

# Weekly Current Affairs 3rd Week July 2022



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### Important News: India

#### Arbitration Bill 2021

##### Why in News:

- Substantial changes to the Arbitration Bill have been recommended by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law and Justice.



##### key points:

- The Arbitration Bill 2021 passed by Parliament recognizes the importance of institutions to train arbitrators and service providers to provide arbitrations structured under their rules.
- The applicable laws under the Arbitration Bill 2021 can be used for arbitration only in pre-litigation cases.
- The Arbitration Bill 2021 seeks to remove the confusion arising from using both the expressions "arbitration" and "conciliation" in various laws.
- Online dispute resolution has been recognized in the Arbitration Bill 2021 so that every citizen of India can get its benefit.

Source: The Hindu

#### 'Har GharTiranga' National Campaign

##### Why in News:

- On the occasion of 75th Independence Day, the Central Government has announced the launch of a national campaign for the '**Har GharTiranga**' across the country.



**key points:**

- The Har Ghar Tiranga National Campaign will be launched by the Ministry of Culture under the Amrit Mahotsav of Azadi.
- The objective of the Har Ghar Tiranga National Campaign is to inculcate the spirit of patriotism among the people and to create awareness about the tricolor.
- The rules for the use, display, and hoisting of the National Flag are detailed in the Flag Code of Conduct, 2002, which came into force on 26 January 2002.
- The Flag Code of India, 2002 is divided into three parts-
  - The general description of the national flag is given in the first part
  - In the second part, a complete description has been given of the display of the national flag by members of the public, private organizations, educational institutions, etc.
  - In the third part, information has been provided about the hoisting of the national flag by the central and state governments and their organizations and agencies.

**Source: Times of India**

**The government removed data on NGOs from the FCRA site**

**Why in News:**

- The Ministry of Home Affairs has removed some important data from its Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) website which includes a list of NGOs whose licenses have been canceled by the government.



**key points:**

- The data removed by the home ministry also includes annual returns of NGOs.
- Earlier, several changes in FCRA rules were notified by the ministry in an "effort to reduce the compliance burden on NGOs".
- At present rule 13 is applicable to NGOs which pertains to the "Declaration of receipt of foreign contribution".
- Earlier, the Ministry of Home Affairs rejected Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity and Oxfam India's applications for renewal of FCRA licenses and also canceled the license of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative.

**Source: The Hindu**

### First Virtual Summit of I-2U-2 Leaders

#### Why in News:

- India, Israel, UAE, and the USA attended the first summit of the Leaders of the Group of I2U2 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



#### key points:

- The conference, which was organized through a virtual medium, was attended by the Prime Minister of Israel (Yair Lapid), the President of the United Arab Emirates (Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan) and the President of the United States of America (Joe Biden).
- The idea of setting up an I2U2 group was mooted during the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of these four countries on 18 October 2021.
- Sherpa level meetings are held at regular intervals by each country in the I2U2 grouping to discuss possible areas of cooperation.
- The objective of the I2U2 grouping is to promote joint investments in six sectors namely water, energy, transport, space, health, and food security.
- I2U2's goal is to use private sector capital and expertise to modernize infrastructure, find low-carbon solutions for industry, improve public health and promote the development of critical emerging green technology.

**Source: PIB**

### Unveiling of National Emblem by Prime Minister

### Why in News:

- The National Emblem Ashoka Pillar was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the roof of the new Parliament House, popularly known as Central Vista.



### key points:

- The national insignia, made of 9,500 kg bronze, has a height of 6.50 meters.
- The National Emblem is installed at the top of the Central Hall of the new Parliament House.
- The state emblem of India is a replica of the Lion Pillar of Ashoka at Sarnath, which is preserved in the Sarnath Museum.
- The lion pillar of Ashoka has four lions at the top, with their backs facing each other, and below it is standing statues of an elephant in the valry, as well as a horse with a quartet, a bull, and a lion, which is in the shape of a bell. K is above the Padma, in the center of which is the Ashoka Chakra.
- The 'Dharmachakra' has been placed on top of this lion pillar carved out of a single stone.
- This symbol was declared as its national emblem by the Government of India on 26 January 1950.

Source: PIB

### The new logo of Prasar Bharati unveiled

### Why in News:

- The new logo of Prasar Bharati was unveiled by Information and Broadcasting Secretary Apoorva Chandra.





