

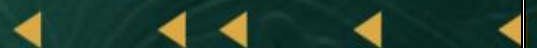


# Monthly Current Affairs July 2021

मासिक सम सामयिकी जुलाई 2021

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## Monthly Current Affairs July 2021 मासिक सम सामयिकी जुलाई 2021

### Important News: State

#### UNESCO's 'Historic Urban Landscape' Project for Gwalior, Orchha launched Why in News

- In Madhya Pradesh, **Gwalior and Orchha** cities have been selected by UNESCO under its 'Historic Urban Landscape' Project.

##### Key Points

- **6 cities of South Asia**, including **Ajmer** and **Varanasi** in India are already involved in this project. **Gwalior and Orchha** have been included as the **7th and 8th cities**.
- The cities will be jointly developed by UNESCO, Government of India and Madhya Pradesh by focusing on their historical and cultural improvement.

##### Note:

- **Gwalior** was established in the 9th century and ruled by Gurjar Pratihara, Rajvansh, Tomar, Baghel Kachvaho and Scindias. Gwalior is known for its temples and palaces.
- **Orchha** is popular for its palaces and temples and was the capital of the Bundela kingdom in the 16th century.

##### About Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) Project:

- HUL Project was started in the year 2011, for the inclusive and well-planned development of fast-growing historical cities while preserving the culture and heritage.

Source: newsonair

#### Karnataka's new Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai

##### Why in News

- Lingayat leader Basavaraj Bommai took oath as the new Chief Minister of Karnataka.

##### Key Points

- In the ceremony at the Glass House of the Karnataka Raj Bhavan in Bengaluru, Governor Thawarchand Gehlot administered the oath of office and secrecy to Basavaraj Bommai.

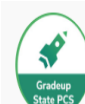
##### About Basavaraj Bommai:

- Bommai is the son of former chief minister S R Bommai.
- He is a two-time MLC and three-time MLA from Shiggaon in Haveri district in North Karnataka.

**Note:** **BS Yediyurappa** resigned as the Chief Minister of Karnataka on 26 July, 2021.



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**Source: Indian Express**

## **First Central University and first 'Integrated Multi-Purpose Infrastructure Development Corporation' for Ladakh**

### **Why in News**

- The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of the **first Central University** and the **first 'Integrated Multi-Purpose Infrastructure Development Corporation'** for **Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh**.

### **Key Points**

#### **About Central University:**

- It will be set up with a total outlay of Rs 750 crore and will cater to all areas of the UT of Ladakh that include Leh and Kargil.

**Note:** The Bill in this regard will be introduced for amending the Central Universities Act, 2009.

#### **About Integrated Multi-Purpose Infrastructure Development Corporation:**

- The authorised share capital of the corporation will be Rs 25 crore.
- The establishment of the corporation will result in inclusive and integrated development of the UT of Ladakh.

**Note:** When the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act was enacted in 2019, there was a Jammu central university and a Kashmir central university, but there was no central university in Ladakh.

**Source: newsonair**

## **Rudreswara Temple at Palampet, Warangal, Telangana inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List**

### **Why in News**

- **Rudreswara Temple**, (also known as the **Ramappa Temple**) at Palampet, Mulugu district, near Warangal in the state of Telangana has been inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage list.
- It is India's **39th World Heritage Site**.
- The decision was taken at the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO.

### **Key Points**

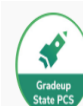
- Rudreswara temple was proposed by the government as its only nomination for the UNESCO World Heritage site tag for the year 2019.

#### **About the Rudreswara (Ramappa) Temple**

- The Rudreswara temple was constructed in 1213 AD during the reign of the **Kakatiya Empire** by **Recharla Rudra**, a general of Kakatiya king Ganapati Deva.
- The presiding deity here is Ramalingeswara Swamy.
- The temple is also known as the Ramappa temple, after the sculptor who executed the work in the temple for 40 years.
- The temple stands on a 6 feet high star-shaped platform with walls, pillars and ceilings adorned with intricate carvings that attest to the unique skill of the Kakatiyan sculptors.



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### World Heritage Site in India:

- The **first sites** to be inscribed were Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves, Agra Fort, and Taj Mahal, of which all were inscribed in the 1983 session of the World Heritage Committee.
- Presently, there are **39 World Heritage Sites located in India**. Out of these, **31 are cultural, 7 are natural, and 1 is mixed**.
- India has the 6<sup>th</sup> largest number of sites in the world.

### About World Heritage Site:

- A World Heritage Site is a landmark or area with legal protection by an international convention administered by the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**.
- The World Heritage Sites list is maintained by the international **World Heritage Program** administered by the **UNESCO World Heritage Committee**.
- The programme began with the "**Convention Concerning the Protection of the World's Cultural and Natural Heritage**", which was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO on 16 November 1972.

### Types:

- Cultural heritage sites
- Natural heritage sites
- Mixed heritage sites (contain elements of both natural and cultural significance)

**Note:** Recently, the **England's city Liverpool** has been removed from UNESCO's list of world heritage sites.

**Source: PIB**

### Maharashtra to be first state to issue educational documents using blockchain technology

#### Why in News

- Maharashtra will be the first state in the country to issue educational documents using blockchain technology.
- **India became the 4<sup>th</sup> Country** to roll out blockchain-powered educational documents after **Singapore, Malta and Bahrain**.

#### Key Points

- Maharashtra's Skill Development Minister informed that one million diploma certificates will be issued using this technology.
- This technology will be provided by **LegitDoc**.

#### About LegitDoc:

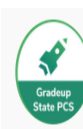
- LegitDoc is the flagship product of Crossforge Solutions, a Bangalore-based technology company specializing in blockchain DApp development.
- LegitDoc is an Ethereum-based software application for issuing and verifying tamper-proof digital documents.

#### About Blockchain:

- Blockchain is a system of recording information in a way that makes it difficult or impossible to change, hack, or cheat the system.



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**Source: Business Standard**

## **Gujarat HC became the first high court in the country to start live streaming of court proceedings**

### **Why in News**

- The **High Court of Gujarat** became the first high court in the country to start live streaming of court proceedings.

### **Key Points**

- **Chief Justice of India NV Ramana** inaugurated the live streaming of the Gujarat High Court proceedings.
- The chief justice also released **“The High Court of Gujarat (Live Streaming of Court Proceedings) Rules, 2021”**.

### **About High Court of Gujarat:**

- It was established on 1 May 1960 under the Bombay Re-organisation Act, 1960 after the state of Gujarat split from Bombay State.
- **Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court: Vikram Nath**

**Source: TOI**

## **‘Common High Court of UT of Jammu and Kashmir and UT of Ladakh’ changed to ‘High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh’**

- Long-winding and cumbersome' nomenclature '**Common High Court of UT of Jammu and Kashmir and UT of Ladakh**' has been changed to '**High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh**'.
- The order was notified by the Department of Justice in the Ministry of Law and Justice.
- **President Ram Nath Kovind** has signed the **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2021**, to effect the change.

**Source: Indian Express**

## **Manduadih railway station renamed as Banaras**

### **Why in News**

- The Manduadih railway station has been finally renamed as Banaras by the North eastern railways (NER).

### **Key Points**

- The formal renaming of Manduadih railway station as Banaras Railway Station was done on September 16, 2020 in view of the NOC given by the Ministry of Home Affairs on March 31, 2020.

**Note:** Recently, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **International Cooperation and Convention Centre “Rudraksh”** in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**.

**Source: TOI**

## **Eight new routes launched to boost regional aerial connectivity**

### **Why in News**



- Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Jyotiraditya Scindia along with Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh flagged off 8 new routes bolstering the aerial connectivity from **Madhya Pradesh to Maharashtra & Gujarat**.

#### Key Points

- The airlines SpiceJet will commence operations on these 8 new routes: Gwalior-Mumbai-Gwalior, Gwalior-Pune-Gwalior, Jabalpur-Surat-Jabalpur, and Ahmedabad-Gwalior-Ahmedabad route.
- Gwalior is one of the first airports of Madhya Pradesh to be connected with the UDAN route.
- Inauguration of these routes achieves the aim of the **Sab Uden Sab Juden initiative under the UDAN scheme** to strengthen the established aerial network of the country.

#### About UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) Scheme:

- **RCS-UDAN** is a Government of India's flagship program which aims to provide affordable, economically viable and profitable air travel on regional routes.
- **RCS (Regional Connectivity Scheme)** offers a unique opportunity to a common man to fly at an affordable price.
- The UDAN Scheme is a key component of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's **National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP)** which was released by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (India) on 15 June 2016.
- **Note:** Earlier this month, under the UDAN scheme, Indigo airlines started another flight to connect Kolkata, West Bengal & Imphal, Manipur with Dibrugarh, Assam.
- To date, 359 routes and 59 airports including 5 heliports and 2 Water Aerodromes have been operationalized under the UDAN scheme.

Source: PIB

### India's first 'Grain ATM' in Haryana

#### Why in News

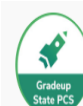
- Haryana Government has recently set up its first **ATM machine 'Annapurti'** for dispensing **food grains** at Farrukhnagar in Gurugram, which will provide three types of grains — wheat, rice, and millet.
- This machine is installed under the **"World Food Programme"** of the **United Nations**, and is called Automated, Multi Commodity, Grain Dispensing Machine.

#### Key Points

- The purpose of this ATM is to make the distributions of grains at government-run ration shops easy and hassle-free.
- Each machine can dispense up to 70 kg of grains within five to seven minutes, at a time.
- It's an automatic machine; hence the scope of error in the measurement of grains is negligible.



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- The machine has a biometric system with a touch-screen, where the beneficiaries have to enter their Aadhaar or ration card number to get their grains.

**Source: TOI**

## Gujarat International Maritime Arbitration Centre (GIMAC)

### Why in the News?

- The Gujarat Maritime University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Financial Services Centres Authority in GIFT City to promote the Gujarat International Maritime Arbitration Centre (GIMAC).

### Key Points

- This will be the first centre of its kind in the country that will manage arbitration and mediation proceedings with disputes related to the maritime and shipping sector.
- The GIMAC will be part of a maritime cluster that the Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) is setting up in GIFT City at Gandhinagar.

### Need of GIMAC:

- There are over 35 arbitration centres in India. However, none of them exclusively deals with the maritime sector.
- The arbitration involving Indian players is now heard at the Singapore Arbitration Centre.
- Globally, London is the preferred centre for arbitration for the maritime and shipping sector.

**Source: Indian Express**

## Zen Garden and Kaizen Academy at AMA, Ahmedabad

### Why in the News?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a **Japanese Zen Garden and Kaizen Academy** at the **Ahmedabad Management Association (AMA)**, Ahmedabad.

### Key Points

#### About Zen Garden and Kaizen Academy:

- It is a joint endeavour of the Japan Information & Study Centre at the AMA and the Indo-Japan Friendship Association, Gujarat, supported by the Hyogo International Association Japan.
- It has traditional Japanese elements such as Shoji Interior, Red Bridge Guzei, Glory of Tori, fusion Chabutaro, Taki waterfall, Kimono scroll and Tsukubai basin.
- The **Kaizen Academy** will promote the work-culture of Japan in India, and increase business interactions between the two countries.
- **Kaizen** translates to 'change for the better' or 'continuous improvement'. Kaizen is a Japanese business philosophy that focuses on gradually improving productivity by involving all employees and by making the work environment more efficient.
- **Zen** is a Japanese school of Mahayana Buddhism emphasizing the value of meditation and intuition.

### India-Japan Relations:

- Japan-India bilateral and multilateral cooperation, including Japan-Australia-India-US quadrilateral cooperation, towards realising a free and open Indo-Pacific
- Possible Cooperation between India and Japan in areas like 5G, strengthening of industrial competitiveness and development projects in the northeastern state.

#### **Recent Developments between India and Japan:**

- Supply Chain Resilience Initiative
- In 2020, India and Japan signed a logistics agreement that will allow armed forces of both sides to coordinate closely in services and supplies. The agreement is known as the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement.
- 'Special Strategic and Global Partnership' in 2014
- The India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement 2011
- **Defence Exercises:** Bilateral exercises: SHINYUU Maitri (Air Force), JIMEX (Naval) and Dharma Guardian (Army). Malabar exercise (Naval Exercise) with the USA.

## **Important News: India**

### **PMFME Scheme under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**

#### **Why in the News?**

- **Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME)** Scheme launched under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan marks the **completion of its one year.**
- **Launched on 29th June 2020**, the PMFME Scheme is currently being implemented in **35 States and Union Territories.**

#### **Key Points**

#### **Milestones achieved under the PMFME Scheme**

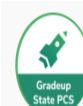
#### **One District One Product:**

- Under the **One District One Product (ODOP)** component of the PMFME Scheme, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries approved ODOP for 707 districts for 35 States and UTs, including 137 unique products as per the recommendations received by States/UTs.
- **Capacity Building and Incubation Centres:** Under the Capacity Building component of the PMFME Scheme, the **National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management** and the **Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology** have been performing a key role in providing training and research support to selected enterprises/groups/clusters in partnership with the State Level Technical Institutions.
- **Seed Capital:** Seed Capital worth Rs. 25.25 Crore has been disbursed to State Rural Livelihood Mission.
- The PMFME Scheme envisages financial support of Rs. 40,000 for working capital and purchase of small tools for each member of SHGs engaged in food processing activities.
- **Implementation and Funding:** With an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore over a period of five years from **2020-21 to 2024-25**, the scheme envisions to directly assist the 2,00,000 micro food processing units for providing financial, technical, and business support for upgradation of existing micro food processing enterprises.

#### **About the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme:**



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- Launched under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, PMFME Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme.
- It aims to enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized segment of the food processing industry and to promote formalization of the sector and provide support to Farmer Producer Organizations, Self Help Groups, and Producers Cooperatives along their entire value chain.

**Note:**

- The Indian food and grocery market is the world's 6 largest, with retail contributing 70 percent of the sales.
- The Indian food processing industry accounts for 32 percent of the country's total food market, one of the largest industries in India and is ranked fifth in terms of production, consumption, export and expected growth.

**Other Schemes Related to Food Processing:**

- Mega Food Park Scheme
- Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry

## 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.

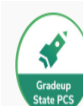
**About Digital India:**

- **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**



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## 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:

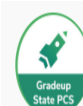
- It is a sector-wide development programme which subsumes the then existing Centrally Sponsored Schemes of **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)**, **Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)** and **Teacher Education (TE)**.
- The Integrated Scheme envisages the 'school' as a continuum from pre-school, primary, 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'.



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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

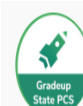
## Central government extends superannuation age of LIC chairman to up to 62 years

### 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**.



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- 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**.

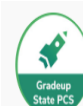
### Key Points

- **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:



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**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 Day** **July 10, National Fish Farmers Day**

**Source: PIB****PM Narendra Modi Cabinet Reshuffle & Portfolio of New Ministers**

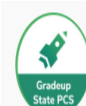
- The **Union Council of Ministers** consists of Cabinet Ministers, Ministers of state and Ministers of State (Independent Charge).
- The Prime Minister of India leads the council.
- The Union Cabinet is the supreme decision-making body in India.
- Only the prime minister and ministers of the rank of 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 of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Department of Atomic Energy Space All important policy issues and all other portfolios not allocated to any minister.	Narendra Modi
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



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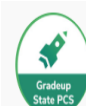
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Minister of Commerce and Industry Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Minister of Textiles	Piyush Goyal
Minister of Women and Child Development	Smriti Zubin Irani
Minister of Law and Justice	Kiren Rijiju
Minister of Tribal Affairs	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 Ministry of AYUSH	Sarbananda Sonowal
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



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Minister of Information and Broadcasting Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports	Anurag Thakur
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**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](http://pmindia.gov.in)

## **Capacity Building Initiative on ‘Making Water Sensitive Cities in Ganga Basin’ Launched**

### **Why in News**

- A new capacity building initiative on **‘Making Water Sensitive Cities in Ganga Basin’** aimed at improving river health/flows was launched by **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** in association with **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)**.

