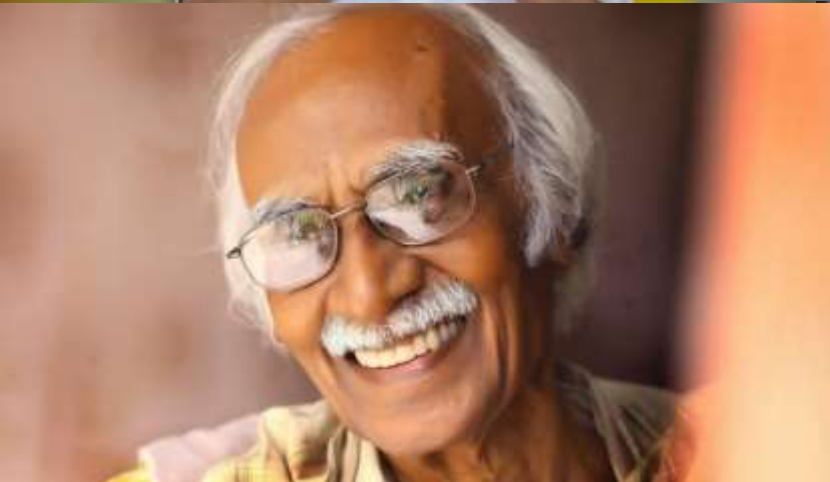


ARUL IAS ACADEMY

TNPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS - ENGLISH MAY-2021





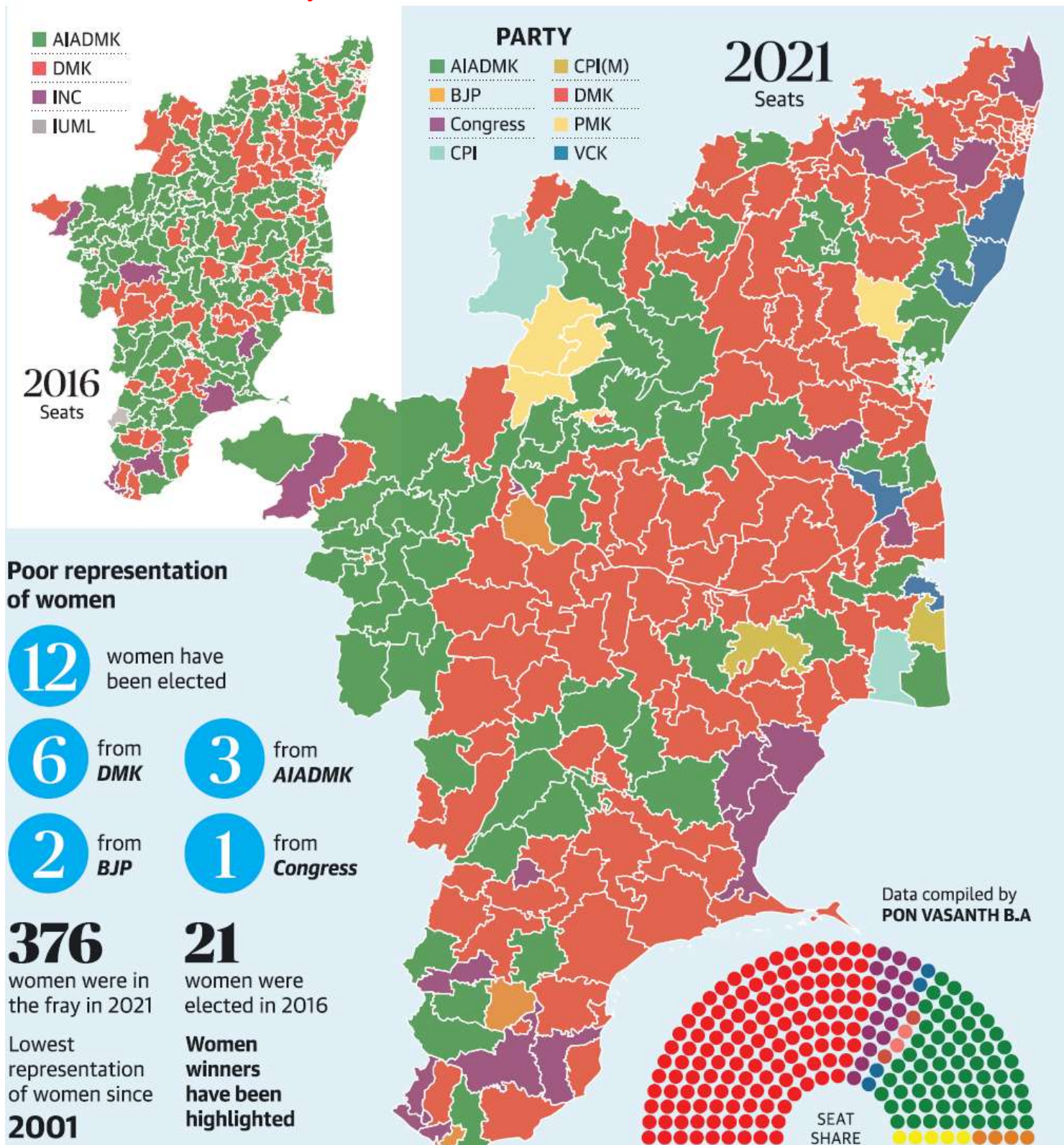
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1. TAMIL NADU NEWS

Activities which held up in Tamil Nadu during May 2021

The DMK's Success Story



The table shows the performance of key parties in 2016 and 2021

Party	2021				2016			
	Contested	Won	Total Vote Share (%)	Contested Vote Share (%)	Contested	Won	Total Vote Share (%)	Contested Vote Share (%)
Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	188	133	37.7	46.45	180	89	31.64	41.35
All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	191	66	33.29	40.48	234	136	40.77	40.77
Indian National Congress	25	18	4.27	41.36	41	8	6.42	36.74
Pattali Makkal Katchi	23	5	3.8	37.61	232	0	5.32	5.41
Bharatiya Janata Party	20	4	2.62	34.26	188	0	2.84	3.57
Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi	6	4	0.99	42.44	25	0	0.77	6.98
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	6	2	0.85	35.17	25	0	0.71	6.8
Communist Party of India	6	2	1.09	43.28	25	0	0.79	7.25
Naam Tamilar Katchi	234	0	6.58	6.58	231	0	1.06	1.08
Makkal Needhi Maiam	180	0	2.62	3.43	-	-		
Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam	165	0	2.35	3.33	-	-		
Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam	60	0	0.43	1.68	104	0	2.39	5.42

Flips | The table shows the constituencies that were flipped and the ones that were retained

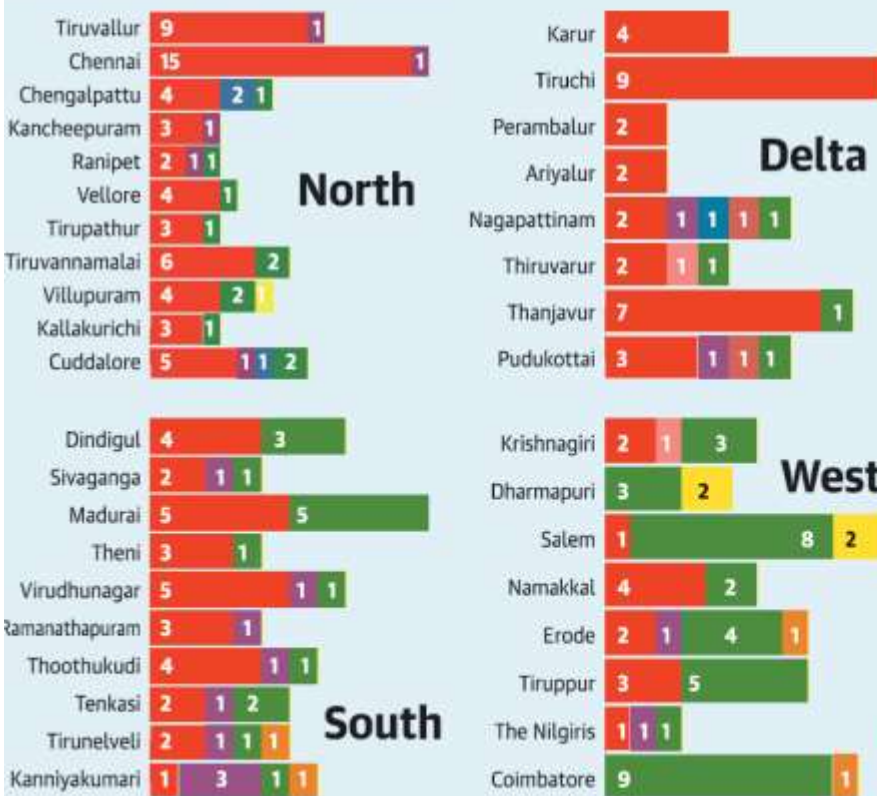
Flips	No of Constituencies				
	Delta	North	South	West	Total
Retained by AIADMK+	3	7	12	33	55
Flipped from DMK+ to AIADMK+	1	5	6	8	20
Retained by DMK+	15	39	20	4	78
Flipped from AIADMK+ to DMK+	22	27	20	12	81
Total	41	78	58	57	234

Margins widen

The victory margin widened in the 2021 election compared to 2016

Margin	No. of seats	
	2021	2016
< 1,000	8	16
1,000 to 5,000	31	37
5,000 to 10,000	30	44
10,000 to 20,000	51	74
20,000 to 50,000	89	59
> 50,000	25	3

District-wise breakdown of winners



25,151

average winning margin for parties in DMK alliance in 2021

18,044

average winning margin for parties in AIADMK alliance

I. Periyasamy of DMK won Athoor with the widest margin of

1,35,571 votes

J. Karunanithi of DMK won T. Nagar with the narrowest margin of

137 votes



*All names as per ECI website

Keezhadi Excavation clay found with-beads



- In the 7th phase of excavation near Tirupuvanam in Sivagangai district, a complete cover with clay was found.
- Phase 7 excavation below has been going on since 13th February last.
- One and a half feet high clay has been found in the pit currently being dug as the 3rd.

Assembly polls: Winning by a narrow margin

அதிக வாக்குகள் வித்தியாசத்தில் வெற்றியைக் கலைத்தோர்					
தொகுதி	வேட்பாளர்	வெற்றி	வேட்பாளர்	தோல்வி	வித்தியாசம்
ஆத்தூர்	ஐ.பெரியசாமி	திமுக	எம்.திலகபாமா	பாமக	1,35,571
திருவண்ணாமலை	எ.வ.வேலு	திமுக	எஸ்.தணிகைவேல்	பாஜக	94,673
பூந்தமல்லி	ஏ.கிருஷ்ணசாமி	திமுக	எஸ்.ராஜமன்னார்	பாமக	94,110
எடப்பாடி	கே.பழனிசாமி	அதிமுக	டி.சம்பத் குமார்	திமுக	93,802
திருச்சி மேற்கு	கே.என்.நேரு	திமுக	வி.பத்மநாதன்	அதிமுக	85,109
கொளத்தூர்	மு.க.ஸ்டாலின்	திமுக	ஆதிராஜாராம்	அதிமுக	70,384
சேப்பாக்கம் திருவல்லிக்கேணி	உதயநிதி ஸ்டாலின்	திமுக	ஏ.வி.ஏ.கஸாலி	பாமக	69,355
திருச்சுழி	தங்கம் தென்னரசு	திமுக	எஸ்.ராஜசேகர்	அதிமுக	60,992
திருக்கோவிலூர்	க.பொன்முடி	திமுக	வி.ஏ.டி. கலிவரதன்	பாஜக	59,680
மண்ணச்சநல்லூர்	எஸ்.கதிரவன்	திமுக	எம்.பரஞ்சோதி	அதிமுக	59,618
மாதவரம்	எஸ்.கதர்சனம்	திமுக	வி.மூர்த்தி	அதிமுக	57,071
தனி	டி.ராமச்சந்திரன்	இ.கம்யூனிஸ்ட்	நாகேஷ்குமார்	பாஜக	56,226
கிள்ளியூர்	எஸ்.ராஜேஷ்குமார்	காங்கிரஸ்	ஜலீட் தேவ்	அதிமுக	55,400
ஓமலூர்	ஆர்.மணி	அதிமுக	ரங்கராஜன் மோகன் குமாரமங்கலம்	காங்கிரஸ்	55,294
ஆவடி	சா.மு.நாசர்	திமுக	க.பாண்டியராஜன்	அதிமுக	55,275
திரு.வி.க.நகர்	பி.சிவகுமார்	திமுக	பி.எல்.கல்யாணி	தமாகா	55,013
பெரம்பூர்	ஆர்.டி.சேகர்	திமுக	என்.ஆர்.தனபாலன்	அதிமுக	54,976
திருச்சி கிழக்கு	இனிகோ இருதயராஜ்	திமுக	வெல்லமண்டி என்.நடராஜன்	அதிமுக	53,797
திருவையாறு	துரைசந்திரசேகரன்	திமுக	எஸ்.வெங்கடேசன்	பாஜக	53,650
பாளையங்கோட்டை	அப்துல் வஹாப்	திமுக	ஜி.ஜெரால்டு	அதிமுக	52,141
திருவாரூர்	பூண்டி கலைவாணன்	திமுக	ஏ.என்.ஆர். பன்னாசெல்வம்	அதிமுக	51,174



குறைந்த வாக்குகள் வித்தியாசம்

தீயாகராயநகர்	ஜெ.கருணாநிதி	திமுக	பி.சத்தியநாராயணன்	அதிமுக	137
மொடக்குறிச்சி	சி.கே.சரஸ்வதி	பாஜக	சுப்புலட்சுமி ஜெகதீசன்	திமுக	281
தென்காசி	எஸ்.பழனிநாடார்	காங்கிரஸ்	செல்வ மோகன்தாஸ் பாண்டியன்	அதிமுக	370
மேட்டூர்	சதாசிவம்	பாமக	எஸ். சீனிவாசப்பெருமாள்	திமுக	656
காட்பாடி	துரைமுருகன்	திமுக	வி.ராமு	அதிமுக	746
கிருஷ்ணகிரி	கே.அசோக்குமார்	அதிமுக	டி.செங்குட்டுவன்	திமுக	794
விருத்தாசலம்	ராதாகிருஷ்ணன்	காங்கிரஸ்	ஜெ.கார்த்திகேயன்	பாமக	862
நெய்வேலி	சபா ராஜேந்திரன்	திமுக	கே.ஜெகன்	பாமக	977
ஜோலார்பேட்டை	தேவராஜி	திமுக	கே.சி.வீரமணி	அதிமுக	1,091
கிணத்துக்கடவு	எஸ்.தாமோதரன்	அதிமுக	குறிச்சி பிரபாகரன்	திமுக	1,095
அந்தியூர்	ஏ.ஜி. வெங்கடாசலம்	திமுக	கே.எஸ்.சண்முகவேல்	அதிமுக	1,275
திருமயம்	எஸ்.ரகுபதி	திமுக	பி.கே.வைரமுத்து	அதிமுக	1,382
தாராபுரம்	கயல்விழி	திமுக	எஸ்.முருகன்	பாஜக	1,393
உத்திரமேரூர்	கே.சுந்தர்	திமுக	வி.சோமசுந்தரம்	அதிமுக	1,622
பொள்ளாச்சி	வி.ஜெயராமன்	அதிமுக	கே.வரதராஜன்	திமுக	1,725
கோவை தெற்கு	வானதி சீனிவாசன்	பாஜக	கமல்ஹாசன்	மநீம	1,728
கூடலூர்	பொன் ஜெயசீலன்	அதிமுக	எஸ்.காசிலிங்கம்	திமுக	1,945
திருப்போரூர்	எஸ்.எஸ்.பாலாஜி	விசிக	கே.ஆறுமுகம்	பாமக	1,947
ராசிபுரம்	எம்.மதிவேந்தன்	திமுக	வி.சரோஜா	அதிமுக	1,952
மயிலம்	சி.சிவகுமார்	பாமக	மாசிலாமணி	திமுக	2,230

Tamil Nadu cabinet 2021

- Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit appointed DMK president M.K. Stalin as the Chief Minister on May 5th 2021.
- He invited him to form the Ministry and to have swearing-in ceremony on May 7 2021 at Raj Bhavan, Chennai.
- M.K. Stalin had released a list of 34 ministers who will be part of his cabinet.
- The list containing names and portfolios of the ministers was sent to the Governor for his approval and it was approved.

Twenty first and Present Council of Ministers

S.no	Name	Constituency	Designation
Chief Minister			
1.	M. K. Stalin	Kolathur	Chief Minister
Cabinet Ministers			
2.	Durai Murugan	Katpadi	Minister for Water Resources
3.	K. N. Nehru	Tiruchirappalli West	Minister for Municipal Administration
4.	I. Periyasamy	Athoor	Minister for Co-operation
5.	K. Ponmudy	Tirukkoyilur	Minister for Higher Education
6.	E. V. Velu	Tiruvannamalai	Minister for Public Works
7.	M. R. K. Panneerselvam	Kurinjpadi	Minister for Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare
8.	K. K. S. S. R. Ramachandran	Aruppukkottai	Minister for Revenue and Disaster Management



9.	Thangam Thennarasu	Tiruchuli	Minister for Industries
10.	S. Regupathy	Thirumayam	Minister for Law
11.	S. Muthusamy	Erode West	Minister for Housing and Urban Development
12.	K. R. Periyakaruppan	Tiruppattur (Sivaganga)	Minister for Rural Development
13.	T. M. Anbarasan	Alandur	Minister for Rural Industries
14.	M. P. Saminathan	Kangayam	Minister for Information & Publicity
15.	P. Geetha Jeevan	Thoothukkudi	Minister for Social Welfare & Women Empowerment
16.	Anitha R. Radhakrishnan	Tiruchendur	Minister for Fisheries - Fishermen Welfare and Animal Husbandry
17.	R. S. Raja Kannappan	Mudukulathur	Minister for Transport
18.	K. Ramachandran	Coonoor	Minister of Environment and Forests Department
19.	R. Sakkarapani	Oddanchatram	Minister for Food and Civil Supplies
20.	V. Senthil Balaji	Karur	Minister for Electricity, Prohibition & Excise
21.	R. Gandhi	Ranipet	Minister for Handlooms and Textiles
22.	M. Subramaniam	Saidapet	Minister for Medical and Family Welfare
23.	P. Moorthy	Madurai East	Minister for Commercial Taxes and Registration
24.	S. S. Sivasankar	Kunnam	Minister for Backward Classes Welfare
25.	P. K. Sekar Babu	Harbour	Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments
26.	Palanivel Thiagarajan	Madurai Central	Minister for Finance and Human Resources Management
27.	S.M. Nasar	Avadi	Minister for Milk & Dairy
28.	K. S. Masthan	Gingee	Minister for Minorities Welfare and Non Resident Tamils Welfare
29.	Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozi	Thiruverumbur	Minister for School Education
30.	Siva. V. Meyyanathan	Alangudi	Minister for Environment - Climate Change and Youth Welfare and Sports Development
31.	C.V. Ganesan	Tittakudi	Minister for Labour Welfare and Skill Development
32.	Mano Thangaraj	Padmanabhapuram	Minister for Information Technology
33.	M. Mathiventhan	Rasipuram	Minister for Tourism
34.	N. Kayalvizhi Selvaraj	Dharapuram	Minister for Adi Dravidar Welfare

First 5 orders signed by CM Stalin

- MK Stalin signed five orders to provide relief to a state that is reeling under the coronavirus pandemic.
- Rs 4,000 will be provided to all 'Rice' ration card holders in the state in an attempt to provide them some relief amidst the pandemic.
- Of the Rs 4,000, Rs 2,000 will be distributed in the month of May and the remaining will be given later.
- The price of Aavin milk to be reduced by Rs 3.
- All women, including working professionals and students can travel in state-owned buses (Ordinary fare) for free from May 8th.
- A new department to fulfill the promise of addressing all your complaints in the first 100 days of the DMK government will be formed.
- The expenses for COVID treatment in private hospitals will be covered under the Chief Minister's health insurance scheme and will be reimbursed to the hospitals by the government.

Important Appointments in TN

- V Irai Anbu, IAS has been appointed Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary.
- The DMK government also appointed IAS officer Shilpa Prabhakar Satish to head a special division that would take steps to redress within 100 days the grievances of people.
- Senior IAS officer from the 1993 batch, Gagandeep Singh Bedi, has been appointed as the Chennai Corporation Commissioner.
- R Shanmugasundaram is the new advocate-general of Tamil Nadu.
- He is a veteran prosecutor who served as state public prosecutor from 1996 to 2001.

Four new secretaries

- Tamil Nadu government posted four IAS officers as new secretaries to the Chief Minister MK Stalin.
- The officers are T Udhayachandran, Commissioner of Archaeology posted as Secretary I;
- P Umanath, Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation as Secretary II;
- MS Shanmugam, Commissioner of Museums as Secretary III and
- Anu George, Industries Commissioner and Director of Industries and Commerce as Secretary IV.

The task of destroying of trees by spraying drugs

- In Jayankondam for the first time in Tamil Nadu - Destruction of sessile oak trees by spraying medicine by drone.
- The inaugural event for the drone spraying operation to eradicate sessile oak trees in Jayangondam town area of Ariyalur district was held recently. It took place under the guidance of former ISRO project director scientist Mylswamy Annadurai.