**key points:**

- The map of India in the new emblem of Prasar Bharati shows trust, service, security, and excellence for the nation.
- The dark medium blue color in the new insignia represents both the sky and the sea, which is associated with free space, freedom, intuition, imagination, inspiration, and sensitivity.
- Blue also represents depth, loyalty, honesty, wisdom, confidence, stability, trust, and intelligence.
- Prasar Bharati is an autonomous statutory body established on 23 November 1997 under the Prasar Bharati Act, it is the public service broadcaster of the country.
- Efforts are made to achieve the public service broadcasting objectives referred to in the Prasar Bharati Act through All India Radio and Doordarshan.

**Source: Livemint**

**National Monuments Authority**

**Why in News:**

- The National Monument Authority has recommended two sites associated with the architect of the Constitution, Babasaheb Ambedkar, be declared monuments of national importance.



**key points:**

- This recommendation has been made by the National Monuments Authority for the Sankalp Bhoomi Banyan Tree Complex in Vadodara, at the same place where Babasaheb took a pledge to eradicate untouchability on 23rd September 1917.
- It has also been recommended for the site of Satara in Maharashtra where Dr. Ambedkar received his primary education in high school by Pratap Rao Bhosle.
- The National Monuments Authority has been set up under the Ministry of Culture in accordance with the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Recognition) Act which was enacted in March 2010.
- The National Monuments Authority undertakes tasks such as considering granting permission to applicants for construction-related activities in restricted and regulated areas.

**Source: Livemint**

**India Animal Health Summit 2022**

### Why in News:

- India's 1st Animal Health Summit 2022 was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying in New Delhi.



### key points:

- Organized by the Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) and the Agriculture Today Group, this is India's first animal health summit.
- The aim of the Animal Health Summit is to make the general public aware of the importance of animal health towards the overarching objective of the country's food and nutritional security, rural income and prosperity, and overall economic development.
- The two-day event will cover topics ranging from animal health policy initiatives to the occupational environment and investment opportunities in the animal health sector, and the discussions developed will later be documented and presented to the authorities.
- The Animal Health Summit aims to understand the importance of animal health for the country's food and nutritional security, rural income and prosperity, and for achieving overall economic development.

**Source: Indian Express**

### Startup School India

#### Why in News:

- The 'Startup School India' initiative was launched by Google.



### key points:

- The Startup School India initiative has been set up with the objective of collecting relevant information on startups and tailoring it into a systematic curriculum.

- Startup School India program will be conducted in virtual mode for 9 weeks.
- The Google Startup School India initiative covers a wide range of topics including fintech, language, job search, social media and networking, business-to-consumer e-commerce, and business-to-business e-commerce.
- Startup School India aims to provide flexibility to the virtual curriculum.
- Startup School India initiative provides pick and choose modules to the people
- India is the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world.

**Source: The Hindu**

## Mangarh Hill

### Why in News:

- A report by the National Monuments Authority (NMA) has announced to name of the top of Mangarh hill in Rajasthan as a national monument in honor of 1500 Bhil tribal freedom fighters.



### key points:

- Mangarh hill, located on the Gujarat-Rajasthan border, is the site of a tribal revolt where more than 1500 Bhil tribal freedom fighters were killed in the year 1913.
- Mangarh hill is also known as tribal Jallianwala.
- On November 17, 1913, the British army opened fire on tribals gathering in protest, led by a leader of the Govind Guru community, killing more than 1,500 people.
- The Bhils, commonly known as the Dhanushdharis of Rajasthan, are the largest tribal community in India.
- The Bhils are a member of the pre-Aryan race, and the Bhil community is the largest tribe in South Asia.
- The National Monuments Authority has been set up under the Ministry of Culture in accordance with the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Recognition) Act which was enacted in March 2010.

**Source: PIB**

## Important News: World

### Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe honored with Japan's highest honor



### Why in News:

- The Government of Japan has decided to honor former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (posthumously) with the 'Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum'.



### key points:

- Shinzo Abe has served as the longest-serving prime minister of Japan.
- Shinzo Abe is the fourth former prime minister to receive Japan's highest honor under the constitution.
- The Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum is Japan's highest honor.
- The Grand Cordon of the Order was established in 1876 by Emperor Meiji of Japan and on January 4, 1888, the Collar of the Order was also included in it.
- Shinzo Abe was assassinated on July 8, 2022, while addressing a public meeting in the city of Nara.

**Source: Indian Express**

### Digital nomads in Indonesia

#### Why in News:

- Indonesia has announced a "Digital Nomad Visa" for travelers with an aim to attract more foreign tourists.



