Weekly Current Affairs
5th-9th July 2021
Important News: India

6 years of Digital India programme

Why in the News?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with the beneficiaries of 'Digital India' on the occasion of 'Digital India' completing 6 years since its launch.

Key Points

Prime Minister' Address:

- Digital India is a manifestation of a strong Indian that is emerging in the 21st Century.
- The youth will continue to take you to new heights due to Digital Empowerment. These will help in making this decade as **'India's Techade'.**

Various Schemes of Digital India programme:

- Digilocker
- e Common Service Centres
- PM Svanidhi Scheme
- e-Sanjivini scheme
- Aarogya Setu
- COWIN app for vaccination.
- DIKSHA App
- e-NAM App

Note:

- Under **Bharat Net scheme**, work is underway on a mission mode to bring broadband internet to the villages.
- Through **PM WANI**, access points are being created so that rural youth can connect with high-speed internet for better services and education.

About Digital India:

- **Launched on 1 July 2015,** by **Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, Digital India is both enabler and beneficiary of other key Government of India schemes.
- It ensures the Government's services are made available to citizens electronically by improved online infrastructure and by increasing Internet connectivity or making the country digitally empowered in the field of technology.

Source: PIB

NIPUN Bharat Programme

Why in the News?

- Education Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched a **National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat).**
- NIPUN Bharat ensures that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 3, by 2026-27.

Key Points

- This Mission has been launched under the aegis of the centrally sponsored scheme of **Samagra Shiksha.**
- This Mission will focus on providing access and retaining children in foundational years of schooling; teacher capacity building; development of high quality and diversified Student and Teacher Resources/Learning Materials; and tracking the progress of each child in achieving learning outcomes.
- NIPUN Bharat aims to cover the learning needs of children in the age group of 3 to 9 years.
- The success of NIPUN Bharat will primarily depend on teachers, so, there will be a special emphasis on capacity building of teachers.
- A special package for foundational literacy and Numeracy under **NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement)** is being developed by NCERT and around 25 lakh teachers teaching at pre-primary to primary grade will be trained this year on FLN.

Note: An approval of Rs 2688.18 crore has already been given under Samagra Shiksha scheme to the States and UTs for implementation of the various interventions for the Foundational Stage in 2021-22.

About Samagra Shiksha:

- It is a sector-wide development programme which subsumes the then existing Centrally Sponsored Schemes of **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).**
- The Integrated Scheme envisages the 'school' as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to senior secondary levels.
- The Samagra Shiksha is implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme by the Department through a single State Implementation Society (SIS) at the State/UT level.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) for Education:
- The vision of the Scheme is to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education from pre-school to senior secondary stage in accordance with the **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) for Education.**
- The Goal **SDG-4.1** states that 'By 2030, ensure that all boys and girls complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes'.
- The **SDG 4.5** states that 'By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of Education'.

Source: PIB

Gender Samvaad

Why in the News?
- The Second Gender Samvaad was organised by the Ministry of Rural Development's **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)** and the **'Initiative for What Works to Advance Women and Girls in the Economy' (IWWAGE)**.
- Gender Samvaad showcases the work undertaken by states and women's self-help groups in addressing the impact of COVID-19.
- Gender Samvaad released **two compendiums** highlighting DAY-NRLM's efforts towards strengthening food, nutrition & health and stories of resilience from rural India during the COVID pandemic in 2021.

Key Points
About Gender Samvaad:
- Gender Samvaad, a joint attempt between **DAY-NRLM** and the **Initiative for What Works to Advance Women and Girls in the Economy (IWWAGE)**, was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development.
- **Note:** With over 60 million women mobilised to be part of one of India's largest livelihoods programme, DAY-NRLM holds great promise for advancing women's socio-economic empowerment by organising them into self-help groups (SHGs) and federations of the rural poor.
- **About DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission):** The DAY-NRLM is the flagship program of Govt. of India for promoting poverty reduction through building strong institutions of the poor, particularly women, and enabling these institutions to access a range of financial services and livelihoods.
- **Aajeevika - NRLM** was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India in June 2011.

- In November 2015, the program was renamed DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission).

Compendiums:
- **First compendiums:** This included a compendium on the DAY-NRLM's efforts towards strengthening Food, Nutrition, Health and WASH through State Missions and community institutions.
- **Second compendium:** The second compendium captures stories of resilience from rural India during the COVID related pandemic in 2021, and how SHGs responded to the needs of women during and after the second wave.

Source: PIB

Central government extends superannuation age of LIC chairman to up to 62 years

Why in the News?
- The Central government has extended the superannuation age of IPO-bound LIC Chairman to up to 62 years by amending the **Life Insurance Corporation of India (Staff) Regulations, 1960.**
- The changes made in the rules will be called the **Life Insurance Corporation of India (Staff) Amendment Rules, 2021.**

Key Points
- Last month, the government approved a nine-month extension to LIC Chairman M R Kumar till March 2022 in view of the insurer's proposed initial public offer towards the end of the current fiscal.