Anna Centenary Library



- The **Anna Centenary Library (ACL)** is an established state library of the Government of Tamil Nadu. It is located at Kotturpuram, Chennai.
- It is built at a cost of ₹172 crores (₹1,720 million). It is named after a former chief minister of Tamil Nadu, C. N. Annadurai. It was opened by the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **M. Karunanidhi**.
- The average number of persons who visited the library between January and October 2011 is around 26,500, compared to the monthly average of 20,000 in 2010

Rocket launch bomb detonated safely at Velankanni beach

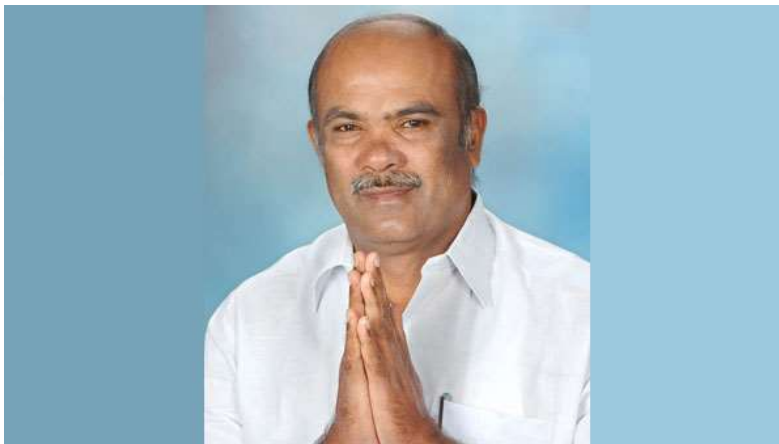
- The rocket launcher bomb, which was trapped in the Chertua fisherman's net next to the dragon, was safely detonated by bomb experts.
- C. Sabarinathan native of Cheruthu Meenava village, Nagai district. Fishermen from the same area 4 were fishing in the sea on a fiberglass boat owned by Sabrinathan. Then, a rocket launch bomb got caught in their net. The fishermen handed over the rocket launch bomb to the Velankanni Coast Guard police.

Chief minister M K Stalin inaugurates 2nd Siddha Covid care centre



- Chief minister M K Stalin inaugurated the second Siddha Covid care centre at A M Jain College in Meenambakkam in Chennai.
- According to a press release, the facility with 70 beds for treating Covid-19 patients will also offer yoga, pranayama and herbal therapy. Patients who recover will also be given medical kit titled 'Arogyam'. Health minister Ma.Subramanian and minister for rural industries T M Anbarasan were also present during the inauguration, the release stated.
- The facility is one of the 14 Siddha Covid care centres that were announced by the state government. **The first centre was established at Vyasarpadi.**

16th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly



- The 16th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly has been summoned to meet for its first session on May 11th.
- The 234 newly elected Members of the legislative Assembly will be sworn in by the Pro Tem Speaker K.Pichandi.
- DMK's senior member Appavu has been selected for the Speaker post.
- K.Pichandi from DMK is selected for the Deputy Speaker's post.

TN says black fungus is 'notifiable' disease

- Tamil Nadu announced that mucormycosis also known as black fungus infection is a notifiable disease.
- The announcement comes after the Union Health Ministry instructed all states to announce it as a notifiable disease under the Epidemic Act.
- Meanwhile, for the first time, the State Health Department disclosed the number of people with black fungus treated at government hospitals.
- Apart from that, orders have also been placed for **5,000 vials** of Liposomal Amphotericin B, an anti-fungal drug to treat the infection, through TNMSC, the Health Secretary said.

Bheema Bamboo



- The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) has designed an 'oxygen park' within its premises at Coimbatore with Beema or Bheema Bamboo.
- Beema Bamboo is a superior clone, selected from Bambusa balcooa, a higher biomass yielding bamboo species.
- This bamboo does not produce any seed and does not die also for several hundred years and keeps growing.
- This species is the best 'Carbon Sink' to mitigate carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions.
- A four-year-old bamboo may absorb over 400 kg of CO₂ per annum.
- A fully-grown bamboo tree generates over 300 kg of oxygen annually.

Platyiceps josephi



- An international team of researchers has discovered a new species of raver snake from Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu.
- The new species *Platyiceps josephi* is named after late Herpetologist Naveen Joseph.
- The discovery of the new species is published in *Vertebrate Zoology*.
- The team stated that the new species should be considered a species in the 'vulnerable' category according to the IUCN criteria.
- The *Platyiceps josephi* has distinct white bands on its body and irregular white spots on its head.
- It is a **non-venomous terrestrial snake** endemic to Tamil Nadu.



2. SPECIAL NEWS

Very important events can be called as special news

Covid -19 Vaccine & Relief measures

COVID-19 vaccine, oxygen imports exempted from GST, with caveats

- Imports of COVID-19 relief material, including vaccines, medical oxygen and Remdesivir vials, will get a conditional 'ad-hoc' Goods and Services Tax (GST) exemption till June 30, the Finance Ministry.

Pfizer donates \$70 mn worth COVID-19 treatment drugs to India

- Global pharma major Pfizer is sending its medicines worth \$70 million (over ₹510 crore), from its distribution centres in the U.S., Europe and Asia, that have been identified as part of India's COVID-19 treatment protocol, the company's Chairman and CEO Albert Bourla.

Full advance of over Rs 1,700 cr released to Serum Institute for 11 cr doses of Covishield on April 28: Centre

- The Health Ministry said that 100 per cent advance of Rs 1732.50 crore was released to the Serum Institute of India on April 28 for 11 crore doses of Covishield vaccine during May, June and July.
- The amount, which after TDS was Rs 1699.50 crore, was received by the SII on April 28 itself, it said.
- As on date, against the last order of 10 crore doses for supplies of Covishield vaccine, 8.744 crore doses have been delivered till May 3, the ministry said, adding, media reports alleging that the Centre has not placed any fresh order for COVID-19 vaccines are "incorrect and not based on facts".

'Future is bright': RBI opens Rs 50,000-cr funds tap for vaccine makers, hospitals, healthcare

- Resolving to be battle-ready to tackle Covid-19's second wave, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das announced steps to ease the economic hardship that included easier term of loan repayments by individual borrowers, small and medium businesses and others as well as Rs 50,000 crore liquidity for Covid-related healthcare infrastructure in the country.
- The Rs 50,000-crore priority lending by banks is for hospitals, oxygen suppliers, vaccine importers, COVID drugs by March 31, 2022.
- "The RBI is now focusing on increasingly channelising its liquidity operations, especially at the grassroots level," Das said in an unscheduled press conference, adding that RBI stands in battle readiness to ensure financial conditions remain congenial and markets function efficiently.
- The steps announced are as such:
 - Relaxation in rules for availing overdraft facility for state governments till September 30



- States to remain in overdraft for a maximum of 50 days vs 36 days at present
- Small finance banks allowed to on-lend to smaller microfinance institutions of asset size up to Rs 500 crore
- RBI re-opens one-time restructuring scheme for individuals, MSMEs till September
- Banks to create a Covid loan book under the scheme

Oxygen saturation of 92 or 93 should not be considered critical, says Randeep Guleria

- Oxygen saturation of 92 or 93 in COVID-19 patients should not be considered critical; instead, this level is only a buffer that enables the patient to reach hospital on time, according to All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) director Randeep Guleria.
- In a statement released by the Health Ministry, he advised that judicious use of oxygen was the need of the hour.

CoWin system to introduce a new feature of '4-digit security code'

- This new feature will be applicable only for citizens who have done an online booking for a vaccination slot.
- The CoWIN system is introducing a new feature of "4 digit security code" in the CoWIN application from May 8.
- After verification if the beneficiary has been found as eligible, before administering the vaccine dose, the verifier/vaccinator will ask beneficiary about his/her 4 digit code and then enter the same in the CoWIN system to correctly record the vaccination status.

Ivermectin

- Two Indian states have said they plan to dose their populations with the anti-parasitic drug ivermectin.
- This is to protect against severe COVID-19 infections as their hospitals are overrun with patients in critical condition.
- The move is made by Goa and Uttarakhand.
- The World Health Organisation has recommended against the use of 'Ivermectin' drug for COVID-19 except within clinical trials.
- WHO warns against the drug as there is no sufficient data or meaningful evidences for its clinical efficacy in patients.
- Ivermectin is used for the treatment and eradication of two life-threatening illnesses - Onchocerciasis and filariasis.

Centre's SC affidavit jars with TRIPS stand

- Public health advocates and intellectual property rights experts point to a **contradiction in India's global push for the suspension of intellectual property protection, with its stand in the Supreme Court** that bringing COVID-19 vaccines under a statutory regime will be counter-productive at this stage.

Compulsory licensing | The Supreme Court outlined the following legal framework within which the Centre can consider compulsory licensing and acquisition of patents for vaccines against COVID-19:

TRIPS Agreement: Articles 30 and 31 deal with exceptions to the rights of patent owners by allowing grant of compulsory licences. "It leaves countries with significant breathing space to determine how the compulsory licensing or government-use levers can be triggered," the top court says



manner supportive of the right of members to protect public health and to promote access to medicines

Para 5(b): It provides the freedom to each member to grant compulsory licences and determine the grounds on which the licences are granted

2001 Doha Declaration: The Declaration says TRIPS should be interpreted in a

Para 5(c): Each nation can determine what constitutes a national emergency or extreme urgency

Gap between the two doses - COVISHIELD

- The Government of India recently increased the gap between the two doses of the COVISHIELD Vaccine.
- The gap was increased from six to eight weeks to twelve to sixteen weeks.
- A Lancet study says that the protection (efficacy) against COVID-19 increased from 55.1% to 81.3% if the gap between the doses was increased from six to eight weeks to twelve to sixteen weeks.

Centre allocates 40,000 imported Tocilizumab vials to States

Allocation of Tocilizumab to States

S No.	State/UT	Total No of Vials (80 mg)
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	20
2	Andhra Pradesh	2040
3	Arunachal Pradesh	20
4	Assam	420
5	Bihar	1130
6	Chandigarh	95
7	Chhattisgarh	1350
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	20
9	Delhi	920
10	Goa	350
11	Gujarat	1465
12	Haryana	1220
13	Himachal Pradesh	370
14	Jammu and Kashmir	530
15	Jharkhand	625
16	Karnataka	6150
17	Kerala	4500
18	Ladakh	20
19	Lakshadweep	20
20	Madhya Pradesh	1190
21	Maharashtra	6380
22	Manipur	50
23	Meghalaya	35
24	Mizoram	20
25	Nagaland	30
26	Odisha	915
27	Puducherry	155
28	Punjab	815
29	Rajasthan	2185
30	Sikkim	30
31	Tamil Nadu	1640
32	Telangana	675
33	Tripura	30
34	Uttarakhand	800
35	Uttar Pradesh	2420
36	West Bengal	1365
Sub Total		40000
37	Central health institutions under MoHFW	2500
38	DoP / Other Central health institutions	2500
Total		45000

- The Central government has allocated to the States and Union Territories 40,000 out of the 45,000 vials of recently imported drug Tocilizumab (80 mg strength) for treatment of COVID-19.
- It has set aside 5,000 vials for Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, for distribution to central health institutions under the Ministry's control, as well as for the Department of Pharmaceuticals towards supply to health institutions under other ministries.
- The latest allocation follows the 9,900 vials (200 mg) of Tocilizumab it had made to the States/Union Territories and Central health institutions almost a fortnight ago.

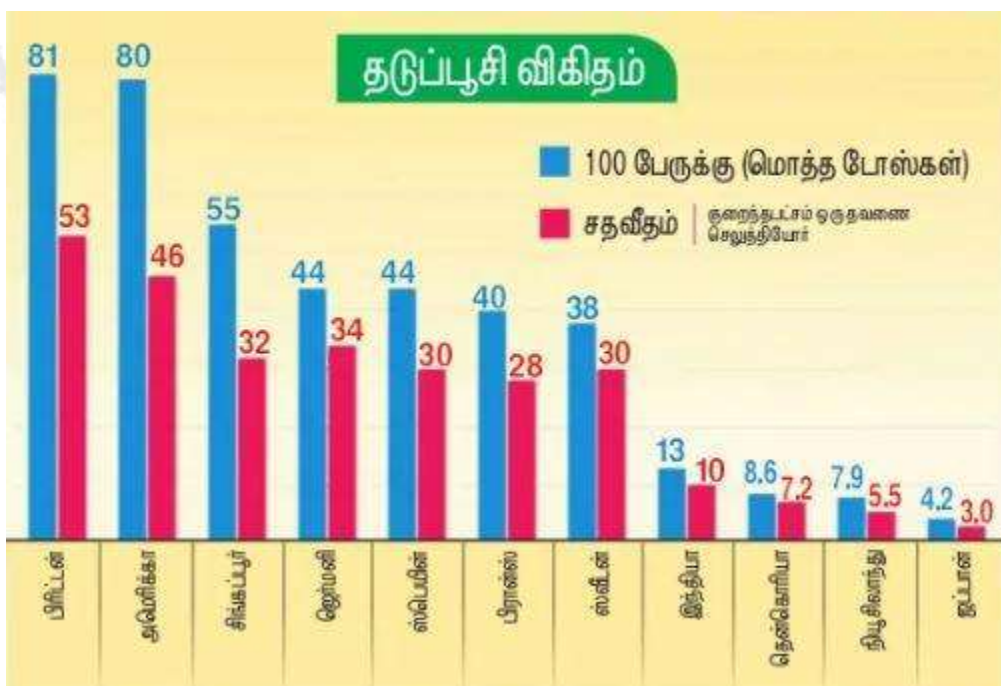
Sputnik V in India

- Dr Reddy's Laboratories announced that it had launched Sputnik V in India.
- The vaccine is imported from Russia.
- And is distributed by Dr Reddy's laboratory.
- Currently, Sputnik V is the second most expensive COVID1-9 vaccines in the country.
- The cost of one dose of Sputnik V is Rs 995.
- The price of COVISHIELD vaccines was Rs 400 per dose.
- It recently reduced it to Rs 300 per dose.
- It is manufactured locally by Serum Institute of India.
- COVAXIN costs Rs 600 per dose for the state governments and Rs 1,200 for private hospitals.

About Sputnik V

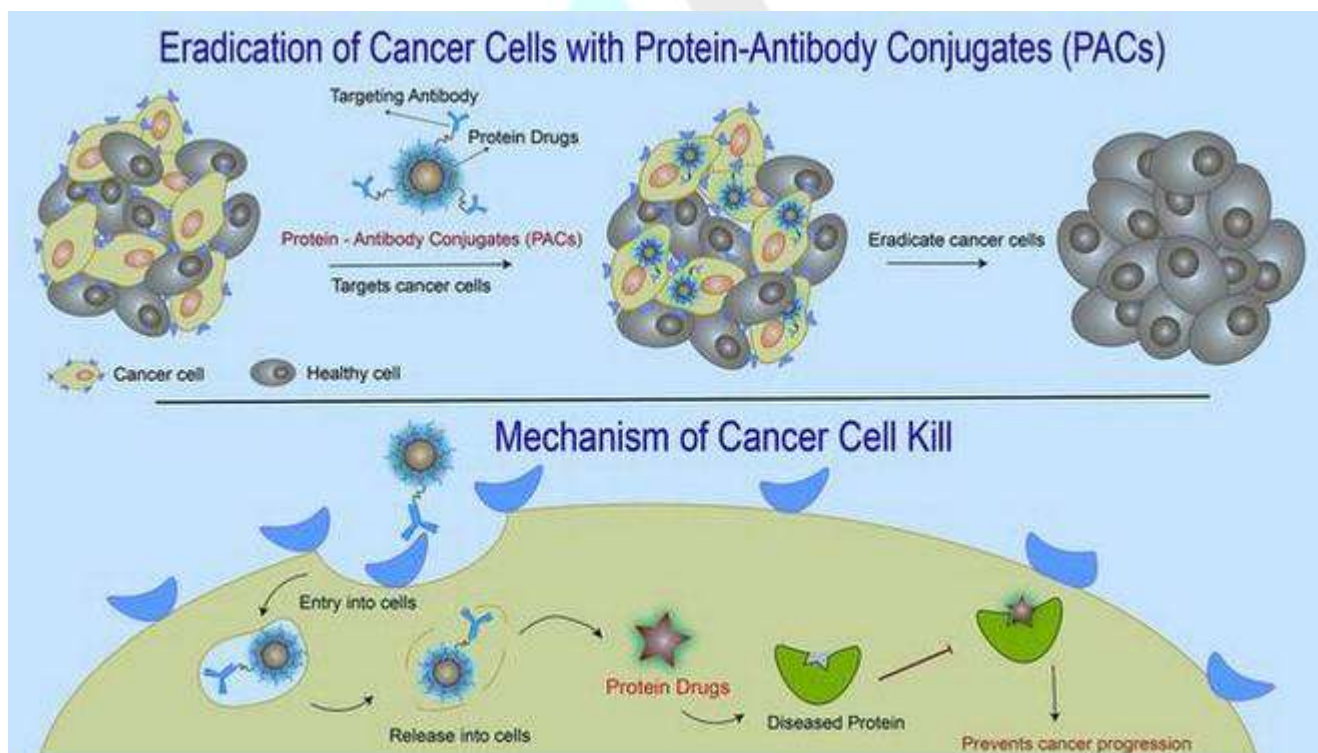
- Sputnik V was developed by Gamleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology in Moscow.
- It is a two-dose vaccine.
- However, recently a single dose vaccine of Sputnik V has been produced in Russia.
- It is called Sputnik Light Single Dose.
- India is administering only the double dose Sputnik V.
- Sputnik V is created using different Human Adenoviruses.
- The efficacy of the vaccine is 91%.
- The first dose of Sputnik V was administered in Hyderabad.

Rich countries stumble upon vaccination program!



- As the second wave of corona intensifies in most countries of the world, the task of vaccinating people has accelerated. As of May 12, 137 crore vaccines had been given worldwide. It is 18 out of 100. There is a huge gap between different countries in the vaccination program.
- There are also countries that do not vaccinate a single person.
- Similarly, only a handful of rich countries, which were praised for effectively controlling the corona epidemic last year, are currently lagging behind in implementing the vaccine program.
- The vaccination rate is single digit in the Pacific countries of Japan, South Korea and New Zealand. This is a big difference compared to countries like the United States, where the vaccine is given to half of the population, and Britain and Israel, which have higher vaccination rates.
- These three Pacific countries are lagging behind not only developing countries in terms of vaccination rates, but also developing countries such as Brazil and India, according to data from the online science journal Our World.

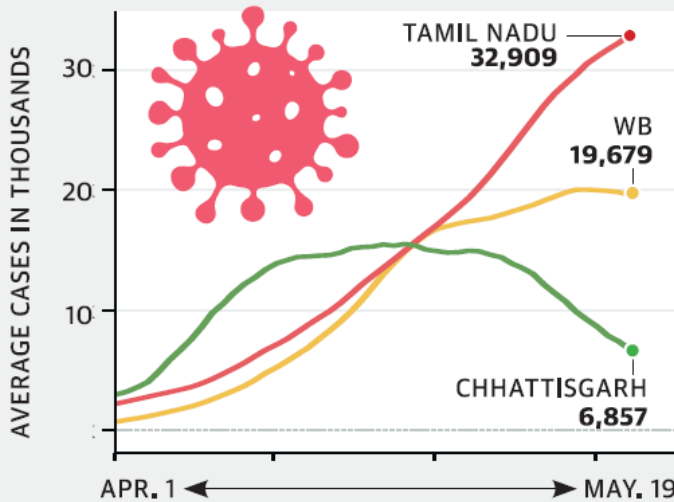
New approach to drug delivery combines biologics and antibody-drug conjugates



- A type of nanoparticle designed by researchers from University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in the U.S., embodies a new approach to treating diseases that could potentially revolutionise the field. This combines concepts of biologics and antibody-drug conjugates to produce protein-antibody conjugates that can be used for targeted drug delivery – in the case of pancreatic cancer cells, for example.
- The team has tested the mechanism in cell lines in the lab and now plans to move on to studying it in mouse models. Their research is published recently in the journal *Angewandte Chemie*.

Coronavirus | Aerosols can travel up to 10m; ventilation is the key, says government

Rise and fall | While India's second COVID-19 wave is on the wane, the decrease in cases is not uniform across all States. For instance, while Chhattisgarh's cases have been on a decreasing trend, infections are trending up in Tamil Nadu and middling in West Bengal



Avg. cases decreasing: A&N Islands, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Chandigarh, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand

Avg. cases increasing: Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Lakshadweep, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Puducherry, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura

Avg. cases middling: Assam, Ladakh, West Bengal

- Aerosols could be carried in the air for up to 10 metres and improving the ventilation of indoor spaces would reduce transmission, a **government advisory** on stopping the spread of **COVID-19** said.
- The advisory, issued by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, said there was need to remember the simple measures that could reduce the transmission of SARS-CoV-2.

Coronavirus | One person can spread virus to 406 others, says Health Ministry

- A COVID-19 infected person not following any social distancing measure can spread it to as many as 406 people in 30 days, said Health Ministry spokesperson Lav Agarwal. He was quoting a study conducted at a stem cell research laboratory in the United States' University of California San Diego.
- The projections have been made by a team led by scientist Robert A.J. Signer, according to which 75% reduction in social exposure could restrict the spread to just 2.5 people in 30 days.

SPOT

- The US scientists has invented a new COVID-19 Saliva Testing method called SPOT.
- SPOT is Scalable and Portable Testing.
- SPOT was invented by a research team from the Carle Illinois College of Medicine.
- The SPOT gives COVID-19 test results in thirty minutes.
- This testing uses Reverse Transcriptase Loop Mediated Isothermal Amplification (RT-LAMP).