### key points:



- Digital nomads are people who work remotely while traveling to different places and spend their earned income in the country they are traveling to.
- Unlike regular remote workers, who prefer to live in one geographic area, Digital Nomad travels and searches while working.
- The Digital Nomad Visa allows remote workers to stay tax-free in Indonesia, which includes Bali.
- Indonesia aims to attract more than 3.6 million foreign travelers to the country over the next year, with Digital Nomad being a significant step forward.
- Before Indonesia, some other countries have also adopted provisions like Digital Nomad to attract foreign travelers, which include-
- Italy, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados.

**Source: Indian Express**

## Important News: Defense

### Artificial Intelligence in Defense (AIDef) Seminar and Exhibition

#### Why in News:

- The first “Artificial Intelligence in Defense (AIDef) Seminar and Exhibition” was inaugurated by the Defense Minister of India, Shri Rajnath Singh.



#### key points:

- Artificial Intelligence in Defense Seminar and Exhibition has been organized by the Department of Defense Production under the Ministry of Defense under the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- The aim of the Artificial Intelligence in Defense symposium is to promote “Self-reliant India” in the defense sector.
- During the Artificial Intelligence in Defense symposium and exhibition, the department showcased AI-enabled solutions that have been developed by industry, research organizations and startups, and innovators.
- All products included in the exhibition are related to the areas of automation or unmanned or robotics systems, cyber security, human behavior analysis, logistics and supply chain management, surveillance

systems, speech analysis, and C4ISR: command, control, communications, computers and intelligence, surveillance.

**Source: PIB**

## Science and Technology

### The platform of Platforms (POP) launched

#### Why in discussion:

- The Platform of Platforms (POP) under the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) was launched by the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, during the Conference of State Agriculture and Horticulture Ministers, in Bengaluru, Karnataka.



#### key points:

- The platform of Platforms (POP) aims to enhance digital access of farmers to markets, buyers, and service providers and bring transparency to business transactions by improving price discovery mechanism, and quality commensurate price realization.
- e-NAM integrates the platform of service providers as a "Platform of Platforms" which includes Composite Service Providers (Service Providers who provide holistic services for the trading of agricultural produce.)
- A platform of Platforms (POP) enables farmers, FPOs, traders, and other stakeholders to access a wide variety of goods and services across the agricultural value chain through a single window, thereby giving more options to the stakeholders.
- The POP can be accessed through the e-NAM mobile app which can be downloaded from Google Play Store.

**Source: Indian Express**

### Interpol's ICSE Initiative on Child Sexual Abuse

#### Why in News:

- India's Central Bureau of Investigation has been included in Interpol's International Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) initiative.



**key points:**

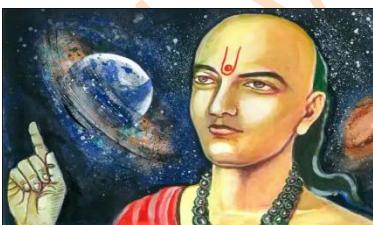
- The initiative allows India's Central Bureau of Investigation to collaborate with investigators in other countries to trace child sexual abuse online and identify abusers, victims, and crime scenes from audio-visual clips using specialized software.
- The International Child Sexual Abuse ICSE database uses video and image comparisons to analyze child sexual abuse material (CSEM) and build relationships between victims, abusers and locations.
- The initiative can help avoid duplication of database efforts, which will also save investigators time by telling investigators whether a series of images have already been discovered or identified in another country, or whether it contains similar images to other images.
- At present, according to government data, every 155 minutes in India, a girl child under the age of 16 is raped, many of which are not even reported.
- Earlier, the 'Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention/Detection (OCSAE)' unit was set up by the CBI to make use of the CSEM data.

**Source: The Hindu**

### Aryabhata-1

**Why in News:**

- A prototype of an analog chipset named "Aryabhata-1" has been developed by the researchers of IISc.



**key points:**

- Aryabhata-1 chipset can work faster, and it will use less power as compared to digital processors used in various electronic gadgets.

- Aryabhata-1 has been designed by Prateek Kumar, who holds a Ph.D. in IISc. are students.
- Aryabhata-1 stands for "Analog Reconfigurable Technology and Bias-scalable Hardware for AI Tasks".
- The Aryabhata-1 chipset will also prove useful for applications based on Artificial Intelligence (AI) such as object or speech recognition apps including Alexa.
- According to the researchers, Aryabhata is capable of being configured with multiple machine learning architectures, such as being able to work with digital CPUs as well as operating at different temperature ranges.