Note:
- The retirement age for the top executives of most PSUs is 60 years, barring a few exceptions, including the State Bank of India.

About Life Insurance Corporation of India: Headquarters: Mumbai
    Chairman: M R Kumar
    Founder: Government of India
    Founded: 1 September 1956

Source: Economics Times

Central Government creates a new 'Ministry of Co-operation'

Why in the News?
- A separate **'Ministry of Co-operation'** has been created by the Central Government for realizing the vision of **'Sahkar se Samriddhi'** or prosperity through cooperation.

- The creation of a separate Ministry for Co-operation also fulfils the budget announcement made by the Finance Minister.

Key Points
- This Ministry will provide a separate administrative, legal and policy framework for strengthening the cooperative movement in the country.
- In our country, a cooperative-based economic development model is very relevant where each member works with a spirit of responsibility.
- The Ministry will work to streamline processes for **'Ease of doing business'** for cooperatives and enable the development of **Multi-State Cooperatives (MSCS).**

Source: PIB

'Matsya Setu' for Fish Farmers

Why in the News?
- The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying launched the **Online Course Mobile App** 'Matsya Setu'**.**
- The 'Matsya Setu' app was developed by **the ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), Bhubaneswar,** with the funding support of the **National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad.**

Key Points
- **Matsya Setu** app aims to disseminate the latest freshwater aquaculture technologies to the aqua farmers of the country.
- **The** app has species-wise/ subject-wise self-learning online course modules, where renowned aquaculture experts explain the basic concepts and practical demonstrations on

breeding, seed production and grow-out culture of commercially important fishes like carp, catfish, scampi, murrel, ornamental fish, pearl farming etc.

Related Initiatives:

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY):

- On September 10, 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the PMMSY at an estimated investment of Rs. 20,050 crores for five years, i.e., from 2020-21 to 2024-25.
- PMMSY aims to achieve fish production to 22 million metric tons by 2024-25 and create an additional employment opportunity for about 55 lakh people.

Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF):

- FIDF, which was started in 2018-19, Rs.7,522.48 crores, will also cater to the creation of fisheries infrastructure facilities both in the marine and inland fisheries sectors.

Blue Revolution:

- The Centrally Sponsored Scheme **"Blue Revolution",** which was launched in December 2015, had made vital contributions towards the sector's development.

Kissan Credit Cards (KCC):

- The Government has also extended the facilities of KCC to fishers and fish farmers to help them meet their working capital needs.

Note:

- India is a leading fish producing country and the second major producer of fish through aquaculture.
- India contributes about 7.7% to global fish production, and the country ranks 4th in global exports of fish products.
- **November 21, World Fisheries DayJuly 10, National Fish Farmers Day**

Source: PIB

PM Narendra Modi Cabinet Reshuffle & Portfolio of New Ministers

- The **Union Council of Ministers** consists of Cabinet Ministers, Ministers of state and Ministers of State (Independent Charge).
- The Prime Minister of India leads the council.
- The Union Cabinet is the supreme decision-making body in India.
- Only the prime minister and ministers of the rank of cabinet minister are members of the Union Cabinet in accordance with Article 75.

List of Latest Cabinet Ministers and their portfolios:

Portfolio	Minister
Prime Minister Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Department of Atomic Energy	Narendra Modi

Department of Space All important policy issues and all other portfolios not allocated to any minister.	
Minister of Defence	Rajnath Singh
Minister of External Affairs	Subrahmanyam Jaishankar
Minister of Home Affairs Minister of Co-operation	Amit Shah
Minister of Finance Minister of Corporate Affairs	Nirmala Sitharaman
Minister of Road Transport and Highways	Nitin Gadkari
Minister of Commerce and Industry Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Minister of Textiles	Piyush Goyal
Minister of Women and Child Development	Smriti Zubin Irani
Minister of Law and Justice	Kiren Rijiju
Minister of Tribal Affairs	Arjun Munda
Minister of Education Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	Dharmendra Pradhan
Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	Narendra Singh Tomar
Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment	Virendra Kumar
Minister of Health and Family Welfare Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers	Mansukh L. Mandaviya
Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry of Labour and Employment	Bhupender Yadav
Minister of Minority Affairs	Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi
Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises	Mahendra Nath Pandey
Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Ministry of Coal Ministry of Mines	Pralhad Joshi
Minister of Jal Shakti	Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	Narayan Tatu Rane
Minister of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries	Parshottam Rupala
Minister of Railways Minister of Communication Minister of Electronics and Information Technology	Ashwini Vaishnav
Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways	Sarbananda Sonowal

Ministry of AYUSH	
Minister of Rural Development Minister of Panchayati Raj	Giriraj Singh
Minister of Civil Aviation	Jyotiraditya Scindia
Minister of Steel	Ramchandra Prasad Singh
Minister of Food Processing Industries	Pashupati Kumar Paras
Minister of Power Minister of New and Renewable Energy	Raj Kumar Singh
Minister of Culture Minister of Tourism Minister of Development of North Eastern Region	Kishan Reddy
Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs	Hardeep Singh Puri
Minister of Information and Broadcasting Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports	Anurag Thakur

Note:
- The government has issued a notification to bring the **Department of Public Enterprises (which was the part of the Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises)** under the **finance ministry**.
- The finance ministry now has 6 departments under it.
- The other 5 are the Department of Economic Affairs, Expenditure, Revenue, Investment and Public Asset Management, and Financial Services.