Johnson and Johnson vaccine - Biological E

- Biological E (Hyderabad based) is to produce Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine along with its own vaccine.
- This is to boost the overall vaccine production of the country.
- United States International Development Finance Corporation is to assist the Biological E.

DIPCOVAN

'DIPCOVAN'
COVID-19 antibody detection kit developed by DRDO

- Developed indigenously by the scientists, followed by extensive validation on more than 1,000 patient samples
- Approved by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in April 2021
- Regulatory approval by DCGI in May 2021 to manufacture for sale and distribution
- Intended for the qualitative detection of IgG antibodies in human serum or plasma
- The kit has a shelf life of 18 months
- The kit will be commercially launched during the first week of June 2021
- Readily available stock at the time of launch will be 100 kits (approx. 10,000 tests)
- Production capacity of 500 kits/month after the launch
- It is expected to be available at about Rs 75 per test
- Faster turn-around-time as it requires just 75 minutes to conduct the test without any cross reactivity with other diseases

- The Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (DIPAS), a laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), has developed an antibody detection-based kit 'DIPCOVAN'.
- The kit is developed indigenously by the DRDO scientists in association with Delhi-based Vanguard Diagnostics Pvt Ltd.
- DIPCOVAN is a Covid-19 antibody detection kit.
- It will help a person detect if they have previously been exposed to Covid-19 virus and if they have antibodies for it.
- Its primary purpose is to detect antibodies.
- It will be used in Covid-19 epidemiology studies such as sero-surveys.
- You can also use it for detecting if you have Covid antibodies.



Health Ministry list out India's best COVID practices

- The Union Health Ministry wrote to states/ UTs recently listing out the best practices used by them while dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- This includes Rajasthan's mobile OPD, Tamil Nadu's taxi ambulance and 12 other unique initiatives.
- The Health Secretary listed many initiatives including the mobile OPD at block level to provide non-Covid essential services to villages and also the provision of "Oxygen Mitra" in each hospital to check oxygen wastage in Bikaner, Rajasthan.
- He also mentioned door-to-door testing using both RAT and RT-PCR in rural areas in Raebareli, Uttar Pradesh.
- This helped bring down the positivity from 38 percent to 2.8 percent in a period of one month.
- He also mentioned the use of Oxygen Nurses in Kerala to ensure rational use of Oxygen in hospitals and also the worksite Covid vaccination centres and drive through Covid vaccination centres in Gurugram, Haryana.

2 billion doses of Covid - 19 vaccine to poor countries

- Pfizer and BioNTech have pledged to provide 2 billion doses of Covid-19 vaccine to poor countries in middle-income and low-income countries in next 18 months.
- This announcement was made at the global health summit hosted by Italy.
- Both the companies developed first vaccine which was authorised for use in United States and Europe.
- Pfizer Inc is an American multinational pharmaceutical corporation established in New York City.
- BioNTech SE is a German biotechnology company based in Mainz, Germany.

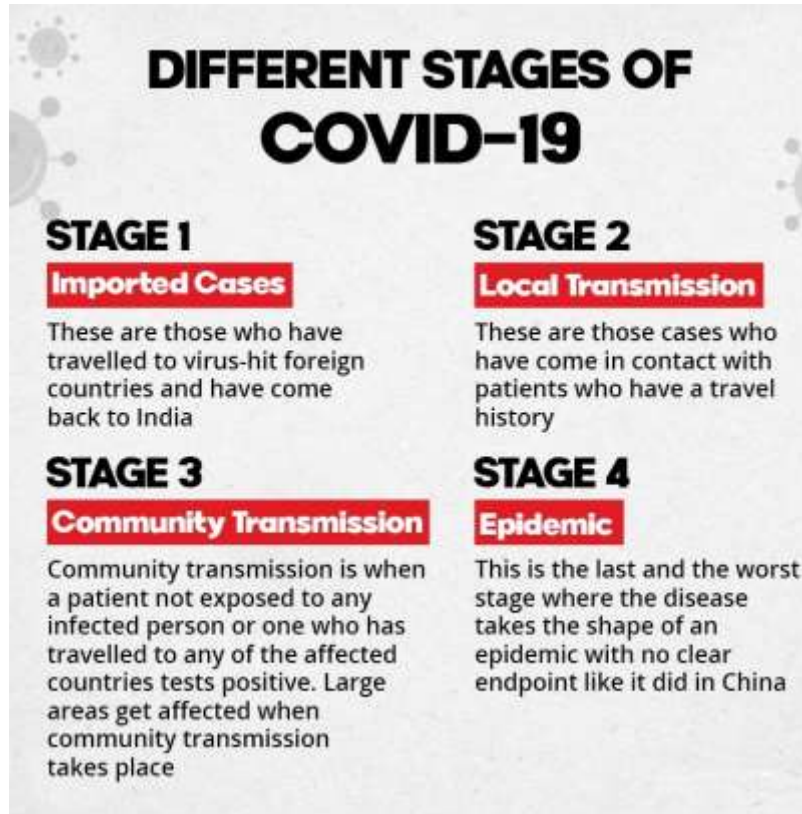
50 billion global vaccination plan

- The IMF (International Monetary Fund) proposed a USD 50 billion global vaccination plan.
- This will cover about 40 percent of global population by the end of 2021.
- It also seeks to cover at least 60 percent of the population by first half of 2022.
- This plan was proposed on the line of work of the World Health Organisation (WHO), World Bank, Gavi and African Union.

WHO and EU's approval for Covaxin

- EU member countries recently approved a proposal to allow "fully vaccinated" tourists from countries outside Europe under certain criteria.
- For this the vaccine used by the tourists must be placed in the WHO's Emergency Use List (EUL).
- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has been tasked with studying the matter and help get Covaxin a place in WHO's Emergency Use List (EUL).

Community Transition



- According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), since the beginning of the pandemic, India has never marked itself as being in 'Community Transition (CT)'.
- Instead, India is opting for the lower, less serious classification called 'cluster of cases'.
- Countries such as the United States, Brazil, United Kingdom, France have all labelled themselves as being in 'community transmission'.
- Among the 10 countries with the most number of confirmed cases, only Italy and Russia didn't label themselves as being in 'CT'.
- Community Transmission (CT) is a pandemic stage when new cases in the last 14 days can't be traced to those who have an international travel history, when cases can't be linked to specific cluster.
- Four Stages of a Pandemic Transmission are,
 - Imported Transmission,
 - Local Transmission,
 - Community Transmission and
 - Epidemic.

Native Indian turtles face U.S. slider threat across Northeast



- Herpetologists have warned that the invasive red-eared slider, released in natural water bodies by people who keep them as pets, could turn nasty for 29 native species of turtles and tortoises.
- American turtle popular as a pet is threatening to invade the natural water bodies across the Northeast, home to 21 of the 29 vulnerable native Indian species of freshwater turtles and tortoises.
- The red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) derives its name from red stripes around the part where its ears would be and from its ability to slide quickly off any surface into the water.

Death of 186 Elephants in 10 Years

- According to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), a total of 186 elephants were killed after being hit by trains across India between 2009-10 and 2020-21.
- Assam accounted for the highest number of elephant casualties on railway tracks (62), followed by West Bengal (57), and Odisha (27).
- Uttar Pradesh saw a single death.
- The MoEFCC has released Rs. 212.49 crore to elephant range States under the Project Elephant between 2011-12 and 2020-21.

Elephant deaths in India due to train hits from 2009-10 to 2020-21

STATE	NO. OF DEATHS
Assam	62
West Bengal	57
Odisha	27
Uttarakhand	14
Kerala	9
Jharkhand	7
Tamil Nadu	5
Karnataka	3
Tripura	1
U.P	1
Total	186

Source: MoEFCC. Data up to December 31, 2020

Project Elephant:

- It was launched in 1992 to provide financial and technical support to wildlife management efforts by states for their free ranging populations of wild Asian Elephants.
- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).

Tauktae Cyclone

- Tauktae Cyclone is the first cyclone in 2021 in India formed as deep depression over the Arabian Sea.
- The Kerala Government has issued “Red Alert”.
- The word Tauktae has been suggested by Myanmar.
- It means ‘gecko’, a distinctively vocal lizard, in the Burmese language.

Subdoluseps nilgiriensis



- It is a new species of an Asian gracile skink that has been discovered recently at Anaikatti hills, Coimbatore.
- This species is only the third skink species discovered from mainland India in the last millennium.
- The reptile has a slender body of just about 7 cm and is sandy brown in colour.
- Most skinks are diurnal and are non-venomous.
- Skinks are known to feed on insects such as termites, crickets and small spiders.
- It is currently classified as a vulnerable species.

Black fungus - Haryana

- Haryana Health Minister Anil Vij said that black fungus has been declared a notified disease in the state.
- If any cases of this disease are found, the doctors will have to report them to the concerned chief medical officer.
- Notified diseases are also called Notifiable diseases.
- It is any disease whose occurrence has to be reported to the Government by law.

Black fungus

- Covid-19 has triggered Mucormycosis or black fungus in some patients.
- Mucormycosis is a serious but rare fungal infection caused by a group of molds called mucoromycetes which exist in the environment.
- Early detection can prevent loss of eyesight, nose or jaw, and 50% mortality in cases where it affects the brain.
- It mainly affects people who have health problems or take medicines that lower the body's ability to fight germs and sickness.

Declare mucormycosis an epidemic: Centre to States

What is mucormycosis | It is an aggressive and invasive fungal infection that can affect various vital organs such as the brain and cause internal damage to the ear, nose, throat, and mouth. It is not contagious but can be fatal if not detected early

Prevalence: The Center for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S., calls it a serious but rare disease. A computational model by Arunaloke Chakrabarti et al. estimated a prevalence of 0.14 cases per 1,000 individuals in India

Underlying cause: Diabetes mellitus is the most common underlying cause. According to doctors, "an

indiscriminate use of a high dose of steroids in patients" could trigger the disease post-COVID-19 infection

Cure: The main line of treatment is an anti-fungal drug called Amphotericin B, which is given over an extended period of time under strict observation. Surgery might also be warranted

- The Union government has asked the States to declare mucormycosis an epidemic.
- Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Telangana have already declared the fungal infection being reported in COVID-19 patients an epidemic.

Details:

- A new challenge in the form of a **fungal infection, namely mucormycosis**, has emerged and is reported from many States **amongst COVID-19 patients**, especially those **on steroid therapy and deranged sugar control**.
- This infection is leading to **prolonged morbidity and mortality** amongst COVID-19 patients.
- The **main line of treatment is an anti-fungal drug called Amphotericin B**, which is given over an extended period of time. **Surgery** might also be warranted.

White fungus

- An infection called white fungus has been found to affect some people.
- It is more dangerous than black fungus.
- White fungus infection can be caused due to low immunity, or if people come in contact with things that contain these moulds.
- Diabetes patients, cancer patients, and those who are taking steroids for a long period of time are more at risk of getting infected.
- White Fungus is affecting those coronavirus patients who are on oxygen support.
- It is directly affecting the lungs of these patients.
- Patients of white fungus show Covid-like symptoms but test negative.
- The infection can be diagnosed through CT-Scan or X-ray.
- White fungus can affect the lungs, nails, skin, stomach, kidney, brain, private parts and mouth of the infected person.
- White Fungus infection can be prevented by sanitising the surroundings.
- And the oxygen or ventilator must be sanitised properly.

Yellow fungus

- After black and white fungus, the recent case of yellow fungus has become a cause for concern.
- Yellow fungus initially develops by the presence of moulds (a type of fungi) in the environment.
- It may be present with unnecessary fatigue, rashes, burning sensation on skin etc.
- It invades internal organs of the body and affects the entire functioning.

Environmental Risk Outlook 2021

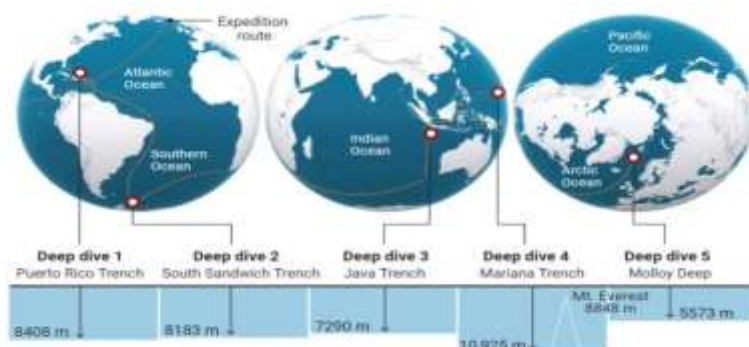
- A report on 'City Risk Analysis' in the Environmental Risk Outlook 2021 study was done by Verisk Maplecroft.
- As per this report,
 - Kanpur has been ranked 10th,
 - followed by Jaipur (22nd),
 - Lucknow (24th) and
 - Mumbai (27th).
- With 43 Indian cities in the top 100, our country is the most at-risk nation in the world.
- Pollution is identified as the main threat for this.

Snow Leopard habitats



- The World Wildlife Fund recently claimed that more than 70% of snow Leopard habitats are unexplored.
- This was according to its report "A spatially explicit review of the state of knowledge in the snow leopard range".
- Most of the snow leopard researches have been conducted by Nepal, India and China followed by Mongolia and Pakistan.
- There could be only four thousand snow leopards left in the world.
- They are facing continuous threats due to increased habitat loss and degradation, conflict with communities and poaching.
- In India, snow leopards are found in Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir.
- Government is running Project Snow Leopard since 2009.

Five Deeps Expedition



- The Five Deeps Expedition has measured the extreme depths of the World's 5 Oceans.
- The Challenger Deep (10, 924 m) in Mariana Trench in Pacific Ocean remains the Deepest Trench in the world.
- The 2nd Deepest Trench in the world is the Horizon Deep (10, 816 m) in the Tonga Trench, Pacific Ocean.
- American undersea explorer Victor Lance Vescovo of the US launched the Five Deeps Expedition in 2018.
- The Five Deeps Expedition was the first to reach the deepest point in each of the Earth's five oceans.

Ocean & Deepest Points

- Atlantic Ocean - Brownson Deep (8, 378 m) in Puerto Rico Trench
- Southern Ocean (Antarctic ocean) - Factorian Deep (7, 432 m) in South Sandwich Trench
- Indian Ocean - Unnamed Deep (7, 187 m) in Java Trench
- Pacific Ocean - Challenger Deep (10, 924 m) in Mariana Trench (deepest trench in the world).
- Arctic Ocean - Molloy Hole (5, 551 m)

UNESCO World Heritage Site Tentative list

- The Union Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel recently announced that around six cultural heritage sites have been added to the UNESCO World Heritage Site Tentative list.
- They are,
 - Ganga Ghats of Varanasi
 - Temples of Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu
 - Satpura Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh
 - Maharashtra Military Architecture
 - Hire Benkal Megalithic site
 - Bhedaghat Lametaghat (Grand Canyon of India) of Narmada Valley in Madhya Pradesh.
- With this, the total number of sites in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites Tentative list has increased to 48.

India climbs to 3rd spot on EY index

- India has moved a notch higher at the third spot (from fourth position) on EY's Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index.
- This is due to exceptional performance on the solar photovoltaic (PV) front.
- The US retains the top position and China maintains the second position.
- India also committed to setting up 450 GW for renewable energy power capacity (installed) by 2030 in the recent climate summit hosted by the US.

World's 1st Private Digital Court

- 'Jupitice Justice Technologies', an Chandigarh-based start-up has developed World's 1st Private Digital Court (powered by Blockchain & Artificial Intelligence).
- This is setup to resolve disputes under the Private Justice System through Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms (ADR).
- The platform is designed for private justice system arbitration, conciliation, mediation & negotiation.
- It allows parties involved in disputes to conduct arbitration, conciliation or mediation without the help of an administering body.
- An online arbitration award received on the Jupitice platform is legally enforceable as a court decree.

Goa Maritime Symposium - 21

- Indian Navy hosted 'Goa Maritime Symposium (GMS) -21' under the aegis of Naval War College, Goa.
- The event for the first time was hosted in virtual mode.
- The symposium was hosted towards fostering friendly relations with its maritime neighbours.
- It saw an online participation of Naval representatives from 13 Indian Ocean Littoral countries
- The theme for GMS-21 was focused on "Maritime Security and Emerging Non-Traditional Threats: A Case for Proactive Role for IOR Navies".

Infrastructure' status for exhibition and convention centres

- The Finance Ministry has granted 'Infrastructure' status for exhibition and convention centres.
- This is expected to ease bank financing for such projects.
- The convention and exhibition centres had been included in the harmonised master list of infrastructure sub-sectors under the social and commercial infrastructure sub-sector.
- To qualify under the category, projects will require a minimum built-up floor area of 100,000 square metres of exclusively exhibition space or convention space.
- Inclusion in the list implies access to concessional funds, promotion of projects and continuity of construction for the specified sub-sectors.



Antarctica heads towards Climate Tipping Point by 2060

- An Iceberg recently carved off from the continent of Antarctica.
- This iceberg is now the largest iceberg in the world.
- It has been named as A-76.
- The Ice Berg is 170 kilometres long and 25 kilometres wide.
- The ice berg was spotted by a European Space Agency satellite called Copernicus Sentinel.

Note

- A new study states that Antarctica ice sheets are headed towards Climate Tipping Points by 2060.
- Climate Tipping Point is the threshold that leads to large changes in the state of the system.
- It is defined as an irreversible change in the climate system.

INS Rajput decommissioned

- The first destroyer of the Indian Navy, INS Rajput was decommissioned on May 21.
- It was commissioned on 04 May 1980.
- After rendering service for 41 years, it was decommissioned at the Naval Dockyard of Visakhapatnam.
- INS Rajput was built by Russia in the 61 Communards Shipyard.
- Its Original Russian name was 'Nadezhny'.
- INS Rajput served for both Western and Eastern Fleets.
- Its first commanding officer was Captain Gulab Mohanlal Hiranandani.
- It is the 1st Indian Naval Ship to be associated with an Indian Army regiment - the Rajput Regiment.
- It participated in many operations including Operation Aman, Operation Pawan, Operation Cactus, etc.

Global Report on Internal Displacement 2021

New displacements in 2020

40.5m new displacements,
the highest figure in a decade

9.8m
by conflict and violence

30.7m
by disasters



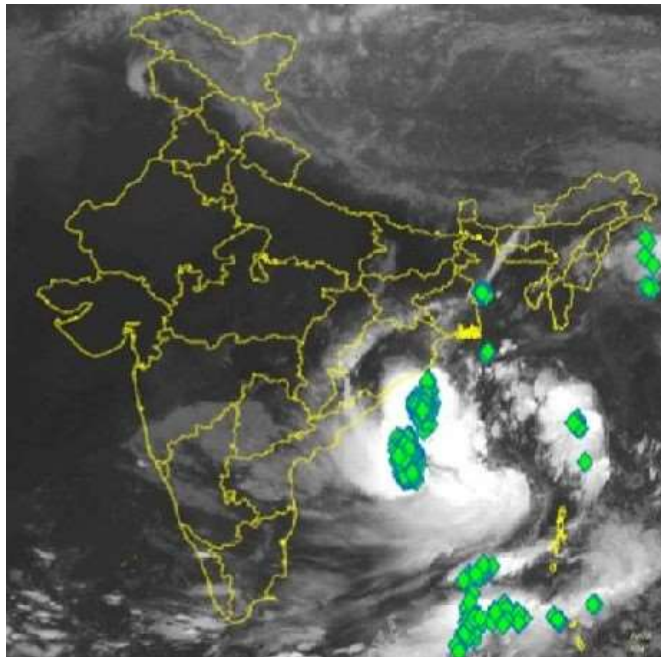
Figure 1: New displacements by conflict, violence and disasters per region

- Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID 2021) is released by Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
- According to the report, there were 40.5 million new internal displacements in 2020.
- This is the highest annual figure for 10 years.
- These were triggered globally by disasters and violence.
- 9.8 million displacements were due to conflict and violence.
- Weather-related events accounted for almost all of the 30.7 million disaster-led displacements last year.
- Storms and floods caused the majority of displacements.
- Cyclone Amphan, which made landfall in Eastern India and Bangladesh in May 2020, triggered around five million displacements across Bangladesh, India, Bhutan and Myanmar.

Italy hosts the Global G 20 Health Summit

- The Global G20 Health Summit was co-hosted by European Commission along with Italy as part of its G20 presidency.
- The summit adopted the agenda to overcome Covid-19 pandemic.
- It also decided to develop and endorse a Rome Declaration of principles.

Cyclone Yaas



- India Meteorological Department has informed that, Cyclone Yaas is likely to intensify into a very severe cyclonic storm.
- Cyclone Yaas is likely to affect the coastal parts of Odisha and West Bengal.
- This name “Yaas” has been given by Oman.

74th World Health Assembly

- Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chairman of WHO Executive Board, Dr Harsh Vardhan, chaired 74th World Health Assembly.
- Director-General of World Health Organisation, Dr Tedros, also participated in the event.
- An executive board has asked for further efforts which can ensure fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines under COVAX Facility.
- Board recommended 74th World Health Assembly to consider report on mental health preparedness and response for Covid-19 pandemic.