### **Key Points**

#### **About Capacity Building Initiative:**

- **Key focus areas of the programme:** Water Sensitive Urban Design and Planning, Decentralized Wastewater Treatment and Local Reuse, Urban Water Efficiency and Conservation, Urban Groundwater Management and Urban Water bodies / Lake Management.
- The program will engage all the **stakeholders** which includes, SPMGs (State Program Management Group, Namami Gange), Municipal corporations, Technical & research constants, international organizations and local grassroot communities.
- This initiative is part of the series of ongoing efforts by NMCG aimed to ensuring convergence of the Namami Gange Mission with national flagship urban missions (AMRUT, Smart Cities, Swachh Bharat Mission, NULM, HRIDAY) and other missions (Atal Bhujal Yojana, Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Jal Jeevan Mission) at state /city level across Ganga basin states.

#### **Water Sensitive Urban Design and Planning:**

- It is an emerging urban development paradigm aimed to minimize hydrological impacts of urban development on the environment.
- It includes the method of planning and designing urban areas for optimum utilization of water.

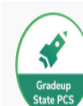
#### **Other Related Initiatives:**

- ‘Catch the Rain’ initiative for rain water harvesting
- “River Cities Alliance” which will provide a unique platform for river cities to collaborate for collectively achieving river rejuvenation

**Source:** PIB



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## India gets its 40th UNESCO World Heritage Site- Dholavira: A Harappan City Why in News

- India's nomination of Dholavira, the Harappan City in the Rann of Kutch, Gujarat has been inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage list.

### Key Points

- Dholavira site was on UNESCO's tentative list since 2014.
- India now enters the **Super-40** club for World Heritage Site inscriptions.
- With this successful nomination, India has **40 world heritage** properties overall, which includes **32 cultural, 7 natural and one mixed property**.

**Note:** This follows a few days after the **Rudreswara Temple**, (also known as the Ramappa Temple) at Palampet, Mulugu district, Telangana State becoming the **39th World Heritage Centre** in India.

### About the Harappan city of Dholavira:

- Dholavira: a Harappan city is one of the very few well preserved urban settlements in South Asia dating from the 3rd to mid-2nd millennium BCE.
- Being the 6th largest of more than 1,000 Harappan sites discovered so far, and occupied for over 1,500 years, Dholavira not only witnesses the entire trajectory of the rise and fall of this early civilization of humankind, but also demonstrates its multifaceted achievements in terms of urban planning, water management, construction techniques, social governance and development, trading, art and manufacturing.
- Unlike other Harappan antecedent towns normally located near to rivers and perennial sources of water, the location of Dholavira in the island of Khadir was strategic to harness different mineral and raw material sources and to facilitate internal as well as external trade to the Magan (modern Oman peninsula) and Mesopotamian regions.
- Dholavira is an exceptional example of a proto-historic Bronze Age urban settlement pertaining to the Harappan Civilization.

### World Heritage Sites in Gujarat:

- Gujarat now has **four world heritage sites** — Dholavira, Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park, Rani ki Vav in Patan and the Historic City of Ahmedabad.

Source: PIB

## I-STEM Phase-II

### Why in News

- The **Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map (I-STEM)** project has been accorded extension for five years, until 2026 and enters its **second phase** with added features.

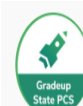
### Key Points

#### About I-STEM:

- I-STEM, the national web portal for sharing Research and Development (R&D) facilities was formally launched in January 2020.



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- It is an initiative of **Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser** to the Government of India (GoI) under the aegis of **Prime Minister Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC)** mission.

**Objective:**

- The objective of I-STEM is to strengthen the R&D ecosystem of the country by connecting researchers with resources, in part by promoting technologies and scientific equipment development indigenously.

**Phase-I:**

- In the first phase, the portal is listed with more than 20,000 pieces of equipment from 1050 institutions across the country and has more than 20,000 Indian researchers.
- I-STEM portal facilitates researchers to access slots for the use of equipment, as well as to share the details of the outcomes, such as, patents, publications and technologies.

**Phase-II:**

- Under Phase II, the portal will host indigenous technology products listed through a digital catalogue.
- The portal will also provide a platform for the various City Knowledge and Innovation Clusters supported by the Office of PSA to enhance effective use of R&D infrastructure through leveraging collaboration and partnership built on a shared STI ecosystem.
- It will be designed as a dynamic digital platform that will provide a boost to research and innovation especially for 2 tier and 3 tier cities and also for the emerging start-up ecosystem.

**Source: PIB**

## **Government formalises registration process of Vintage Motor Vehicles**

**Why in News**

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has amended **Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR) 1989**, formalising the registration process of vintage motor vehicles.
- This is aimed at preserving and promoting the heritage of old vehicles in India.

**Key Points**

**About Vintage Motor Vehicles:**

- The draft rules define vintage motor vehicles as all those vehicles that are two-wheelers and four-wheelers and are more than 50 years old from the date of their first registration (including imported vehicle).
- Vintage motor vehicles shall not be driven on roads for regular/commercial purposes.

**Source: Economictimes**

## **Geospatial Technologies for the Water Sector in India**

**Why in News**

- **Rajeev Ranjan Mishra, Director General, National Mission for Clean Ganga** released a detailed report on the opportunities created by the use of geospatial technology in the water sector.
- **The Association of Geospatial Industries** – a geospatial technology industry body, has prepared this report titled, **“Potential of Geospatial Technologies for the Water Sector in India”**.
- Given the population density and requirement of water for agriculture, India is heavily dependent on groundwater and is one of the worst hit countries as far as the water crisis is concerned.

### **Key Points**

#### **Findings of the Report:**

- Outlining key water sector programmes and projects in the country, the report provides an overview of how each of these programmes is currently using geospatial technologies, and how to improve technology adoption in the future.
- As per the report a plethora of Geospatial and Digital technologies, like Satellite based Remote Sensing, Surveying and Mapping, GPS based equipment and sensors, GIS and Spatial Analytics, Artificial Intelligence, Big Data Analytics, Internet of Things, 5G, Robotics and Digital Twin, can be effectively used to combat the water crisis.

#### **Water Projects in India:**

- National River Linking Project
- Jal Jeevan Mission
- Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project
- Namami Gange Mission
- National Hydrology Programme
- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana
- Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)
- National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme
- River Basin Management
- National Water Mission
- Atal Bhujal Yojana

#### **About Geospatial Technology:**

- It is a term used to describe the range of modern tools contributing to the geographic mapping and analysis of the Earth and human societies.
- It can also be defined as a technology used to collect, analyze, and store geographic information.

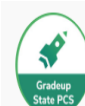
#### **Most common geospatial technologies:**

- Remote Sensing
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Global Positioning System (GPS)
- Internet Mapping Technologies

**Source: PIB**



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## **Cabinet approves Extension of term of the Commission constituted to examine the issue of Sub-categorization within Other Backward Classes in the Central List**

### **Why in News**

- The Union Cabinet has approved the **11<sup>th</sup> Extension** of the term of the Commission constituted under **Article 340** of the Constitution to examine the issue of Sub-categorization within **Other Backward Classes (OBCs)** in the Central List by 6 months beyond 31st July 2021 and upto 31st January 2022.

### **Key Points**

#### **Benefit**

- The proposed extension of tenure and addition in its terms of reference shall enable the “Commission” to submit a comprehensive report on the issue of sub-categorization of OBCs, after consultation with various stakeholders.

#### **Commission (Rohini Commission):**

- The Commission was constituted under article 340 of the Constitution with the approval of the President on 2nd October, 2017.
- The commission is headed by retired Delhi High Court Chief Justice Smt. G Rohini.
- It was set up to examine the possibility of creating categories within OBCs for the reservation to ensure “equitable distribution” of representation among all OBC communities.

#### **Note:**

- Currently, OBCs are granted 27% reservation in government jobs and educational institutes.
- There are 2,633 Other Backward Castes in the Central List and earlier this year the commission proposed to divide them into four subcategories numbered 1, 2, 3 and 4 and split the 27% into 2, 6, 9 and 10%, respectively.
- The commission had also recommended complete digitisation of all OBC records and a standardised system of issuing OBC certificates.

#### **Article 340 of the Indian Constitution:**

- The President can appoint a commission through an order to inquire into the conditions of the **socially and educationally backward classes** and to make recommendations regarding the improvement of their conditions.

**Note:** The **First Backward Classes Commission** was set up by a presidential order on 29 January 1953 under the **chairmanship of Kaka Kalelkar**. It is also known as the **First Backward Classes Commission, 1955** or the **Kaka Kalelkar Commission**.

**Source: PIB**

## **Indian Labour Conference**

### **Why in News**

- Recently, the **Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (Labour Union)** wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi asking him to convene the **Indian Labour Conference (ILC)**.

- India also has a legal obligation to hold the ILC since the Indian Parliament has ratified **Convention No. 144 of the International Labour Organization (ILO)** related to strengthening the tripartite mechanism.

### Key Points

#### About Indian Labour Conference (ILC):

- It is the apex level tripartite consultative committee in the Ministry of Labour & Employment.
- It suggests the Government on the issues concerning the working class of the country.
- **Members:** Central Trade Union Organisations, Central Organisations of employers, all State Governments and Union Territories and Central Ministries/Departments concerned with the agenda, are the members of the ILC.
- The **first meeting** of the ILC (then called Tripartite National Labour Conference) was held in 1942 and so far a total of 46 Sessions have been held.
- The most recent session of Indian Labour Conference was held in 2015.

#### Some Government Initiatives for the Working Class:

- Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana
- New Labour Codes, 2020
- Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan Yojana
- National Pension Scheme for Traders, Shopkeepers and Self-Employed Persons

#### About ILO Convention No. 144:

- The Convention on Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards), 1976 (No.144) , promotes the application of a founding principle of the ILO: bringing together governments, employers and workers through tripartite social dialogue to develop, implement and promote international labour standards.

#### About International Labour Organization (ILO):

- It is a United Nations agency whose mandate is to advance social and economic justice through setting international labour standards.

**Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland

**Director-General;** Guy Ryder

**Formation:** 11 April 1919

- The ILO has **187 state members**.
- **India** is a founder member of the ILO.

**Source:** The Hindu

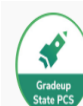
## Indian Institute of Heritage

### Why in News

- The central government has decided to set up the 'Indian Institute of Heritage' at Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar (Uttar Pradesh).



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- Indian Institute of Heritage will be a world-class university that would focus on the conservation and research in India's rich tangible heritage.

### Key Points

#### About 'Indian Institute of Heritage':

- The Institute is being set up as Deemed to be University.
- **Note:** Presently, there are **38 World Heritage Sites located in India**. India has the 6<sup>th</sup> largest number of sites in the world. Among these 38 UNESCO Heritage sites of India, the list includes **30 cultural sites, 7 natural sites, and 1 mixed site**.
- Presently, a total of **1,121 World Heritage Sites (869 cultural, 213 natural, and 39 mixed)** exist across 167 countries. With 55 selected areas, China and Italy are the countries with the most sites on the list.

Source: PIB

### AI-powered Grievance Management Application

#### Why in News

- **Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister** launched an **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered Grievance Management Application**.
- The web-based application has been jointly developed by the **Ministry of Defence, DARPG (Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances)** and **IIT Kanpur**.

#### Key Points

- This project is the first of its kind initiative of the Government for using AI, data science and Machine Learning techniques in grievance redressal.
- This AI-powered application will automatically handle and analyse the complaints of the people and would reduce human intervention, save time and bring more transparency in their disposal.
- It enables geographical analysis of complaints in a category including analysis of whether the complaint was adequately addressed or not by the concerned office.

#### Note:

- Recently, the Chief Justice of India launched the **Artificial Intelligence (AI) portal, Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court's Efficiency (SUPACE)**. SUPACE, designed to make research easier for judges, thereby easing their workload.
- **AI (Artificial intelligence)** means the simulation of human intelligence in machines that are programmed to think like humans and mimic their actions.

Source: PIB

### Digital Platform 'Kisan Sarathi'

#### Why in News

- **'Kisan Sarathi', a digital platform**, was launched jointly by the **Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** with the **Minister for Electronics and Information Technology**.



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- It was launched on the occasion of 93<sup>rd</sup> **Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR)** Foundation Day.

#### **Key Points**

- **Digital Platform Kisan Sarathi** facilitates farmers to get ‘**right information at right time**’ in their desired language.
- This digital platform will empower farmers with the technological interventions to reach farmers in remote areas.
- It will help the farmers to interact and avail personalised advisories on agriculture and allied areas directly from the respective scientists of **Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs)**.
- It will be highly valuable in Agricultural Extension, Education and Research activities of ICAR.

#### **About Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR):**

- ICAR is an autonomous organisation under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- It was established on 16 July 1929.
- The ICAR has its headquarters at New Delhi.
- It is the apex body for co-ordinating, guiding and managing research and education in agriculture including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences.

#### **Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK):**

- Krishi Vigyan Kendra is an agricultural extension center in India.
- Usually associated with a local agricultural university, these centers serve as the ultimate link between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and farmers, and aim to apply agricultural research in a practical, localized setting.
- As of May 2021, there were approximately 722 KVKs throughout India.
- The **first Krishi Vigyan Kendra** was established in 1974 in Pondicherry.

#### **Other Related Initiatives:**

- Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana
- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana
- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana
- National Agriculture Market (eNAM)
- Soil health card

**Source: PIB**

### **Ministry of Electronics & IT enables map services in “UMANG App”**

#### **Why in News**

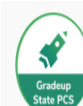
- The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology has enabled map services in **UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) mobile app** through a MoU with **MapmyIndia**.

#### **Key Points**

- Citizens will be able to find government facilities nearest to their location, such as mandis, blood banks and much more, at the click of a button.



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- They will also be able to see these on the most detailed and interactive street and village level maps of India, built by MapmyIndia.
- Citizens will also be able to view the driving distance, get directions and turn by turn voice and visual guidance to locations, including traffic and road safety alerts during navigation, through the linkage between UMANG App and MapmyIndia.

**About UMANG mobile app (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance):**

- The **UMANG** is a Government of India single, unified, secure, multi-channel, multi-platform, multi-lingual, multi-service mobile app, providing access to high impact services of various organizations (Central and State).
  - **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** had launched the **UMANG App in 2017**.
- Note:** The international version of UMANG was launched in 2020. It will help Indian international students, NRIs and Indian tourists abroad, to avail Government of India services, anytime.

**About mapMyIndia:**

- MapmyIndia, is a product of an indigenous, company founded and headquartered in New Delhi, India, in 1995, which has digitally mapped the entire country.
- It helps users find relevant places nearby and see them on detailed building level maps.

**Source: PIB**

**School Innovation Ambassador Training Program**

**Why in News**

- The **Union Education Minister** and **Tribal Affairs Minister** jointly launched the ‘**School Innovation Ambassador Training Program**’ (SIATP).
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched an **Adi-Prashikshan portal** which is also a repository of training inputs.

**Key Points**

**About Training Program:**

- The innovative and one-of-its-kind training program for school teachers, it aims at training 50,000 School Teachers on Innovation, Entrepreneurship, IPR, Design Thinking, Product development, Idea generation, among others.
- The training will be delivered in online mode only.
- The program has been **designed** by the **Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education and AICTE** for school Teachers based on its “Innovation Ambassador Training Program for Higher Educational Institution’s faculty members”.
- This training program is a collaborative effort by the **Ministry of Education’s Innovation Cell, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, AICTE and CBSE**.

**Benefits:**

- 'SIATP' will nurture lakhs of students with innovation capabilities, develop a culture of innovation and lay the foundation of a new and vibrant India.
- The students of **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)** will greatly benefit from SIATP since it is also the endeavour of the Tribal Affairs Ministry to give the best possible education to the tribal children.
- **EMRS** for tribal children is another ambitious programme of the Prime Minister under which 740 EMRS will be established in tribal dominated areas over the next three years.

**Other Important Related Initiatives:**

- New Education Policy, 2020
- Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA)
- Samagra Siksha
- National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA)
- **About All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE):** It is a statutory body, and a national-level council for technical education, under the Department of Higher Education.

