

## Weekly Current Affairs 6<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2021 साप्ताहिक करंट अफेयर्स 6-11 सितम्बर 2021

### Important News: State

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

##### Why in News

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

##### Key Points

##### About E.V. Ramasamy Periyar:

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

Source: **The Hindu**

#### Uttarakhand Governor Baby Rani Maurya resigns

##### Why in News

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

##### Key Points

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

Source: **TOI**

#### Chandigarh gets its first pollen calendar

##### Why in News

- Chandigarh now has its first pollen calendar, which can identify potential allergy triggers and provide a clear understanding for clinicians as well as allergy sufferers about their causes to help limit their exposure during high pollen loads.

- **PGIMER, Chandigarh** developed the first Pollen Calendar for Chandigarh city.

### Key Points

#### About Pollen calendars:

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

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

#### About Pollen:

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

**Source: PIB**

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

### Why in News

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

### Key Points

#### About Dugong:

- Dugong, also called the sea cow, is a marine mammal.
- They can grow upto three meters long, weigh about 300 kilograms, and live for about 65 to 70 years.
- Dugong is listed as Vulnerable on the **IUCN Red List of Threatened Species**.
- They are found in over 30 countries and in India are seen in the Gulf of Mannar, Gulf of Kutch, Palk Bay, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

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

**Source: The Hindu**

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

### Why in News

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

### Key Points

#### About Orang National Park:

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

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

**Source: The Hindu**

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

### Why in News

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

### Key Points

#### About Inner Line Permit (ILP):

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

**Source: Indian Express**

## Important News: India

### “PRANA” Portal

#### Why in News

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

#### Key Points

##### About PRANA:

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

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

##### About National Clean Air Programme (NCAP):

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

##### Related Initiatives:

- Air Quality Index
- New Commission for Air Quality Management
- Reducing Vehicular Pollution

Source: PIB

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

### Why in News

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

### Key Points

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

**Source: PIB**

### Shikshak Parv 2021

#### Why in News

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** addressed the inaugural conclave of Shikshak Parv 2021.
- He also launched **multiple key initiatives in the Education Sector** on the occasion.
- The **Ministry of Education** is celebrating **Shikshak Parv, 2021** from **September 5-17** in recognition of the valuable contributions of teachers and to take National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 a step forward.
- The **theme** of ‘Shikshak Parv-2021’ is “Quality and Sustainable Schools: Learnings from Schools in India”.

### Key Points

#### Five Initiatives launched by Prime Minister:

- Indian Sign Language dictionary** of 10,000 words (audio and text embedded sign language video for the hearing impaired, in conformity with Universal Design of Learning)
- Talking Books** (audio books for visually impaired)
- School Quality Assurance and Assessment Framework (S.Q.A.A.F.)** of CBSE
- NISHTHA teachers' training programme for NIPUN Bharat**  
**NISHTHA** (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement) is a capacity building programme for "Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training".  
**NIPUN** (National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy) Bharat was launched to ensure that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 3, by 2026-27.

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

**Related Recent Initiatives:**

- Samagra Shiksha Scheme 2.0
- Academic Bank of Credit
- Vidya Pravesh
- Structured Assessment For Analyzing Learning Levels (SAFAL)
- National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR)
- National Education Technology Forum (NETF)

**Note:**

- **National Teachers' Day:** 05<sup>th</sup> September
- President Ram Nath Kovind on National Teachers' Day (05th September 2021) conferred the **National Teachers' Awards on 44 teachers.**
- **World Teachers' day:** 05<sup>th</sup> October

Source: PIB

**“AYUSH AAPKE DWAR” Campaign**  
Why in News

- **Ayush Ministry** launched the campaign “AYUSH AAPKE DWAR” from more than 45 locations across the country.

**Key Points**

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

**About Ministry of AYUSH:**

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

Source: PIB

**Important News: World**

**Sri Lanka declares Economic Emergency to contain Inflation**

### Why in News

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

### Key Points

#### Reasons for Sri Lankan Economic Crisis:

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

#### Measures Taken Under Economic Emergency Crisis:

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

Source: **The Hindu**

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

#### Why in News

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

#### Key Points

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

### **About New Development Bank (NDB):**

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

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

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

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

**Source:** newsonair

## **6th Eastern Economic Forum 2021**

### **Why in News**

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

### **Key Points**

#### **Highlights of Prime Minister’s Address:**

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

#### **About Eastern Economic Forum (EEF):**

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

#### **India-Russia Relations:**

- Russia is the largest investment destination for the Indian oil and gas companies and Indian public sector companies have made investments in Russia of about



\$16 billion, including in the Far East and East Siberia, in oil and gas assets such as Sakhalin-1, Vankor and Taas-Yuryakh.

- Russia is also the largest investor in India's oil and gas sector.
- India is the second largest market for the Russian defence industry.

**Source: PIB**

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

### **Why in News**

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

### **Key Points**

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

### **Background:**

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

### **Significance:**

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

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

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

**Source: The Hindu**

## **Important News: Economy**

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

### **Why in News**

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

### Key Points

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

### About Air purifier “Ubreathe Life”:

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

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

**Source:** PIB

## Important News: Defense

### Delegation of Financial Powers to Defence Services (DFPDS) 2021

#### Why in News

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** released an order on **Delegation of Financial Powers to Defence Services (DFPDS) 2021**, providing enhanced delegation of Revenue Procurement powers to the Armed Forces.
- DFPDS 2021 is another big step in the series of defence reforms to strengthen the security infrastructure of the country.
- It will overcome procedural delays, bring about greater decentralisation and operational efficiency.