India Biodiversity Awards 2021

- India Biodiversity Awards 2021 were presented on the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity on May 22.
- Krishi Avam Paristhitiki Vikas Sansthan (KRAPAVIS) won the award under the category ‘Sustainable Use of Biological Resources.’
- Shaji N.M., who is also called as ‘Tuber Man’ of Kerala has won in individual category of ‘Conservation of domesticated species.
- Khonoma Nature Conservation & Tragopan Sanctuary (KNCTS) in Nagaland won the award under ‘Sustainable Use of Biological Resources’ category.
- The India Biodiversity Awards initiative was started jointly by ministry of environment, forest & climate change; National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2012.

Protected Planet Report 2020

- The report, titled Protected Planet Report 2020, underlined the progress the world has made toward the ambitious goals agreed by countries in 2010 at the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.
- The reports are released by the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) with support from the National Geographic Society, a global non-profit.
- These are biennial landmark publications that assess the state of protected and conserved areas around the world.

WHO BioHub

- The World Health Organization (WHO) will establish the first BioHub Facility in Spiez, Switzerland.
- The BioHub will allow rapid sharing of pathogens between labs and partners to facilitate a better analysis and preparedness against them.
- It will also help in safe reception, sequencing, storage and preparation of biological materials for distribution to other labs.
- It will enable member states to share biological materials with and via the BioHub under pre-agreed conditions and regulations.
- The move will help contribute to the establishment of an international exchange system for SARS-CoV-2 and other emerging pathogens, to assess risks and launch countermeasures.

Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update

- It was released by United Kingdom's Met Office led by World Meteorological Organisation.
- According to the release, the world will temporarily breach 1.5-Celsius warming mark within 2021-2025.
- There is 40 percent chance of annual average global temperature will surpass 1.5C above pre-industrial temperatures.
- 1.5C is the warming limit of Paris climate accord.
- There is a 90 percent chance of one year in period of 2021-2025 being hottest on record.
- Annual average global temperature will be at least 1C warmer than pre-industrial levels between 2021-2025.

3. IMPORTANT EVENTS

Events like awards, celebrations, etc...

What was the methodology used?

Methodology

The findings presented here are from post-poll surveys conducted in Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal by the Lokniti programme of CSDS, Delhi

	Constituencies covered	Polling stations covered	Achieved sample (raw)	Fieldwork dates	Language of Interviews	Other data sets used
Assam	35	140	3,490	March 28-April 21, 2021	Assamese Bengali	National election study 2019, Assam post-poll survey 2016
Kerala	35	140	3,424	April 7-13, 2021	Malayalam	National election study 2019, Kerala pre-poll survey 2016
Tamil Nadu	40	160	4,354	April 7-20, 2021	Tamil	National election study 2019, Tamil Nadu pre-poll survey 2016
West Bengal	50	200	4,223	March 28-May 1, 2021	Bengali	National election study 2019, West Bengal post-poll survey 2016

Social profile of achieved raw sample in the four States

	SC (%)	ST (%)	Hindu (%)	Muslim (%)	Christian (%)	Women (%)	Urban (%)
Assam	12	14	66	29	4	47	10
Kerala	11	2	51	27	21	54	24
Tamil Nadu	25	4	79	7	12	49	40
West Bengal	31	6	78	20	1	47	23

The achieved raw sample has been weighted by gender, religion, locality, and caste group based on Census 2011 data and by the actual vote shares secured by the major parties and fronts that contested the elections in each State

- The findings presented here are from post-poll surveys conducted in Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal by the Lokniti programme of CSDS, Delhi.
- The surveys were conducted from March 28 to April 21 in Assam, April 7 to April 13 in Kerala, April 7 to April 20 in Tamil Nadu, and March 28 to May 1 in West Bengal.

Election results 2021

Seats Won by Parties					
State	Seats Won	Party and Alliances			
Assam	126/126	BJP+	INC+	OTH/IND	
		75	50	1	
Kerala	140/140	LDF	UDF	BJP+	OTH
		94	40	0	6
West Bengal	292/292	TMC+	BJP	LEFT+	OTH/IND
		213	77	1	1
Tamil Nadu	234/234	DMK+	AIADMK+	MNM	OTH/IND
		159	75	0	0
Puducherry	30/30	BJP+NRC	INC+	OTH/IND	
		16	8	6	

- Election results 2021 for West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry assemblies were declared on May 2.

West Bengal (294 seats)

- The Trinamool Congress managed a landslide victory in West Bengal.
- Trinamool Congress is to form the government for a third consecutive term in West Bengal.

Tamil Nadu (234 seats)

- In Tamil Nadu, MK Stalin, leader of DMK is set to become the state Chief Minister.

Kerala (140 seats)

- The Pinarayi Vijayan-led Left Democratic Front government scripted history by retaining power.
- It is the first time in four decades that the same grouping will form the government for the second consecutive time.

Assam (126 seats)

- The BJP managed to retain power in Assam.

Puducherry (30 seats)

- The National Democratic Alliance is set to form the government with NR Congress and its ally BJP in the 30-member House.

Fourth round of talks on reviving Iran nuclear deal to resume in Vienna

- U.S. negotiators return to Vienna late this week for more talks with Iran over a return to the 2015 nuclear deal, unsure of whether they are on the brink of agreement or headed toward a prolonged, and possibly unsuccessful, slog of extended negotiations.
- The indirect talks, now entering their fourth round, “have been serious, the mood has been constructive,” a senior State Department official said. “We have to see whether the next round actually moves forward” or Iran continues to make what the official called “unrealistic demands.”

Green Urja Award

- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA) has been conferred with the “Green Urja Award” by the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC).
- This award is given for being the Leading Public Institution in the Financing Institution for Renewable Energy this year.
- IREDA gets the award for the pivotal and developmental role it plays in Green Energy Financing.
- The award recognises our immense contribution to the development of the Renewable Energy Sector in line with the Hon’ble Prime Minister’s vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat.

ARUL IAS ACADEMY

4. PERSON IN NEWS

Persons whom occurred in news

Michael Collins passes away



- The American astronaut, Michael Collins, who was the command module pilot for the Apollo 11 mission to the moon, has passed away.
- He died at the age of 90.
- During the three-man Apollo 11 crew mission in 1969, Collins kept the command module flying while the other two members, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans to walk on the moon.
- He stayed alone in the command module for twenty-one hours till his colleagues returned.
- The Autobiography written by Michael was “Carrying the Fire”.

Soli Jehangir Sorabjee passes away



- Soli Jehangir Sorabjee, a veteran lawyer, former Attorney General of India passed away recently.
- He served as Attorney-General for India from 1989 to 1990, and again from 1998 to 2004.
- He was a Padma Vibhushan recipient (2002).
- He passed away at the age of 91.

Order of Rising Sun award



- The Japanese Government recently awarded the “Order of Rising Sun” to a Bengaluru based Japanese teacher, Shyamala Ganesh.
- The award is presented to those who have made distinguished achievements in promotion of Japanese culture, achievements in international relations, advancements in their field and conservation of environment.
- It is the third highest award presented by the Japanese Government.

Order of Rising Sun

- The award is presented by the Emperor of Japan.
- It was created in 1875.

German philosopher refuses UAE prize



- The board of trustees of a high-priced literary award from the United Arab Emirates expressed regret that prominent German philosopher Juergen Habermas had turned down the prize, reversing his earlier decision.
- The 91-year-old German, considered his country’s most eminent contemporary philosopher, announced earlier this week that he would not accept the Sheikh Zayed Book Award
- Mr. Habermas was named the Cultural Personality of the Year, a distinction that carries a cash prize of 1 million dirhams.
- The award is named after Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the first president of the UAE when the federation of seven sheikhdoms became a country in 1971.

Traffic Ramaswamy dies in Chennai



- Social activist K R Ramaswamy, popularly known as Traffic Ramaswamy, died in Chennai. He was 86.
- The activist had been admitted to Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital in Chennai a few days ago for treatment. According to doctors, the activist, who had been on ventilator support, suffered a cardiac arrest and could not be revived.
- Over the course of his activism, Ramaswamy made several friends and enemies, so much so that his family disassociated with him following numerous threats.
- Over the course of his activism, Ramaswamy made several friends and enemies, so much so that his family disassociated with him following numerous threats.

V. Chandrasekar passed away



- Three-time National table tennis champion and former International paddler V. Chandrasekar passed away recently.
- He was the current president of Tamizhaga Table Tennis Association.
- He is a 1982 Arjuna Award winner.
- Chandrashekhar with the help of Seetha Srikanth, wrote his autobiography 'My fightback from Death's Door'.

V. Kalyanam passed away



- Mahatma Gandhi's former personal secretary V Kalyanam passed away.
- He was Gandhi's personal secretary from 1943 to 1948, when the Mahatma was assassinated.
- Kalyanam was preserving letters written by Gandhiji, a cheque bearing his sign and other literature associated with him.
- He was proficient in Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Tamil and English.
- He was a staunch follower of Mahatma Gandhi.
- He was also associated with Rajaji in the 1960s.

Bill and Melinda Gates file for divorce, end their 27-year-old marriage



- Bill Gates, the Microsoft co-founder, and his wife Melinda Gates filed for divorce on, May 3, after 27 years of marriage. The billionaire benefactors who are co-founders of one of the world's largest private charitable foundations, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, said they have come to an agreement on how to split their assets.
- However, the couple said they would continue to work jointly at the foundation. In similar tweets, Bill and Melinda Gates said they had taken the decision to end their marriage of 27 years.

Guinness World Record holder in the field of satellite launching administration student!



- Former President of the Republic late Dr. ABJ. The project to launch 100 satellites was launched on February 7 in Rameswaram to mark the Abdul Kalam Memorial Day.
- Monisha, the daughter of the Velmurugan-Valli couple from Davatanallur village near Andimadam in Ariyalur district, was also killed in the project.
- Monisha is currently in the Guinness Book of World Records for launching a lightweight satellite launch program. She is also featured in the World Book of Records, Asian Book of Records and Indian Book of Records.

Kuchipudi doyen Pasumarthy Keshav Prasad passes away



- The Kuchipudi village in Krishna district, where the Indian classical dance of the same name flourishes, has lost its ambassador, with the demise of the multi-faceted Pasumarthy Keshav Prasad (August 1952 - 2021). The doyen of Kuchipudi dance, he passed away on May 7 here.
- In April, he suffered a heart stroke while curating a classical dance festival here but survived. However, he lost the battle this time against COVID-19.

1980 Olympic Games goldwinning hockey stalwarts pass away



- MK Kaushik died in New Delhi due to Covid-19
- Kaushik was part of the gold-medal winning hockey team from 1980 Olympics



- Former India hockey player Ravinder Pal Singh, a member of the 1980 Moscow Olympics-winning side, passed away at a Lucknow hospital early. He was 61.
- A two-time Olympian – he was also part of the 1984 LA Olympics – the Sitapur-born Singh was only 20 when he became an Olympic gold medallist. A product of the Lucknow Sports Hostel and a contemporary of Mohammed Shahid, Singh was known for his speed and interception.

Himanta Biswa Sarma



- Himanta Biswa Sarma has been named as the 15th Chief Minister of Assam.
- He will replace the incumbent Sarbananda Sonowal.

South Sudan President dissolves Parliament as part of peace accord



- South Sudan's President Salva Kiir has dissolved Parliament, opening the way for lawmakers from opposing sides of the country's civil war to be appointed under a 2018 peace accord.

K R Gouri Amma passed away



- A former minister and an old-time communist leader K R Gouri Amma passed away in Thiruvananthapuram.
- She was born on July 14, 1919 in Alappuzha district.
- In 1957, when the first election to Kerala Assembly was conducted, Gouri Amma became the first revenue minister of the state.
- She had contested 17 elections in her life, and had won 13 of them.
- She held ministerial posts in six governments.
- Her vibrant political activism, fierce fights against the feudal system and strong stand taken for the women cause have garnered her the nickname '**Iron Lady**'.

Arun Kumar Singh takes over as Chairman of IGL



- Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL), the state-owned gas distributor, announced Arun Kumar Singh, Director (Marketing), Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) has taken over the additional responsibility as Chairman of the company.
- He has replaced P K Gupta, Director (Human Resources), GAIL (India), who has relinquished the charge upon completion of the two-year Chairmanship tenure of IGL by GAIL (India) Ltd.

T Rabi Shankar - fourth Deputy Governor



- The Government of India recently appointed T Rabi Shankar as the fourth Deputy Governor.
- The Reserve Bank of India is governed by the Central Board of Directors.
- The Central Board consists of Governor, four Deputy Governors, two finance ministry representatives and four directors of local boards.
- The other three deputy governors are Michael D Patra, who heads the all-important monetary policy department; Mukesh Kumar Jain, the commercial banker-turned-central banker; and Rajeshwar Rao.

K P Sharma Oli sworn in as Nepal Prime Minister for the third time



- K P Sharma Oli was sworn in as Nepal's Prime Minister for the third time, days after he lost a vote of confidence in Parliament.
- President Bidya Devi Bhandari administered the oath of office and secrecy to Oli, 69, at a ceremony at Shital Niwas, after he was reappointed to the post as the Opposition parties failed to secure majority seats in Parliament to form a new government.
- Oli, the Chairman of CPN-UML, lost a crucial trust vote in the House of Representatives.
- Oli will now have to take a vote of confidence at the House within 30 days, failing which, an attempt to form a government under Article 76 (5) of the Constitution would be initiated.
- He previously served as prime minister from October 11, 2015 to August 3, 2016 and again from February 15, 2018 to May 13, 2021.

Indian-American Neera Tanden appointed White House senior adviser



- Indian-American policy expert Neera Tanden has been appointed as a senior adviser to US President Joe Biden, two months after she withdrew her nomination as Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget due to stiff opposition from Republican senators.
- Tanden has been entrusted with two tasks - launch a review of the US Digital Service, and plan contingencies that could result from the Supreme Court's consideration of Republican lawsuits seeking to strike down the Affordable Care Act. Tanden, 50, is currently the president and CEO of a progressive think-tank, Center for American Progress (CAP). She expected to join the White House team.

Jacinda Ardern



- New Zealand Prime Minister, **Jacinda Ardern** has topped the World's 50 Greatest Leaders' list for 2021.
- The list was released by Fortune Magazine.
- The 'World's 50 Greatest Leaders' list for 2021 is the eighth edition of the annual list.
- This celebrates leaders, some well-known and others who aren't so familiar, who made a difference amid the "truly unprecedented times" of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Adar Poonawalla, the chief executive officer (CEO) of Serum Institute of India (SII) is the only Indian among the top 10 names.
- He is placed in the 10th spot.

Go First Airline

- Wadia Group-owned, GoAir has rebranded itself as 'Go First'.
- Its new motto is "You Come First".
- The decision to rebrand after 15 years is part of the company's attempt to operate the carrier in an ULCC (ultra-low-cost carrier) airline model, to tide over the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Professor MS Narasimhan



- Noted Indian mathematician, Professor MS Narasimhan has passed away.
- Professor Narasimhan, along with C. S. Seshadri, were known for their proof of the Narasimhan-Seshadri theorem.
- He is the only Indian to receive the King Faisal International Prize in the field of science.

Miss Universe 2020 - Andrea Meza



- Miss Mexico Andrea Meza has been crowned as the 69th Miss Universe 2020.
- Miss India's Adline Quadros Castelino made it to the Top 4.
- Brazil's Julia Gama is the first runner-up.
- Peru's Janick Maceta is the second runner-up.
- India's Adline Castelino and Dominican Republic's Kimberly Perez are third runner-up and fourth runner-up respectively.
- This year, the pageant was held in Miami, Florida in USA.
- Zozibini Tunzi of South Africa crowns her successor in the event.

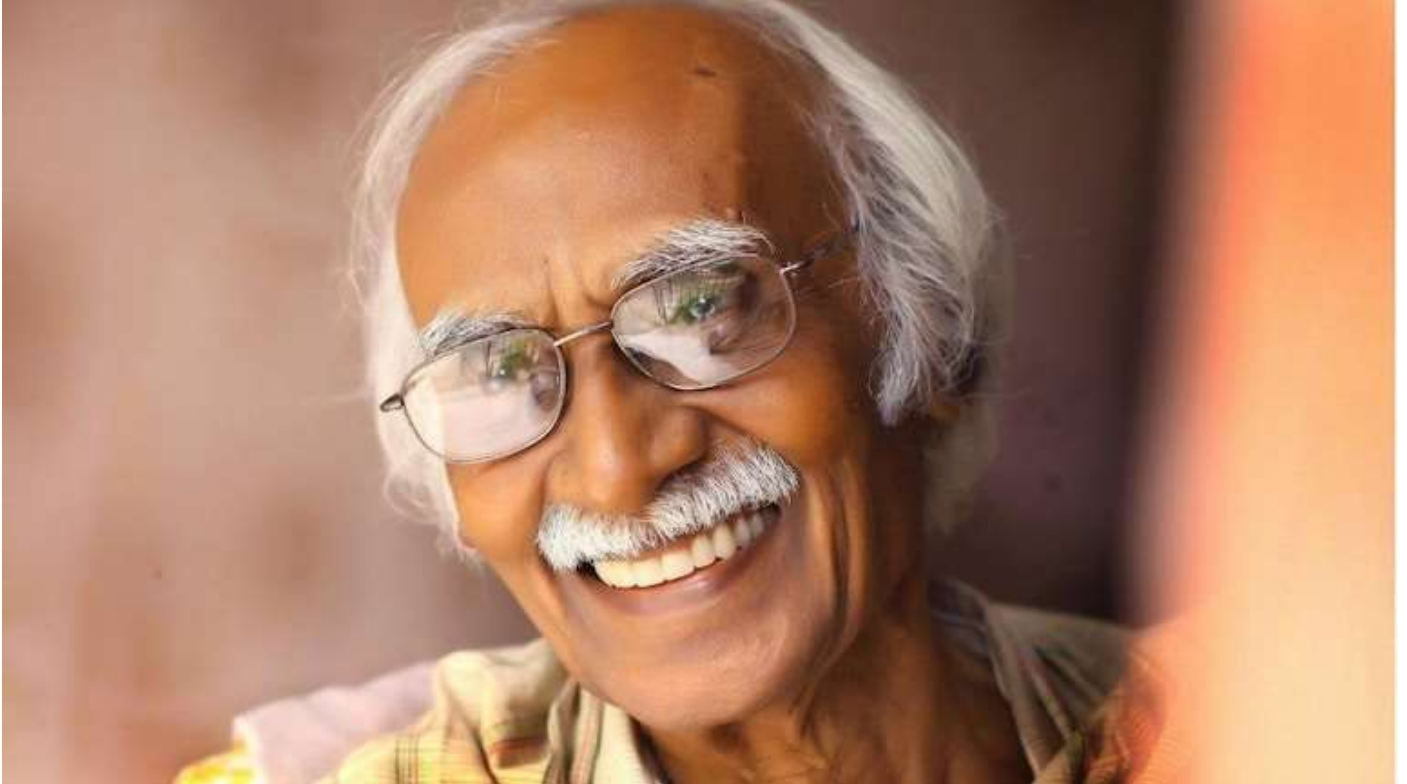
International Invincible Gold Medal

- International Invincible Gold Medal of this year has been conferred on Union Education Minister Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank.
- He has been recognised for his extraordinary commitment and outstanding service to humanity through his writings, social and illustrious public life.
- This honour will be given by the worldwide Maharishi Organization & its universities.

Gautam Adani - the second richest man in Asia

- Group founder and chairman Gautam Adani has now become the second richest man in Asia after overtaking China's Zhong Shanshan.
- Gautam Adani's net worth stands at \$67.6 billion, making him the second richest Asian.
- He becomes the 14th richest businessman in the world.
- Gautam Adani now remains just a spot behind Reliance Industries Limited chief Mukesh Ambani, who is Asia's richest man (net worth of \$76 billion).
- On the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Mukesh Ambani is currently on the 13th spot, just a place above Gautam Adani.

Writer Ki. Rajanarayanan



- Ki. Rajanarayanan the grand old man of modern Tamil literature and winner of Sahitya Akademi award in Tamil, died recently.
- He was 98.
- Born in Idaiseval near Kovilpatti, he was popularly known as Ki.Ra.
- His first short story 'Mayamaan' was published in **1959** in the magazine 'Saraswathi.'
- He won the Sahitya Akademi award in 1991 for his novel 'Gopallapurathu Makkal'.
- Ki.Ra's first novel was 'Gopallagramam'.
- His other works Karisal Kaatu Kaduthaasi and Andaman Naicker also demands mention.

World Choreography Award 2020

- The Emmy Award-nominated Indian choreographer Suresh Mukund, has won the 10th Annual 'World Choreography Award 2020', (also known as Choreo Awards).
- He becomes the first Indian to win the prestigious honour.
- He won the award in the 'TV REALITY SHOW/COMPETITION' category, for his work on the hit American TV reality show 'World of Dance'.
- Mukund is the director and choreographer of the Indian dance crew 'The Kings', which won the 2019 season of World of Dance.
- The World Choreography Awards, famously known as the "Oscars of Dance", takes place every year, in Los Angeles.

Yuan Longping



- Yuan Longping, a Chinese agricultural scientist died at age of 91.
- Yuan is celebrated in China as the “father of hybrid rice” for his contributions to agriculture.
- In 1970s, he developed “the first hybrid rice combination called Nan-you No.2
- In 2004, he was honoured with the World Food Prize.
- The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation honoured him with a prize in 2001.