**Source: Indian Express**

## Environment

### District Climate Change Mission

#### Why in News:

- District Climate Change Mission has been launched in all 38 districts by the Government of Tamil Nadu.



#### key points:

- Under the District Climate Change Mission, the mission will be headed by District Collectors as Mission Director.
- Under the District Climate Change Mission, the District Forest Officer will act as the Climate Officer.
- Under this plan, collectors will have to prepare climate change mitigation and adaptation plans at the district level and provide inputs for low-carbon, climate-resilient development plans.
- Another important distribution is to further strengthen the 'MeendamManjpai' campaign against the use of single-use plastics under the District Climate Change Mission.
- An amount of ₹ 3.80 crores has been provided initially by the government for 38 district missions which will be used under the supervision of the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission.

**Source: The Hindu**

### IPBES Assessment Report





### Why in News:

- The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Forum on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) has released its report on the sustainable use of wild species of plants, animals, fungi, and algae around the world.



### key points:

- According to the IPBES assessment report, major impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems of wild species are climate change, landscape and ocean landscape changes, pollution, and the impact of invasive alien species.
- According to the report released by IPBES, continuous hunting is the main threat to the wild mammal species.
- Unsustainable logging and aggregation are one of the main threats to many plant groups, particularly cacti, cycads, and orchids, as well as other plants and fungi harvested for medicinal purposes, the report concludes.
- According to the report, 34% of marine wildlife is overfished and globally 50,000 wild species could meet the needs of billions of people.
- According to the IPBES assessment report, 70 percent of the world's poor population was directly dependent on wild species.

**Source: Indian Express**

### Air pollution in rural areas of India

#### Why in News:

- To measure air pollution in rural India, the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, has embarked on a new 2.5 million project to install around 1,400 sensors in rural blocks of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.



**key points:**

- The project could pave the way for a national network of air quality sensors in rural India.
- In the year 2019, the National Clean Air Program (NCAP) was launched by the government to reduce particulate matter air pollution by 20-30% by the year 2024.
- The country's current annual air safe limits for PM 2.5 and PM 10 are 40  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  and 60  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .
- Under NCAP, Rs 375.44 crore was provided to 114 cities from the year 2018-19 to the year 2020-21, and Rs 290 crore was allocated to 82 cities for the financial year 2021-22 and for the new project in the year 2021- An allocation of Rs 700 crore has been made as envisaged for 2021-2026.

**Source: The Hindu**

## Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

**Why in News:**

- Guidelines have been issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change proposing amendments to the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.



**key points:**

- The Environment (Protection) Act "establishes a framework for the study, planning, and implementation of the long-term requirements of environmental protection as well as a system of rapid and adequate response to situations endangering the environment."

- As a set of amendments, it has been proposed by the Environment Ministry to modify the provisions of the Environment Protection Act (EPA).
- The proposed changes also include the appointment of an 'Adjudication Officer' whose main function is to determine punishments in cases of environmental violations.
- The amount collected as a penalty shall be earned in the "Environmental Protection Fund" and in case of violation of the Act, the penalty may range from five lakhs to five crores.

**Source: The Hindu**

## Schemes

### Detailed Guidelines for Mission Shakti

#### Why in News:

- The detailed guidelines for the 'Mission Shakti' scheme have been issued by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.



#### key points:

- The Integrated Women Empowerment Program named 'Mission Shakti' was launched by the Government of India as a specific scheme for the safety, security, and empowerment of women for implementation during the 15th Finance Commission period from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- 'Mission Shakti' is a scheme in mission mode which aims to strengthen support for women's safety, security, and empowerment.
- Mission Shakti Yojana aims to empower women financially, and to inspire them to make independent decisions about their minds and body in an environment free from violence and danger.
- 'Mission Shakti' has two sub-schemes:
  1. "Sambal" sub-scheme is for women's safety
  2. 'Samarthya' sub-scheme is for women's empowerment.

**Source: PIB**

### National Welfare and Pension Schemes issued by the Government

#### Why in News:



- Cash awards to sportspersons, a web portal for schemes of the National Welfare, Pension, and Sports Department, and revised schemes of the National Sports Development Fund website have been started by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.