**Founded:** November 1945

**Headquarters:** New Delhi

**Chairperson:** Anil Sahasrabudhe

**Source:** PIB

## **6th Anniversary to commemorate launch of PMAY-U, AMRUT & Smart Cities Mission celebrated by MoHUA**

**Why in the News?**

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) organised an online event to commemorate 6 years of the three transformative Urban Missions viz. **Smart Cities Mission (SCM)**, **Atal Mission for Urban Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)** and **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U)**.
- The date also marked the 45 years of establishment of National Institute of Urban Affairs, an autonomous body of MoHUA, tasked to bridge the gap between research and practice on issues related to urbanization.

**Key Points**

**Progress:**

**Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U):**

- 1.12 crore houses sanctioned and over 83 lakh houses grounded under PMAY-U.
- 16 lakh families benefited from PMAY-U's Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS).
- Government investment under PMAY-U created around 689 crore person days of employment translating into around 246 lakh jobs.
- Affordable Rental Housing Complexes scheme under PMAY-U for urban migrants/poor has elicited remarkable response on ground.

**Atal Mission for Rejuvenation & Urban Transformation (AMRUT):**



- So far, 105 lakh household water tap connections and 78 lakh sewer/ septage connections are provided under AMRUT Mission.
- 88 lakh street lights replaced with energy efficient LED lights leading to energy savings of 193 crore units.
- 84.6 lakh tons carbon footprint was reduced through various initiatives under AMRUT, as per TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute).

#### **Smart Cities Mission (SCM):**

- 70 cities have developed and operationalised **Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCCs)** under Smart Cities Mission.
- 310 Smart Road projects, 57 Smart Solar Projects and 101 Smart Water Projects completed.

#### **Important Launches during the event:**

##### **India Smart Cities Awards 2020:**

- These awards were given across the themes of Governance, Social Aspects, Culture, Urban Environment, Economy, Sanitation, Built Environment, Water, Urban Mobility.
- Some interesting themes were added this year for the **Sustainable Business model of ICCC** and **Innovation award** specially in COVID Management.
- **Indore & Surat** won the **City Award** jointly this year for their overall development and **Uttar Pradesh** won the **State award**.

##### **Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF) 2.0**

- CSCAF 2.0 was launched in September 2020 with an aim to provide an overarching roadmap to formulate, implement and monitor urban climate actions in India.
- The **top 9 performing cities** which have been awarded 4 star rating are Ahmedabad, Surat, Indore, Pune, Rajkot, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Pimpri-Chinchwad and Vadodara.

#### **ICT initiatives under Smart Cities:**

- **ICCC Maturity Assessment framework (IMAF):**

It is a self-assessment tool kit developed to assess the maturity of **Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCC)** across key aspects of functionality, technology, governance and citizen/stakeholders engagement.

- **Smart Cities ICT standards**

Standardization journey under Smart Cities Mission began in Dec 2018 at Varanasi with an International Conference organised by **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**.

#### **TULIP Report:**

- **‘TULIP-The Urban Learning Internship Program’** was launched last year on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020 in partnership with AICTE.
- TULIP is a platform to connect graduates to Urban Local Bodies and Smart Cities to co-create new solutions for our cities.

#### **About Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U):**

- PMAY-U was launched on 25th June 2015.
- The Mission addresses urban housing shortage among the EWS/LIG and MIG categories including the slum dwellers by ensuring a pucca house to all eligible urban households by the year 2022.

#### **About Atal Mission for Rejuvenation & Urban Transformation (AMRUT):**

- AMRUT was launched by the Prime Minister in June 2015 with the focus to establish infrastructure that could ensure adequate robust sewage networks and water supply for urban transformation by implementing urban revival projects.

#### About Smart Cities Mission (SCM):

- SCM was launched by the Prime Minister on 25 June, 2015.
- The main objective of the Mission is to promote cities that provide core infrastructure, clean and sustainable environment and give a decent quality of life to their citizens through the application of 'smart solutions'.

Source: PIB

### “The India Story” booklet on Indian initiatives shaping energy transition

#### Why in the News?

- Minister of State (I/C) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, R.K. Singh launched “The India Story” booklet on Indian initiatives shaping energy transition.
- The booklet was launched at the event on “**Accelerating Citizen Centric Energy Transition**”, organized by **The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**, in collaboration with the **Permanent Mission of India (PMI)** to the **United Nations** and the **Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)**.
- The Minister also launched a website which will act as a repository of energy transition related knowledge resources from around the world.

#### Key Points

##### Main Points of the booklet:

- In the last 6 years, India's installed renewable energy capacity has increased by over two and a half times and stands at more than **141 Giga Watts** (including large Hydro), which is about **37 percent** of the country's total capacity (as on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021).
- During the same period, the installed solar energy capacity has increased by over 15 times and stands at 41.09 GW.
- **India's renewable energy capacity is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest in the world.**

#### Investment opportunities in India's RE sector:

- India has a very liberal foreign investment policy for renewable allowing 100% FDI through the automatic route in the sector.
- During the last 7 years, over US\$ 70 billion investment has been made in renewable energy in India.
- A **Renewable Energy Investment Promotion and Facilitation Board** Portal has also been developed to provide one-stop assistance and facilitation to the Industry and Investors for development of projects and bringing new investment to the Renewable Energy sector in India.

#### Recent initiatives in renewable energy sector:

- Green Term Ahead Market and Green Day Ahead Market
- Viability Gap Funding options for Offshore Wind Energy

#### Initiatives shaping India's Energy Transition:

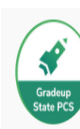
##### Electrification

- Green Energy Corridor
- Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA)
- National Smart Grid Mission and Smart Meter National Programme

##### Renewable Energy



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- National Biofuels Policy and SATAT
- Small Hydro Power
- National Hydrogen Energy Mission
- Production-Linked Incentive Scheme

#### Energy Efficiency

- Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA)

#### Clean Cooking

- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

#### Global Initiatives

- International Solar Alliance
- Clean Energy Ministerial
- Mission Innovation

Source: PIB

### “Enforcing Contracts Portal”

#### Why in the News?

- **The Department of Justice, New Delhi** launched “Enforcing Contracts Portal”.
- **The Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice**, as the nodal department, has been monitoring an array of legislative and policy reforms to strengthen the “Enforcing Contracts” regime for Ease of Doing Business in India.

#### Key Points

- The portal aims to promote ease of doing business and improve the ‘Contract Enforcement Regime’ in the country.
- The portal provides easy access to latest information on commercial cases in Dedicated Commercial Courts of Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Kolkata.

#### Need:

- The Doing Business Report of World Bank Group benchmarks business regulations across 191 economies of the world.
- Within this, the **Ease of Doing Business index** is a ranking system which is an indication of an economy’s position relative to that of other economies across 11 areas of business regulation.
- Currently, only the cities of Delhi and Mumbai are under the purview of the Ease of Doing Business survey by World Bank.
- Kolkata and Bengaluru are likely to be included in the Doing Business Report in future.
- **Note: India** ranked 63rd out of 190 countries in **Ease of Doing Business 2020**: World Bank Report.

Source: PIB

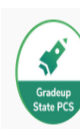
### Important News: World

#### SCO Defence Ministers' meeting 2021 in Tajikistan

#### Why in News



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- The **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Defence Ministers' meeting 2021** took place in **Dushanbe, Tajikistan**.
- **Defence Minister of India Rajnath Singh** addressed the meeting.

#### Key Points

- Rajnath Singh said that India accords “high priority to the consolidation of trust in the security domain within SCO as well as strengthening ties with SCO partners bilaterally on the basis of equality, mutual respect and understanding”.
- India reiterates its resolve to work within the SCO framework for helping create and maintain a peaceful, secure and stable region.

#### India and SCO:

- **Regional Security:** security-related cooperation with the SCO and its **Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS)**
- SCO is also a platform to advance **India's Connect Central Asia policy**.
- SCO provides India with a forum where it can constructively engage both China and Pakistan in a regional context and project India's security interests.
- **Bringing Stability in Afghanistan:** So far India completed 500 projects in Afghanistan and is continuing with some more, with a total development aid of \$3 billion.
- **Strategic Importance**

**Note:** **Tajikistan** is chairing the SCO meeting this year and hosting a series of Ministerial and official-level meetings.

#### Facts about Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO):

- SCO 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
- India became a full member of the SCO in 2017. Prior to that, India had an observer status, which was granted to it in 2005.

**Source:** Indian Express

#### US, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan to form QUAD group

##### Why in News

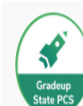
- According to the Biden administration, the **United States, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan**, have agreed in principle to establish a new quadrilateral diplomatic platform focused on enhancing regional connectivity.

#### Key Points

- The parties consider long-term peace and stability in Afghanistan critical to regional connectivity and agree that peace and regional connectivity are mutually reinforcing.



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- The parties intend to cooperate to expand trade, build transit links, and strengthen business-to-business ties to recognise the historic opportunity to open interregional trade routes.

**Note:**

- Afghanistan, which is in the centre of the historic Silk Road, has long served as a crossroads for trade between Asian countries, linking them to Europe and establishing religious, cultural, and commercial ties.
- The establishment of the new quad group is critical given **China's** intention to expand its **Belt Road Initiative (BRI)** to Afghanistan.
- The **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)** intends to create a network of land and maritime connections connecting Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Gulf area, Africa, and Europe.
- Afghanistan can serve as a strategic platform for China to spread its influence over the world due to its geographic location.

**Source: Economictimes**

## 7th edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)

### Why in the News?

- Recently, the 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

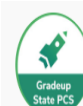
### Important Groupings/Initiatives Associated with Indian Ocean Region (IOR):

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

**Source: PIB**



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## 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

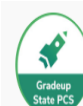
## China declared malaria-free by WHO

### 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.



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### 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**

## Bhutan's Tax Inspectors Without Borders programme

### Why in the News?

- **Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB)**, a joint initiative of the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and the **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**, launched its programme in Bhutan.
- **India** was chosen as the Partner Jurisdiction and has provided the Tax Expert for this programme.

### Key Points

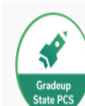
- This programme is expected to be of about 24 months' duration through which India in collaboration with the UNDP and the TIWB Secretariat aims to aid Bhutan in strengthening its tax administration by transferring technical know-how and skills to its tax auditors, and through sharing of best audit practices.
- The focus of the programme will be in the area of International Taxation and Transfer Pricing.
- This programme is another milestone in the continued cooperation between India and Bhutan and India's continued and active support for South-South cooperation.

### About Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB):

- TIWB, a joint OECD/UNDP initiative launched in July 2015 to strengthen developing countries' auditing capacity and multinationals' compliance worldwide.



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- TIWB deploys qualified experts in developing countries across Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean to help build tax capacity in the areas of audit, criminal tax investigations and the effective use of automatically exchanged information.

Source: PIB

## Important News: Health

### National Health Mission (NHM)

#### Why in News

- The Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare informed the Rajya Sabha about Health Sector Reforms through **National Health Mission (NHM)**.
- NHM supported health system reforms have resulted in development of resilient health systems.

#### Key Points

##### About National Health Mission (NHM):

- NHM was launched by the Government of India in 2013 subsuming the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) (launched in 2005) and National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) (launched in 2013).
- **NHM support** is provided to States/ UTs for setting up of new facilities as per norms and upgradation of existing facilities for bridging the infrastructure gaps based on the requirement posed by them.
- **NHM support** is also provided for provision of a range of free services related to maternal health, child health, family planning, adolescent health, universal immunization programme, and for major diseases such as Tuberculosis, vector borne diseases like Dengue, Malaria and Leprosy etc.

##### Other major initiatives supported under NHM:

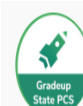
- Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram
- Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram
- Implementation of Free Drugs and Free Diagnostics Service Initiatives
- PM National Dialysis Programme
- Implementation of National Quality Assurance Framework (in all public health facilities)
- Mobile Medical Units & Tele-consultation services (implemented to improve access to healthcare particularly in rural areas)
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana
- Ayushman Bharat

##### Achievements of NHM

- In the 15 years of implementation, the NHM has enabled achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for health.
- It has also led to significant improvements in maternal, new-born, and child health indicators.



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- **Equitable development:** There was also a sustained focus on the health of tribal populations, those in Left Wing Extremism areas, and the urban poor.
- **Growth in Public Health Facilities:** NHM adopts a health system approach and targets to build a network for public health facilities with Health & Wellness Centers.
- **National Ambulance Services**
- **Human Resource Augmentation:** NHM supports states for engaging of service delivery HR such as doctors, nurses and health workers and also implements the world's largest community health volunteer programme through the ASHAs.
- **High Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE):** Recognising the need for reducing the current high levels OOPE, and that, almost 70% of the OOPE is on account of drugs and diagnostics, the Free Drugs and Free Diagnostics Services Initiatives have been implemented under the NHM.

Source: PIB

### **Punjab becomes first state in country to introduce SOHUM (AABR)**

#### **Why in News**

- Punjab Government introduced **SOHUM-Automated Auditory Brainstem Response system (AABR)** under **Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Programme**.
- Punjab is the first state in the country to introduce SOHUM (AABR).

#### **Key Points**

- This initiative will effectively screen hearing loss in newborn and young children.
- This device will certainly help in effective assessment and further management of hearing loss in a timely manner.

#### **Note:**

- In a developing country like India 5-6 per thousand children are born with this defect.
- Around 63 million people are suffering from hearing impairment and related diseases in India.

#### **About SOHUM:**

- It is an indigenously developed newborn hearing screening device developed by the **School of International Biodesign start-up SOHUM Innovation Labs India Pvt. Ltd.**
- It was developed under the **Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology**.

Source: TOI

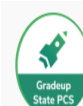
### **Children of Midday Meal Scheme beneficiaries show better growth: Study**

#### **Why in News**

- According to a new study, the school children of beneficiaries are benefiting from the national school meal programme in India.



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- The study, which was recently published in **journal Nature Communications**, is titled '**Intergenerational nutrition benefits of India's national school feeding program**'.
- It has been co-authored by **University of Washington's** Suman Chakrabarti and **International Food Policy Research Institute's** Samuel Scott, Harold Alderman, Purnima Menon and Daniel Gilligan.

### **Key Points**

#### **Findings of the study:**

- The study used nationally representative data on mothers and their children from 1993 to 2016 to assess whether mid-day meals support intergenerational improvements in a child's linear growth.
- Women who received free meals in primary school have children with improved linear growth.
- The study found that the 14 states which rolled out mid-day meals in the late 1990s experienced improvements in child height earlier than the rest of the nation.
- School meals may contribute to education, later fertility decisions, and access to health care, reducing the risk of undernutrition in the next generation.

#### **About Midday Meal Scheme:**

- The Midday Meal Scheme was launched as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** in **1995** to provide free cooked meals to children in government and government-aided primary schools (classes I–V; ages 6–10 years).
- Again, the scheme was extended to children studying in upper primary classes.
- The Midday Meal Scheme is a school meal programme in India designed to better the nutritional standing of school-age children nationwide.
- The State Steering-cum Monitoring Committee oversees the implementation of the scheme.
- The Midday Meal Scheme is covered by the **National Food Security Act, 2013**.
- Tamil Nadu was the first state to introduce this scheme.

#### **Global Hunger Index 2020:**

- India ranked 94 among 107 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2020 and is in the 'serious' hunger category.

#### **Global Nutrition Report-2020:**

- India is among 88 countries that are likely to miss global nutrition targets by 2025.

**Source: The Hindu**

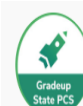
## **Important News: Economy**

### **Marine Aids to Navigation Bill 2021**

#### **Why in News**



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- Parliament passed the **Marine Aids to Navigation Bill 2021**, which aims to replace the over **90-year-old Lighthouse Act 1927**.

### Key Points

#### About the Bill:

- The Bill incorporates the global best practices, technological developments and India's International obligations in the field of Marine Aids to Navigation to make the legislative framework user-friendly and to promote ease of doing business.
- The bill aims to adopt state-of-the-art technologies of marine navigation which were not covered under the statutory provisions of the old Lighthouse Act 1927.