Sunderlal Bahuguna



- Noted environmentalist and Padma Vibhushan Sunderlal Bahuguna, died recently.
- Sunderlal Bahuguna, was one among leaders leading the chipko movement.
- Sunderlal Bahuguna was a life-long environmentalist and was credited for founding the Chipko movement.
- Chipko movement was the splendid movement at the Garhwal region in the 1970s.
- It was a grassroots movement that swept through the with villagers hugging trees to stop them from being axed.
- Later in 1990s, he spearheaded the Anti-Tehri Dam movement and even went to jail for it in 1995.

2021 Templeton Prize



- The John Templeton Foundation has awarded the 2021 Templeton Prize to world-renowned ethologist and conservationist Jane Goodall.
- She is the first ethologist and the fourth woman to receive the prize since its inception in 1972.
- She receives this award for her ground breaking discoveries that have changed humanity's understanding of its role in the natural world.

Subodh Kumar Jaiswal appointed new Director of CBI



- IPS officer Subodh Kumar Jaiswal has been appointed new Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment based on the recommendation of the three-member panel of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Justice of India, NV Ramana and Leader of Opposition Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.
- Jaiswal, who is a 1985 batch officer, is currently serving as the Director General of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). He had earlier served as Director General of Police, Maharashtra.
- The appointment is for a period of two years from the date of assumption of charge.

Joe Biden nominates Indian American to a key administration post



- US President Joe Biden announced his intent to nominate Indian American **Arun Venkataraman** to a key position in his administration related to foreign commercial service.
- Venkataraman is the nominee for Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service and Assistant Secretary for Global Markets, Department of Commerce, the White House said.
- With over 20 years of experience in advising companies, international organisations and the US government on international trade issues, Venkataraman is currently the Counselor to the Secretary of Commerce, advising the department on trade and other international economic matters.

Olympic sprinter Lee Evans passes away



- Lee Evans was the record-setting sprinter from America.
- He wore a black beret in a sign of protest at the 1968 Olympics.
- He went onto a life of humanitarian work in support of social justice.
- Evans became the first man to crack 44 seconds in the 400 meters, winning the gold medal at the Mexico City Games in 43.86.

SpiceHealth wins Gold Stevie Award 2021

- SpiceHealth has won the Gold Award at the 2021 Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards.
- SpiceHealth is a healthcare company founded by the promoters of SpiceJet.
- It has won the award for 'Most Valuable Medical Innovation' under Covid19.

T.M. Kaliannan, last surviving member of Constituent Assembly, no more



- **The freedom fighter and Gandhian from erstwhile unified Salem district was 101**
- T.M. Kaliannan Gounder, the last surviving former member of the Indian Constituent Assembly, died at the age of 101 at Thiruchengode in western Tamil Nadu.
- Kaliannan Gounder was born on January 10, 1921 at Akaraipatti village in Namakkal. He joined the Indian National Congress at the age of 19 and participated in the Quit India movement. He was elected to the Indian Constituent Assembly while he was 28-years-old. He was reportedly the youngest member in the Constituent Assembly then and also a member of India's first provisional parliament.

Dr D Nageshwar Reddy



- Dr D Nageshwar Reddy, the chairman of AIG Hospitals, has won the Rudolf V Schindler Award from the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE).
- Rudolf V Schindler Award is the highest category in the prestigious Crystal Awards named after Dr Schindler.
- Dr Schindler is considered as "the father of gastroscopy."
- With this, Dr Reddy becomes the first Indian medical practitioner to win this award.
- He is also a Padma Bhushan awardee.
- Dr Reddy is one of the first to promote endoscopy in India.

New State Election Commissioner



- Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit has appointed retired IAS officer V. Palanikumar as the State Election Commissioner.
- Mr. Palanikumar will hold office for a period of two years from the date on which he assumes charge, a press release said.

First woman flight test engineer



- Squadron Leader, Aashritha V Olety is the first and only woman in the IAF qualified for the role, and as a flight test engineer.
- She will be responsible for evaluating aircraft and airborne systems before their induction into the armed forces.
- Aashritha V Olety, a native of Karnataka, has graduated as part of the 43rd Flight Test Course.

Tsang Yin-hung



- Hong Kong mountaineer, Tsang Yin-hung, recorded “world’s fastest ascent of Everest by a woman” in just 26 hours.
- Tsang climbed 8,848.86-metre mountain in a record time of 25 hours and 50 minutes in her third attempt.
- Earlier in 2017, Tsang became first Hong Kong woman to climbed the top.
- She broke the earlier record of Nepali women Phunjo Jhangmu Lama completed the climb in 39 hours 6 minutes.

ARUL IAS ACADEMY

Average monthly income for workers fell by 17%

- The COVID-19 pandemic has substantially increased informality in employment, leading to a decline in earnings for the majority of workers, and consequent increase in poverty in the country, according to '**State of Working India 2021: One Year of Covid-19**', a report brought out annually by Azim Premji University's Centre for Sustainable Employment, Bengaluru.
- This year's report, which covers the period March 2020 to December 2020, dwells on the impact of one year of COVID-19 on employment, incomes, inequality and poverty.

Foreign exchange reserves rise to Rs 44 lakh crore

- India's foreign exchange reserves increased to \$ 58,802 crore (approximately Rs. 44.10 trillion in value) in the week ended April 30. Foreign exchange reserves have risen for the fourth week in a row.

GST revenue ₹1.41 lakh crore

- Gross revenues from the Goods and Services Tax hit a record high of ₹1.41 lakh crore in April 2021 in India.
- This suggests economic activity may not yet be as badly affected amidst the ongoing second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, as last year.
- April's GST collections surpassed the previous highest collections of ₹1.24 lakh crore in March 2021 by 14%.
- This also marks the seventh month in a row since October that GST revenues have crossed ₹1 lakh crore.

Global FDI

- The global FDI dropped by 38% in 2020 (compared to 2019).
- This is a 15-year low (lowest since 2005).
- These are according to a new set of data released by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD),
- India became the 3rd Largest Recipient of FDI inflows in 2020 with an inflow of USD 64 Billion.
- China became the largest Recipient of FDI (USD 212 Billion) overtaking the United States (USD 177 Billion).
- Luxembourg finished 4th.

Special Long Term Repo Operation

- The Reserve Bank of India recently announced that it is to conduct the first Special Long Term Repo Operation (SLTRO) of Rs 10,000 crores for Small Finance Banks.
- The RBI will conduct the SLTRO for each month starting from May 2021.
- This is to continue till October 2021.
- The SLTRO will be valid for three years.
- All the Small Finance Banks shall participate in the SLTRO.
- However, these banks should make sure that the amount borrowed from RBI should be lent only to specified segments such as unorganised sectors and small business units.
- Reserve Bank of India launched this as one of the measure to protect the small and medium enterprises in the country.

'I choose my number' feature

- Jana Small Finance Bank has announced the launch of the "I choose my number" feature for all its customers across India.
- The bank will allow its customers to choose their favourite numbers as the last 10 digits of their bank account, savings or current.
- The allocation of the account number chosen by the customer will be subject to the availability of the requested number.

Jana Small Finance Bank

- It was founded on 24 July 2006.
- Its headquarters is at Bengaluru.
- The tagline of Jana Small Finance Bank is 'Paise Ki Kadar'.

Indian economy in the year 2022

- The United Nations, in its mid-year update of the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP), projected that the Indian economy would grow at 10.1% in the calendar year 2022.
- It was first released in January 2021.
- At a growth rate of 10.1% in 2022, India will be the fastest growing major economy in the world,
- The mid-year update said that India will register a -7.5% growth rate in calendar year 2021, after an estimated contraction of 6.8% in 2020.

Migration and Development Brief report

- The World Bank recently released its “Migration and Development Brief” report.
- The report said that the remittance flows to the low-income and middle-income countries were 1.9% lower in 2020 as compared to that of 2019.
- It was 540 billion USD in 2020 and 548 billion USD in 2019.
- Remittance is a sum of money sent from one country to other country.
- It can be business payments or remittances paid to a family member, friends.
- They help the currency to hold its value against a foreign currency.
- The World Bank says that the remittances are the second largest resource inflow for developing countries after FDI.
- As the flow of remittances increases, the currency value of receiving country increases and the value of foreign currency depreciates.

Note

- India has been the largest recipient of remittances since 2008.
- The largest remittance-sending country in 2020 was United States (USD68 billion).
- In 2019, India received 83.3 billion USD remittances.
- This fell by 0.2% in 2020.
- The remittance from UAE to India reduced by 17%.

DigiGold

- Airtel Payments Bank has launched “DigiGold”.
- It is a digital platform for customers to make investments in gold.
- This has been rolled out in partnership with SafeGold, a provider of digital gold.
- With DigiGold, Airtel Payments Bank’s saving account customers can invest in 24K gold using the Airtel Thanks app.
- Customers can also gift DigiGold to their family and friends, who have a savings account with Airtel Payments Bank.

India - the largest recipient of remittances in 2020



- India was the largest recipient of remittances in 2020, as per the report, “Migration and Development Brief “
- The report was released by the World Bank.
- India has been the largest recipient of remittances since 2008.
- The top five remittance recipient countries in 2020, in current US dollar terms, were
- **India, China, Mexico, the Philippines, and Egypt.**
- The largest remittance-sending country in 2020 was United States (USD68 billion).
- From India, the Remittances outflow in 2020 was USD 7 billion.
- It was against USD 7.5 billion in 2019.

Rise in Currency with Public

- According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) the currency with the public rose by Rs 35,464 crore to hit an all-time high of Rs 28.39 lakh crore.
- The currency with the public has been rising over the last 14-month period, since the pandemic broke out.
- Between March and June 2020, people withdrew cash heavily from banks in the wake of lockdown as dependence on cash transactions rose.
- Its pace slowed after July 2020, in one with decline of cases.
- However, it gathered momentum in February 2021 as the cases started rising.
- Since the government announced demonetisation on November 8, 2016, the currency with public has risen by 58 per cent.

High Rice and Wheat Exports

EXPORTS AND CENTRAL POOL OFFTAKE OF FOODGRAINS (in lakh tonnes)

	EXPORTS			CENTRAL POOL OFFTAKE	
	Wheat	Basmati	Non-basmati	Wheat	Rice
2012-13	65.15	34.60	66.88	332.09	326.37
2013-14	55.72	37.54	71.48	306.22	292.11
2014-15	29.15	37.02	82.26	252.54	306.73
2015-16	6.14	40.45	63.74	313.97	318.01
2016-17	2.62	40.00	68.13	289.98	327.80
2017-18	2.30	40.52	86.33	253.33	350.40
2018-19	1.83	44.15	75.34	314.71	344.35
2019-20	2.17	44.55	50.36	272.16	349.74
2020-21	20.86	46.32	130.88	360.56	557.78

Source: Departments of Commerce and Food & Public Distribution.

- In 2020-21, India exported close to 20 million tonnes (mt) of grains and also distributed a record 92 mt of rice and wheat.
- 92 mt was distributed from the central pool included,
- 60.32 mt under the National Food Security Act and other welfare schemes,
- 31.52 mt under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, Atma Nirbhar Bharat Package (for returning migrant labourers) and assorted programmes launched in the wake of Covid-19 lockdown.
- The total grain channelled through the public distribution system (PDS) in 2020-21 was nearly 50% higher than in normal years.

State's fiscal deficit at ₹92,305 crore for 2020-21

Strain on finances | With the intense lockdown in force to curb the second wave of COVID-19, the stress on Tamil Nadu's finances is likely to continue this fiscal too

(In ₹ crore)	2020-21	2019-20	Change in %
State's own tax revenue	1,01,140.09	1,01,211.94	-0.07
Total revenue receipts	1,69,012.27	1,73,898.03	-2.80
Total receipts	1,74,255.66	1,79,282.03	-2.80
Revenue expenditure	2,30,332.73	2,03,236.86	13.3
Total expenditure	2,66,560.73	2,32,320.64	14.7
Revenue deficit (Total revenue receipts - revenue expenditure)	-61,320.46	-29,338.83	-
Fiscal deficit (Total receipts - total expenditure)	-92,305.07	-53,038.61	-

SOURCE: COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL

- Tamil Nadu's fiscal deficit (the difference between total revenue and expenditure) stood at ₹92,305 crore for fiscal 2020-21, according to un-audited provisional figures from the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).
- Last fiscal, the State was hit by lower revenue collections due to the impact of the first wave of COVID-19 on the one hand and increasing expenditure to tackle the pandemic, on the other.
- As per provisional figures, the State's total receipts (including State's own tax revenue (SOTR) and the share of Central taxes among others and excluding borrowings) stood at ₹1,74,255.66 crore, while the total expenditure stood at ₹2,66,560.73 crore, resulting in fiscal deficit.
- The total receipts for 2020-21 declined by 2.8% from ₹1,79,282.03 crore in 2019-20.

FDI jumps 19% to \$59.64 billion in 2020-21: Government data

- Foreign direct investments (FDI) into the country grew 19 per cent to \$59.64 billion during 2020-21 on account of measures taken by the government on the fronts of policy reforms, investment facilitation and ease of doing business, the commerce and industry ministry said.
- Total FDI, including equity, re-invested earnings and capital, rose 10 per cent to the "highest ever" of \$81.72 billion during 2020-21 as against \$74.39 billion in 2019-20.
- "FDI equity inflow grew by 19 per cent in 2020-21 (\$59.64 billion), compared to 2019-20 (\$49.98 billion)," the ministry said in a statement. In terms of top investor countries, Singapore is at the top with 29 per cent share. It was followed by the US (23 per cent) and Mauritius (9 per cent) during the last fiscal.
- "Measures taken by the government on the fronts of FDI policy reforms, investment facilitation and ease of doing business have resulted in increased FDI inflows into the country," it said.
- It added that the inflows are an endorsement of India's status as a preferred investment destination among global investors.
- The computer software and hardware sector attracted the highest inflows with around 44 per cent share of the total FDI equity inflows. It was followed by construction (infrastructure) activities (13 per cent) and services sector (8 per cent), respectively.

FDI in 2020-21 in India



- India has attracted highest ever total FDI inflow of \$ 81.72 billion during the financial year 2020-21.
- It is 10% higher as compared to the last financial year 2019-20 (US\$ 74.39 billion).
- Gujarat is the top recipient state during the F.Y. 2020-21 with 37% share of the total FDI Equity inflows.
- It is followed by Maharashtra (27%) and Karnataka (13%).
- Majority of the equity inflow of Gujarat has been reported in the sectors,
 - 'Computer Software & Hardware' (94%) and
 - 'Construction (Infrastructure) Activities' (2%).

Reimbursement of GST components of Covid-19 related medical supplies

- Haryana and Gujarat have become the first few states to announce reimbursement of Goods and Services Tax (GST) components paid for Covid-19 related medical supplies.
- These medical supplies include oxygen concentrators, ventilators, medicines which would be donated free of cost to the state governments.
- Waiver from Haryana is till June 30, while that of Gujarat is valid till July 31.

'Ricochet Impact'

- According to International Monetary Fund (IMF), Emerging-market nations' struggle to move out of covid-19 pandemic-induced economic crisis can hurt developed nations.
- It said, crisis has "Ricochet impact" on the developed and advanced economies.
- IMF suggests that, developed nations should be doing all to ensure better & equitable access to vaccines and equitable recovery.
- Poorer nations are facing the risk of increasing interest rates even though, their economies aren't growing.
- International Monetary Fund is an international financial institution is headquartered in Washington, D.C.
- It comprises of 190 countries.

Special GST meet on States' compensation

- A special session of the Council will be held to discuss with the States how long the Compensation Cess levied under the GST regime needs to be extended beyond its current sunset date of July 2022, Ms. Sitharaman said.
- For this year's estimated shortfall in compensation cess collections to meet States' dues, the Centre will raise Rs. 1.58 lakh crore to recompense States via back-to-back loans, like it was done last year. The same formula adapted last year will be used this year. A rough estimate is that the Centre will have to borrow Rs. 1.58 lakh crore and lend it to States on a back-to-back basis.



6. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Inventions and updations of Science

Starship SN15 - SpaceX

- SpaceX successfully launched and landed its Starship SN15 without any explosion.
- The Starship SN15 became SpaceX's first Starship prototype that did not get destroyed during its test flight.
- All the previous SpaceX's Starship prototypes, SN8, SN9, SN10, and SN11, had exploded during or after landing.

Plasma Wave Emission - Voyager 1

- The Voyager 1 probe recently picked up humming sound.
- The scientists have named this as "Plasma Wave Emission".
- This humming sound has been interpreted as interstellar gas activity.
- Moving forward, the Voyager 1 will help scientists to understand the interactions between solar winds and the interstellar medium.
- The hum was of narrow frequency bandwidth.

Voyager 1

- The Voyager 1 was the first spacecraft to enter the heliosphere of the sun in 2012.
- The Voyager 1 was launched in 1977.
- It was launched to study the outer solar system and planets such as Saturn and Jupiter on its way.

DeepShake

- DeepShake is an earthquake early warning system that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to predict how the ground will move during a temblor.
- This will give several seconds' advance notice that the earthquake is coming.
- It uses a deep neural network, a type of AI learning,
- It aims to identify patterns from past earthquakes in order to predict how the shaking from a new quake will travel.
- DeepShake was developed by Daniel J. Wu, Avoy Datta, Weiqiang Zhu and William Ellsworth at Stanford University.

Utopia Planitia of Mars

- The Chinese Mission to Mars Tianwen 1 recently landed in the Utopia Planitia.
- It is the place where the Viking 2 lander touched down.
- Utopia Planitia is an Impact basin of Mars.
- Impact Crater is a circular depression in the surface of planets formed due to hypervelocity impact of smaller bodies.
- It may be due to meteors.

Tianwen 1 – Mars

Strides in space | China successfully landed a spacecraft on Mars for the first time on Saturday. Here is a timeline of key moments to this feat

October 2003: Shenzhou-5 carries first Chinese astronaut, Yang Liwei, into space, third country after Soviet Union and U.S. to do so

October 2007: Launch of first lunar mission Chang'e-1, fifth country to launch moon probe

September 2011: Launch of Tiangong-1, first space lab and precursor to plan for space station


November 2011: First Mars orbiter, Yinghuo-1, launched with Russia but fails to enter Mars orbit

June 2012: Shenzhou-9 docks with Tiangong-1, first manned docking for China's space programme

December 2013: Chang'e-3, third moon probe with rover, makes first soft landing on moon, third country to do so after U.S. and Soviet Union

September 2016: Launch of second space lab, Tiangong-2, accelerating space station plans

January 2019: Chang'e-4



Great leap: An artistic depiction of the Chinese Mars rover and lander. • XINHUA/AP

July 2020: Launch of first Mars mission, Tianwen-1, carrying orbiter, lander and rover

April 29, 2021: Long March-5B rocket carries Tianhe module into space, first of three parts of space station set to be completed in 2022; debris falls in Indian Ocean

May 15, 2021: Zhurong lander touches down on Mars, third country to achieve Mars landing after Soviet Union and the U.S.

- The Chinese Spacecraft Tianwen 1 landed on Mars successfully.
- It was launched in July 2020 on a Long March 5 rocket.
- Tianwen 1 has been orbiting Mars for three months now.
- The lander that carried the Zhurong rover touched down the Martian surface successfully.
- It landed in the Utopia Planitia region.

Mobile operators to conduct 5G trials

- The Department of Telecommunications recently allowed mobile operators to conduct 5G trials.
- The Telecom Department has allowed Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea and MTNL to conduct trials using 5G technology.
- These service providers have tied up with original equipment manufacturers such as Nokia, Ericsson, Samsung.
- The Reliance Jio is to conduct trials using its own technology.
- The Chinese companies have been kept out of the trials.

Tlatolophus galorum



- The Palaeontologists recently identified a new species of dinosaur called the Talkative Dinosaur.
- It was identified in the northern Mexico.
- The research is being conducted by the National Institute of Anthropology and History of Mexico.
- It is called “Tlatolophus galorum”.
- It is a herbivore dinosaur.
- The Talkative Dinosaurs had ears that could hear low frequency sounds.
- These dinosaurs emitted strong sounds for reproductive purposes and also to scare away predators.

Winchcombe Meteorite



- The National History Museum located in London is to display a piece of the meteorite that touched down the town of Winchcombe in Gloucestershire in the UK.
- The meteorite touched the UK soil in February 2021.
- The meteorite is 4.5 billion years old.
- This meteorite is rare as it is a carbonaceous meteorite.
- Out of the 65,000 meteorite types known to mankind, only thousand are of this type.
- The Winchcombe meteorite is similar to that retrieved by the Hayabusa 2 mission.

Zeolites in Oxygen Production

- The Air India recently airlifted 35 tonnes of Zeolite used in Oxygen Production plants from Rome to Bengaluru.
- Zeolites are used as adsorbent material in Pressure Swing Adsorption.
- An oxygen concentrator uses Zeolites to adsorb atmospheric nitrogen and then vents out the nitrogen.
- This leaves oxygen gas remaining to be used for patients.
- In high pressure, the surface area of zeolites increases and thus is capable of adsorbing large quantities of nitrogen.

Free Wi-fi now at 6,000 railway stations

- The railways has enabled free Wi-Fi at its 6000th station as the facility went live at Hazaribagh town of Jharkhand, the national transporter said.
- The railways provided Wi-Fi facility first at the Mumbai Railway station in 2016, reaching its 5000th station, at Midanpore in West Bengal.
- On May 15, Jarapada station in Angul District of Odisha was also provided with Wi-Fi facility.
- “The Wi-Fi facility at railway stations meets the objectives of the aspiring ‘Digital India’ programme of government of India. This will bridge the digital divide between the rural and urban citizens thereby increasing the digital footprint in the rural villages and also enhance the user experience,” the railways said.
- “Wi-Fi facility is being provided by Indian railways at 6,000 stations now,” it added.