Source: pmindia.gov.in

Important News: World

7th edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)

Why in the News?
- Recently, the 7th edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), a biennial event, was hosted by the **French Navy at La Reunion**.

Key Points

- The Symposium held panel discussions themed on the three IONS working Groups viz., Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), Maritime Security and Information Sharing & Interoperability. The Naval Maritime Foundation (NMF) also participated in the Panel Discussion on HADR.

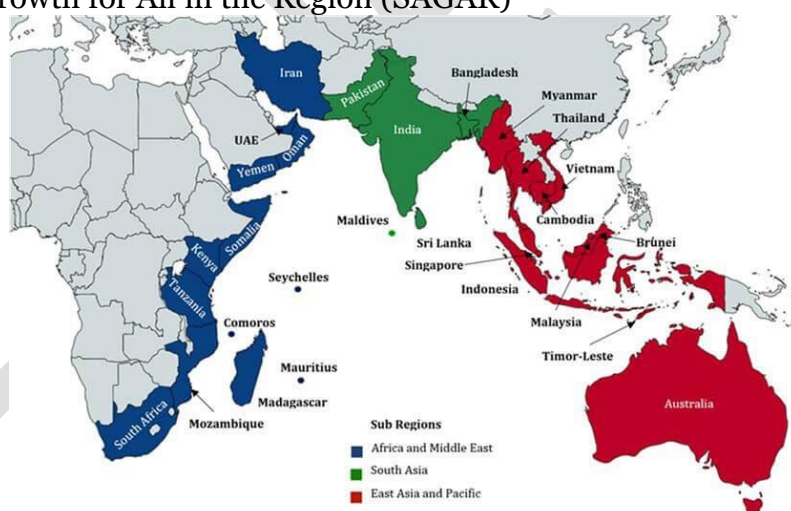**About Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS):**

- It is a series of biennial meetings between the littoral states of the Indian Ocean region.
- It provides a forum to increase maritime security cooperation, discuss regional maritime issues, and promote friendly relationships among the member states.

Members:

- The **24 member** nations of the IONS are grouped into four sub-regions: South Asian, West Asian, East African and South East Asian and Australian.
- **Observers:** There are 8 states with observer status.
- The symposium was first held in **2008 with India** as host.
- France has assumed the Chairmanship in June 2021 for two-year tenure.

Important Groupings/Initiatives Associated with Indian Ocean Region (IOR):

- Indian Ocean Commission
- Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)
- Asia Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC)
- Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)

Source: PIB

India joins OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework tax deal

Why in the News?

- India has joined the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** and **G20 Inclusive Framework tax deal.**
- **India and the majority of the members of OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting adopted a high-level statement containing an outline of a consensus solution to address the tax challenges arising from the digitalisation of the economy.**

- The proposed solution consists of **two components- Pillar One**, which is about reallocating an additional share of profit to the market jurisdictions and **Pillar Two** consisting of minimum tax and subject to tax rules.

Key Points
Pillar One:
- It will ensure a fairer distribution of profits and taxing rights among countries concerning the largest MNEs, including digital companies.
- It would re-allocate some taxing rights over MNEs from their home countries to the markets where they have business activities and earn profits, regardless of whether they have a physical presence.

Pillar Two:
- It is about minimum tax and subject-to-tax rules (All sources of income liable to tax without taking account of tax allowances).
- It seeks to put a minimum standard tax rate among countries through a global minimum corporate tax rate, currently proposed at 15%.

India will have to roll back the equalisation levy imposed on companies such as Google, Amazon and Facebook when the global tax regime is implemented.
- The levy at 6% has been in force since 2016 on payment exceeding Rs 1 lakh a year to a non-resident service provider for online advertisements.

The OECD/G20 Base Erosion and Profit Shifting Project:
- Base Erosion and Profit Shifting is an OECD/G20 project to set up an international framework to combat tax avoidance by multinational enterprises using base erosion and profit shifting tools.

About Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD):
- It is an intergovernmental economic organisation with 38 member countries, founded in 1961 to stimulate economic progress and world trade.