### key points:

- Under the revised scheme, at present any individual player can apply directly for all three schemes.
- Provision has been made in the revised scheme that applicants are now required to apply online for the cash prize scheme within six months from the last date of completion of the special event.
- Provisions like pension benefits for sportspersons participating in Deaflympics have also been included under this scheme.
- In order to implement the revised schemes and provide benefits, an online web portal has also been created by the Ministry in collaboration with the Sports Department for the convenience of the players applying for the above schemes.
- With the help of the introduced online portal, the facility of real-time tracking of players' applications and authentication through a one-time password sent to their registered mobile number will be facilitated.

**Source: Indian Express**

### Amrit Sarovar Mission

#### Why in News:

- With a view to expediting the implementation of railway and highway projects in the country, the Union Government has directed the Ministry of Railways and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to use the soil or silt excavated from ponds and tanks under the Amrit Sarovar Mission in all districts. granted permission.



**key points:**

- The Water Conservation Mission, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 24, aims to develop and improve 75 water bodies in each district of all states as part of the celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- Nationwide program to end on August 15, 2023, Amrit Sarovar Mission
- At least 50,000 reservoirs are likely to be constructed under this scheme.
- Since the project would involve the excavation of several thousands of tons of earth in the form of soil or silt, the Ministry of Rural Development has told the Ministry of Railways and the NHAI to map its infrastructure projects with the Amrit Sarovar sites in all States and UTs.

**Source: The Hindu**

### Prime Minister's National Apprenticeship Program

**Why in News:**

- The Prime Minister's National Apprenticeship Fair has been organized by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship under the 'Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Bharat Mission'.



**key points:**



- More than a thousand companies from 36 sectors have been included in the Prime Minister's National Apprenticeship Program, under which training opportunities have been provided in 500 different types of trades.
- Under the Prime Minister's National Apprenticeship Programme, the Ministry has organized fairs at more than 200 places across the country and provided opportunities to the applicants to make their careers through training.
- To participate in the Prime Minister's National Apprenticeship Program, candidates need to have a class 5th to 12th pass certificate, skill training certificate, ITI diploma, or graduate degree for eligibility.
- The prime objective of the Prime Minister's National Apprenticeship Program is to provide companies an opportunity to hire more and more apprentices and develop their potential through training and hands-on skills.

**Source: PIB**

## Sports

### First gold medal earned by Arjun Babuta

#### Why in News:

- Arjun Babuta of India has won his first gold medal in International Shooting Sports Federation-ISSF World Cup.



#### key points:

- Arjun Babuta won the gold medal by defeating Lukas Kozenisky of America 17-9 in the final held in Changwon, South Korea.
- Arjun Babuta secured the first position in the ranking round with a score of 261.1, while Lucas finished second with a score of 260.4.
- In the same competition, Israel's Sergei Richter won the bronze medal while India's ParthMakhija finished fourth in the competition.
- ISSF World Cup organized by International Shooting Sports Federation in Cairo being done.
- India is second in the medal tally in this World Cup with two gold and one bronze medal.

**Source: News on Air**

## ISSF World Cup

### Why in News:

- India's pair of Mehuli Ghosh and Shahu Tushar Mane won the gold medal at the International Shooting Sports Federation-ISSF World Cup stage.



### key points:

- Mehuli Ghosh and Shahu Tushar won the gold medal by defeating the Hungarian pair of Isjter Meszaros and Eastvan Penn 17-13 in the final of the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team event.
- In the same competition, another Indian pair of Palak and Shiva Narwal won the bronze medal in the 10-meter air pistol mixed event.
- This is Tushar's first gold medal at the senior level for India while Mehuli won the gold medal for the second time before Mehuli Ghosh won the gold medal for the first time at the 2019 South Asian Games in Kathmandu.
- Currently, India is at the second position in the medal tally in this World Cup with two gold and one bronze medal.

Source: News on Air

## Wimbledon Tennis Competition, 2022

### Why in News:

- Novak Djokovic of Serbia won the men's singles title at Wimbledon Tennis Competition, 2022.



### key points:



- Novak Djokovic won the title by defeating Nick Kyrgios of Australia 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 in the final held in London.
- With this title, Djokovic became the fourth player after Roger Federer, Pete Sampras, and Björn Borg to win four consecutive Wimbledon titles.
- This is Djokovic's 21st Grand Slam title overall.
- The Wimbledon Championships, commonly known as Wimbledon or The Championship, is the oldest Grand Slam tennis tournament in the world.
- The Wimbledon Tennis Tournament has been held every year since 1877 at the All-England Club in Wimbledon, London, except for the period 1915–18 during World War I and 1940–45 during World War II.