#### Background:

- The administration and management of Lighthouse and Lightships in India is governed by Lighthouse Act 1927 for safe navigation.
- **At the time of enactment of Lighthouse Act 1927, there were only 32 Lighthouses** in the then British India spread across six regions viz. Aden, Karachi, Madras, Bombay, Calcutta and Rangoon.
- **Presently**, there are **195 Lighthouses** and a number of advanced radio and digital aids to navigation administered under the said Act.
- As the technology evolved, systems were put in place where with the help of Radar and other sensors, vessels were advised from shore about the position and thus **Vessel Traffic Services (VTS)** came into existence and found wide acceptability.
- These modern, technologically improved aids to marine navigation systems have changed their profile from a **'passive' service** to that of **'passive as well as interactive' service**.

**Note:** Recently, Parliament has passed the **National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2021**.

Source: PIB

### Kandla becomes first Green SEZ

#### Why in News

- **Kandla SEZ (KASEZ)** was awarded **IGBC Platinum Rating**.
- **KASEZ** is the **first Green SEZ** to achieve the **IGBC Green Cities Platinum Rating** for Existing Cities.

#### Key Points

- The efforts of KASEZ were appreciable for water conservation and afforestation in Bhuj region of Gujarat.
- **IGBC Platinum rating** has been awarded for 'Green master planning, policy initiatives and implementation of green infrastructure' by **CII's Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)**.

#### About Kandla SEZ (KASEZ):

- It was Asia's first Export Processing Zone (EPZ).
- It was set up in Kandla, Gujarat in 1965.

#### About Special Economic Zones (SEZs):

- A Special Economic Zone is an area in which the trade and business laws are different from the rest of the country.
- SEZs are located within a country's national borders, and their aims include increasing trade balance, employment, increased investment, job creation and effective administration.
- The **Special Economic Zone (SEZ) policy in India** first came into inception on April 1, 2000. The prime objective was to enhance foreign investment and provide an internationally competitive and hassle free environment for exports.
- The **Special Economic Zones Act, 2005**, was passed by Parliament in May, 2005 which received Presidential assent on the 23rd of June, 2005.

Source: PIB

## SMILE Scheme

### Why in News

- The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** has formulated a scheme “**SMILE - Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise**”.
- SMILE also includes a subscheme - ‘**Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging**’.

### Key Points

#### About the scheme:

- This scheme covers several comprehensive measures including welfare measures for persons who are engaged in the act of begging.
- It focuses extensively on rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counselling, basic documentation, education, skill development, economic linkages and so on.
- It provides for the use of the existing shelter homes for rehabilitation of the persons engaged in the act of begging.

#### Implementation:

- The scheme would be implemented with the support of State/UT Governments/Local Urban Bodies, Voluntary Organizations, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), institutions and others.
- The **Ministry initiated pilot projects** on Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons engaged in the act of Begging in **10 cities** namely Bangalore, Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Indore, Mumbai, Nagpur, Ahmedabad and Patna.

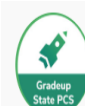
#### Fund Allocation:

- Under this Scheme, funds allocated for the next 5 years are given: Rs. 50 Crore in 2021-22, Rs. 33 Crore in 2022-23, Rs. 33 Crore in 2023-24, Rs. 33 Crore in 2024-25, and Rs. 33 Crore in 2025-26.

#### Beggars in India:



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- According to Census 2011, the total number of beggars in India is 4,13,670 (2,21,673 males and 1,91,997 females). State-wise, West Bengal leads by a considerable margin, followed by Uttar Pradesh.

**Note:**

- The Ministry had released an amount of Rs.70 Lakh in 2019-20 to **National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC)** for skill development programmes for beggars.
- The Ministry had also released an amount of Rs. 1 Crore in 2019-20 to **National Institute of Social Defence (NISD)** for beggars.

**Source: PIB**

## Special Economic Zones (SEZs)

### Why in News

- **Special Economic Zones (SEZs)** have touched new heights in terms of performance in Exports, Investment and Employment in the last 3 years.

### Key Points

#### Performance:

- **Exports** of Rs. 22,840 Crore in 2005-06 has increased to Rs. 7,59,524 Crore in 2020-21.
- **Investment** of Rs. 4,035.51 Crore in 2005-06 has increased to Rs. 6,17,499 Crore (cumulative basis) by 2020-21.
- **Employment** provided to 1,34,704 persons in 2005-06 has increased to 23,58,136 persons (cumulative basis) in 2020-21.

**Note:** In various Special Economic Zones (SEZs) across the country, 1096 Nos. of units have been registered during the last three years.

#### About Special Economic Zones (SEZs):

- A Special Economic Zone is an area in which the trade and business laws are different from the rest of the country.
- SEZs are located within a country's national borders, and their aims include increasing trade balance, employment, increased investment, job creation and effective administration.

#### Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in India:

- India was one of the first in Asia to recognize the effectiveness of the **Export Processing Zone (EPZ)** model in promoting exports, with **Asia's first EPZ set up in Kandla, Gujarat in 1965**.
- The **Special Economic Zones Act, 2005**, was passed by Parliament in May, 2005 which received Presidential assent on the 23rd of June, 2005.

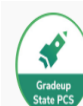
#### The main objectives of the SEZ Act are:

- To generate additional economic activity
- To create employment opportunities
- To promote exports of goods and services
- To develop infrastructure facilities
- To promote investment from domestic and foreign sources

**Source: PIB**



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## Laws for surveillance in India, and the concerns over privacy

### Why in News

- In response to the finding by a global collaborative investigative project that Israeli spyware Pegasus was used to target at least 300 individuals in India, the government has claimed that all interception in India takes place lawfully.

### Key Points

#### About Pegasus:

- Pegasus is a spyware developed by the Israeli cyberarms firm NSO Group that can be covertly installed on mobile phones running most versions of iOS and Android.
- It is any malicious software designed to enter your computer device, gather your data, and forward it to a third-party without your consent.

#### The laws covering surveillance in India:

- Communication surveillance in India takes place primarily under two laws — **the Telegraph Act, 1885** and the **Information Technology Act, 2000**.
- While the Telegraph Act deals with interception of calls, the IT Act was enacted to deal with surveillance of all electronic communication.
- A comprehensive data protection law to address the gaps in existing frameworks for surveillance is yet to be enacted.
- Under the IT Act, all electronic transmission of data can be intercepted.
- So, for a Pegasus-like spyware to be used lawfully, the government would have to invoke both the IT Act and the Telegraph Act.

#### Associated Issues with the Surveillance:

- Affects Fundamental Rights
- Legal Loopholes
- Authoritarian Regime
- Threat to Freedom of Press

#### Recent Steps Taken in India:

- Cyber Surakshit Bharat Initiative
- National Cyber security Coordination Centre
- Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)
- Computer Emergency Response Team - India (CERT-IN)
- Cyber Swachhta Kendra

#### International Mechanisms:

- Budapest Convention on Cybercrime
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Source: Indian Express

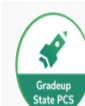
## India's first green hydrogen plant at Mathura refinery

### Why in News

- India's largest oil firm **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** will build the nation's **first 'green hydrogen' plant at its Mathura refinery**.



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- It aims to prepare for a future catering to the growing demand for both oil and cleaner forms of energy.

#### **Key Points**

- This will be the nation's first green hydrogen unit.
- Hydrogen, in itself, is a clean fuel but manufacturing it is energy-intensive and has carbon byproducts.
- **Green hydrogen** production - the ultimate clean hydrogen resource - uses renewable energy to create hydrogen fuel.

#### **Note:**

- Forecasts state that Indian fuel demand climbing to 400-450 million tonnes by 2040 as against 250 million tonnes now.
- The demand growth makes it imperative to pursue refining expansion as well as expand in CNG, LNG, biodiesel and ethanol.

**Source: Business Standard**

### **Stand Up India Scheme extended up to the year 2025**

#### **Why in News**

- The Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance informed that the Stand Up India Scheme has been extended up to the year 2025.

#### **Key Points**

##### **About Stand Up India Scheme:**

- The Scheme was launched by the Prime Minister on 05<sup>th</sup> April, 2016.

##### **Objective and Nature of Loan:**

- The objective of this Scheme is to facilitate loans from Scheduled Commercial Banks of value between Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 1 Crore to at least one Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe borrower and at least one woman borrower per bank branch for setting up a green field enterprise.
- This enterprise may be in manufacturing, services, agri-allied activities or the trading sector.
- In case of non-individual enterprises, 51% of the shareholding and controlling stake should be held by either an SC/ST or Woman Entrepreneur.
- The offices of SIDBI and NABARD are designated Stand-Up Connect Centres (SUCC).

#### **Recent Changes:**

- For F.Y.2021-22, the margin money requirement for loans under the Scheme has been reduced from 'upto 25%' to 'upto 15%' and activities allied to agriculture have been included in the Scheme.

#### **Performance:**

- As on 28.06.2021, a total of 1,16,266 loans amounting to Rs. 26204.49 crore have been extended under the Scheme since inception.

**Source: PIB**

### **India emerges as 5th largest forex reserves holder in the world**

#### **Why in News**



- **India** has emerged as **5th largest forex reserves holder** in the world with **\$608.99 billion** as on June 25, 2021 after **China, Japan, Switzerland and Russia**.
- This was stated by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary in the Lok Sabha on 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2021.

### Key Points

- Government and RBI are closely monitoring the emerging external position calibrating policies or regulations to support robust macroeconomic growth.
- RBI takes regular steps for diversification of forex reserves by scaling up operations in forex swap and repo markets, acquisition of gold and exploring new markets/products, while adhering to safety and liquidity standards.
- **Note:** In 2020-21, India's balance of payments recorded surplus in both current account and capital account which contributed to the increase in foreign exchange reserves during the year.
- **Foreign-exchange reserves (Forex reserves):** Foreign exchange reserves are cash and other reserve assets such as gold held by a central bank or other monetary authority that are primarily available to balance payments of the country.
- **4 things make up Forex:** Foreign Currency, Gold, Reserve Tranche (in IMF), Special Drawing Rights

Source: PIB

## 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

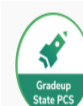
- As a result, 54,439 taxpayers have been identified. More than 88% of these taxpayers are from Micro (36%), Small (41%) and Medium enterprises (11%).
- More than 66 crore GST returns have been filed so far and lower rates have helped increased tax compliance, adding GST revenues have steadily grown 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.



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- 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:

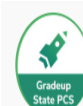
- The handbook released by the Logistics department focuses on 14 key measures to enhance the urban freight system. According to it, measures have been divided into **four categories- vehicle use optimization, infrastructure development, demand and land use planning, and technology adoption**.

#### 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.



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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

## 'itat e-dwar', an e-filing portal of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal

### Why in the News?

- Union Minister for Law & Justice, Communications and Electronics & IT, Ravi Shankar Prasad, launched the e-filing portal of **Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT)**, '**itat e-dwar**'.

### Key Points

- The 'itat e-dwar' portal will enhance accessibility, accountability and transparency in day to day working of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT).
- The newly developed e-Filing Portal would enable the parties to file their Appeals, Miscellaneous Applications, documents, paper books, etc., electronically.
- More than 18 crore cases are available in the **National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)** and suggested that cases of ITAT should also be integrated in the NJDG.

#### National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG):

- NJDG, a flagship project implemented under the aegis of the eCourts project, has been recognized as a significant innovation under the Ease of Doing Business initiative of the Government of India.
- The portal is a national repository of data relating to cases pending and disposed of in all district and taluka courts of the country.
- The portal has been developed around the concept of elastic search technology enabling efficient case management and monitoring of cases leading to effective disposal of cases.

Source: PIB

## Relief package to support Indian economy in fight against COVID-19 pandemic

### Why in the News?

- Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman announced a slew of measures to provide relief to diverse sectors affected by the **2<sup>nd</sup> wave of COVID-19 pandemic**.
- A total of 17 measures amounting to **Rs. 6,28,993 crores** were announced.

### Key Points

#### Economic relief from Pandemic

- **Loan Guarantee Scheme for COVID Affected sectors:** Under this new scheme, additional credit of Rs 1.1 lakh crore will flow to the businesses. This includes Rs 50,000 crore for the health sector and Rs 60,000 crore for other sectors, including tourism.
- **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS):** The government has decided to expand the ECLGS, launched as part of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Package in May 2020, by Rs 1.5 lakh crore.
- **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro Finance Institutions:** This is a completely new scheme announced which aims to benefit the smallest of the borrowers who are served by the network of Micro Finance Institutions. Guarantee will be provided to Scheduled Commercial Banks for loans to new or existing NBFC-MFIs or MFIs for on lending upto Rs 1.25 lakh to approximately 25 lakh small borrowers.
- **Extension of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana (ANBRY):** ANBRY was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> Oct, 2020. It incentivises employers for creation of new employment, restoration of loss of employment through EPFO.
- **Free food grains under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY):** In the wake of the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic, the scheme was relaunched in May 2021 to ensure food security of the poor/vulnerable. 5 kg of food grains will be provided free of cost to NFSA beneficiaries from May to November 2021. Estimated financial implications of the scheme will be Rs 93,869 crore, bringing the total cost of PMGKY to Rs 2,27,841 crore.

#### Strengthening Public Health

- Besides supporting the health sector through credit guarantee scheme, a new scheme for strengthening public health infrastructure and human resources with outlay of Rs. 23,220 crore was also announced.

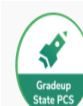
#### Impetus for Growth & Employment

For this the following eight schemes were announced:

- Release of Climate Resilient Special Varieties



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- Revival of Northeastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation: A revival package of Rs 77.45 crore will be provided.
- Rs. 33,000 crore Boost for Project Exports through National Export Insurance Account
- Rs. 88,000 crore boost to Export Insurance Cover
- Digital India: Rs. 19,041 crore for Broadband to each Village through BharatNet PPP Model
- Extension of Tenure of PLI Scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing
- Rs 3.03 lakh crore for Reform-Based Result-Linked Power Distribution Scheme
- New streamlined process for PPP Projects and Asset Monetization

Source: PIB

## World Bank approves USD 500 million loan to support India's informal working class

### Why in the News?

- The World Bank has approved a USD 500 million loan programme to support India's informal working class to overcome the current pandemic distress.
- The loan will create greater flexibility for states to cope with the ongoing pandemic, future climate and disaster shocks.

### Key Points

- Of the USD 500 million commitment, USD 112.50 million will be financed by its concessional lending arm **International Development Association (IDA)** and USD 387.50 million will be a loan from **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**.
- The loan has a **maturity period of 18.5 years** including a grace period of five years.
- The funds will be utilised in social protection programmes for urban informal workers, gig-workers, and migrants.
- A **National Digital Urban Mission** will create a shared digital infrastructure for people living in urban areas through investments at the municipal level to help scale up urban safety nets and social insurance for informal workers.
- It will also include gender-disaggregated information on women workers and female-headed households.
- Street vendors are an integral part of India's urban informal economy.
- The programme will give street vendors access to affordable working capital loans of up to Rs 10,000.

**Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** will identify them through an IT-based platform.

Some five million urban street vendors could benefit from the new credit programme.

### About Informal Sector Worker:

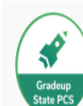
- The informal sector is the part of any country's economy that is neither taxed nor monitored by any form of government.
- The workers who indulge in the informal sector are informal sector workers or informal workers.
- India's estimated 450 million informal workers comprise 90 percent of its total workforce, with 5-10 million workers added annually.
- Nearly 40 percent of these are employed with MSMEs.

### Some Initiatives by the Government:

- Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana



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- Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan Yojana
- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission
- PM SVANidhi

**About World Bank:**

- The World Bank was created at the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference.
- It comprises two institutions: the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**, and the **International Development Association (IDA)**.

**Membership :**

- 189 countries (IBRD)
- 173 countries (IDA)

**Source: Indian Express**

## Important News: Defense

**Exercise INDRA-2021****Why in News**

- The **12<sup>th</sup> Edition of Indo-Russia joint military Exercise INDRA-2021** will be held at **Volgograd, Russia** from 01 to 13 August 2021.

