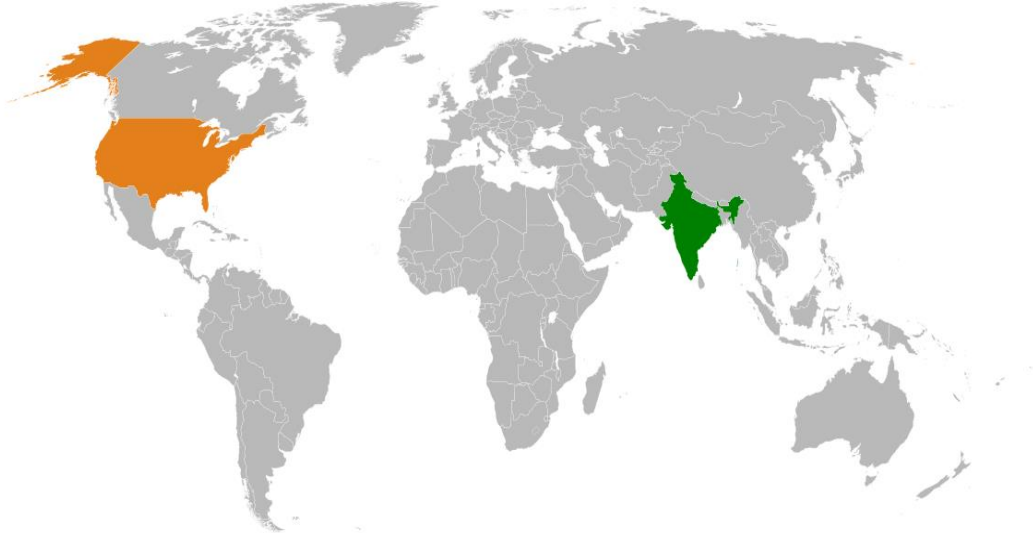
### 4. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister launches India’s first FPO portal



- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched ‘**UPFPO Shakti Portal**’ as part of Kisan Kalyan Mission at an event in Gorakhpur.

- The Farmer Producer Organization-centric (FPO-centric) portal will bring farmers, producer groups, traders and the agriculture and other allied departments of the UP government on one platform.
- The portal was developed with technical and funding support from the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)**.
- **Note:** The state currently has 576 FPOs comprising around 2.15 lakh farmers. Of these, 471 FPOs have registered themselves on the portal.

## 5. India, US to re-establish Homeland Security Dialogue



- **The Joe Biden administration** has announced the re-establishment of the Homeland Security Dialogue with India that was discontinued by the former President of the USA, Donald Trump.
- Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and India's Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu agreed to re-establish the US-India Homeland Security Dialogue and to discuss important issues such as cybersecurity, emerging technology and addressing violent extremism.
- **Note:** An initiative of the Obama administration, the first India-US Homeland Security Dialogue was held in India in May 2011.
- The second India-US Homeland Security Dialogue was held in Washington DC in 2013.

## 6. Government of India drives Enforcement of Contracts and Conciliation Mechanism



- In order to lay emphasis on Enforcement of Contracts and Conciliation Mechanism, **NITI Aayog has constituted two Task Forces.**
- **The Task Force for Enforcement of Contracts:** It will give its recommendation for a policy framework for Enforcement of Contracts.
- The Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog will be the Chairman of this Task force.
- The task force will also examine relevant provisions of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015.
- **The Task Force on Conciliation Mechanism:** It will give its recommendation for an effective Conciliation Mechanism.
- The CEO, NITI Aayog will be the Chairman of this Task force.
- The task force will also examine relevant provisions of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.
- **Facts about NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog:**  
**Formed:** 1 January 2015  
**Headquarters:** New Delhi  
**Chairperson:** Narendra Modi  
**Vice Chairperson:** Rajiv Kumar  
**CEO:** Amitabh Kant

#### 7. Union Education Minister inaugurates Shaheed Bhagat Singh Smarak in New Delhi



The University of Delhi organized a programme to pay homage and commemorate 90 years of martyrdom of our national icons of the Indian National Movement -**Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar and Shivaram Rajguru** on 'Shaheed Diwas' in the Convention Hall of the Viceregal Lodge.

- On this occasion Shaheed Bhagat Singh Smarak was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Education, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'.
- The existing collection of books on freedom fighters in the Bhagat Singh Smarak has been announced to be converted into "**Shaheed Smriti Pustakalaya.**"

## 8. Shreyas Iyer signs up with Lancashire for Royal London Cup 2021



- English county Lancashire announced the overseas signing of India batsman Shreyas Iyer for the 2021 Royal London Cup.
- The top-order batsman is regarded as one of the most attacking and fluent stroke players in Indian cricket and he has played in 21 ODIs and 29 T20 Internationals for his country.
- **Note:** The first Indian to join the club was wicketkeeper-batsman Farokh Engineer who joined the club in 1968.
- After Engineer retired, four other Indian — Murali Kartik, Dinesh Mongia, VVS Laxman, and Sourav Ganguly have represented the club.

## 9. Hindi writer Prof. Sharad Pagare to be conferred with Vyas Samman – 2020



Well known Hindi writer Prof. Sharad Pagare will be conferred with the prestigious Vyas Samman - 2020 for his novel 'Patliputru Ki Samragi.'

• **Note:** The **Vyas Samman**, started in 1991, is given by K K Birla Foundation for an outstanding literary work in Hindi authored by an Indian citizen published during the last 10 years.

- It carries an award of four lakh rupees along with a citation and plaque.