Jupiter Icy Moon Explorer - European Space Agency

- The Jupiter Icy Moon Explorer of the European Space Agency recently entered into a critical sequence of tests.
- It is called JUICE.
- It is an interplanetary spacecraft developed by European Space Agency.
- It is under its development phase.
- The main contractor of the mission is Airbus Defence and Space.
- The JUICE Mission will study three Galilean Moon of Jupiter.
- They are Europa, Ganymede and Callisto.
- All these three moons have significant amount of water beneath their surfaces.
- The spacecraft is to be launched in June 2022.
- It will reach Jupiter in October 2029.
- It will reach Jupiter after five gravity assists.
- Gravity Assists is the use of the gravity of other planet or astronomical object to increase speed of a spacecraft or to alter its path.
- This is done to save the propellant and reduce expenses.

Simorgh supercomputer

- Iran recently launched its supercomputer called Simorgh.
- This supercomputer is hundred times more powerful than the previous Iranian supercomputers.
- The Supercomputer has been named after the phoenix like bird called the Simurgh.
- The Simorgh Supercomputer was developed by the Amir kabir University of Technology in Tehran, the capital of Iran.
- It is located at the Iranian High Performance Computing Research Centre.

Iron Dome - Israel

- The Hamas group from Gaza made an attack with rockets on Israel.
- These rockets were intercepted by Israeli Iron Dome.
- It was as if the rockets were hitting some invisible shield.

About

- It is an air defence system.
- It neutralises any missiles or rockets.
- It is a short-range ground air-to-air defence system.
- It is used to counter rockets, mortars, aircraft, helicopters, mortars artillery and unmanned vehicles.
- Iron Dome was deployed in 2011.

Undersea cable network

- Telecom operator Reliance Jio is constructing the largest international submarine cable system centred on India.
- It is partnered with global partners and submarine cable supplier Subcom to cater to increased data demand.
- The two submarine cable systems which the company plans to deploy will connect India with Asia Pacific markets (Singapore, Thailand & Malaysia) and others with Italy & Africa.

Eco-friendly electric cremation system



- IIT Ropar has developed a portable eco-friendly electric cremation system.
- It is one of its kind of technology that produces no smoke despite using wood for cremation.
- It is based on wick-stove technology.
- The cart has been developed in collaboration with the company Cheema Boilers Limited.

SBRIS Geo-5 Missile Warning Satellite

- The United Launch Alliance launched the Atlas V Rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida.
- The Atlas V rocket carried SBRIS Geo-5 Missile Warning Satellite.
- This Satellite will provide key capabilities in missile warning, battle space, missile defence.

Ultra-high-energy gamma rays

- Large High Altitude Air Shower Observatory (LHAASO) of China has recently detected dozen sources of ultra-high-energy gamma rays.
- LHAASO cosmic ray observatory has discovered 12 sources of ultrahigh-energy photons.
- It has also detected a photon with energy level of 1.4 peta-electron volt.
- They are the brightest Milky Way gamma ray sources discovered till date.
- LHAASO is a gamma-ray and cosmic-ray observatory located at Daocheng in Sichuan province of China.

VIPER Rover

- US space agency NASA has announced to send its first mobile robot to the Moon in 2023.
- Mobile robot will search ice and other resources on and below the surface of moon.
- This mission is an example showing “robotic science mission” and “human exploration” go hand in hand.
- Mobile robot is a part of Artemis programme.
- It will collect data from Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover (VIPER).
- It will help scientists in mapping the resources at South Pole of the lunar.

Amphotericin-B

- Several States and UTs have reported a shortage of Amphotericin-B drug that is used for treatment of the Mucormycosis or Black Fungus disease.
- Amphotericin B is an antifungal medication.
- It is used to treat serious fungal infections.
- It was isolated from *Streptomyces nodosus* in 1955 and came into medical use in 1958.
- It is typically given by injection into a vein.
- It slows down the growth of fungi that cause infection.
- It is listed in the World Health Organization’s (WHO’s) List of Essential Medicines, the safest and most effective medicines in a health system.

MCA21 version 3.0

- First phase of India's first mission mode e-governance project, MCA21 version 3.0 was launched.
- It was launched by Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Anurag Thakur.
- This version of MCA21 is data analytics driven.
- MCA21 is an online portal of corporate affairs ministry.
- Launched in 2006, the portal has made all the information related to company, accessible to stakeholders and general public.
- MCA21 version 3.0 makes use of new technologies to streamline corporate compliance and experiences of stakeholders.

Princess of Asturias Award

- Indian economist and Nobel Laureate, Amartya Kumar Sen, was conferred with "Princess of Asturias Award" in social sciences category.
- It is the Spain's top prize.
- Amartya Sen was selected for his best-known work - "Poverty and Famines".

US and Open Skies Treaty

- US administration led by Biden, does not seek to re-join Open Skies Treaty with Russia.
- The treaty is a key arms control agreement.
- It allows US and Russia to fly surveillance aircraft over their military facilities.
- According to US administration, US does not seek to re-join the pact because of Russia's failure to comply with it.
- Now, "New START treaty" is the only major arms control pact between both the countries.
- It was extended for five years recently by US.



7. NATIONAL NEWS

Activities which held up in India during May 2021

Helpline number for pregnant women

- The National Commission for Women recently launched the WhatsApp number for pregnant women.
- The helpline number is 9354954224.
- It is a “message only” helpline number.
- It will provide round the clock medical assistance to expectant mothers all over the country.
- National Commission for Women was established under the National Commission for Women Act in 1992.

New technique in collecting COVID-19 samples

- Rakesh Mishra, Director of Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) said that they devised a new dry swab technique for collecting COVID-19 samples.
- The dry swab technique of COVID-19 sample collection involves taking a nasal swab and transporting it in the dry state unlike the process using the viral transport medium.
- Viral Transport Medium (VTM) is the potential for further spread of the virus.
- The dry swab technique is safe, fast, cheap, and more accurate.

Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas emissions - Wipro

- Wipro announced its commitment to achieving Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2040.
- This is in line with the objective of the Paris Agreement to cap temperature rise to 1.5°C.
- It also set an intermediate target of a 55 per cent reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 in absolute emission levels compared to its base year of 2016-17.

One lakh tonnes of free food grain distributed so far under PMGKAY

- **In the first 10 days, grains have reached 2.03 crore of 80 crore beneficiaries: Food Ministry**
- Out of the 40 lakh tonnes of free food grain promised under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana for May, one lakh tonnes have been distributed so far, Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey.

Child Welfare Committees sensitised on those orphaned during the pandemic

- After an advisory from the Centre and a review meeting convened by the Supreme Court’s Juvenile Justice Committee a couple of days ago, the Child Welfare Committees (CWC) in Tamil Nadu have been sensitised on the care and protection of children who lost their parents to COVID-19.

Green panel allows Great Nicobar plan

- The Environment Appraisal Committee (EAC) - Infrastructure I of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has flagged serious concerns about NITI Aayog's ambitious project for Great Nicobar Island.
- The committee has, however, "recommended" it "for grant of terms of reference (TOR)" for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies, which in the first instance will include baseline studies over three months.

About the project for Great Nicobar Island:

- The proposal includes an international container transshipment terminal, a greenfield international airport, a power plant and a township complex spread over 166 sq. km. (mainly pristine coastal systems and tropical forests), and is estimated to cost ₹75,000 crore.

Cabinet approves ₹18,100 crore PLI scheme for battery storage

- The Union Cabinet approved the proposal of the Department of Heavy Industry for implementation of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme 'National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage' for achieving the manufacturing capacity of 50 GWh of ACC and 5 GWh of "Niche" ACC with an outlay of ₹18,100 crore.
- ACCs are the new generation of advanced storage technologies that can store electric energy either as electrochemical or as chemical energy and convert it back to electric energy as and when required.

Digital Transformation of Tribal Schools

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Microsoft signed a Memorandum of Understanding on joint initiative for Digital Transformation of Tribal Schools.
- This includes introduction of Ashram Schools and Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) in tribal areas.
- In the first phase of the programme, 250 EMRS are to be established.

Doordarshan plans to launch DD International to present 'India story'

- The state-owned broadcaster Doordarshan is planning to launch DD International to project India's voice globally on significant domestic and global issues.
- Doordarshan's parent body, Prasar Bharati, had floated a draft Expression of Interest (EOI) for the same on May 13th inviting comments from private players. The EOI will be finalised following these comments and floated to invite bids from the private players.
- The EOI document read that the objective is to "build a global presence for Doordarshan and to establish an international voice for India". It stated that the channel will present India's point of view on contemporary issues of both global and domestic significance.
- **The target** is to primarily "project India's point of view globally on contemporary issues of both global and domestic significance" and to "tell the India Story to a global audience".

Narada Bribery Case

- The Central Bureau of Investigation arrested the TMC Ministers of West Bengal, Subrata Mukherjee, Firhad Hakim, MLA Madan Mitra and Sovan Chattopadhyay (former Kolkata Mayor).
- In Narada Bribery Case, the state ministers were shown taking money in a video footage.
- Calcutta High Court had ordered a CBI probe against the sting operation in Narada Bribery case in March 2017
- CBI can investigate a crime in the state after the consent from the State Government.
- However, the Supreme Court or the High court shall order CBI to conduct investigation anywhere in the country.

Norms on imports of pulses

- The Government of India recently allowed free import of tur, moong and urad dal.
- All the three pulses have been put under non-restricted list.
- This is because their retail prices increased in the last few weeks due to low stock levels with the traders.
- Also, the Government of India has announced that the import consignments should be cleared strictly before November 30, 2021.
- India primarily imports these three pulses from Myanmar and African countries.

Jal Jeevan Mission - first instalment

- The Union Government released Rs 5,968 crores of rupees to implement the Jal Jeevan Mission.
- The funds were released to fifteen states.
- This is the first instalment of the four to be released in 2021-22.
- In 2021, the GoI allocated Rs 50,011 crores to Jal Jeevan Mission in its budget.
- Out of the total funds allocated under the Jal Jeevan Mission,
 - 93% are to be utilized for developing water supply infrastructure,
 - 2% in water quality monitoring and surveillance activities and
 - 5% on support activities.

SAMVEDNA

- SAMVEDNA is Sensitizing Action on Mental Health Vulnerability through Emotional Development and Necessary Acceptance.
- It is a toll-free helpline through which children affected during COVID-19 pandemic are provided counselling.
- The main objective of SAMVEDNA is to provide psychological first aid and emotional support to the children.
- The tele-counselling is to be provided to children in three categories.
 - Children who have lost their parents due to COVID-19
 - Children who are in quarantine in COVID care centres
 - Children who have COVID-19 positive parents or family members.

The State of Working India (SWI) report

- The State of Working India (SWI) 2021 was brought out by the researchers at Azim Premji University of Karnataka.
- The annual report documented the impact of one year of Covid-19 in India, on jobs, incomes, inequality, and poverty.
- According to the report,
 - The pandemic had forced people out of their formal jobs into casual work, and led to a severe decline in incomes.
 - There is a sudden increase in poverty over the past year.
 - Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi, contributed disproportionately to job losses.

Six-month programme on rehabilitation of persons with disabilities

- A six-month programme on rehabilitation of differently-abled people was launched by the government. The Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) programme aims to create a pool of grassroots rehabilitation workers at the community level, who can work alongside the ASHA and anganwadi workers to handle cross-disability issues and facilitate the inclusion of the persons with disabilities in the society.
- The content and curriculum of the course have been developed by a committee of experts drawn from India and Australia.
- The programme has been designed to provide competency-based knowledge and skills among these workers to enhance their ability for successfully discharging their duties. These workers will be called “divyang mitra” (friends of persons with disabilities).

57.25 lakh domestic air passengers in April, 26.8% lower than March: DGCA

- Around 57.25 lakh domestic passengers travelled by air in April, which is 26.8 per cent lower than 78.22 lakh who travelled in March, Indian aviation regulator DGCA said.
- The drop in domestic air traffic in April is due to the second wave of the pandemic that has badly hit India and its aviation sector.
- While IndiGo carried 30.83 lakh passengers in April, a 53.9 per cent share of the total domestic market, SpiceJet flew 7.05 lakh passengers, which is 12.3 per cent share of the market, according to data shared by the DGCA.

Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY Aarogyasri

- The National Health Authority (NHA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the state government of Telangana to implement the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) with immediate effect.
- Telangana has integrated the Ayushman Bharat scheme with its state scheme ‘Aarogyasri’.
- The new name for the converged scheme is Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY Aarogyasri.
- With Telangana now implementing the Ayushman Bharat Scheme, the programme now includes a total of 33 states and union territories.
- Under the scheme, the eligible beneficiaries will be entitled to avail free healthcare coverage of up to Rs 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation.
- Still West Bengal is not implementing this scheme as it has its own scheme.

State of Healthcare in India

- The report titled 'State of Healthcare in India – Indian cities through the lens of healthcare' ranks health infrastructure in the country's most urbanised eight cities.
- Pune outranks other cities on health parameters.
- Ahmedabad scores the highest on sanitation and solid waste management and the lowest on water quality and availability
- Bengaluru has the highest number of hospital beds, as compared to other top eight cities
- Hyderabad scores low on number of hospital beds and ease of living, but fared well in air quality, sanitation and solid waste management
- Chennai topped in air quality, looming water scarcity pulls down the overall rank
- Kolkata sits at the lower end due to inadequate hospital beds and ease of living, but fared well in air quality and water availability
- Delhi NCR ranks the lowest, as inadequate number of hospital beds, poor air quality and low score on the liveability index pulls down the city's ranking.

As new IT rules come into force on May 26, Facebook says it aims to comply

- Social media giant Facebook said it aimed to comply with the provisions of India's new IT rules of **intermediaries**, which come into effect. The U.S.-headquartered firm added that it continued to discuss the issues related to the new guidelines with the government.
- The Centre on February 25 notified the '**The Information Technology (Guidelines for Intermediaries and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021**', which make it mandatory for platforms such as WhatsApp, Signal and Telegram to aid in identifying "originator" of "unlawful" messages, while also requiring social media networks to take down such messages within a specific time frame, set up grievance redressal mechanism as well as assist government agencies in investigation. The 'significant social media intermediary' were given three months for compliance.

National Mission on use of Biomass

- Union Ministry of Power has announced to set up a 'National Mission on use of Biomass' in coal based thermal power plants.
- This decision was taken to address issue of air pollution caused due to farm stubble-burning.
- Mission will be administered by Steering Committee.
- The Steering Committee is headed by Power Secretary consisting of all stakeholders, representatives from Petroleum and New & Renewable Energy Ministries.

One Stop Centre Scheme



- Union Ministry of Women and Child Development Ministry is to set up One-Stop Centres (OSCs) in 10 missions across 9 countries.
- It will be set to curb the cases of violence against women.
- One OSC will be set up each in Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, UAE, Qatar, Canada, Australia and Singapore.
- Two OSCs will be set up in Saudi Arabia.
- Also 300 OSCs will be set up across India.
- All OSCs will be supported by Women and Child Development Ministry while, Ministry of External Affairs will operate it.
- Centrally sponsored One Stop Centre Scheme will be funded through Nirbhaya Fund.

New Consulate General of India in Maldives

- Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the opening of a new Consulate General of India in Addu City, the Maldives in 2021.
- India and Maldives share ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious and commercial links steeped in antiquity.
- Maldives occupies an important place in the 'Neighbourhood First Policy' and the 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision of the Government of India.

African Violet plant in Mizoram



- A new species of plant, called African violet, was discovered by Indian Institute of Science education and research (IISER), Bhopal.
- African violet is found in parts of Mizoram and adjoining areas in Myanmar.
- IISER Bhopal described new species as “*Didymocarpus Vickifunkiae*”.
- They are considered as an endangered species.

SeHAT OPD Portal

- Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh, has launched ‘Services e-Health Assistance & Tele-consultation (SeHAT) OPD Portal.
- Portal has been launched to provide telemedicine services in Armed Forces.
- Service will be provided by defence services doctors who are on regular duties.
- Persons aged 75 and above can consult without waiting.

UNITE AWARE

- India will launch ‘UNITE AWARE’, a mobile tech platform for the United Nations Peacekeepers to improve their safety and security in the line of duty.
- It will be launched during India’s United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Presidency term in August 2021 (Presidency of the UNSC Council is held by each of the members in turn for one month).
- UNITE AWARE will increase the situational awareness of the peacekeepers by providing terrain-related information.

First research reactor on PPP model

- The department of atomic energy (DAE) announced that it will be constructing the country’s first research reactor on public-private partnership (PPP) model.
- The research reactor, which will be designed by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), will produce radioisotopes.
- It is expected to bring down the costs of nuclear medicine that is used in cancer treatment in India.
- DAE will provide the upfront capital and build the plant through its subsidiary – Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd.

YUVA Scheme

- The Ministry of Education has launched “YUVA- Prime Minister’s Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors”.
- YUVA is an Author Mentorship programme which will train young and budding authors aged below 30 years in order to promote reading, writing and book culture in India.
- It will also project India and Indian writings worldwide.
- YUVA stands for “Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors”.
- The scheme is in line with PM’s vision of encouraging young writers to write about India’s freedom struggle.
- The scheme will be implemented by “National Book Trust of India” under the Ministry of Education.

Dharavi model

- Dharavi is a slum in Mumbai that reported some 99 COVID-19 cases every day in April 2021.
- But, in last some days, number of cases is declining gradually.
- According to officials, ‘Dharavi model’ of COVID-19 management and vaccination drive have helped in containing second wave in the slum.
- The Dharavi model involves 4Ts which stands for “tracing, tracking, testing and treating”.
- This strategy was also praised by World Health Organisation (WHO) during first wave of COVID-19.
- Under the model, Door-to-door screening of people is conducted with symptoms, aggressive testing and regular screening.

Panel to examine online gaming for GST

- The Government has constituted a panel of state ministers to examine valuation of services by online gaming to levy goods and services tax (GST).
- They will also examine services by casinos and race courses.
- In India, online gaming is currently in nascent stages which thus lead to issues revolving around taxation and valuation.
- Thus, the panel has been set up to understand, examine and resolve uncertainty on valuation of services by these companies.
- Panel will submit its report, in six months, to GST Council headed by Union Finance Minister and comprising state Finance Ministers.

Issues in Lakshadweep

- Administrator of Lakshadweep, Praful Khoda Patel, is being opposed by people of the union territory and politicians over policies he drafted in recent time.
- Lakshadweep Development Authority (LDA) was recently created with extensive powers such as eviction of land owners.
- The legislation provides extensive powers to that authority to prepare comprehensive development plans for any area and to remove or relocate people living in Lakshadweep from their property for the purpose of town planning or any developmental activity.
- This is being criticised as they think LDA was pushed by real estate lobby against the will of islanders.
- Also, the Prevention of Anti-Social Activities Act (PASA) was introduced in January 2021.
- According to it, person can be detained without any public disclosure for a period of up to one year.

Note

- Praful Khoda Patel, an Indian politician, is currently holding the post as Administrator of Union Territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep.
- He is the 1st administrator of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.
- He was made administrator of Lakshadweep in December 2020 by unfollowing the earlier practice of appointing only IAS officers as administrator.
- Administrator is appointed by the President of India.

DBT for Mid-Day-Meal Scheme

- Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', has approved proposal to provide monetary assistance through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to students under Mid-Day meal scheme.
- The Central government will provide additional funds of Rs 1200 crore to State Governments and UT Administrations to implement the monetary assistance programme.
- It will be a one-time special welfare measure to benefit children studying in class I to VIII across 11.20 lakh Government and Government aided schools in India.



8. INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Activities which held up out of Nation

India Russia 2+2 ministerial dialogue

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Russian President Vladimir Putin recently agreed to establish “2+2 Ministerial Dialogue”.
- The “2+2 Ministerial” dialogue is held between the defence ministers and foreign ministers.
- India holds similar dialogues with US, Australia and Japan.
- Russia is the first non-QUAD member with which India is to hold the dialogue.
- In 2021, President Vladimir Putin is to visit India to hold the India-Russia bilateral summit.
- The summit is alternatively held in India and Russia.
- Currently, Russia is the largest Defence Supplier of India.

Global Electric Vehicle Outlook

- The International Energy Agency recently released the Global Electric Vehicle Outlook.
- According to the report,
- Three million new electric cars were registered in 2020.
- This was 41% higher than those registered in 2019.
- South Korea has the largest number of hydrogen car distribution in the world.
- Around 30% of new vehicle sales in 2030 will be Electric in India.

World's Oldest Water at Canada

- Barbara Sherwood Lollar, the geochemist had spent much of her career wandering around some of the deepest mines in the world, finding and extracting water that was millions of years old.
- The research, published in Nature Communications, states that the Canadian mine water extracted by her in 2009, to be 1.6 billion years old.
- This is the oldest to be found on our planet.

Walmart to donate 20 oxygen-generating plants, cryogenic containers to India

- Walmart will donate up to 20 oxygen-generating plants and 20 cryogenic containers to India for the storage and transportation of the life-saving gas, and also provide USD 2 million to non-governmental organisations to help them fight the devastating surge in coronavirus cases, the American retail giant has announced.

Modi, Johnson hold virtual summit; UK PM announces 1 bn pound trade deal



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a virtual summit with his British counterpart Boris Johnson with an aim to further bolster bilateral ties in a range of areas including healthcare and trade, as the UK Prime Minister announced GBP 1 billion worth of UK-India trade and investment.
- According to a statement from Johnson's office, "more than 6,500 new jobs will be created around the UK thanks to the one billion pounds of new UK-India trade and investment announced by the Prime Minister."