**Key Points****About INDRA-21:**

- The armies of the two countries will conduct anti-terrorist exercises in compliance with the **United Nations' decision** on joint action against international terrorist groups.
- 250 personnel from both the nations will form part of the exercise.
- Exercise will strengthen mutual confidence and interoperability between the Indian & Russian Armies.

**Note:**

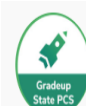
- The first Exercise INDRA was held in 2003.
- In 2020, the 11th edition of the Exercise was held in the Bay of Bengal.

**Joint Military Exercises of India conducted with Foreign Countries:**

Country	Exercise
Australia	AUSTRA HIND
Bangladesh	SAMPRTI
China	HAND IN HAND
France	SHAKTI
Indonesia	GARUDA SHAKTI
Kazakhstan	PRABAL DOSTYK
Kyrgyzstan	KHANJAR
Maldives	EKUVERIN
Myanmar	IMBEX



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Nepal	SURYA KIRAN
Sri Lanka	MITRA SHAKTI
Thailand	MAITREE
UK	AJEYA WARRIOR
USA	YUDHABHAYAS
	VAJRA PRAHAR
Vietnam	VINBAX

Source: PIB

### Exercise 'Cutlass Express 2021'

#### Why in News

- **Indian Naval Ship Talwar** is participating in **Exercise Cutlass Express 2021**, being conducted from 26 July 2021 to 06 August 2021 along the **East Coast of Africa**.

#### Key Points

##### About Exercise Cutlass Express 2021:

- It is an annual maritime exercise conducted **to promote maritime security in East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean**.

##### Participants:

- The 2021 edition of the exercise involves participation of 12 Eastern African countries, UK, US, India and various international organisations like International Maritime Organisation (IMO), Interpol, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, European Union Naval Force, Critical Maritime Routes Indian Ocean and EUCAP Somalia.

##### Note:

- Indian Navy is participating in the exercise in a 'trainer role'.
- **IFC-IOR (Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region)** is participating in the exercise.
- The participation of India is in accordance with its stated policy towards maritime cooperation and security in the Indian Ocean region and vision **Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)**.

##### About Western Indian Ocean (WIO):

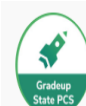
- The WIO connects North America, Europe and Asia, and as such is of global strategic importance.
- Its rich natural resource profile has pushed global players, including India, to view the region with increasing interest in recent years.

##### Inter-regional Cooperation in Western Indian Ocean region:

- Maritime Security regional programme
- Djibouti Code of Conduct/Jeddah amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct
- Indian Ocean Commission



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- Indian Ocean Rim Association

Source: PIB

### India, UK conduct naval exercise in Bay of Bengal

#### Why in News

- **Indian Navy** participated in a **bilateral Passage Exercise (PASSEX)** with the **United Kingdom's Royal Navy** in the Bay of Bengal from 21 to 22 Jul, 2021.

#### Key Points

- **The bilateral Maritime Exercise** was designed to hone the ability of the two navies to operate together in the maritime domain.
- The maiden exercise between Indian Navy and the Royal Navy's latest Aircraft Carrier, HMS Queen Elizabeth included participation of Carrier Strike Group (CSG)-21 comprising Type 23 Frigates and an *Astute*-class submarine in addition to the other surface combatants.
- Indian Navy was represented by *IN Ships Satpura, Ranvir, Jyoti, Kavaratti, Kulish* and a submarine.

**Note:** India Navy and US Navy conducted a **Passage Exercise** from March 28-29, 2021 in the eastern Indian Ocean Region.

Source: PIB

### DRDO successfully flight-tests surface-to-air missile Akash-NG

#### Why in News

- Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested the New Generation Akash Missile (Akash-NG), a surface-to-air Missile from Integrated Test Range off the coast of Odisha.

#### Key Points

- The missile has been developed by Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories.
- During the test, the missile demonstrated high manoeuvrability required for neutralising fast and agile aerial threats.

Source: PIB

### Tri Nation Table Top Naval Exercise 'Shield'

#### Why in News

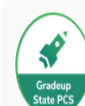
- A Tri Nation Table Top Anti-Narcotics & Maritime Search and Rescue exercise (**Exercise Shield**) between **Sri Lanka Navy, Maldives National Defence Force** and **Indian Navy** was conducted at WNC, Mumbai in virtual mode for the first time on 14 and 15 Jul 2021 with Indian Navy as the lead agency.
- The exercise was coordinated by Maritime Warfare Centre, Mumbai.

#### Key Points

- Anti-Narcotic Operations and Maritime Search and Rescue are the important issues that were deliberated by the participants who share a unique



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geographic location, sitting astride the major shipping routes of the Indian Ocean Region.

- The exercise was focused at enhancing maritime security cooperation and mutual understanding, exchange of best practices/procedures for countering common trans-national maritime crimes such as narcotics smuggling, evolving modalities for exchanging information/intelligence and to assist each other in Maritime Search and Rescue.

**Note:**

- In April the Navy had recovered over 300 kg of narcotics from a fishing vessel in the Arabian Sea estimated to cost ₹3,000 crore in the international market.
- The Navy had then stated that it was a major catch in terms of disrupting smuggling routes, which emanate from the Makran coast and flow towards the Indian, Maldivian and Sri Lankan destinations.

**Source: The Hindu**

## **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**

## **DRDO successfully test fires enhanced Pinaka rocket**

### **Why in the News?**

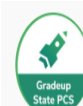
- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully test fired extended range version of indigenously developed Pinaka rocket from a Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL) at Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.

### **Key Points**

- 25 Enhanced Pinaka Rockets were launched in quick succession against targets at different ranges.
- The enhanced range version of Pinaka Rocket System can destroy targets at distances up to 45 kms.
- The rocket system has been developed jointly by **Pune based Armament Research and Development Establishment** and **High**



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**Energy Materials Research Laboratory** with manufacturing support from M/s Economic Explosives Limited, Nagpur.

Source: PIB

## **Integrated bilateral exercise of Indian Navy and Indian Air Force with US Navy**

### **Why in the News?**

- The two-day integrated bilateral exercise between Indian and US Forces in the **Indian Ocean Region** concluded on June 24, 2021.
- Indian Navy along with Indian Air Force participated with US Navy Carrier Strike Group in the exercise.

### **Key Points**

- The exercise has been a key enabler in building interoperability and strengthening the defence coordination between the two nations and witnessed high tempo-naval operations at sea.
- These included intense air dominance exercises, advanced air defence exercises, anti-submarine exercises, tactical manoeuvres and cross deck helicopter operations.
- The exercise has been another milestone in strengthening cooperation between the two countries and reinforcing the shared values as partner militaries, in ensuring freedom of seas and commitment to an open, inclusive Indo-Pacific and a rules-based international order.

Source: PIB

## **First Indigenous Aircraft Carrier: INS Vikrant**

### **Why in the News?**

- Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh reviewed the progress of construction of the **first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC), INS Vikrant** built by M/s Cochin Shipyard Ltd., at Kochi.
- INS Vikrant would be commissioned in the first half of 2022, which would be the most potent sea-based asset.
- He recalled a recent approval accorded by the Defence Acquisition Council for Request for Proposal (RFP) of Project 75-I under the Strategic Partnership model, which will give further fillip to indigenous development of niche manufacturing technologies.

### **Key Points**

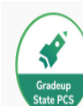
- The ship shall operate MiG-29K fighter aircraft, Kamov-31 Air Early Warning Helicopters, the soon to be inducted MH-60R multi-role helicopter and the indigenously manufactured Advanced Light Helicopters.

**Note:** The successful completion of the 40,000 tonne aircraft carrier puts India in the elite group of four nations -- the US, Russia, France and the UK- -in the world capable of designing and constructing aircraft carriers.

- The Raksha Mantri lauded Indian Navy for its contribution in the fight against COVID-19 - from bringing back Indian citizens from overseas during **Operation Samudra Setu I** and ferrying in Liquid Medical Oxygen from abroad during **Operation Samudra Setu II** - despite the danger of spread of the virus onboard warships.



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**Note:** At present, India has only one aircraft carrier, the Russian-origin INS Vikramaditya.

**Source: PIB**

## New Generation Agni-P Ballistic Missile

### Why in the News?

- DRDO successfully flight tested a **New Generation Nuclear Capable Ballistic Missile Agni-P (Agni-Prime)** from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Odisha, Balasore.

### Key Points

- Agni-P** is a new generation advanced variant of the Agni class of missiles.
- Agni-P** was developed under the **Integrated Guided Missile Development Program**.
- It is a canisterised missile with range capability between 1,000 and 2,000 kms.

### About Agni missile:

- The Agni missile is a family of medium to intercontinental range ballistic missiles developed by India.
- Agni missiles are long range, nuclear weapons capable surface to surface ballistic missile.

### The family comprises the following:

- Agni-I:** Range: 700–1,200 km (Operational)
- Agni-II:** Range: 2,000–3,500 km (Operational)
- Agni-III:** Range: 3,000–5,000 km (Operational)
- Agni-IV:** Range: 3,500–4,000 km (Operational)
- Agni-V:** Range: 5,000–8,000 km (Operational)
- Agni-VI:** Range: 11,000–12,000 km (Under development)

### About Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP):

- IGMDP was an Indian Ministry of Defence programme for the research and development of the comprehensive range of missiles.
- The programme was managed by the DRDO and Ordnance Factories Board in partnership.
- The project started in 1982–83 under the leadership of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

### The missiles developed under the programme:

- Intermediate-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile: **Agni**
- Short-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile: **Prithvi**
- Short-range low-level surface-to-air missile: **Trishul**
- Medium-range surface-to-air missile: **Akash**
- Third generation anti-tank missile: **Nag**

**Source: The Hindu**

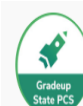
## Exercise Sea Breeze 2021

### Why in the News?

- Ukraine and the United States launched joint naval exercise ‘Sea Breeze 2021’ in the Black Sea in a show of Western cooperation with Ukraine.
- The exercise comes days after Russia-U.K. row over warships in disputed waters.



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### Key Points

- The Sea Breeze Exercises, which have taken place 21 times since 1997, will involve some 5,000 military personnel from more than 30 countries.
- The exercises will last two weeks and involve around 30 ships, including the missile destroyer USS Ross.

### Significance of Black Sea for Russia:

- The unique geography of the Black Sea region confers various geopolitical advantages to Russia.
- Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 and claims the waters around the peninsula as part of its territory.

### About Black Sea:

- The Black Sea is a marginal sea of the Atlantic Ocean lying between Europe and Asia.
- The bordering countries of Black Sea are: Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, Turkey, Romania and Bulgaria.

Source: The Hindu

## Environment

### Gross Environment Product (GEP) in Uttarakhand

#### Why in News

- The Uttarakhand government recently announced it will initiate valuation of its natural resources in the form of '**Gross Environment Product**' (GEP).
- It is along the lines of **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**.
- **Gross domestic product (GDP)**: GDP a monetary measure of the market value of all the final goods and services produced in a specific time period.

#### Key Points

#### About 'Gross Environment Product' (GEP):

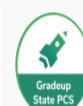
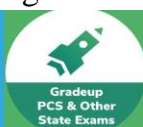
- It is an **assessment system to measure the ecological status of a region and is one of the components of green GDP**.
- It is **considered as the product and service value** that the ecosystem provides for **human welfare, economic and socially sustainable development**.

**About Green GDP:** While calculating Green GDP, economic growth with environmental factors is taken into consideration along with the standard GDP of a country. It factors biodiversity losses and costs attributed to climate change.

- The term "**ecosystem services**" was coined in 1981 to attract academics towards this aspect.
- According to American ecological economist Robert Costanza, ecosystem services are the benefits human populations derive from ecosystem functions.
- The definition is still in the process of evolution.
- In 1997, a group of 13 economists and ecologists led by Costanza showed that at global level the value of ecosystem services is about twice as much as the global GDP.



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### **Need for Gross Environment Product:**

- **Uttarakhand gives services to the tune of Rs. 95,112 crores per year to the nation** through its biodiversity and has more than 71% area under forests.
- It is **home to the Himalayas, wildlife reserves** such as Corbett National Park and Rajaji Tiger Reserves, and the **origin point of various rivers** such as Ganga, Yamuna and Sharada.
- **GEP will help in the conservation of the environment and climate change.**

**Source: DownToEarth**

### **Two Indian organisations win the UNDP Equator Prize 2021**

#### **Why in News**

- Two Indian organisations bag the prestigious UNDP Equator Prize 2021, for their exceptional achievement in showcasing local, innovative, nature-based solutions for tackling biodiversity loss and climate change.

#### **Key Points**

- The **two organizations from India** out of the ten winners globally are— **Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar Producer Company Limited** and **Snehakunja Trust**.
- They will each receive a prize of US\$10,000 and the opportunity to join a series of special virtual events associated with the UN General Assembly, the Nature for Life Hub and the UN Food Systems Summit later this year.

#### **About Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar Producer Company Limited:**

- This 1,700-member cooperative, managed and run entirely by Indigenous people from the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve in Southern India, has improved livelihoods across 147 villages by processing and marketing a diverse range of forest produce and crops.

#### **About Snehakunja Trust:**

- Snehakunja Trust has protected sensitive wetland and coastal ecosystems in the Western Ghats and the Karnataka coast for 45 years. Snehakunja Trust is currently piloting the **first blue carbon project** in India.

#### **About Equator Prize:**

- The Equator Prize, organized by the Equator Initiative within the United Nations Development Programme, is awarded biennially to recognize outstanding community efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

**Source: undp.org**

### **New Spider Species named 'Icius Tukarami' after 26/11 Martyr Tukaram Omble**

**Why in the News?**

- Scientists have discovered two new species of jumping spiders in Maharashtra and named one of them as 'Icius Tukarami', after Tukaram Omble, the Mumbai Police Assistant Sub-Inspector who was killed during the 26/11 terror attacks in the city.
- The second species of the jumping spider was called Phintella cholkei.

#### Key Points

- This species is distributed in Thane and Aarey Milk Colony in Mumbai.
- The research paper was published in the Russian science journal Anthropoda Selecta.
- Mr Omble, unarmed, was killed while he tried to capture terrorist Ajmal Kasab on the night of November 26, 2008.

## Awards and Honours

### Government of India launches National Logistics Excellence Awards

#### Why in News

- The **National Logistics Excellence Awards** are in **two categories**; the **first** includes **logistics infrastructure/service providers** and **second** is for **various user industries**.
- Awards will give due recognition to various players involved in the logistics supply chain.

#### Key Points

##### About the Awards:

- Through these awards, the government aims to turn the spotlight on **logistics service providers** who have attained operational excellence, adopted digitisation and technology, improved customer service and pursued sustainable practices, among other achievements.
- For **user industries**, the awards will showcase efforts towards supply chain transformation, supplier ecosystem development, skill development, automation, and other similar endeavours.

#### Note:

- While the Indian logistics sector has been growing at a CAGR of 10.5%, reaching approximately USD 215 billion in value in 2020, there are systemic, interconnected problems that must be addressed to enhance its efficiency.
- Comprehensive logistics costs amount to almost 14% of India's GDP. Closing India's competitiveness gap vis-à-vis the global average of 8 percent, would make the Indian logistics sector advanced, organised and efficient, on par with global peers with the ambition of being amongst the top 25 countries in the global Logistics Performance Index (LPI).

Source: PIB

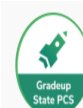
### Cannes Film Festival 2021

- The 74th Cannes Film Festival was held in Cannes, France.
- American director & Screenwriter Spike Lee was the Jury President of Cannes Film Festival 2021

#### The list of main winners:



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- **Palme d'Or:** Julia Ducournau for "Titane" (France)
- **Grand Prix:** Ashgar Farhadi for "A Hero" (Iran) and Juho Kuosmanen for "Compartment No.6" (Finland)
- **Best director:** Leos Carax for "Annette" (France)
- **Best actor:** Caleb Landry Jones for "Nitram" (US)
- **Best actress:** Renate Reinsve for "Worst Person in the World" (Norway)
- **Jury prize:** Nadav Lapid for "Ahed's Knee" (Israel) and Apichatpong Weerasethakul for "Memoria" (Thailand)
- **Best screenplay:** Hamaguchi Ryusuke and Takamasa Oe for "Drive My Car" (Japan)

**Note:** Mumbai-based filmmaker Payal Kapadia won the L'Oeil d'Or: Le Prix du documentaire, an award for best documentary, at the Cannes Film Festival for her film **A Night of Knowing Nothing**.