Headquarters: Paris, France
Source: PIB

China declared malaria-free by WHO

Why in the News?
- **China** was certified as **malaria-free** by the **World Health Organization (WHO),** following a 70-year effort to eradicate the mosquito-borne disease.
- **China is the first country in the Western Pacific region** to be declared malaria-free in **more than 30 years,** following Australia in 1981, Singapore in 1982 and Brunei in 1987.

Key Points
- **China** has now maintained zero indigenous malaria cases for four consecutive years, down from an estimated 30 million cases and 300,000 deaths per year in the 1940s.

Global Status:
- China becomes the 40th territory certified malaria-free by the WHO.
- The last countries to gain the status were El Salvador (2021), Algeria and Argentina (2019), and Paraguay and Uzbekistan (2018).

About Malaria:
- Malaria is a life-threatening disease caused by parasites transmitted to people through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes.
- According to the **WHO's World Malaria Report 2020,** there were an estimated 229 million malaria cases worldwide in 2019. The estimated number of malaria deaths stood at 409000 in 2019.
- **Note:** The WHO has also identified 25 countries with the potential to eradicate malaria by 2025 under its 'E-2025 Initiative'.

Initiatives in India:
- National Framework for Malaria Elimination (NFME) in 2016 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. NFME is in line with WHO's Global Technical Strategy for Malaria, 2016-2030.
- The National Strategic Plan for Malaria Elimination, 2017-22
- The High Burden to High Impact initiative in four states (West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh)
- Distribution of Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets to high burden areas
- Malaria Elimination Research Alliance-India (MERA-India) by the ICMR

Source: Indian Express

Important News: Economy

4 years of the Goods and Services Tax (GST)
Why in the News?
- The finance ministry has decided to issue certificates of appreciation to 54,439 GST payers for timely filing of returns and cash payment of the tax, to mark the 4th anniversary of the tax reform GST.

- The **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** will issue certificates of appreciation to these taxpayers.

Key Points
- As a result, 54,439 taxpayers have been identified. More than 88% of these taxpayers are from Micro (36%), Small (41%) and Medium enterprises (11%).
- More than 66 crore GST returns have been filed so far and lower rates have helped increased tax compliance, adding GST revenues have steadily grown and have been above the Rs 1 lakh crore mark for eight consecutive months in a row.

About Goods and Services Tax (GST):
- GST is an indirect tax (or consumption tax) used in India on the supply of goods and services.
- It is a comprehensive, multistage, destination-based tax.
- Goods and services are divided into five different tax slabs for collection of tax: 0%, 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%.
- However, petroleum products, alcoholic drinks, and electricity are not taxed under GST and instead are taxed separately by the individual state governments, as per the previous tax system.
- The GST, which subsumed 17 local levies like excise duty, service tax and VAT and 13 cesses, was rolled out on **July 1, 2017.**

About GST Council:
- The GST Council is an apex member committee to modify, reconcile or to procure any law or regulation based on the context of goods and services tax in India.
- The GST council is headed by the **union finance minister**.

Source: PIB

Freight Smart Cities

Why in the News?
- The **Logistics Division of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry** has unveiled plans for the 'Freight Smart Cities'.
- The ministry launched a website on 'Freight Smart Cities' and also released a handbook outlining 14 measures that can be taken to improve urban freight.

Key Points
Freight Smart Cities
- **Freight,** in simple language, means goods or cargo. These may be carried or transported by a ship, train, truck, or airplane.

Need:
- Indian cities are driving the nation's economic activity, contributing more than 63% of the national GDP.
- This is all the more relevant as the demand for urban freight is expected to grow by 140 per cent over the next 10 years.
- Final-mile freight movement in Indian cities is currently responsible for 50 per cent of total logistics costs in India's growing e-commerce supply chains.
- From the **10 cities** to be identified on an immediate basis, it is planned to expand the list to 75 cities in the next phase before scaling up throughout the country, including all state capitals and cities with more than one million population.
- **Note:** The need to focus on city logistics was first discussed with States/UTs during the first **National Conference of States on Logistics on 19 January 2021.**

Importance of the Freight Smart Cities:
- It is expected that 124 million people will be added to cities in this decade in India, thereby adding to an increase in the demand for urban freight by 140%. Further, the e-commerce market is expected to grow to Rs 11 lakh crore by 2022.

Measures to improve the freight system:
- The handbook released by the Logistics department focuses on 14 key measures to enhance the urban freight system. According to it, measures have been divided into **four categories- vehicle use optimization, infrastructure development, demand and land use planning, and technology adoption.**

About Logistics Division:
- The Logistics Division was set up on 7 July 2017 due to the Government of India Rules, 1961 in the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- It aims to develop an action plan for the integrated development of the logistics section in the nation by way of policy changes, advances in existing procedures, finding gaps and introducing technology in this sector.
- On the **Freight smart city initiatives**, the Logistics Division is working closely with GIZ (Germany) under Indo-German Development Cooperation, Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) and RMI India.

Source: PIB

Exports of GI certified Bhalia wheat from Gujarat

Why in the News?