**Source: Indian Express**

## Reports and Indexes

### Global Gender Gap Index, 2022 released by World Economic Forum

#### Why in News:

- The Global Gender Gap Index, 2022 for the year 2022 was released by the World Economic Forum.



#### key points:

- India is ranked 135th out of 146 countries this year in the Global Gender Gap Index, 2022, released by the World Economic Forum.
- The Global Gender Gap Index assigns a score between 0 and 1, where 1 represents complete gender equality and 0 indicates absolute inequality.
- The Global Gender Report, 2022 states that it will now take 132 years to reach gender parity, from 2021 onwards the gap will be reduced by only four years and the gender gap will close at 68.1%.
- The Global Gender Gap Index evaluates countries on their progress towards gender equality in four key dimensions, which include-

- Economic participation and opportunities,
  - Education opportunity,
  - Health and survival,
  - Political empowerment.
- Under the Global Gender Gap Index 2022, India ranks 146 in health and survival, 143 in economic participation and opportunity, 107 in educational attainment, and 48 in political empowerment.
  - According to the Global Gender Gap Index 2022, India's position is even below its neighboring countries.
  - Bangladesh (71st), Nepal (96th), Sri Lanka (110th), Maldives (117th), and Bhutan (126th) are ranked in the Global Gender Gap Index 2022.
  - India was ranked 140 out of 156 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index 2021.
  - India ranks 146 in health and survival, 143 in economic participation and opportunity, 107 in educational attainment, and 48 in political empowerment.

**Source: Indian Express**

## SDG Index Report 2022

### Why in News:

- The SDG Index Report 2022 was released by the United Nations.



### key points:

- According to the SDG Index Report 2022, three Nordic countries - Finland, Denmark, and Sweden - are in the top position and all the top 10 countries are European countries.
- According to the SDG Index Report 2022, India is ranked 121 this year.
- According to the SDG Index Report 2022, performance on SDG Goal 1 (no poverty) and SDG Goal 8 (decent work and economic development) is below pre-pandemic levels in many low-income countries and lower-middle-income countries.
- Progress on climate and biodiversity targets in rich countries under the SDG Index Report 2022 has been very slow.

- According to the SDG Index Report 2022 by the United Nations, due to the pandemic and the Russo-Ukraine war, the global economic growth has been reduced by 0.9 percent, which can have the following side effects-
  - Raising food and fuel prices
  - Global supply and trade disruption
  - Financial market crunch etc.

**Source: The Hindu**

## New Appointments

### UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee

#### Why in News:

- India has been elected as a member of the Intergovernmental Committee of UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage for the year 2022-2026.



#### key points:

- India has previously served as a member of the ICH Committee twice, from 2006 to 2010 and from 2014 to 2018.
- India is also a member of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee (2021-2025).
- The 2003 Convention for the Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage was ratified by India in September 2005.
- The Intergovernmental Committee constituted under the 2003 Convention consists of 24 members and is elected to the Assembly of the Convention in accordance with the principles of equal geographical representation and rotation.
- The member states of the committee are elected for a term of four years.
- With 14 inscriptions on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, India also ranks high in the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

**Source: The Hindu**

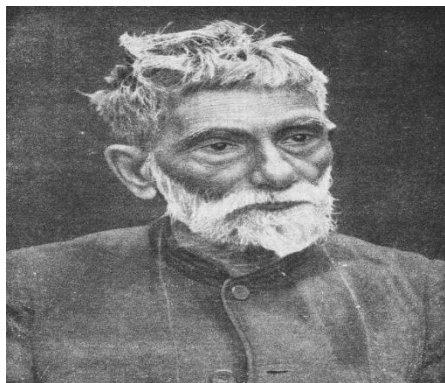
## Important Personality

### Acharya Prafulla Chandra Rai



### Why in News:

- A two-day International Conference on "Contribution of Acharya Prafulla Chandra Rai as a Chemist and Freedom Fighter" was organized by the Ministry of Culture in association with the Department of Chemistry, University of Delhi, and Vigyan Bharati.



### key points:

- The contribution of Acharya Prafulla Chandra Rai in the field of science was an important step toward nation-building.
- Acharya Prafulla Chandra Rai was also a scholar who supported educational reforms and took many important steps for political advancement as well as promoting employment through the industry.
- Many important chemical compounds were discovered by Acharya Prafulla Chandra Rai like mercurous nitrite etc.
- Acharya Prafulla Chandra Rai published more than 150 research papers in famous science journals like the Journal of the Chemical Society of London.
- Acharya Prafulla Chandra Rai has also made important contributions in the field of chemistry. He wrote several books on chemistry in which the life and experiences of a Bengali chemist is a popular book.