**About Cannes Film Festival:**

- The Cannes Film Festival is an annual film festival held in Cannes, France which previews new films of all genres, including documentaries, from all around the world. It was founded in 1946.
- The two major awards are Palme d'Or and Grand Prix.

**Source:** TOI

## **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

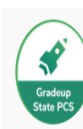
## **Nashik's Community Radio Station bags the National Award**

**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.



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### Key Points

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

### 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

## P. Sainath awarded 2021 Japan's Fukuoka Grand Prize

### Why in the News?

- Noted journalist P. Sainath has been selected as one of the three recipients of the Fukuoka Prize for 2021.
- Mr. Sainath received the 'Grand Prize' of the Fukuoka Prize while Prof. Mio Kishimoto and Thai writer and filmmaker Prabda Yoon received the Academic Prize and the Arts and Culture Prize respectively.

### Key Points

- Sainath dedicated the prize to his fellow journalists who are reporting from rural India and to PARI (People's Archive of Rural India), the news website he founded in 2014.
- Sainath has been the recipient of many awards, including the Amnesty International Global Human Rights Journalism Prize and the Ramon Magsaysay Award.

### About Fukuoka Prize:

- The Fukuoka Prize is an award established by the city of Fukuoka and the Fukuoka City International Foundation to honor the outstanding work of individuals or organizations in preserving or creating Asian culture.
- There are three prize categories: Grand Prize, Academic Prize, and Arts and Culture Prize.

Source: The Hindu

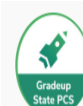
## Deepika Kumari reclaims world no.1 ranking after hat-trick of gold medals

- Star Indian archer Deepika Kumari regained the number one position in the global rankings following her hat-trick of gold medals at the **Archery World Cup Stage 3 in Paris**.
- **Gold in all 3 recurve events:** Women's individual, team and mixed pair events.
- She has 9 gold, 12 silver and 7 bronze medals in the World Cup.

Source: Indian Express



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## Reports

### India ranks 9<sup>th</sup> in global agricultural exporters in 2019: WTO Report

#### Why in News

- In 2019, **India ranked 9<sup>th</sup> with a share of 3.1% in global agricultural exports** as per a report by **World Trade Organization (WTO)** on the trends in world agricultural trade in the past 25 years (from 1995).

#### Key Points

- India has entered the top 10 list of the countries exporting agricultural produce in the year 2019 with a sizable share in the export of rice, cotton, soya beans and meat.
- The USA, which topped the list in 1995, was overtaken by the European Union (EU) in 2019.

Rank	Country	Share of Global Agriculture Exports in 2019
1	European Union (EU)	16.1 %
2	US	13.8 %
3	Brazil	7.8 %
9	India	3.1 %

- The top exporting nations of **rice** in 1995 were Thailand (38%), India (26%), and the US (19%). In 2019, **India topped with 33%**.
- India is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest cotton exporter (7.6%) and the 4<sup>th</sup> largest importer (10%) in 2019.
- In the largest traded Agri product, soya beans, India (0.1%) has a meagre share, but was ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the world.
- In the “meat and edible meat offal” category, India secured 8th rank in the world with a global share of 4%.
- India’s share of foreign value-added content in its Agri exports clocked 3.8% share primarily due to high tariffs on Agri imports to boost the domestic markets and local farmers.

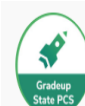
#### Indian government schemes in agriculture sector:

- National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana
- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana
- e-National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)
- Soil Health Card
- Kisan Credit Card
- Micro Irrigation Fund scheme
- Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana
- PM-Kusum

Source: newsonair



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## Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) – Annual Report (July, 2019 – June, 2020)

### Why in News

- **The National Statistical Office (NSO)** released the 3rd annual report on **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** conducted during **July 2019-June 2020**.

### Key Points

- **Unemployment Rate (UR):** UR fell to 4.8 % in 2019-20. In 2018-19, it stood at 5.8 % and 6.1 % in 2017-18.
- **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** LFPR increased to 40.1% in 2019-20 (37.5%:2018-19 and 36.9%:2017-18).
- **Worker Population Ratio (WPR):** WPR improved to 38.2% in 2019-20 (35.3%:2018-19 and 34.7%:2017-18).

### About Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS):

- **The National Statistical Office (NSO)** launched the PLFS in April 2017.
- The first annual report (July 2017-June 2018) was released in May 2019 and the second (July 2018-June 2019) in June 2020.

### Objective:

- To estimate the key employment and unemployment indicators such as WPR, LFPR, UR in the short time interval of 3 months for the urban areas only in the 'Current Weekly Status'
- To estimate employment and unemployment indicators in both 'Usual Status' and 'Current Weekly Status' in both urban and rural areas annually

### Government Initiatives to Tackle Unemployment:

- Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)
- In 2020, an additional fund of Rs 40,000 crore for MGNREGA
- Credit guarantees for MSMEs
- Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana
- New Code on Wages, 2019

### Key Terms:

- **Labour Force Participation Rate:** It is defined as the percentage of persons in the labour force (i.e. working or seeking or available for work) in the population.
- **Worker Population Ratio:** It is defined as the percentage of employed persons in the population.
- **Unemployment Rate:** It is defined as the percentage of persons unemployed among the persons in the labour force.

### About National Statistical Office (NSO):

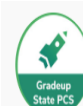
- NSO is the central statistical agency of the Government mandated under the Statistical Services Act 1980 under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

### Source: PIB

**United Nation's Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2021**



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### Why in News

- India has scored 90.32% in **United Nation's Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific's (UNESCAP)** latest **Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation**.
- The Survey hailed this as a remarkable jump from 78.49% in 2019.
- India has achieved a **100% score for the Transparency index** and 66% in the "Women in trade" component.

### Key Points

#### Findings of the Survey:

- **After evaluation of 143 economies, the Survey has highlighted India's significant improvement in the scores on all 5 key indicators, as follows:**
- **Transparency:** 100% in 2021 (from 93.33% in 2019)
- **Formalities:** 95.83% in 2021 (from 87.5% in 2019)
- **Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation:** 88.89% in 2021 (from 66.67% in 2019)
- **Cross-Border Paperless Trade:** 66.67% in 2021 (from 55.56% in 2019)
- **Paperless Trade:** 96.3% in 2021 (from 81.48% in 2019)
- India is the best performing country when compared to South and South West Asia region (63.12%) and Asia Pacific region (65.85%).

#### Causes of Improvement:

- Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), has been at forefront of path breaking reforms under the umbrella of 'Turant' Customs to usher in a Faceless, Paperless and Contactless Customs by way of a series of reforms.
- Further, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Customs formations have made all efforts to expedite COVID-19 related imports such as Oxygen related equipments, life-saving medicines, vaccines etc.

#### About the Survey:

- The Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation is conducted every two years by **UNESCAP**.
- The 2021 Survey includes an assessment of 58 trade facilitation measures covered by the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement.

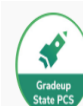
#### About United Nation's Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific's (UNESCAP):

- It is a regional commission under the jurisdiction of the **United Nations Economic and Social Council**.
- It was established in order to increase economic activity in Asia and the Far East, as well as to foster economic relations between the region and other areas of the world.
- It is composed of 53 Member States and 9 Associate members, mostly from the Asia and Pacific regions.
- **Formation:** 1947
- **Headquarters:** Bangkok, Thailand

Source: PIB



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## State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021 report

### Why in News

- **State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021** report presents the first global assessment of food insecurity and malnutrition for 2020 and offers some indication of what hunger might look like by 2030 in a scenario further complicated by the enduring effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The report is an annual flagship report jointly prepared by FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization), IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development), UNICEF, WFP (World Food Programme) and WHO (World Health Organization).

### Key Points

- It informs on progress towards ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition and to provide in depth analysis on key challenges for achieving this goal in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### Findings of the report:

- In terms of population, it is estimated that between 720 and 811 million people in the world faced hunger in 2020. Considering the middle of the projected range (768 million), 118 million more people were facing hunger in 2020 than in 2019, with estimates ranging from 70 to 161 million.
- Of the total number of undernourished people in 2020 (768 million), more than half (418 million) live in Asia and more than one-third (282 million) in Africa, while Latin America and the Caribbean accounts for about 8 percent (60 million).
- After remaining virtually unchanged from 2014 to 2019, the prevalence of undernourishment (PoU) increased from 8.4 percent to around 9.9 percent between 2019 and 2020, heightening the challenge of achieving the Zero Hunger target in 2030.
- Moderate or severe food insecurity (based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale) at the global level has been slowly on the rise, from 22.6 percent in 2014 to 26.6 percent in 2019. Then in 2020, the year the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the globe, it rose nearly as much as in the previous five years combined, to 30.4 percent.
- Thus, nearly one in three people in the world did not have access to adequate food in 2020 – an increase of 320 million people in just one year, from 2.05 to 2.37 billion.

### Indian Scenario

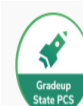
#### Status of Malnutrition:

- The prevalence of undernutrition among the total population in India was 15.3% during 2018-20.
- The country has observed an increase in the prevalence of obesity among the adult population from 3% in 2012 to 3.9% in 2016.
- The prevalence of anaemia among women of reproductive age has only marginally improved from 53.2% in 2012 to 53% in 2019.

#### Related Initiatives:



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- One Nation One Ration Card
- PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana
- Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana
- Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0 Scheme
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi

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## 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):

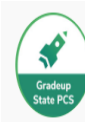
- It initiated in 2012-13 integrating DISE for elementary and secondary education is one of the largest Management Information Systems on School Education.
- UDISE+ is an updated and improved version of UDISE.

#### Main Schemes Related to Education:

- Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Program (DHRUV)



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- 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

## World Drug Report 2021: UNODC

### Why in the News?

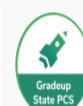
- Every year, the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** issues the World Drug Report, full of key statistics and factual data obtained through official sources.

### Key Points

### Findings of the Report:



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- Around 275 million people used drugs worldwide in 2020, while over 36 million people suffered from drug use disorders.
- In the last 24 years **cannabis** potency had increased by as much as four times in parts of the world, even as the percentage of adolescents who perceived the drug as harmful fell by as much as 40 percent.
- The percentage of  $\Delta 9$ -THC – the main psychoactive component in cannabis - has risen from around 6 percent to more than 11 percent in Europe between 2002 and 2019.
- In surveys of health professionals across 77 countries, 42 percent asserted that cannabis use had increased.
- Between 2010 and 2019 the number of people using drugs increased by 22 percent, owing in part to global population growth.
- According to the latest global estimates, about 5.5 percent of the population aged between 15 and 64 years have used drugs at least once in the past year.

**Drug markets** on the **dark web** only emerged a decade ago but major ones are now worth at least \$ 315 million in annual sales. Although this is just a fraction of overall drug sales, the trend is upwards with a fourfold increase between 2011 to mid-2017 and mid-2017 to 2020.

#### Related International Initiatives:

- Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961
- The Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971
- The United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988
- International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (26th June).

#### About United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC):

- It is a United Nations office that was established in 1997 as the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention by combining the United Nations International Drug Control Program and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division in the United Nations Office at Vienna, Austria. And was renamed the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in 2002.

Source: The Hindu

## Detailed Project reports of LiDAR survey of forest areas

### Why in the News?

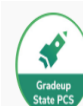
- Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar released the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of LiDAR based survey of forest areas in **10 states**.
- The 10 states are Bihar, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, and Tripura.

### Key Points

- The project was awarded to **WAPCOS** in July 2020 at a cost of Rs.18.38 Crore for implementation in 26 states over 261897 hectare.
- The DPR's for the remaining 16 states will also be released shortly.
- The project, which was awarded to **WAPCOS, a PSU under the aegis of Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India** is a first of its kind and a unique experiment using LiDAR technology which will help augment water and fodder in jungles areas thereby reducing human-animal conflict



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- State forest departments will use **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)** funds towards implementation of these projects.

#### About LiDAR:

- **LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging)** is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure ranges (variable distances) to the Earth.
- A lidar instrument principally consists of a laser, a scanner, and a specialized GPS receiver.
- Airplanes and helicopters are the most commonly used platforms for acquiring lidar data over broad areas.

Source: PIB

## Awards and Honours

### Shibaji Banerjee to be conferred with Mohun Bagan Ratna 2021 posthumously

- Former goalkeeper of the Indian Football team, Late Shibaji Banerjee will be conferred with Mohun Bagan Ratna 2021 posthumously.
- During his 8 years long professional career, Banerjee won 4 Calcutta Football League, 5 Durand Cup, 5 IFA Shield, 4 Federation Cup and 2 Rovers Cup titles.

#### About Mohun Bagan Ratna award:

- It is an award presented each year on Mohun Bagan Day to outstanding former players, irrespective of sports played.
- Since 2001, on 29 July each year has been celebrated as Mohun Bagan Day.

Source: The Hindu

### Kajal Chakraborty wins Norman Borlaug National Award 2020

#### Why in News

- **Kajal Chakraborty, Principal Scientist at the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)** has won the **Norman Borlaug National Award** for Excellence in Agricultural Research instituted by the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**.
- The award was presented during the **93rd Foundation Day of ICAR**.

#### Key Points

- The award is in recognition of Chakraborty's outstanding achievement in developing and commercialising nutraceutical products from selected seaweeds to combat rheumatoid arthritic pains, type-2 diabetes, dyslipidemia, hypertension and hypothyroidism.

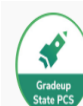
#### About Norman Borlaug National Award:

- The award, which is announced every five years, carries a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh.
- Besides, the scientist will be given a research grant of Rs 1.5 crore for carrying out a challenging research project for five years.

Source: The Hindu



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## 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 Singh 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

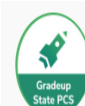
### Tenure of Attorney General K.K. Venugopal extended by a year

#### Why in the News?

- The central government has extended the tenure of Attorney General (AG) for India K.K. Venugopal by a year.



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- Venugopal will continue on the constitutional post till 30 June 2022.
- With this extension, Venugopal will complete 5 years as AG next year. Venugopal, who will turn 90 on 6th September this year, is the oldest person to serve on this post.

#### Key Points

- K K Venugopal took over as the 15th Attorney General for India on July 1, 2017.
- In 2002, he was awarded the Padma Bhushan and in 2015 Padma Vibhushan.

#### About the Attorney General for India:

- The Attorney General for India is the Indian government's chief legal advisor, and is its principal barrister in the Supreme Court of India.
- They are appointed by the President of India on the advice of the Union Cabinet under Article 76 of the Constitution.

Source: Indian Express

### Praveen Sinha appointed as Special Director of CBI

#### Why in the News?

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointed CBI Additional Director Praveen Sinha as the Special Director of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

#### Key Points

- Sinha, a Gujarat-cadre IPS officer of the 1988 batch, has served as the agency's acting Director after Rishi Kumar Shukla had retired.
- The post of Special Director is the second senior-most position in the CBI after the Director. The post was vacant for the last three years.

#### Facts about Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI):

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Founded:** 1 April 1963
- **Director:** Subodh Kumar Jaiswal
- **Parent organization:** Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions

Source: The Hindu

### Important Days

#### July 29, International Tiger Day

##### Why in News

- **International Tiger Day** or **Global Tiger Day** is an annual celebration to raise awareness for tiger conservation, held annually on 29 July.

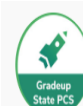
##### Key Points

- **International Tiger Day** was created at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit in Russia in 2010.

**Tiger Range Countries:** 13 tiger range countries are India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, China, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Malaysia, Nepal, Russia, Vietnam & Thailand.