- The first shipment of **Geographical Indication (GI)** certified **Bhalia variety of wheat** was exported to **Kenya and Sri Lanka from Gujarat**.

Key Points

About GI certified Bhalia wheat:

- The GI certified wheat has high protein content and is sweet in taste.
- The crop is grown mostly across the Bhal region of Gujarat, which includes Ahmedabad, Anand, Kheda, Bhavanagar, Surendranagar, Bharuch districts.

Note:

- The Bhalia wheat received Geographical Indication (GI) certification in July 2011.
- The registered proprietor of GI certification is Anand Agricultural University, Gujarat.

Wheat exports from India:

- In 2020-21, the wheat exports from India witnessed a significant growth of 808 % to Rs 4034 crore from Rs 444 crore reported in the previous fiscal.
- India exported a substantial quantity of grain to seven new countries - Yemen, Indonesia, Bhutan, Philippines, Iran, Cambodia, and Myanmar during 2020-21.

Geographical Indication (GI) Certification:

- GI is a name or sign used on certain products which correspond to a specific geographical location or origin (e.g., a town, region, or country).
- The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, seeks to provide for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods in India.
- The Geographical Indications Registry is located in Chennai.
- It is also a part of the World Trade Organisation (WTO)'s Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

Note: Darjeeling tea became the first **Geographical Indication (GI)** tagged product in India in 2004–2005.

Source: PIB

Important News: Defense

DRDO's Short Span Bridging System-10 m inducted into Indian Army

Why in the News?

- The first production lot of **12 Short Span Bridging System (SSBS)-10 m**, designed and developed by **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO),** has been inducted into Indian Army.

Key Points

- The **SSBS-10 m** plays a crucial role of bridging the gaps up to 9.5 m as a single span providing a 4 m wide, fully decked roadway, ensuring faster movement of the troops.
- Research & Development Establishment (Engrs) Pune, a premier engineering laboratory of DRDO, has designed and developed the system in association with M/s L&T Ltd.
- The 12 bridges are part of 102 SSBS-10 m from M/s L&T Ltd, which is the production agency.

Source: PIB

Awards and Honours

Odia poet Dr. Rajendra Kishore Panda chosen for 2020 Kuvempu award

Why in the News?

- Odia poet Dr. Rajendra Kishore Panda has been selected for the Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar 2020.

Key Points
- Dr Panda has published 16 poetry collections and a novel.
- He was awarded the Gangadhar National Award in 2010 and the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1985.

About Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar:
- Founded in 1992, Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Trust instituted this national annual literary award in 2013 in the name of Kuvempu to recognise litterateurs who had contributed in any language recognised by the Constitution of India.
- The award carries a cash award of ₹5 lakh, a silver medal and a citation.

Source: The Hindu

Nashik's Community Radio Station bags the National Award

Why in the News?
- **Radio Vishwas**, a **Community Radio Station** in Nashik, Maharashtra has bagged two awards at the **8th edition of the National Community Radio Awards** instituted by the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.**
- Radio Vishwas 90.8 won the **first prize** in the **"Sustainability Model Awards"** category and the **Second prize** in the **"Thematic Awards"** category for its radio program **'Education for All'** in the times of COVID-19.

Key Points
- **Radio Vishwas** is run by the **Vishwas Dhyan Prabodhini & Research Institute, Nashik, Maharashtra** and has been broadcasting since its launch.

Teachers and students record lectures for 'Education for All' initiative

About National Community Radio Awards:
- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had instituted National Community Radio Awards in the year 2011-12 to encourage innovation and healthy competition amongst Community Radio Stations.
- These Community Radio stations have played a significant role in communication during COVID-19 pandemic. As on date, there are 327 community radio stations in operation in India across various states.

Source: PIB

Sports

WAKO India Kickboxing Federation gets government recognition as National Sports Federation

Why in the News?

- The Ministry of Youth affairs & Sports has decided to grant recognition to WAKO India Kickboxing Federation as National Sports Federation (NSF) for promotion and development of the Kickboxing sport in India.

Key Points

- WAKO India Kickboxing Federation is affiliated to **World Association of Kickboxing Organizations (WAKO),** which is the International Federation for the sport of Kickboxing.
- The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** Executive Board at its meeting in June 2021 has approved the recommendation for WAKO to become a fully recognized member of the Olympic family of sport.
- WAKO has been provisionally recognized as a member of the IOC since 30 November 2018.
- **Note:** The full recognition of WAKO will be finally decided by the IOC Session in Tokyo in July 2021.

Source: PIB

Reports and Indexes

United District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2019-20 Report

Why in the News?

- Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Union Education Minister released the Report on United Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2019-20 for School Education in India.
- As per the UDISE+ report 2019-20, Gross Enrolment Ratio at all levels of school education has improved in 2019-20 compared to 2018-19.
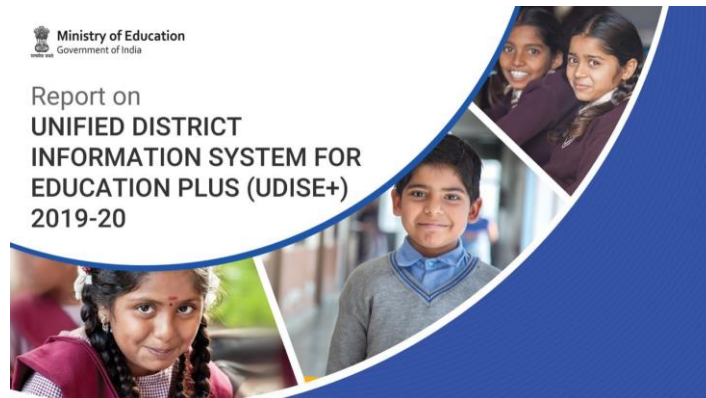- Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) has improved at all levels of school education.

Key Points
Highlights of Report on UDISE+ 2019-20:
- In 2019-20, **total students** in school education from pre-primary to higher secondary have crossed 26.45 crore. This is higher by 42.3 lakh compared to 2018-19.
- **Gross Enrolment Ratio** increased to 89.7% (from 87.7%) at Upper Primary level, 97.8% (from 96.1%) at Elementary Level, 77.9% (from 76.9%) at Secondary Level and 51.4% (from 50.1%) at Higher Secondary Level in 2019-20 (from 2018-19).
- In 2019-20, 96.87 lakh teachers have been engaged in school education. This is higher by about 2.57 lakh compared to 2018-19.
- In 2019-20, the **Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR)** for primary has become 26.5, PTR for upper primary and secondary has become 18.5 and PTR for higher secondary has become 26.1.
- In 2019-20, **enrolment of girls** from primary to higher secondary is more than 12.08 crore. This is an increase by 14.08 lakh compared to 2018-19.
- **Gross Enrolment Ratio of girls** has increased to 90.5% (from 88.5%) at Upper Primary level, 98.7% (from 96.7%) at Elementary Level, 77.8% (from 76.9%) at Secondary Level and 52.4% (from 50.8%) at Higher Secondary Level in 2019-20 (from 2018-19).
- Between 2012-13 and 2019-20, the **Gender Parity Index (GPI)** at both Secondary and Higher Secondary levels have improved.
- **Improvement of GPI** has been most pronounced at the higher secondary level, which has gone up **to 1.04 in 2019-20 from 0.97 in 2012-13.**

About Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE):
- It initiated in 2012-13 integrating DISE for elementary and secondary education is one of the largest Management Information Systems on School Education.
- UDISE+ is an updated and improved version of UDISE.

Main Schemes Related to Education:
- Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Program (DHRUV)
- NISHTHA – National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement
- Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP)
- Deeksharambh
- PARAMARSH
- Scheme for Transformational and Advanced Research in Sciences (STARS)
- Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)
- Impactful Policy Research in Social Science (IMPRESS)

- SWAYAM PRABHA- DTH Educational Channels
- Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS)
- National Apprenticeship Promotional Scheme
- National Educational Alliance for Technology
- Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India's Developing Economy (STRIDE)
- DIKSHA

Source: PIB

India ranked 10th in Global Cybersecurity Index 2020

Why in the News?

- India ranked 10th in the 4th edition of the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2020, a significant jump of 37 places from its previous GCI rank in 2018.

Key Points

- **Rank 1:** US
- **Rank 2:** UK, Saudi Arabia
- **Rank 3:** Estonia
- **Rank 10:** India

Note: India has also secured the **4th position in the Asia Pacific region**, underlining its commitment to cybersecurity.

About Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI):

- The GCI is a composite index created, analyzed and published by the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU),** a specialized agency of the **United Nations**, to measure the commitment to cybersecurity of its **194 member countries**.
- GCI assessment is done on the basis of performance on **five pillars** of cybersecurity including – (i) Legal measures, (ii) Technical measures, (iii) Organizational measures, (iv) Capacity development, and (v) Cooperation.

Source: Indian Express

New Appointments

Pushkar Singh Dhami sworn in as new Uttarakhand Chief Minister

Why in the News?

- Pushkar Singh Dhami was sworn in as the 11th Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, along with an 11-member cabinet.

Key Points

- Pushkar Singh Dhami is Uttarakhand's third chief minister in nearly four months.
- Dhami succeeds Tirath Singh Rawat, who resigned recently after nearly four months in office. Tirath Singh Rawat replaced Trivendra Signh Rawat in March 2021.
- Dhami is an MLA from the Khatima assembly constituency in the hill state's Udham Singh Nagar district.

Source: The Hindu

New Governors appointed in 8 states

Why in the News?