#### Key Points

- The enhanced delegation of Financial Powers to functionaries in Service Headquarters and lower formations would result in quicker decision making at all levels leading to better planning and operational preparedness of the Services in a quicker time frame and optimum utilisation of resources.

- The DFPDS 2021 consists of guidelines related to the following Schedules of Financial Powers:  
**Army Schedules of Powers-2021 (ASP-2021)**  
**Navy Schedules of Powers-2021 (NSP-2021)**  
**Air Force Schedules of Powers-2021 (AFSP- 2021)**  
**IDS Schedules of Powers-2021 (ISP-2021)**
- Delegated Financial Powers of Vice Chiefs of the Services have been increased by 10 percent, subject to an overall ceiling of Rs 500 crore.

**Recent Reforms in Defence Sector:**

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

**Source: PIB**

**C-295MW transport aircraft for Indian Air Force**

**Why in News**

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

**Key Points**

**About C-295MW aircraft:**

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

**Project Execution:**

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

**Significance of the Deal:**

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

### Employment Generation:

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

Source: PIB

### President's Colour presented to Naval Aviation Why in News

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

#### Key Points

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

#### About President's Colour:

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

Source: PIB

### 'AUSINDEX 21'- a bilateral maritime exercise between Australia and India Why in News

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

#### Key Points

- Indian Navy Task Group comprising *IN Ships Shivalik* and *Kadmatt* participated in the exercise.
- From Australia, Royal Australian Navy Anzac Class Frigate, *HMAS Warramunga* participated.

- The exercise will provide an opportunity for both Navies to further bolster interoperability, gain from best practices and develop a common understanding of procedures for Maritime Security Operations.
- The exercise is a true representation of Joint Guidance signed by the Chief of the Naval Staff, IN and Chief of Navy, RAN on 18 Aug 2021.
- This important document is aligned to the '**2020 Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**' between the two nations and aims to further consolidate shared commitment to regional and global security challenges promoting peace, security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

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

**Source: PIB**

## **Karbi Anglong Agreement**

### **Why in News**

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

### **Key Points**

#### **Highlights of the Karbi-Anglong Agreement:**

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

#### **About Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC):**

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

**Other Recent Peace Agreements of the Northeast:**

- NLFT Tripura Agreement, 2019
- Bru Accord, 2020.
- Bodo Peace Accord

**Source: PIB**

**12<sup>th</sup> edition of DefExpo**

**Why in News**

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

**Key Points**

**About DefExpo-2022:**

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

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

**Source: PIB**

**Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) 2021**

**Why in News**

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

**Key Points**

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

**About Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX):**

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

**Source: PIB**

## Awards and Honours

### INSPIRE Awards - MANAK

#### Why in News

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

#### Key Points

##### About The INSPIRE Awards - MANAK scheme:

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

##### About INSPIRE scheme:

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

##### Three programs:

- i) Scheme for Early Attraction of Talents for Science (SEATS)
- ii) Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE)
- iii) Assured Opportunity for Research Careers (AORC)

##### Five components:

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

##### Related Initiatives:

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

**Source: PIB**

## **Behler Turtle Conservation Award 2021**

### **Why in News**

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

### **Key Points**

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

### **About Behler Turtle Conservation Award:**

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

### **Protection Status:**

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

**Source: The Hindu**

## **Ramon Magsaysay Award 2021 Winners**

### **Why in News**

- Recently, the 63<sup>rd</sup> Ramon Magsaysay Award 2021 was announced.

### **Key Points**

### **List of Ramon Magsaysay Award 2021 Awardees:**



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

**About Ramon Magsaysay Award:**

- It was established in April 1957 and is regarded as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize.
- The award is named after Ramon Magsaysay, the third president of the Republic of the Philippines after World War II.
- The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation gives the prize to Asian individuals achieving excellence in their respective fields.
- The Award is presented in a formal ceremony in Manila, Philippines on August 31<sup>st</sup> each year.

Source: **The Hindu**

## Ranks and Indices

### THE World University Rankings 2022

#### Why in News

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

#### Key Points

##### Global Ranking:

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

##### India's Ranking:

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

##### About THE World University Rankings 2022:

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

**About Times Higher Education (THE):**

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

**Related India's Initiatives:**

- National Education Policy, 2020
- Institutions of Eminence (IoE) Scheme
- Uchhatar Avishkar Yojana
- Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT)

**Source: Indian Express**

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

**Why in News**

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

**Key Points**

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

**Need of saving Trees:**

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

**India's Related Initiatives:**

- National Mission for a Green India
- Nagar Van (Urban Forest) Scheme
- Sankalp Parva
- National Afforestation Programme
- Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act

**Source: Indian Express**

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

### Why in News

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

### Key Points

#### Findings of the Report:

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

#### Failure of Sendai Framework:

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

#### India's Recent Initiatives:

- National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP)
- Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)
- National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

Source: [public.wmo.int](http://public.wmo.int)

## New Appointments

### J B Mohapatra appointed CBDT chairman

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of J B Mohapatra, as chairman, **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**.

- He has been holding the additional charge of CBDT chairman since May 31, 2021 after the extended tenure of incumbent P C Mody had ended.
- Mohapatra, a 1985-batch Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax) officer, is currently the member in the board that frames the policy for the Income Tax department.

Source: The Hindu

## Important Days

### September 08, International Literacy Day

#### Why in News

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

#### Key Points

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

#### History:

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

#### Recent Facts:

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

Source: un.org

## Sports

### Tokyo 2020 Paralympics Games

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

#### India at Tokyo Paralympics:

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

Rank	Countries	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	96	60	51	207
2	Britain	41	38	45	124
3	United States	37	36	31	104
24	India	5	8	6	19

**India's performance:**

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

**Source: olympics.com**