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### **Tiger Reserve in India:**

- Recently, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change approved the conversion of the Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary in Rajasthan's Bundi district into the 4th tiger reserve in the state.
- It is the country's 52nd tiger reserve.

### **About National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA):**

- It 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:**

- It is a tiger conservation programme launched in **April 1973** by the Government of India.
- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the conservation of the tiger in the country.

**Source: The Hindu**

## **July 28, World Hepatitis Day 2021**

### **Why in News**

- World Hepatitis Day is observed each year on 28 July to raise awareness of viral hepatitis.

### **Key Points**

- This year's **theme** is "**Hepatitis can't wait**", conveying the urgency of efforts needed to eliminate hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030.

**About Hepatitis:** Hepatitis, which causes inflammation in the liver, is a group of infectious diseases known as Hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E.

### **Note:**

- **World Hepatitis Day** is one of 11 official global public health campaigns marked by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**.
- **Others** are World Health Day, World Chagas Disease Day, World Blood Donor Day, World Malaria Day, World Immunization Week, World Tuberculosis Day, World No Tobacco Day, World Patient Safety Day, World Antimicrobial Awareness Week and World AIDS Day.

**Source: who.int**

## **July 23, National Broadcasting Day**

### **Why in News**

- In India, "National Broadcasting Day" is celebrated on 23rd July every year to make people aware of the importance of radio.

### **Key Points**

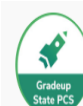
- On this day in the year 1927, the broadcast of radio started from Bombay station for the first time in the country under a private company called Indian Broadcasting Company of India (IBC).

### **History of National Broadcasting Day**

- Broadcasting service was started in 1927 with two privately owned transmitters in Mumbai and Kolkata.



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- After that, in 1930, the government took these transmitters under its control.
- Till 1935, it was known as Indian Broadcasting Service. But in the year 1936 its name was changed to **All India Radio (AIR)** and in 1956 it came to be known as '**Aakashvani**'.
- **All India Radio** is owned by **Prasar Bharti**, which is a statutory autonomous body set up by an Act of parliament.

**Note:** Prasar Bharati has 470 broadcasting centers across the country, covering approximately 92% of the country's area and 99.19% of the total population.

**Source: newsonair**

### **July 18, Nelson Mandela International Day**

#### **Why in News**

- Nelson Mandela International Day is an annual international day in honour of Nelson Mandela, celebrated each year on 18 July, Mandela's birthday.

#### **Key Points**

- The theme for 2021 is "One Hand Can Feed Another".
- The United Nations (UN) officially declared July 18th as Nelson Mandela International day in 2009. It was first celebrated in 2010.

#### **About Nelson Mandela:**

- Nelson Mandela was the former president of South Africa.
- He is widely regarded as a leader of social justice and a staunch advocate for democracy.
- He received over 250 honours and was awarded the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.

**Source: TOI**

### **July 17, World Day for International Justice**

#### **Why in News**

- World Day for International Justice is an international day celebrated throughout the world on July 17 as part of an effort to recognize the emerging system of international criminal justice.

#### **Key Points**

- The theme for 2021 is "A Call for Social Justice in the Digital Economy."
- July 17 is the date of the adoption of the treaty that created the International Criminal Court.
- On 1 June 2010, at the Review Conference of the Rome Statute held in Kampala (Uganda), the Assembly of State Parties decided to celebrate 17 July as the Day of International Criminal Justice.

**Source: TOI**

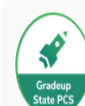
### **July 01, National Doctors' Day**

#### **Why in the News?**

- National Doctors' Day is a day celebrated to recognize the contributions of physicians to individual lives and communities.



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- This day serves to show gratitude to all those doctors who have selflessly aided us in our time of need and tirelessly worked for the health of their patients.

### Key Points

#### History of National Doctors' Day

- The National Doctors' Day is celebrated on July 1 all across India to honour the legendary physician and the second Chief Minister of West Bengal, **Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy**. He was born on July 1, 1882 and died on the same date in 1962.
- The National Doctors' Day was first observed in 1991.

## Books and Authors

#### Former RBI Governor Bimal Jalan's book titled "The India Story"

- Former RBI Governor Bimal Jalan's book "**The India Story: An Epic Journey of Democracy and Development**" focuses on India's economic history and aims to provide lessons for the future of India's political economy.
- The book is published by Rupa Publications India.

#### About Bimal Jalan:

- Bimal Jalan is a former Governor of RBI and was a nominated member of the Upper House of India's Parliament, the Rajya Sabha during 2003–2009.
- He has held several government positions throughout his career, such as finance secretary and chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister.

Source: ThePrint

## Obituaries

#### Veteran Actress Jayanthi passes away

- Veteran actress Abhinaya Sharade Jayanthi, was known for her work in Tamil, Telugu and Kannada movies, passed away.
- Jayanthi acted in more than 500 films in Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Hindi.
- She had received 7 Karnataka State Film Awards and 2 Filmfare Awards.
- She won the Padmabhushan Dr. B. Saroja Devi National Award, 2017.

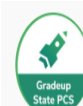
Source: The Hindu

#### Legendary badminton player Nandu Natekar passes away

- Legendary badminton player Nandu Natekar became the first Indian player to win an international event when he won the Sellanger International in Malaysia in 1956.
- Natekar won over 100 national and international titles.
- He was conferred with the prestigious Arjuna Award in 1961.
- He won 12 out of the 16 singles matches and 8 out of 16 in doubles as part of the Indian team at the Thomas Cup between 1951 and 1963.



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**Source: The Hindu**

**Kerala's oldest learner Bhageerathi Amma dies at 107**

- Kerala's oldest learner, Bhageerathi Amma who passed a state literacy mission examination at the age of 105, passed away.
- Bhageerathi was awarded the Centre's **Nari Shakti Puraskar** in 2020 for her contribution towards women empowerment.

**Source: Indian Express**

**National Award-winning actor Surekha Sikri passes away**

- Surekha Sikri worked in theatre, films and television.
- She received the National Film Award for Best Supporting Actress thrice, including Tamas (1988), Mammo (1995) and Badhaai Ho (2018).
- She won the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1989.

**Source: Indian Express**

**Pulitzer Prize winning Indian photojournalist Danish Siddiqui passes away**

- Pulitzer Prize winning Indian photojournalist Danish Siddiqui was killed in a Taliban attack in Afghanistan while covering the conflict between the Afghan armed forces and the Taliban.
- He was an Indian photo-journalist based in Mumbai, who used to head the national Reuters Multimedia team.
- He received the Pulitzer Prize in 2018, as part of the Reuters team, for documenting the Rohingya Refugee Crisis.

**Source: The Hindu**

**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**

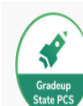
- Dilip Kumar, real name Yusuf Khan, appeared in Indian cinema's most iconic and landmark films, including Mughal-e-Azam, Naya Daur, Devdas, Ram Aur Shyam, Andaz, Ganga Jamuna and Madhumati.
- He was the **first actor to win the Filmfare Award for Best Actor in 1954** and won it a total of **8 times**.
- 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**



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- Congress leader and former Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadr Singh passed away at 87.
- Virbhadr 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**

## Legendary Musician Parassala B Ponnammal passes away

### Why in the News?

- Legendary Carnatic musician and Padmashree awardee, Parassala B Ponnammal, passed away.

### Key Points

- Parassala B Ponnammal was a recipient of several notable honours including the Lifetime Achievement Award instituted by Chennai Fine Arts, Sangeetha Prabhakara Award, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Swathi Sangeetha Puraskaram, Sree Guruvayurappan Chembai Puraskaram and so on.

### About Carnatic music:

- Carnatic music, known as Karnāṭaka saṅgītaṃ in the South Indian languages, is a system of music commonly associated with South India, including the modern Indian states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, and Sri Lanka.

**Source: The Hindu**

## Editor of world's only Sanskrit daily KV Sampath Kumar passes away

- KV Sampath Kumar, 64, editor of **Sudharma**, reckoned to be the country's and the world's only Sanskrit daily (newspaper), passed away.
- Sampath Kumar had taken over the mantle from his father Pandit K.N. Varadaraja Iyengar, who had founded Sudharma in 1970.
- He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2020.

## Sports

### Brisbane to host 2032 Olympics

#### Why in News

- President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Thomas Bach announced **Brisbane, Australia as the 2032 Summer Olympics host city** during the 138th IOC Session in Tokyo, Japan.

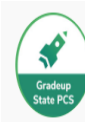
#### Key Points

- Brisbane becomes the 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian city to get the Olympics Games after Melbourne in 1956 and Sydney in 2000.

**Note:** Tokyo: 2020 Olympics (23 July 2021 - 8 August 2021), Paris: 2024, Los Angeles: 2028



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Source: The Hindu

## 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

## 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

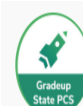
## Minister of Ayush launches 5 Important Portals on Ayush sector

### 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.



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- 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
- Pathapathya Vinishcaya- 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

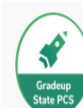
- 26 winners of the Initiative for Research and Innovation in STEM -IRIS National Fair participated as 'Team India 2021' in the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair.

#### 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.



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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

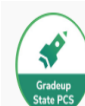
## Indian Army Memorial in Italy

### 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.



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### 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?

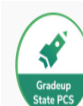
- **Minister of Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar** released the regulations and poster for the **52nd edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI)**.
- The festival will be held in **Goa from 20th -28th November 2021**.

### Key Points

#### About International Film Festival of India (IFFI):



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- 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

## NSDC and WhatsApp launch Digital Skill Champions Programme

### Why in the News?

- The **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** and **WhatsApp** launched Digital Skill Champions Programme that aims to train Indian youth on digital skills to make them employment ready.
- The partnership identifies two broad areas of collaboration - WhatsApp Digital Skills Academy, and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) and WhatsApp Business App Training sessions.

### Key Points

- Through this programme, school and university students would be coached to imbibe digital and online skills that would culminate with WhatsApp and NSDC awarding "Digital Skill Champions" certification.
- As part of WhatsApp Digital Skills Academy, youth from tier III and IV cities will be trained on critical aspects of digital safety and online privacy.
- The initiative will kick off with a pilot across 50 campuses in five states - Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
- The programme will be imparted through WhatsApp's project implementation partner, InfiSpark.

Source: PIB

## Asia's longest and world's fifth longest High Speed Track for automobiles in India

### Why in the News?

- Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Prakash Javadekar inaugurated **NATRAX- the High Speed Track (HST)** in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

### Key Points

#### About NATRAX- the High Speed Track (HST):

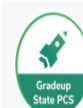
- It is the **longest** track in **Asia** and **world's fifth longest** High Speed Track for automobiles.
- It is a world class **11.3 km High Speed Track**.

#### One Stop Solution:

- **NATRAX (National Automotive Test Tracks)**, developed in an area of 1000 acres of land, is a **one stop solution** for all sorts of high speed performance tests for widest categories of vehicles from 2 wheelers to heavy tractor trailers.
- Being centrally located in Madhya Pradesh, it is accessible to most of the major **Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs)**.



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- Foreign OEMs will be looking at NATRAX for the development of prototype cars for Indian conditions.
- At present, foreign OEMs go to their respective high speed track abroad for high speed test requirements.

## Comprehensive study on not-for-profit hospital model in country

### Why in the News?

- **NITI Aayog** released a comprehensive study on the not-for-profit hospital model in the country, in a step towards closing the information gap on such institutions and facilitating robust policymaking in this area.

### Key Points

#### Findings of the Report:

- There has been relatively low investment in the expansion of the health sector in the private domain.
- The not-for-profit hospital provides not only curative but also preventive healthcare services.
- Most of the not-for-profit hospitals in the country charge lower than the for profit hospitals.
- It links healthcare with social reform, community engagement, and education. It uses government resources and grants to provide cost-effective healthcare to people without being concerned about profits.
- For-profit hospitals account for 55.3% of in-patients, while not-for-profit hospitals account for only 2.7% of in-patients in the country.
- To promote these hospitals, the government should increase **the tax exemption** for donations and membership fees of these hospitals.

#### Challenges:

- Recruitment, Reimbursements, Funding, Compliance burden
- Some of the hospitals, especially those in remote areas, reported challenges because of the high compliance burden of staffing requirements of the Regulations for running a blood bank 1999, Clinical Establishments Act 2010, Pre-Conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques 1994, and Quality standards.

#### Suggestions:

- The report proposes short- and long-term policy interventions—such as developing criteria to identify these hospitals, ranking them through a performance index, and promoting top hospitals for practising philanthropy, among others.

#### Recent Initiatives in Health Sector:

- Prime Minister Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Scheme
- Increased Allocation for Health in Budget 2021
- National Digital Health Mission
- National Medical Commission Act, 2019
- Ayushman Bharat
- Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana

#### Facts about NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog:

**Formed:** 1 January 2015

**Headquarters:** New Delhi

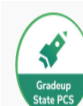
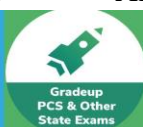
**Chairperson:** Narendra Modi

**Vice Chairperson:** Rajiv Kumar

**CEO:** Amitabh Kant



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1. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Rudreswara Temple (Ramappa Temple)?

- i. It is India's 37th UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- ii. It was constructed during the reign of the Kakatiya Empire.
- iii. It is located in the state of Karnataka.

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

2. India's largest oil firm Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) will build the nation's first 'green hydrogen' plant at.....

- A. Jamnagar
- B. Indore
- C. Patna
- D. Mathura

3. Indian Navy participated in a bilateral Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with which country's Navy Carrier Strike Group (CSG)-21?

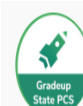
- A. Singapore
- B. UK
- C. France
- D. US

4. When is National Broadcasting Day celebrated in the country?

- A. July 25
- B. July 18
- C. July 23



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D. July 29

5. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the recently released Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)-Annual Report (July, 2019 – June, 2020)?

i. The National Statistical Office (NSO) released the report.

ii. It is the second annual report.

iii. The unemployment rate fell to 4.8 percent in 2019-20

A. ii only

B. i and ii only

C. i and iii only

D. i, ii and iii

6. Consider the following statements regarding the Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2021.

i. The survey is conducted by the World Bank.

ii. India has achieved a 100% score for the Transparency index.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A. i only

B. ii only

C. Both i and ii

D. Neither i nor ii

7. Who was honoured with the ICAR Norman Borlaug National Award 2020?

A. Ambuj Sagar

B. Rakesh Aggarwal

C. Kajal Chakraborty

D. Ahmed Kamal

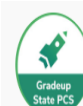
8. Which city was selected by the International Olympic Committee to host the 2032 Summer Olympics?

A. Rome, Italy

B. Brisbane, Australia



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- C. Paris, France
- D. Berlin, Germany

9. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Exercise Cutlass Express 2021?

- i. The exercise was conducted off the east coast of Africa.
- ii. Indian Naval Ship Satyam participated in Exercise.

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

10. When is World Hepatitis Day celebrated?

- A. July 27
- B. July 25
- C. July 18
- D. July 28

11. Who will be conferred with Mohun Bagan Ratna 2021 posthumously?

- A. Rajinder Goel
- B. Manjit Singh
- C. Shibaji Banerjee
- D. Nikhil Nandy

12. In July 2021, the Union Cabinet approved the establishment of the first Central University for which Union Territory (UT) of India?

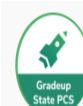
- A. Chandigarh
- B. Lakshadweep
- C. Ladakh
- D. Andaman and Nicobar Islands

13. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding India's 40th UNESCO World Heritage Site?

- i. It is Dholavira: A Harappan City.
- ii. It is located in Rajasthan.