- In a major reshuffle, President of India Ram Nath Kovind appointed eight new governors giving them charge of the administration of new states. While many were transferred, others were new appointments.
- Union Minister and the **BJP's Rajya Sabha leader Thawarchand Gehlot** has been appointed as the **Governor of Karnataka.**

Key Points

- **Thawarchand Gehlot** has been appointed as the Governor of Karnataka.
- **Hari Babu Kambhampati** has been appointed as the Governor of Mizoram.

- **Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar** has been appointed as the Governor of Himachal Pradesh.
- **Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel** has been appointed as the Governor of Madhya Pradesh.
- **Satyadev Narayan Arya**, Governor of Haryana, has been transferred and appointed as Governor of Tripura.
- **PS Sreedharan Pillai**, Governor of Mizoram, has been transferred and appointed as Governor of Goa.
- **Bandaru Dattatraya**, Governor of Himachal Pradesh, has been transferred and appointed as Governor of Haryana.
- **Ramesh Bais**, Governor of Tripura, has been transferred and appointed as Governor of Jharkhand.
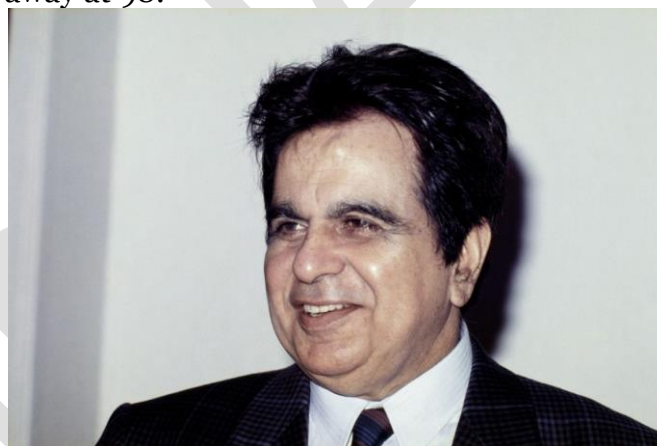
Source: The Hindu

Obituaries

Legendary actor Dilip Kumar passes away

Why in the News?

- Legendary actor Dilip Kumar, who was popularly known as the tragedy king of Bollywood, passed away at 98.

Key Points

- Dilip Kumar, real name Yusuf Khan, appeared in Indian cinema's most iconic and landmark films, including Mughal-e-Azam, Naya Daur, Devdas, Ram Aur Shyam, Andaz, Ganga Jamuna and Madhumati.
- He was the **first actor to win the Filmfare Award for Best Actor in 1954** and won it a total of **8 times.**
- He was honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 1994 and Padma Vibhushan in 2015.
- He also received Pakistan's highest civilian honour, the Nishan-e-Imtiaz.

Source: Indian Express

Former Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh passes away

- Congress leader and former Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh passed away at 87.
- Virbhadra Singh was the nine-time MLA, five-time Member of Parliament, and the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh for six terms.
- Before his death, he served as MLA from the Arki Assembly constituency in Solan District.

Source: The Hindu

Miscellaneous

Indian Railways' first movable freshwater tunnel aquarium

Why in the News?

- Indian Railway has opened the first movable freshwater tunnel aquarium at the **Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna (KSR) Railway Station, Bengaluru** (Bengaluru City Railway Station).

Key Points

- The aquarium is a one-of-its-kind aquatic park based on the Amazon River concept.
- It has been opened by the **Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Ltd (IRSDC)** in collaboration with **HNi Aquatic Kingdom.**
- The 12-feet long aquatic kingdom is Indian Railways first paludarium housing myriad flora and fauna.

Source: Indian Express

Minister of Ayush launches 5 Important Portals on Ayush sector

Why in the News?

- Kiran Rijiju, Union Minister of Ayush (IC), launched **5 Important Portals in the Ayush sector.**
- He also released four publications related to the Traditional Indian Medicine System of India.
- Ayush will play a big role in the **National Digital Health Mission** to provide health security to Indian people.

Key Points

Five Portals:

- **Ayurveda Dataset on Clinical Trial Registry of India- CTRI Portal** is a primary Register of Clinical Trials under the World Health Organization's International Clinical Trials Registry Platform.
- **CCRAS-Research Management Information System (RMIS)**- A collaborative effort of ICMR and CCRAS, this portal will be a one-stop solution for Research and Development in Ayurveda based studies.
- **e-Medha (electronic Medical Heritage Accession) Portal-** Online public access catalogue for more than 12000 Indian medical heritage books through NIC's e-granthalaya platform.
- **SHAI (Showcase of Ayurveda Historical Imprints) Portal-** SHAI portal showcases inscriptions, Sculptures, Archeo-botanical Information, advanced Archeo Genetic studies and Philological sources.
- **AMAR (Ayush Manuscripts Advanced Repository) Portal-** AMAR Portal is of immense value. It has digitized rare and hard to find Manuscripts and catalogues of Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa in libraries or individual collections.