China indefinitely suspends strategic economic dialogue with Australia

- China "indefinitely" suspended all activity under the China-Australia Strategic Economic Dialogue.
- This recent trade sanctions have affected several key Australian industries including wine, barley and coal.

Chinese Rocket falls into Indian Ocean



- On April 28, 2021, China launched the Long March 5B rocket.
- The rocket carried the Tianhe core module of China space station.
- The Tianhe core module weighed 22.5 tonnes, one of the heaviest space modules.
- The first stage began to decay due to atmospheric drag.
- The rocket fell in the Indian Ocean near the Maldives.



Israel threatens Gaza with ground attack amid air strikes

- The **Gaza-Israel conflict** is a part of the localized Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but is also a scene of power struggle between regional powers including Egypt, Iran and Turkey together with Qatar, supporting different sides of the conflict in light of the regional standoff between Iran and Saudi Arabia on one hand and between Qatar and Saudi Arabia on the other, as well as crisis in Egyptian-Turkish relations.
- The conflict originated with the election of the Islamist political party Hamas in 2005 and 2006 in the Gaza Strip and escalated with the split of the Palestinian Authority Palestinian government into the Fatah government in the West Bank and the Hamas government in Gaza and the following violent ousting of Fatah after Fatah lost the election to Hamas.
- Palestinian rocket attacks on Israel, Israeli airstrikes on Gaza, and the joint Egyptian-Israeli blockade of Gaza have exacerbated the conflict.
- The international community considers indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian structures that do not discriminate between civilians and military targets illegal under international law.

Cranes return to Ireland after 300 years



- The Cranes that have been a part of Irish folklore (traditional stories and beliefs) were recently spotted in Ireland.
- The birds were spotted in the country during their breeding season after three hundred years.

Cranes

- The Cranes were extinct in Ireland in 1700.
- This was mainly due to the destruction of their habitats.
- They construct platform nests in shallow water.
- They lay only two eggs at a time.
- They are the world tallest flying birds.
- They are four feet tall.

Bangladesh arrests woman investigative journalist under colonial-era official secrecy law

- A senior Bangladeshi woman journalist, known for her investigative reporting, was arrested on charges of violating a colonial-era official secrecy law, the police said, triggering protests by the rights groups and her colleagues.
- Rozina Islam, a senior reporter of Bangla daily Prothom Alo, the largest daily newspaper based on circulation, was detained for over five hours by the Health Ministry officials for allegedly clicking a picture of a document with her cell phone without permission. She was later arrested by the police.
- The ministry filed a case against her at around midnight under the 1923 Official Secrets Act while she spent her night under the police custody, the police said.

Study on long working hours

- A study conducted by the World Health Organisation and the International Labour Organisation recently found that the long working hours kills hundreds of people every year.
- The study has included 22 studies on strokes and 37 studies on ischemic heart diseases.
- Also, it collected data from more than 2,300 surveys in 194 countries.
- Working 55 hours a week increases risks of strokes by 35% and increased the risk of ischemic heart disease by 17%.

Anti-dumping investigation against China, Vietnam and Thailand

- The Ministry of Commerce has recently initiated the anti-dumping investigation against China, Vietnam and Thailand.
- The investigation is against the import of solar cells from these countries.
- The investigation has been started by the Ministry following the application submitted by the Indian Solar Manufacturer Association.
- The solar cells that are being imported from China are 15% to 20% less expensive as compared to that of the solar cells produced in India.
- This is affecting the business of solar modules produced using locally available raw materials.
- Ultimately it is increasing the price of domestic solar modules.

US shares 80 million vaccine doses

- The US President announced that the US will be sharing 80 million vaccine doses globally over the next six weeks.
- The 80 million doses pledged by the US will include,
 - 20 million doses of Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson as well as AstraZeneca Vaccine.
 - 60 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

China completes strategic Tibet highway near Arunachal border

- China has completed the construction of a strategic highway through the Brahmaputra Canyon.

China's Border Infrastructure push – Strategic significance:

- The strategically significant highway through the world's deepest canyon is in Tibet along the Brahmaputra river.
- It passes through the Grand Canyon of the Yarlung Zangbo river, as the Brahmaputra is called in Tibet.
- It enables greater access to remote areas along the disputed border with Arunachal Pradesh in India.
- The construction began in 2014 and is part of a wider infrastructure push in border areas in Tibet.
- In 2021, a village built 4-5 km into what India sees as its territory in Arunachal was seen via satellite images.

Sri Lanka Parliament passes Bill on China-backed Port City

- The Sri Lankan Parliament passed a controversial bill on laws governing the China-backed Colombo Port City.

Details:

- The \$1.4-billion Colombo Port City was launched in 2014 during the previous term of the Rajapaksa government, when Chinese President Xi Jinping visited the nation.
- It is currently being built on land reclaimed alongside Colombo's iconic seafont.
- Environmentalists and fisherfolk have opposed the move.

Island of Sulawesi



- A new study revealed that the oldest-known hand stencil drawing is degenerating at an 'alarming rate' due to climate change.
- The island of Sulawesi in Indonesia consists of a cave art that dates back more than 45,000 years.
- The ancient cave paintings drawn in red and mulberry pigments is considered the earliest known narrative scene in prehistoric art.

Biggest Nuclear Power Project – Russia and China

- Russia and China held a ground-breaking ceremony of their biggest Nuclear Power Project.
- Under this project, Moscow will jointly build four high-power nuclear power plants in two Chinese cities.
- The Tianwen Nuclear Power Plant, of which the 7 and 8 units will be built, is located in the city of Lianyungang in Jiangsu Province, China.
- The Xudapu Nuclear Power Plant, of which 3 and 4 units will be jointly built by China and Russia, is located in Xingcheng in Liaoning Province.
- With the nuclear power project, China and Russian have successfully firmed up their close ties as they have been facing mounting adversity from the United States and the European Union on various issues.

FakeBuster

- It is a 'Deepfake' detection tool developed by the Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar and Monash University (Australia).
- FakeBuster can identify imposters attending a virtual conference without anybody's knowledge.
- It enables the organizer to detect if another person's video is manipulated or spoofed during a video conferencing.
- They can even be used during online examinations and job interviews.

IEA releases a landmark special report

- 'Net Zero by 2050 - A Roadmap for the Global Energy Sector' report is released by International Energy Agency.
- This special report is the world's first comprehensive study of how to transition to a net zero energy system by 2050.
- That system will be ensuring stable and affordable energy supplies, providing universal energy access, and enabling robust economic growth.
- It sets out a cost-effective and economically productive pathway, resulting in a clean, dynamic and resilient energy economy dominated by renewables like solar and wind instead of fossil fuels.
- The report also examines key uncertainties, such as the roles of bioenergy, carbon capture and behavioural changes in reaching net zero.

Cheetahs to be reintroduced in India

- Cheetah will be introduced at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh in November 2021.
- India had spotted its last Cheetah in Chhattisgarh in 1947.
- After the death of last Cheetah, it was declared extinct in 1952.
- Supreme Court of India had also given its approval in January 2020 to introduce African cheetahs in a suitable habitat in India.
- Cheetah Reintroduction Project was prepared by Wildlife Institute of India (WII).

New land regulations spark protests in Lakshadweep

- Lakshadweep Administrator Praful Khoda Patel is facing opposition from the people of the union territory and politicians – both from within Lakshadweep and neighbouring Kerala – over policies introduced by him since his appointment in December 2020.

The contentious regulations include:

- The Draft Lakshadweep Development Authority Regulation 2021 (LDAR) – which gives the administrator powers to remove or relocate islanders from their property, for town planning or any developmental activity.
- The Prevention of Anti-Social Activities Act (PASA), introduced in January 2021, under which a person can be detained without any public disclosure for a period of up to one year.
- The draft panchayat notification, where a member with more than two children is disqualified from being a member.

Mount Nyiragongo



- DR Congo's Mount Nyiragongo volcano erupted recently.
- Mount Nyiragongo is an active stratovolcano with an elevation of 3,470 m in the Virunga Mountains.
- Mount Nyiragongo volcano is located 10 km from Goma.
- It is located inside Virunga National Park, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- Nyiragongo and nearby Nyamuragira are together responsible for 40 percent of Africa's historical volcanic eruptions.

Invasive species in Africa

- Recent study shows that, Invasive species are costing African agriculture about \$3.66 trillion per year.
- It equals to 1.5 times of the combined gross domestic product of all African countries.
- It was found that, a moth known as *Phthorimaea absoluta* caused most of the losses.
- This moth affects tomato plants and incur an estimated cost of \$11.4 billion each year.
- Other insects inflict about \$21.5 billion worth of crop losses per year to mango, maize, cassava and citrus crops.

Amazon to buy MGM Studios for \$8.45 billion

- Amazon is buying MGM Studios for \$8.45 billion, the companies announced, marking Amazon's most ambitious move yet into the entertainment business.
- The deal is Amazon's second-largest acquisition. It paid \$13.7 billion for Whole Foods in 2017.
- The deal is the second-largest acquisition in Amazon's history, behind its \$13.7 billion purchase of Whole Foods in 2017.

Indo-Israel Agriculture Action Plan

- India and Israel have inked a three-year joint work programme which will continue till 2023.
- Joint work programme was initiated with the aim of enhancing cooperation in agriculture.
- Under new work programme,
- 13 Centres of Excellence (CoEs) were to be set up to make Indian farmers aware of Israeli farm and water technologies.
- A model ecosystem in agriculture called Villages of Excellence (VoE) will also be created across eight states within 75 villages.
- "India and Israel started the bilateral relations in agriculture sector in 1993.
- The new programme is 5th Indo-Israel Agriculture Action Plan (IIAP).

"Fully digital border" Britain

- This is part of a wider overhaul of the country's immigration system, which will also include the introduction of a points-based migration system.
- The move means those coming to Britain without a visa or immigration status will need an Electronic Travel Authorisation.
- Digital identity checks will also be used to reduce the need to visit visa application centres.
- Digitising the border will mean officials "can now count who is coming in and out of the country and whether they have permission to be there".

Lithuania quits China's 17+1



- Lithuania quit China's 17+1 Cooperation between forum China and Central and Eastern European Countries (China-CEEC).
- It has also urged fellow EU members to pursue a much more effective 27+1 approach and communication with China.
- China-CEEC was founded in 2012 in Warsaw.
- Earlier, it was known as 17+1.
- But after Lithuania quits it in May 2021 it is known as 16+1.

Smokers worldwide Count

- Global Burden of Disease collaboration has published studies on number of smokers worldwide.
- As per the study, number of smokers surged to 1.1 billion in 2019.
- As per study, India had about 2 crores smokers aged 15-24 in 2019.
- It is the second highest number of tobacco smokers worldwide, while China is at first.
- India also witnessed highest increase of male smokers since 1990 in age group 15-24.

Sacrificial pits in China

- A sacrificial pit was recently discovered at Sanxingdui Ruins Site in China.
- According to National Cultural Heritage Administration, Chinese archaeologists found six new sacrificial pits and about 500 items at Sanxingdui Ruins in Sichuan Province.
- They date back to 3,000 years.
- Archaeologists have found gold masks, gold foil, miniature ivory sculptures, bronze trees, bronze masks, carbonized rice and seeds in four of the six pits.
- Sanxingdui is an archaeological site and a major Bronze Age culture of China.

9. OTHER STATE NEWS

Activities which held up in other states of India

Botanists spot new bryophyte species in Kerala

- A new species of moss of the genus *Bryocrumia* has been named after the Malabar region of Kerala from where it was spotted.
- *Bryocrumia malabarica*, discovered in the Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary along the Western Ghats, is special, say the botanists responsible for its discovery. This tiny bryophyte is only the second species to be identified in the genus *Bryocrumia* which has for long thought to be monotypic - that is, represented by just one species.

Supreme Court declares Maratha quota law unconstitutional

- A five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court unanimously declared a Maharashtra law which provides reservation benefits to the Maratha community as unconstitutional.
- This is because the particular community is taking the quota limit in the State in excess of 50%.
- The Supreme court also states that the separate reservation for the Maratha community violates Articles 14 (right to equality) and 21 (due process of law).
- The Supreme Court struck down the findings of the Justice N.G. Gaikwad Commission which led to the enactment of Maratha quota law.
- The court also set aside the Bombay High Court judgment which validated the Maharashtra State Reservation for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) Act of 2018.
- The High Court in June 2019, reduced the quantum of reservation for Marathas from the 16% recommended by the Gaikwad Commission to 12% in education and 13% in employment.
- The Supreme Court now concluded that even the reduced percentages of reservation granted by the High Court were ultra vires.

Kerala Assembly Elections | Social demographics shaped the elections

Table 1: Vote by social demography

	Voted UDF	Voted LDF	Voted NDA
Non-literate	36 (-11)	57 (13)	4 (<0)
Upto primary level	39 (-1)	46 (2)	14 (1)
Upto matric level	42 (3)	44 (-4)	13 (1)
College and above	37 (-1)	46 (10)	12 (-7)
Up to 25 years	37 (7)	48 (10)	10 (-13)
26-35 years	33 (-10)	52 (11)	11(-2)
36-45 years	40 (-4)	44 (4)	14 (-1)
46-55 years	41(4)	43 (3)	13(-4)
56 years and above	42 (5)	43 (-5)	12 (4)
Female	41 (-2)	45 (2)	11 (1)
Male	38 (4)	46 (3)	14(-5)
Poor	30 (-4)	53 (4)	15 (3)
Lower	36 (-3)	46 (6)	15 (<0)
Middle	46 (6)	41 (1)	10 (-9)
Rich	47 (2)	41 (4)	9 (-8)

Note: Figures are percentages, the rest of the respondents voted for other parties/candidates | The figures in parenthesis are the change from 2016. Source: Lokniti-CSDS post-poll surveys in Kerala during the 2021 and 2016 Assembly elections

- Lokniti-CSDS post-poll survey data indicate that the LDF's vote share saw a significant improvement among select social group

First Agricultural Export Facilitation Centre

- The Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture and NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) recently launched the first Agricultural Export Facilitation Centre in Pune.
- The Centre will aid in boosting the agricultural and food exports of the state of Maharashtra.
- The state is
 - One of the largest producers of onions.
 - The leading producer in pulses.
 - The second largest coarse cereals producer.
 - The second largest producer of soya bean, sugarcane and cotton.
 - The third largest producer of sunflower.

Legislative Council - West Bengal

- The West Bengal government will set up Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad).
- For setting up the Council, a Bill has to be introduced in the Assembly and then a nod from the Governor is required.
- In West Bengal, the Upper House existed till 1969.
- Under Article 169 of the constitution, Parliament may by law create or abolish the second chamber in a state if the Legislative Assembly of that state passes a resolution to that effect by a special majority.

Pinarayi Vijayan takes oath as Kerala Chief Minister for 2nd time



- Governor Arif Mohammed Khan administered the oath of office to 76-year-old Vijayan. It is the second stint of the Marxist veteran in the top office.
- Along with Vijayan, 20 ministers of the new Kerala cabinet, including NCP's AK Saseendran, Indian National League's (INL) Ahammad Devarkovil, R Bindu and PA Mohammed Riyas, also took oath.
- Tamil Nadu Minister Thangam Tennarasu attended the inauguration ceremony of the Kerala Cabinet.

Karnataka ranks first in establishing Health & Wellness

- Karnataka has emerged as the best state and is ranked number one in establishing health and wellness centres.
- This is done under the Ayushman Bharat Program, to provide comprehensive primary healthcare in rural areas.
- It said the union government had set a target of establishing 2,263 HWC sub-centres.
- The state has upgraded 3,300 centres till March 31.
- This is 146 per cent more than the set target.

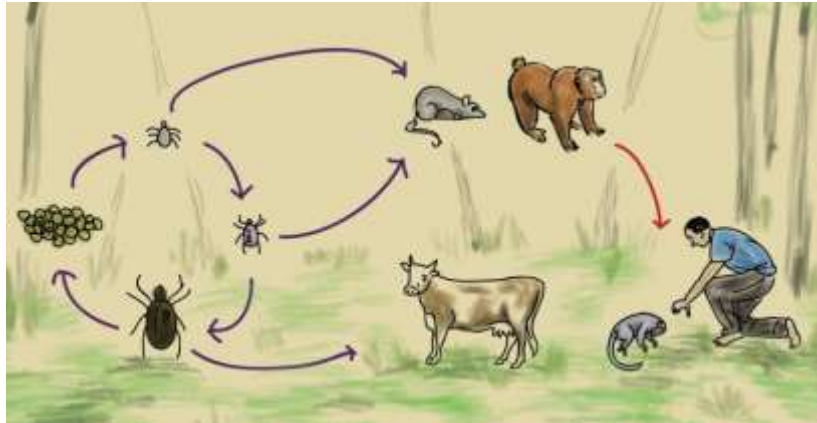
Smart City Mission's schemes - Jharkhand

- Jharkhand has clinched the first position in the progress of the implementation of the Smart City Mission's schemes.
- This is according to the recent ranking released by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- At the same time, Jharkhand's Capital Ranchi has risen to 12th position in terms of progress of the ongoing mission plans in 100 cities.

Very severe cyclone Yaas to hit north Odisha coast

- The depression over east-central Bay of Bengal is very likely to move in a north-northwest direction and intensify into a cyclonic storm. The system Yaas is expected to cross the coast in north Odisha-West Bengal between Paradip and the Sagar islands by the evening of May 26 as a very severe cyclonic storm.
- Officials at the Regional Meteorological Centre in Kolkata issued warnings that squally winds of 40-50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph are very likely to prevail over North Bay of Bengal and along and off Odisha-West Bengal-Bangladesh coasts from the evening of May 24.

Kyasanur forest disease



- Recently, researchers found a new point-of-care test to be highly sensitive for rapid diagnosis of Kyasanur forest disease.
- The point-of-care tests has been developed by ICMR-National Institute of Virology.
- It will be beneficial to diagnose KFD which is also called as monkey fever.
- The disease is tick-borne viral haemorrhagic fever which is endemic to South-western part of India.
- It is caused by a virus from family Flaviviridae.
- Virus is transmitted to humans through bite of infected hard ticks.

Blackbuck - Odisha



- Odisha's blackbuck population has doubled in the last six years.
- It was according to figures from the latest population census released recently by the chief conservator of forest (wildlife).
- Blackbucks are found only in the Ganjam district in the southern part of the Odisha state.
- Blackbuck is considered as 'Vulnerable' according to the Red Data Book.
- The blackbuck is known in Odisha and Ganjam as Krushnasara Mruga.

10. SPORTS NEWS

Its about sports and gaming

World Snooker Champion



- In Snooker, English professional player Mark Selby has become the World Snooker Champion for the fourth time.
- He won the Championship title after defeating fellow mate Shaun Murphy at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, England.
- Prior to this, Selby won the Championship title in 2014, 2016, 2017.

Hamilton claims his 100th pole



- Seven-time World champion Lewis Hamilton became the first Formula One driver to take 100 pole positions after lapping fastest in Spanish Grand Prix qualified.
- The 36-year-old Mercedes driver was already the record holder by a massive margin, with retired Ferrari great and fellow seven-time champion Michael Schumacher second on the list with 68.

Italian Open 2021



- Italian Open 2021 was won by Rafael Nadal.
- This is his tenth title of the Rome Masters.
- The Finals was held between Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic.
- It is also known as Rome Masters.
- Italian Open is a clay tennis tournament.
- Rafael Nadal is a Spanish Tennis player.
- He has won twenty Grand Slams, thirteen French Open titles so far.
- His record of winning has been maximum in clay courts.

Kobe Bryant - Hall of Fame



- Los Angeles Lakers legend, Kobe Bryant has been posthumously inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.
- Bryant retired in 2016.
- The five-time NBA champion died, aged 41, in a helicopter crash in January 2020.

Leicester beats Chelsea 1-0 to win FA Cup for maiden time



- Leicester City won 1-0 vs Chelsea to clinch the 2020-21 FA Cup in a historic encounter as fans were allowed back into Wembley in a limited capacity.
- This is Leicester's first-ever FA Cup trophy. Youri Tielemans's javelin strike on the 63rd minute was the difference between these two teams on the scorecard. But in the gestalt of things, the journey of these two teams to this point couldn't be more different.

First Indian Women to scale Mount Pumori



- **Baljeet Kaur** and **Gunbala Sharma** have become The First Indian Women Mountaineers to Summit Mount Pumori in Nepal.
- The two women are also the first ones to scale a mountain that is a part of the Everest Massif.
- Everest Massif is formed by four peaks - Mount Pumori (7,161m), Mount Nuptse (7,862 m), Mount Lhotse (8,516m) and Mount Everest (8,848.86m) together.
- Mount Pumori and Mount Nuptse are considered to be the toughest mountains to summit in the world.

2022 FIFA under-17 Women's World Cup

- India is all set to host "2022 FIFA under-17 Women's World Cup" from October 11 to 30, 2022.
- It will be the second FIFA tournament to be hosted by India.
- Earlier, India had to organise 2021 Under-17 Women's World Cup but it was cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic.
- India had also hosted FIFA under-17 World Cup in 2017.

Etienne Glichitch Award

- Hockey India has won the prestigious Etienne Glichitch Award.
- It is given in recognition of its contribution to the growth and development of the sport in the country.
- The awards were announced by the game's governing body FIH during the Hockey Invites virtual conference.
- It was part of its 47th FIH Congress which concluded with the FIH Honorary Awards.