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

14. Consider the following statements regarding the Exercise INDRA-2021

- i. It is a joint military Exercise between Indonesia and Russia.
- ii. It will be held in Volgograd, Russia.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

15. When is International Tiger Day celebrated?

- A. July 26
- B. July 25
- C. July 19
- D. July 29

16. Who has been sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Karnataka?

- A. N. Rangasamy
- B. Arun Saini
- C. Basavaraj Bommai
- D. Pinarayi Vijayan

17. When was Project Tiger launched by the Government of India?

- A. April 1973
- B. April 1983
- C. April 1975
- D. April 1971

18. Which country hosted the SCO Defence Ministers' meeting 2021?

- A. Uzbekistan
- B. Kazakhstan



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- C. Russia
- D. Tajikistan

19. Which two Indian cities have been selected by UNESCO under its 'Historic Urban Landscape' Project?

- A. Agra and Ayodhya
- B. Konark and Sanchi
- C. Gwalior and Orchha
- D. Jaipur and Lucknow

20. As of now how many members are in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)?

- A. 8
- B. 4
- C. 7
- D. 9

21. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the recently launched 'Kisan Sarathi'?

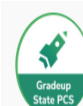
- i. It is a digital platform.
  - ii. It facilitates farmers to get 'right information at right time' in their desired language.
  - iii. It was launched jointly by the Minister for Science and Technology with the Minister for Electronics and Information Technology.
- A. ii only
  - B. i and ii only
  - C. i and iii only
  - D. i, ii and iii

22. When is Nelson Mandela International Day observed?

- A. 18 July
- B. 11 June
- C. 17 July
- D. 15 June



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23. Which three nations participated in the Tri Nation Table Top Naval Exercise 'Shield' held in July 2021?

- A. India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka
- B. India, Maldives and Sri Lanka
- C. India, Myanmar and Sri Lanka
- D. India, Thailand and Sri Lanka

24. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the recently set up 'Grain ATM'?

- i. It is the country's first 'Grain ATM'.
- ii. It has been set up in Uttar Pradesh.
- iii. It is installed under the "World Food Programme" of the United Nations.

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

25. UDAN is the regional air connectivity scheme. What does UDAN stand for?

- A. Ude Duniya ka Aam Naagrik
- B. Ude Desh ka Aam Naujawan
- C. Ude Duniya ka Aam Naujawan
- D. Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik

26. State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021 report has been published by which organisation?

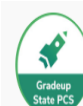
- A. World Bank
- B. FAO
- C. WEF
- D. UNDP

27. Recently, the central government has decided to set up the 'Indian Institute of Heritage' in which state?

- A. Bihar
- B. Rajasthan



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- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Madhya Pradesh

28. In July 2021, which four countries have agreed in principle to establish a new quadrilateral diplomatic platform focused on enhancing regional connectivity?

- A. India, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan
- B. US, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan
- C. US, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan
- D. India, Afghanistan, Iran and Uzbekistan

29. Which film has won the Palme d'Or award at the Cannes Film Festival 2021?

- A. Annette
- B. Nitram
- C. Drive My Car
- D. Titane

30. Who has won the Best Director award at the Cannes Film Festival 2021?

- A. Leos Carax
- B. Peter Jackson
- C. Chris Columbus
- D. Tim Burton

31. Which of the following railway stations has been renamed as Banaras?

- A. Kashi
- B. Manduadih
- C. Sarnath
- D. Bhulanpur

32. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Stand Up India Scheme?

- i. It has been extended up to the year 2025
- ii. It offers free housing facilities in India.
- iii. It was launched by the Prime Minister on 05th April, 2016



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

33. In July 2021, which surface-to-air missile has been successfully flight-tested by DRDO?

- A. Nabh-NG
- B. Gagan-NG
- C. Satah-NG
- D. Akash-NG

34. Which state introduced SOHUM-Automated Auditory Brainstem Response system (AABR)?

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

35. Which two Indian organisations have won the UNDP Equator Prize 2021?

- A. Paramount Limited and Doshion Limited
- B. Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar Producer Company Limited and Snehakunja Trust
- C. ASM Company and Enviro Engineer Pvt Ltd.
- D. Excel Enviro Services and GreenTek Indika

36. What is the new name of 'Common High Court of UT of Jammu and Kashmir and UT of Ladakh'?

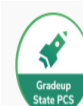
- A. High Court of Jammu and Ladakh
- B. High Court of Kashmir
- C. High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh
- D. High Court of Jammu and Kashmir

37. Which of the following will be the first state in India to issue educational documents using blockchain technology?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Gujarat



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- C. Maharashtra
- D. Kerala

38. Which is India's first High Court to start live streaming of court proceedings?

- A. High Court of Allahabad
- B. High Court of Gujarat
- C. High Court of Madhya Pradesh
- D. High Court of Delhi

39. Which of the following has prepared a report titled, "Potential of Geospatial Technologies for the Water Sector in India"?

- A. Aaron Geospatial Technological Company
- B. NITI Aayog
- C. International Institute of Geospatial Science and Technology
- D. Association of Geospatial Industries

40. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the recently approved Rajasthan's tiger reserve?

- i. Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary will be the 7th tiger reserve in the state.
- ii. The National Tiger Conservation Authority has approved the conversion of the Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary into a tiger reserve.
- iii. It will be the country's 22nd tiger reserve.

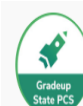
- A. ii only
- B. i and ii only
- C. ii and iii only
- D. i, ii and iii

41. DBT- NIBMG, has created the world's first database of genomic variants named "dbGENVOC", in which disease?

- A. COVID-19
- B. Thalassemia
- C. Oral Cancer
- D. AIDS



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42. Where is India's second-largest cricket stadium going to be built?

- A. Patna
- B. Jaipur
- C. Mumbai
- D. Indore

43. When is World Population Day observed?

- A. July 21
- B. June 11
- C. July 11
- D. June 21

44. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the SPARSH?

- i. It is a web based portal.
- ii. It is related to Defence procurement.
- iii. The Ministry of Defence has implemented it.

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

45. Consider the following statements regarding the India Industrial Land Bank (IILB).

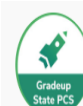
- i. It is a GIS-based portal.
- ii. The Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT) has developed it.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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



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46. The Indian Army has recently named one of its firing ranges in Kashmir after which Bollywood actress?

- A. Kareena Kapoor
- B. Vidya Balan
- C. Anushka Sharma
- D. Deepika Padukone

47. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the recently inaugurated LNG Facility plant?

- i. It is the country's first LNG Facility plant.
- ii. It is located at Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- iii. It has been set up by Baidyanath Ayurvedic Group.

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

48. Who won Wimbledon 2021 Men's Singles title?

- A. Rafael Nadal
- B. Nikola Mektic
- C. Matteo Berrettini
- D. Novak Djokovic

49. Who won Wimbledon 2021 Women's Singles title?

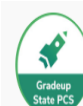
- A. Ashleigh Barty
- B. Barbora Krejckova
- C. Katerina Siniakova
- D. Karolina Pliskova

50. Which is the first country to adopt India's BHIM-UPI standards for its QR deployment?

- A. Bhutan
- B. Myanmar
- C. Indonesia
- D. Bangladesh



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51. In July 2021, which country appointed its first Honorary Consul General from India?

- A. Cambodia
- B. Vietnam
- C. Indonesia
- D. Malaysia

52. Recently Yashpal Sharma passed away. He was associated with which sports?

- A. Football
- B. Hockey
- C. Badminton
- D. Cricket

53. India's largest solar park will be set up in which state?

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

54. Who among the following has become Nepal's Prime Minister for the 5<sup>th</sup> time?

- A. Sher Bahadur Deuba
- B. Pushpa Kamal Dahal
- C. Bidhya Devi Bhandari
- D. KP Sharma Oli

55. Which country will host the 2026 World Badminton Championships?

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

56. Consider the following statements regarding the Digital India programme.

- i. It was launched on 1 July 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



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ii. e-NAM App is a national platform for school education.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

57. Which country has hosted the 7th edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)?

- A. Australia
- B. Bangladesh
- C. France
- D. India

58. Indian Railway has opened the first movable freshwater tunnel aquarium at which Railway Station?

- A. KSR Bengaluru
- B. Vijayawada
- C. Jodhpur
- D. MGR Chennai Central

59. In July 2021, with which organization, Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) organized Gender Samvaad?

- A. NCERT
- B. NITI Aayog
- C. FICCI
- D. IWWAGE

60. Which among the following has developed the Short Span Bridging System (SSBS)-10 m?

- A. DRDO
- B. ISRO
- C. BHEL
- D. HAL



61.The Ministry of Youth affairs & Sports has recognised WAKO as National Sports Federation to promote which sport?

- A. Kho Kho
- B. Kickboxing
- C. Kickball
- D. Karate

62.Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Inclusive Framework tax deal?

- i. It has been launched by OECD and G20.
- ii. India has also joined the Inclusive Framework tax deal.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

63.Consider the following statements regarding the recently launched portals on Ayush sector.

- i. The Union Minister of Ayush launched 3 important portals on the Ayush sector.
- ii. CTRI portal is one of them.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

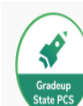
- A. i only
- B. ii only
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

64.Which ministry's logistics division has unveiled plans for the 'Freight Smart Cities'?

- A. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- B. Ministry of MSME
- C. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- D. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways



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65. Consider the following statements regarding the recently launched "Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought" (BOLD) project.

- i. NITI Aayog has launched project BOLD.
- ii. It was launched from the tribal village NichlaMandwa in Udaipur, Rajasthan.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

66. Which option is not correctly matched with reference to new governors and respective states?

- A. Thawarchand Gehlot: Kerala
- B. Hari Babu Kambhampati: Mizoram
- C. Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar: Himachal Pradesh
- D. Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel: Madhya Pradesh

67. In which country the Indian Army Chief inaugurated the Indian Army Memorial in July 2021?

- A. France
- B. Germany
- C. Japan
- D. Italy

68. Which ministry has been created recently by the central government?

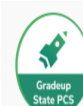
- A. Ministry of Development
- B. Ministry of Administration
- C. Ministry of Co-operation
- D. Ministry of Commitment

69. Who was the first actor to win the Filmfare Award for Best Actor and died recently?

- A. Irrfan Khan
- B. Dilip Kumar
- C. Rishi Kapoor



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D. Soumitra Chatterjee

70. Match the following Ministers with their respective Ministries:

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| i. Ministry of Co-operation                | a. Mansukh L. Mandaviya |
| ii. Ministry of Education                  | b. Amit Shah            |
| iii. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare | c. Ashwini Vaishnav     |
| iv. Ministry of Railways                   | d. Dharmendra Pradhan   |

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. i-b, ii-c, iii-a, iv-d
- B. i-c, ii-d, iii-a, iv-b
- C. i-b, ii-d, iii-a, iv-c
- D. i-c, ii-b, iii-a, iv-d

71. The first shipment of Geographical Indication (GI) certified Bhalia variety of wheat was exported to Kenya and Sri Lanka from which state?

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

72. Who declared himself the "Brand Ambassador" of Khadi Prakritik Paint?

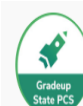
- A. Nitin Gadkari
- B. Arjun Munda
- C. Narendra Singh Tomar
- D. Piyush Goyal

73. 52nd edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will be held in which state?

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Goa
- C. Kerala
- D. Madhya Pradesh



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74. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the World Drug Report 2021?

- i. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) issued the World Drug Report 2021
- ii. Around 275 million people used drugs worldwide in 2020.
- iii. International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is observed every year on June 16

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

75. Consider the following statements regarding the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

- i. FATF has two lists (Grey and Black).
- ii. FATF is responsible for granting loans.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

76. Which e-filing portal has been launched for the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal?

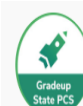
- A. itat e-gate
- B. itat e-dwar
- C. itat e-tax
- D. itat e-app

77. Recently, the website for the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) was launched. Which ministry has launched NMBA?

- A. Ministry of Ayush
- B. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- C. Ministry of Education



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D. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

78. With which country, Indian Navy has conducted a Passage Exercise in Indian Ocean Region in June 2021?

- A. USA
- B. Australia
- C. Indonesia
- D. France

79. When is the Day of the Seafarer observed every year?

- A. June 25
- B. June 15
- C. June 16
- D. June 23

80. Where is India's first Maritime Arbitration Centre being established?

- A. Gujarat
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Odisha
- D. Tamil Nadu

81. What is the name of India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC)?

- A. INS Vijay
- B. INS Vikrant
- C. INS Swabhimaan
- D. INS Samrat

82. When is the National Statistics Day observed every year?

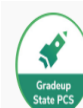
- A. June 21
- B. June 29
- C. June 26
- D. June 19

83. Consider the following statements regarding the latest report on Indian initiatives shaping energy transition.

i. India's renewable energy capacity is the 7th largest in the world.



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ii. India's installed renewable energy capacity is about 37 percent of the country's total capacity.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

84.NSDC has partnered with which messenger to launch the Digital Skill Champions Programme?

- A. Facebook
- B. Telegram
- C. Google Meet
- D. WhatsApp

85.Where has Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a Japanese Zen Garden and Kaizen Academy?

- A. Indore
- B. Lucknow
- C. Ahmedabad
- D. Mumbai

86.When is National Doctors' Day observed?

- A. July 10
- B. June 01
- C. July 01
- D. July 07

87.Recently, a new Spider Species is named after which 26/11 Martyr?

- A. Vijay Salaskar
- B. Ashok Kamte
- C. Hemant Karakre
- D. Tukaram Omble

88.Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the World Bank's support to India's informal working class?



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i. The World Bank has approved a USD 1500 million loan to support India's informal working class to overcome the current pandemic distress.

ii. The loan will be financed by its concessionary lending arm IDA and IBRD.

iii. Membership: IBRD-189 countries, IDA-173 countries

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

89. Consider the following statements regarding the Exercise Sea Breeze 2021 .

i. Ukraine and the United Kingdom conducted joint naval Exercise Sea Breeze 2021 .

ii. The exercise was held in the Black 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

90. Which Indian archer has regained world no. 1 ranking after a hat-trick of gold medals at the Archery World Cup Stage 3?

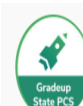
- A. Pravin Jadhav
- B. Atanu Das
- C. Ankita Bhakat
- D. Deepika Kumari

###ANSWERS###

1. Ans. A.



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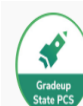
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2. Ans. D.
3. Ans. B.
4. Ans. C.
5. Ans. C.
6. Ans. B.
7. Ans. C.
8. Ans. B.
9. Ans. A.
10. Ans. D.
11. Ans. C.
12. Ans. C.
13. Ans. A.
14. Ans. B.
15. Ans. D.
16. Ans. C.
17. Ans. A.
18. Ans. D.
19. Ans. C.
20. Ans. A.
21. Ans. B.
22. Ans. A.
23. Ans. B.
24. Ans. C.
25. Ans. D.



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26. Ans. B.

27. Ans. C.

28. Ans. C.

29. Ans. D.

30. Ans. A.

31. Ans. B.

32. Ans. C.

33. Ans. D.

34. Ans. B.

35. Ans. B.

36. Ans. C.

37. Ans. C.

38. Ans. B.

39. Ans. D.

40. Ans. A.

41. Ans. C.

42. Ans. B.

43. Ans. C.

44. Ans. C.

45. Ans. C.

46. Ans. B.

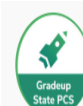
47. Ans. D.

48. Ans. D.

49. Ans. A.



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50. Ans. A.

51. Ans. B.

52. Ans. D.

53. Ans. D.

54. Ans. A.

55. Ans. B.

56. Ans. A.

57. Ans. C.

58. Ans. A.

59. Ans. D.

60. Ans. A.

61. Ans. B.

62. Ans. C.

63. Ans. B.

64. Ans. C.

65. Ans. B.

66. Ans. A.

67. Ans. D.

68. Ans. C.

69. Ans. B.

70. Ans. C.

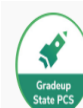
71. Ans. D.

72. Ans. A.

73. Ans. B.



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74. Ans. B.

75. Ans. A.

76. Ans. B.

77. Ans. D.

78. Ans. A.

79. Ans. A.

80. Ans. A.

81. Ans. B.

82. Ans. B.

83. Ans. B.

84. Ans. D.

85. Ans. C.

86. Ans. C.

87. Ans. D.

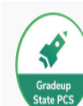
88. Ans. C.

89. Ans. B.

90. Ans. D.



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