Four publications:

- Proceedings of International Workshop on Preservation and Promotion of SOWA-RIGPA in Asia
- Compendium of Important Cereals mentioned in Ayurveda-Series-1, volume-1
- PathapathyaVinishcaya- An important book of Ayurveda and has details of diet and lifestyle
- Ayurveda Sangraha: An important classical textbook of Ayurveda

About National Digital Health Mission (NDHM):

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the establishment of the NDHM on Independence Day 2020.
- The NDHM is an agency of the Government of India which seeks to provide medical identity documents to Indian people.

- This identity document would enable people to use Ayushman Bharat Yojana, service in India's publicly funded health care.

Source: PIB

Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair

Why in the News?

- **Team India 2021** won 9 Grand Awards and 8 Special Awards at **Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF).**

Key Points

- 26 winners of the Initiative for Research and Innovation in STEM -IRIS National Fair participated as 'Team India 2021' in the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair.

About Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF):

- It is an annual science fair in the United States. It is owned and administered by the Society for Science, a 501 non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C.

Source: PIB

KVIC's project BOLD

Why in the News?

- The **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC),** under the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, has launched the project **"Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought" (BOLD)**.
- The project BOLD is the first of its kind exercise in the country, launched from the tribal village **NichlaMandwa in Udaipur, Rajasthan**.

Key Points
About Project BOLD:
- **5000 saplings** of special bamboo species – BambusaTulda and BambusaPolymorpha specially brought from Assam – have been planted over 16 acres approx of vacant arid Gram Panchayat land of village NichlaMandwa.
- **KVIC** has thus created a **world record of planting** the highest number of **bamboo saplings** on a single day at one location.

Part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav:
- The initiative has been launched as part of **KVIC's "Khadi Bamboo Festival"** to celebrate 75 years of independence **", Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav".**
- KVIC is set to replicate the Project in Gujarat and Leh-Ladakh region by August 2021. KVIC will plant a total of 15,000 bamboo saplings before August 2021.
- **Note:** Recently, the Space Application Centre, ISRO, also published the **Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas** of India, which provides a state-wise area of degraded lands for 2018-19.

Benefits to the environment:
- Bamboos are great sources to reduce land degradation, prevent land desertification, achieve sustainable development, and solve food security issues.
- Preventing land desertification can further solve associated problems like soil infertility, soil erosion, and deforestation.

Other Initiatives to fight Desertification:
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (India is the part of it)
- Soil Health Card Scheme
- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana
- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojna
- National Mission for Green India

Source: PIB

Indian Army Memorial in Italy

Why in the News?
- **Indian Army Chief Manoj Naravane** will inaugurate the **Indian Army Memorial at Cassino in Italy** during his visit to the UK and Italy.
- In World War II, the memorial commemorates over 3,100 Commonwealth servicemen who took part in liberating Italy.
- 900 Indian soldiers were also commemorated on this memorial.

Key Points
India Army in Italy:
- Three infantry divisions (4th, 8th and 10th Divisions) of the Indian Army took part in the Italian campaign.

India's involvement in World War II:
- The Indian Army was the largest volunteer force during **World War II** (WWII), with over 2.5 million (more than 20 lakh) Indians participating.

World War I:
- World War I (WWI) was a global war originating in Europe that lasted from 28 July 1914 to 11 November 1918.

World War II:
- World War II (WWII) was a global war that lasted from 1939 to 1945. It involved the vast majority of the world's countries—including all of the great powers—forming two opposing military alliances: the Allies and the Axis powers.

Source: Indian Express

Khadi Prakritk Paint: Brand Ambassador

Why in the News?

- **Minister for Road Transport and Highways & MSME Nitin Gadkari** declared himself the "Brand Ambassador " of Khadi Prakritk Paint.
- Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the new automated manufacturing unit of Khadi Prakritik Paint in Jaipur.

Key Points

- The new plant has been set up on the campus of Kumarappa National Handmade Paper Institute, Jaipur, a Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).
- Earlier Prakritik Paint was being manufactured manually on a prototype project.

About Khadi Prakritk Paint:
- Khadi Prakritk Paint is India's first and only paint made from cow dung.
- Nitin Gadkari launched it on 12th January 2021.
- To enable maximum people to benefit from this innovation, KVIC has included this project under the **Prime Minister Employment Generation Program,** a flagship scheme of the Central government for employment generation.

Source: PIB

52nd International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa

Why in the News?
- **Minister of Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar** released the regulations and poster for the **52nd edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI).**
- The festival will be held in **Goa from 20th -28th November 2021.**

Key Points
About International Film Festival of India (IFFI):
- IFFI is reckoned as one of Asia's oldest and India's biggest international film festivals.
- The Directorate of Film Festivals is organizing the Festival**, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India**, and the State Government of Goa and the Indian Film Industry.
- IFFI is recognized by the **International Federation of Film Producers Associations. Note:** The **"Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Cinema"** has been instituted from this year to be given at the **International Film Festival of India** every year starting from this year.

Source: PIB