**Source: Indian Express**

### Parameswaran Iyer

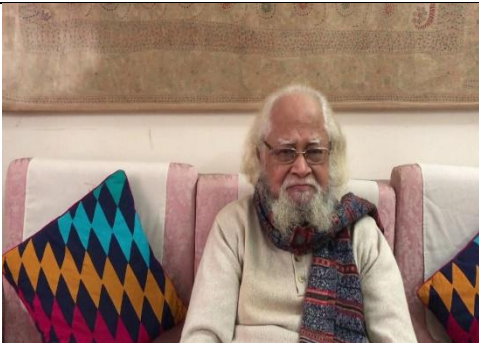
- Parameswaran Iyer has been appointed as the new CEO of NITI Aayog.
- With over 25 years of experience in the water and sanitation sector, Mr. Iyer has previously led the implementation of India's flagship 20 billion programs, the Swachh Bharat Mission, which has successfully provided 550 million people access to safe sanitation. facilities are provided.



- A 1981 batch IAS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre, Shri Iyer has worked in both public and private sectors.
- Parameswaran Iyer was working as Secretary, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India in New Delhi during the year 2016-20.
- The innovative community-led Swajal project in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand was pioneered in the 1990s by Parameswaran Iyer.
- Parameswaran Iyer has been appointed as the new CEO of NITI Aayog for a term of 2 years.

**Source: PIB**

### **Dr. Inamul Haque**



- Eminent archaeologist, historian, and former Director-General of Bangladesh National Museum Dr. Inamul Haque passed away at the age of 85 in Dhaka.
- Dr. Inamul Haque was awarded the Padma Shri in the year 2020 for his work on Bengal's terracotta and sculpture.
- Dr. Inamul Haque was instrumental in the establishment of the Bangladesh National Museum, in the year 1973 Dr. Inamul Haque was appointed as its director, and from 1983 to 1991 he served as Director-General.
- Dr. Inamul Haque is credited with discovering and collecting many priceless sculptures from various archaeological sites in Bangladesh.
- Dr. Inamul Haque was awarded the highest civilian award of the Ekushi Medal in the year 2016 and Bangladesh Independence Medal in the year 2020 for his distinguished contribution.

**Source: News on Air**

## Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

### Why in News:

- Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was shot dead on July 8, 2022.



### key points:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has condoled the death of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and a day of national mourning has been declared in India on July 9, 2022.
- Shinzo Abe was the longest-serving prime minister in the history of Japan, serving from 2006-2007 and from 2012-2020.
- The concept of Abenomics was provided by Shinzo Abe, which includes policies to increase the money supply in the country, implement reforms, to increase government spending.
- The concept of Abenomics includes three main points-
  - Focusing on achieving the inflation target of 2%,
  - flexible fiscal policy,
  - Development Strategy.
- Shinzo Abe was the first Japanese Prime Minister to participate in India's Republic Day parade as the chief guest, as well as the relations between India and Japan have strengthened during Shinzo Abe's tenure.

Source: Times of India

## Miscellaneous

### Fertilizers Flying Squad formed by the Department of Fertilizers

#### Why in discussion:

- A dedicated committee named 'Fertilizers Flying Squad' has been constituted by the Department of Fertilizers to check any diversion, black marketing, or adulteration in fertilizers.



**key points:**

- According to government data, about one million tons of agro-grade Fertilizers are being used for industrial purposes every year.
- The Fertilizers Flying Squad aims to avoid black marketing of subsidized urea by industries.
- Agriculture-grade Fertilizers are neem-coated whereas technical-grade Fertilizers are not neem-coated.
- The neem-coating is removed by the industries through some chemical process and after that Fertilizers is used for industrial purposes.
- India's annual domestic demand for Fertilizers is around 350 lakh tons, of which 2.6 million tons are produced locally while the rest is imported.
- About 13-14 lakh tons of technical-grade Fertilizers are required annually for industrial use, of which only 1.5 lakh tons are produced in the country.
- Fertilizers are used in various industries such as resin/gum, plywood, crockery, molding powder, animal feed, dairy, and industrial mining explosives.

**Source: Indian Express**

### Randomized Controlled Trials in India for Policy Making

**Why in News:**

- Nobel laureate Michael R. Kramer calls for randomized controlled trials in India for better policy analysis and formulation.



**key points:**

- Randomized controlled trials are an experimental form of impact assessment in which a population receiving a program or policy intervention is randomly selected from an eligible population, and a control group is selected at random from the same eligible population.
- A detailed study will be done through randomized controlled trials on several questions such as whether providing a mobile vaccination van or a sack of food grains will encourage villagers to vaccinate their children, etc.
- Under the randomized controlled trial, the households in the village will be divided into groups, with the help of which different aspects of it will be studied as well as various experiments will be done.

- Kramer, along with economists Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, was awarded the 2019 SverigesRiksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty.

**Source: The Hindu**

### Marburg virus disease

#### Why in News:

- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), once again the number of people suffering from Marburg virus disease is increasing in the world.



#### key points:

- Marburg virus disease is an infectious hemorrhagic fever related to the Ebola virus.
- Marburg virus is transmitted to humans through bats.
- People-to-people transmission of the Marburg virus is rapid if a person infected with the Marburg virus comes into direct contact with individuals.
- Marburg virus has an incubation period of 2-21 days, due to which the disease is very harmful and fatal.
- Marburg virus infection is currently a concern in Ghana, although there have previously been cases of Marburg virus disease in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Kenya, and South Africa.
- Common symptoms of Marburg virus disease include high fever, severe malaise, severe headache, muscle pain, etc.
- There is currently no treatment or vaccine developed for Marburg virus.

**Source: The Hindu**

### Petition filed for termination of Talaq-e-Hasan

#### Why in News:

- A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking to invalidate Talaq-e-Hasan, the prescribed Islamic method of divorce, has been filed in the Supreme Court by Benazir Hina.





**key points:**

- According to Islamic rules, in instant triple talaq, a man pronounces talaq thrice at a time and a marriage ends immediately.
- Unlike instant triple talaq, talaq-e-Hasan is pronounced with an interval of at least one month or one menstrual cycle.
- Talaq-e-Hasan has been given legal validity in almost all Muslim countries, while in many Muslim countries like Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Kuwait, Iraq, Malaysia, etc., a ban has been imposed on instant triple talaq.
- A petition filed by Ghaziabad resident woman Benazir Hina has sought to make Talaq-e-Hasan unconstitutional, the prescribed Islamic method of divorce.
- In the petition filed by Benazir Hina, Talaq-e-Hasan has been called a law violative of Articles 14, 15, 21, and 25 of the Constitution.

**Source: The Hindu**

**Special Fruit: Dragon Fruit**

**Why in News:**

- Considering the health benefits of special fruit, dragon fruit, it has been decided by the government to promote the development of dragon fruit.



**key points:**

- Dragon fruit grows on the Hilo cereus cactus tree, also known as the Honolulu Queen.
- Dragon fruit is a native fruit of southern Mexico and Central America, but currently, it is grown all over the world due to its health benefits.
- The largest dragon fruit in India is cultivated in the state of Mizoram.

- Dragon fruit is considered useful for diabetic patients, low in calories and nutrients like iron, calcium, potassium, and zinc.
- The largest producer and exporter of dragon fruit in the world is Vietnam, the plant was brought to Vietnam by the French in the 19th century.
- In Vietnam, dragon fruit is locally called Than long.
- After Vietnam, the United States, Malaysia, Thailand, Taiwan, China, Australia, Israel, and Sri Lanka are the producers and exporters of dragon fruit.

**Source: Indian Express**

### **NRI Marriage: Do's and Don'ts, the Way Ahead**

#### **Why in News:**

- A series of 'Awareness Programs on NRI Marriage: Dos and Don'ts, Way Ahead' has been started by the National Commission for Women in various districts of Punjab.



#### **key points:**

- The objectives of the programs organized by the National Commission for Women are to disseminate information about the potential risks associated with NRI marriages and to create awareness about the preventive and legal measures available to the victims.
- Eminent experts from the judiciary, administration, and academia have been invited as speakers by the National Commission for Women to inform and educate the participants about the role played by various machinery in providing relief to aggrieved women.
- The awareness program organized by National Commission for Women is divided into four technical sessions-
  1. The first session is related to 'Role of Judiciary in providing relief to women suffering from NRI marriages'.
  2. The second session is to provide information about the 'Role of Police'.
  3. The third session is related to the 'Role of the Law System'.
  4. The fourth session deals with providing awareness about the 'Social Aspects of NRI Marriage'.

**Source: PIB**

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