Narinder Batra

- Narinder Batra has been re-elected as the President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) for the second consecutive term.
- He was elected during the virtual 47th Congress of FIH.
- He will hold the office till 2024 as FIH has reduced the term from 4 to 3 years.
- He is also the President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and a Member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Achinta Sheuli wins silver at World Junior Weightlifting Championships



- Achinta Sheuli smashed three National records as he took the silver medal in the men's 73kg category at the World junior weightlifting championships here.
- The 19-year-old lifted an overall four kg more than his previous personal best of 309kg achieved in the Asian championships at the same venue last month.

2021 PGA Championship



- American professional golfer, Phil Mickelson has created history by winning the 2021 PGA Championship, at the age of 50.
- With this victory, Mickelson became the oldest player to win a major title in the history of the PGA Tour.
- This is his sixth major title.

ARUL IAS ACADEMY

11. IMPORTANT DAYS

Its about significance of special days

International Labour Day - May 1

- May Day is also called International Workers' Day or Labour Day.
- The day celebrates the struggle, dedication and commitment of the working class and is an annual public holiday in several countries.
- On 1 May 1886, Chicago and a few other cities of USA were the sites of a major union demonstration in support of the eight-hour workday demand.
- In 1889, the International Socialist Conference declared that in commemoration of the Haymarket affair, 1 May would be an international holiday for the labour force (International Workers' Day).
- The first Labour Day in India was hosted by the Labour Kisan Party, started by Singaravelu Chettiar, in Madras in 1923.
- It was initiated from the Labour Union Movement.

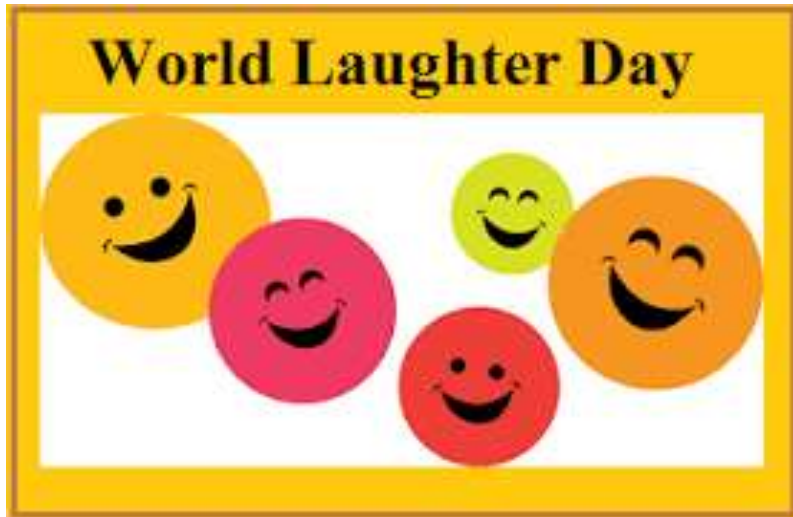


Maharashtra and Gujarat Day - May 1

- May 1 is celebrated as 'Maharashtra Day' and 'Gujarat Day'.
- In 1960, the Bombay Reorganization Act was passed by India's Parliament to divide the multilingual state of Bombay into Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- The legislation came into effect on May 1, 1960.
- The state of Bombay formerly comprised of speakers of different languages such as Marathi, Gujarati, Konkani, and Kutchi.
- During the mid-1950s, a movement known as the Samyukta Maharashtra Andolan started demanding a separate Marathi-speaking state.
- While Mahagujarat Movement aimed at the formation of a state for Gujarati-speaking people.
- The movements ended with the creation of the Bombay Reorganization Act.



World Laughter Day - May 2



- World Laughter Day is celebrated on the first Sunday of May every year.
- It is a day to raise awareness about laughter and its many healing benefits.
- In 2021, the day falls on 02 May 2021.
- World Laughter Day was first celebrated on May 10, 1998, in Mumbai upon the initiation of Dr Madan Kataria, founder of the worldwide Laughter Yoga movement.

World Press Freedom Day - May 3



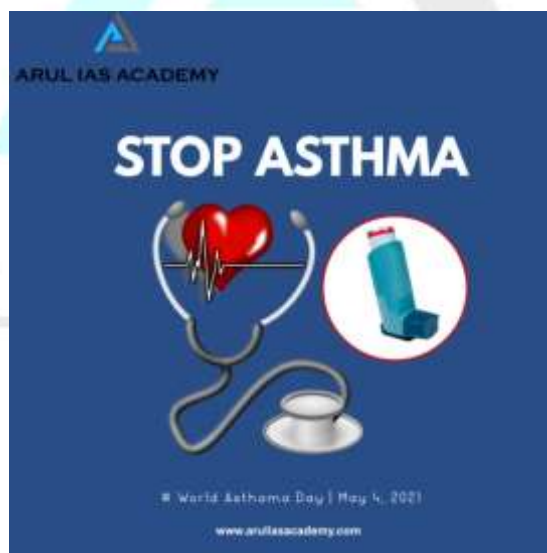
- World Press Freedom Day is also known as World Press Day.
- The day also pays tribute to journalists who have lost their lives.
- This year's World Press Freedom Day theme "Information as a Public Good".
- The General Assembly in the United Nations established World Freedom Day in 1993 to promote the independence of the Africa Press.
- This was followed by the Windhoek Declaration that was established to maintain the free press.
- As the declaration was made on the 3rd of May, hence the special day is observed each year on 3rd May.

The International Firefighters' Day - May 4



- The International Firefighters' Day is observed every year since 1999.
- The day is celebrated to recognise and honour the sacrifices that firefighters make to ensure that their communities and environment are as safe as possible.
- The day was instituted, after the deaths of five firefighters in tragic circumstances in a bushfire in Australia on 2 December 1998.

World Asthma Day - May 4



- World Asthma Day is observed every year on the 1st Tuesday of May.
- This year, World Asthma Day is observed on May 4, 2021.
- The day spread awareness about asthma disease and care around the world.
- The theme for 2021 World Asthma Day is "Uncovering Asthma Misconceptions".
- World Asthma Day is annually organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA).
- In 1998, the first World Asthma Day was celebrated in more than 35 countries in conjunction with the first World Asthma Meeting in Barcelona, Spain.

International Midwives day - May 5



- International Day of the Midwife is observed globally every year since 1992.
- This day is celebrated to recognise the work of midwives and raise awareness about the status of midwives for the essential care they provide to mothers and their newborns.
- The theme for 2021 International Day of the Midwife is “Follow the Data: Invest in Midwives.”
- The idea of having a day to recognize and honour midwives came out of the 1987 International Confederation of Midwives conference in the Netherlands.

World Hand Hygiene Day - May 5



- The day is organised by the World Health Organization.
- The day is observed to raise awareness among people across the globe about the importance of hand hygiene in warding off many serious infections.
- The theme for 2021 is ‘Seconds Save Lives: Clean Your Hands’.



World Portuguese Language Day - May 5



- This day (May 5) was officially established in 2009 as “World Portuguese Language Day” by the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries.
- CPLP is an intergovernmental organization that has been in official partnership with UNESCO since 2000.
- In 2019, the 40th session of UNESCO’s General Conference decided to proclaim 5th May of each year as “World Portuguese Language Day”.

International No Diet Day - May 6



- The symbol of International No Diet Day is a light blue ribbon.
- It is an annual celebration of body acceptance, including fat acceptance and body shape diversity.
- The day is dedicated to promoting a healthy lifestyle with a focus on health at any size and in raising awareness of the potential dangers of dieting and the unlikelihood of success.

World Athletics Day - May 7



- The World Athletics Day-2021 is observed on the 7th May.
- The date is subject to adjustment.
- The date of World Athletics Day is decided by the IAAF.
- However, the month stays the same as May.
- The first World Athletics Day was observed in 1996.
- The basic objective is to boost the participation of youths in athletics.

BRO 61st Raising Day - May 7



- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) was formed on 7 May 1960.
- It was formed with the primary goal of securing India's borders and developing infrastructure in remote areas of India's north and north eastern states.
- On 7 May 2021 BRO celebrated its 61st Raising Day (foundation day).

BRO

- It is a leading road construction agency under the Ministry of Defence.
- Its primary role is to provide road connectivity in India's border areas.
- It also creates upgrades and maintains infrastructure along borders to meet India's overall tactical and strategic goals.

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day - May 8



- The World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is observed every year to celebrate the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
- It is observed to reduce the suffering of people and enabling them to lead a dignified life with independence, humanity, impartiality, universality, unity and neutrality.
- Theme 2021 World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day: 'Unstoppable'
- The day also marks the anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant (8 May 1828).
- Henry Dunant was the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
- He was the recipient of the first Nobel Peace Prize.
- The Headquarters of ICRC is in Geneva, Switzerland.

World Thalassemia Day - May 8



- World Thalassemia Day is celebrated every year to commemorate Thalassemia victims and to encourage those who struggle to live with the disease.
- The theme for 2021 World Thalassemia Day is "Addressing Health Inequalities Across the Global Thalassaemia Community".
- Thalassemia is an inherited blood disorder that is characterised by less haemoglobin and lesser than normal blood cells.

International Day of Argania - May 10



- The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed this day in 2021.
- The resolution, submitted by Morocco, was co-sponsored by 113 member states of the United Nations and adopted by consensus.
- The argan tree (*Argania Spinosa*) is a native species of the sub-Saharan region of Morocco, in the southwest of the country, which grows in arid and semiarid areas.
- The argan tree is typically a multipurpose tree that supports income generation, increases resilience and improves climate adaptation.
- It plays a very important role in achieving the three dimensions of sustainable development at the local level (economic, social and environmental).

National Technology Day - May 11



- Every year, Ministry of Science and Technology organises several events across the country to celebrate this day.
- Theme for this year is 'Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future'.
- The National Technology Day is celebrated in India for two reasons namely:
 - To mark the anniversary of Pokhran Nuclear tests that were conducted in 1998 and
 - To highlight the importance of technological advancements for the country.

International Nurses Day - May 12



- International Nurses Day is observed every year to honour nurses.
- The celebration of International Nurses Day started in 1965 by the International Council of Nurses (ICN).
- This day is the birth anniversary of the famous Florence Nightingale.
- She was an English nurse, social reformer, and statistician.
- The theme for this year is 'A Voice to Lead-A Vision for Future Healthcare'.

International Day of Families - May 15



- The International Day of Families is observed every year to reflect the importance that the international community attaches to families.
- This day provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase the knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting families.
- The theme of 2021 is "Families and New Technologies".
- In 1993, the UN General Assembly decided in a resolution that 15 May of every year should be observed as The International Day of Families.

World Agri-Tourism Day - May 16



- This year, on the fourteenth World Agri-Tourism Day, Government of Maharashtra, Agri-Tourism Development Corporation is to organise International Conference on Agri-Tourism.
- The theme for 2021 is 'Rural Women Sustainable Entrepreneurship Opportunities through Agri Tourism'.

Maharashtra in Agri-Tourism

- Maharashtra is the pioneer state to develop and promote Agri-tourism in the country.
- In September 2020, Maharashtra passed Agro-Tourism policy.
- This aims to provide the tourists the pleasure of farming and also help increase farmer income.

Agri-Tourism

- In Agri-Tourism the urban tourists stay in farmers home.
- During their stay they engage in farming activities, tractor ride, bullock cart ride.
- They buy fresh farm produce.
- This acts as an additional income for the farmers.

Sikkim Statehood Day - May 16



- Sikkim joined the Union of India on May 16, 1975.
- Since then, every year the Sikkim Statehood Day is celebrated on May 16.
- In 1950, the Indo-Sikkimese treaty was signed.
- With this, Sikkim became a protectorate of India.
- The Namgyal dynasty ruled Sikkim till 1975.
- The Indian Parliament laid down conditions in its 35th amendment that made Sikkim an "Associate State".
- Sikkim is the only state to get this designation.
- The 36th amendment repealed the 35th amendment and made Sikkim a full state.

National Dengue Day - May 16



- In India, the National Dengue Day is observed to raise awareness about dengue and its preventive measures.
- The day is an initiative by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- Dengue is spread through the bite of the female mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*).

World Hypertension Day - May 17



- It is celebrated by World Hypertension League annually.
- It is observed to spread awareness about hypertension disease, its prevention, detection, and control.
- The main risk factor to develop cardiovascular disease is high blood pressure.
- WHD was first inaugurated in May 2005.
- Hypertension is also known as a silent killer.
- The theme of World Hypertension Day 2021 is "Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer."

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day - May 17



- The day marks the anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention and the establishment of the International Telecommunication Union.
- The day is celebrated to raise awareness about the importance of communication and focuses on increasing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- The day also focuses on how information travels across the world.
- The theme for 2021 is "Accelerating digital transformation in challenging times."

UN Global Traffic Safety Week (May 17 - 23)



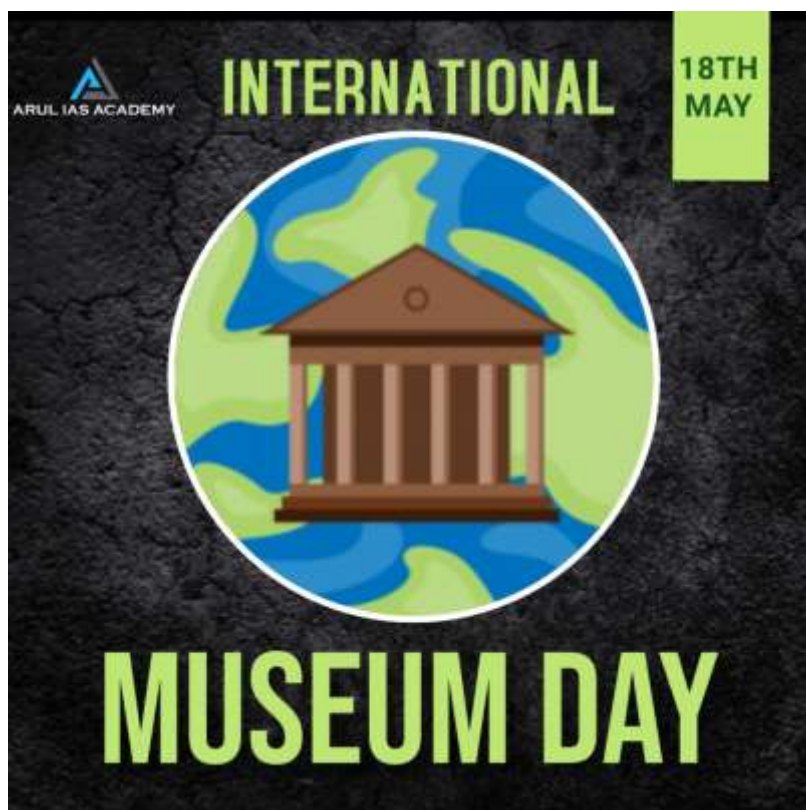
- The 6th UN Global Traffic Safety Week calls for 30 km/h (20 mph) speed limits to be the norm for cities, towns and villages worldwide.
- UN Global Road Safety Week is a biennial global road safety campaign hosted by WHO.
- The theme for the 6th UNGRSW is Streets for Life.
- The tagline is #Love30.
- This safety week programme aims to raise awareness of road safety and make changes that will reduce the number of road deaths.

International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia - May 17



- The day aims to increase awareness against discrimination, violence and repression of LGBT communities worldwide.
- Homophobia is dislike against gay people.
- Transphobia is the dislike against the transgender people.
- Biphobia is the dislike against the bisexual people.
- Louis-Georges Tin is the founder of International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia.

International Museum Day - May 18



- International Museum Day is observed on May 18 every year to raise awareness among people about the museums.
- Museums are an important means of cultural exchange and the development of mutual understanding, cooperation, and peace among people.
- The theme for the year 2021 is “The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine.”

World AIDS Vaccine Day 2021



- Every year, the World AIDS Vaccine Day / HIV Vaccine Awareness Day is celebrated on May 18.
- This year the day is celebrated under the theme is ‘Global Solidarity’.

World Bee Day - May 20



- On this date, 20 May, the pioneer of beekeeping **Anton Janša** was born in 1734 in Slovenia.
- The purpose of the bee day is to acknowledge the role of bees and other pollinators in the ecosystem.
- About 33% of the world's food production depends on bees thus they are vital for the preservation of biodiversity, ecological balance in nature and helpful in reducing pollution.
- The theme of World Bee Day 2021 is "Bee engaged: Build Back Better for Bees".

World Metrology Day



- World Metrology Day is observed globally on 20th May every year.
- The theme for World Metrology Day 2021 is "Measurement for Health".

International Tea Day - May 21



- International Tea Day is observed globally on May 21 the recommendation of India.
- The purpose of International Tea Day is to try to improve the condition of tea producers and tea workers.
- The United Nations recognised International Tea Day by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- It aims to raise awareness of the deep cultural and economic significance of tea around the world and promote its importance in fighting hunger and poverty.

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development - May 21



- World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is observed globally every year.
- The day aims to celebrate the richness of the world's cultures and highlight the significance of its diversity as an agent of inclusion and positive change for achieving peace and sustainable development.
- In the year 2001, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) adopted the 'Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity' as a result of the destruction of the Buddha statues of Bamiyan in Afghanistan in 2001.
- Then in December 2002, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in its resolution 57/249, declared 21 May to be World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development.

National Anti-Terrorism Day - May 21

#NationalAntiTerrorismDay



- In India, the National Anti-Terrorism Day is observed to commemorate the death anniversary of former Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi.
- The day is also observed to spread the message of peace, harmony, and humankind and to promote unity among the people.
- Rajiv Gandhi was India's youngest Prime Minister.
- He was appointed as the sixth Prime Minister of the country and served the nation from 1984 to 1989.
- He was assassinated on May 21, 1991, by a human bomb.
- Under the V.P. Singh government, the centre has decided to observe 21st May as Anti-Terrorism Day.

National Endangered Species Day 2021 - May 21



- The National Endangered Species Day is celebrated on the third Friday of May every year.
- This year, National Endangered Species Day will be observed today, May 21, 2021.
- The day helps us review how many animal species are under the threat of extinction and how the drastic effects of climate change are disturbing the once peaceful ecosystem.

World Turtle Day - May 23



- World Turtle Day is observed to raise awareness among people about turtle & tortoise and their habitats.
- Celebration of the day is sponsored by a non-profit organisation “American Tortoise Rescue (ATR)” since 2000.
- Theme for 2021 is ‘Turtle Rocks!’.
- “World Turtle Day” term was trademarked by Susan Tellem.

International Day to End Obstetric Fistula - May 23



- United Nations International Day to End Obstetric Fistula is marked since 2013.
- It aims to promote action towards treating and preventing obstetric fistula.
- Obstetric fistula is a condition that affects many girls and women during childbirth in developing countries.
- The theme for 2021 is “Women’s rights are human rights! End fistula now!”

International Missing Children’s Day - May 25



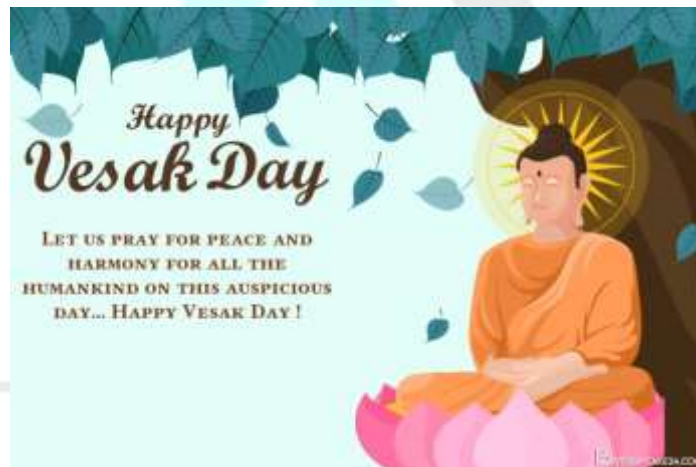
- International Missing Children’s Day is observed globally for
 - Missing children who have found their way home,
 - Remembering those that are victims of crime,
 - Continuing efforts to seek out those that are still missing.
- 25 May is now widely referred to as Missing Children’s Day, with the forget-me-not flower as its emblem.
- The day was proclaimed in 1983, by U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

World Thyroid Day - May 25



- World Thyroid Day is observed to create awareness of the importance of Thyroid and the prevention and treatment of thyroid diseases.
- This day is established in 2008.
- The thyroid is a butterfly-shaped gland in the throat that produces T3 (Thyroxine) and T4 (Triiodothyronine).
- It is maintained by the Thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH).

Vesak Day - May 26



- Vesak Day 2021 is observed globally on 26 May.
- Vesak, the Day of Full Moon is the most sacred day to Buddhists all over the world.
- On this day, Lord Gautham Buddha attained enlightenment.
- The Day is commemorated by the United Nations every year since 2000.

International Day of Action for Women's Health - May 28



- International Day of Action for Women's Health is observed globally every year since 1987.
- The main purpose of this day is to promote the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of all women all over the world.
- International Day of Action for Women's Health is being coordinated by the Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR).

World Menstrual Hygiene Day - May 28



- The main idea behind marking this day is to change the social stigma associated with menstruation.
- The date May 28 was chosen to observe the day because on an average the menstrual cycle for most women is 28 days and the menstruation period for most women is for five days.
- Hence, the date was kept as 28/5.
- The theme for this year is: "Action and Investment in Menstrual Hygiene and Health."

World Hunger Day - May 28



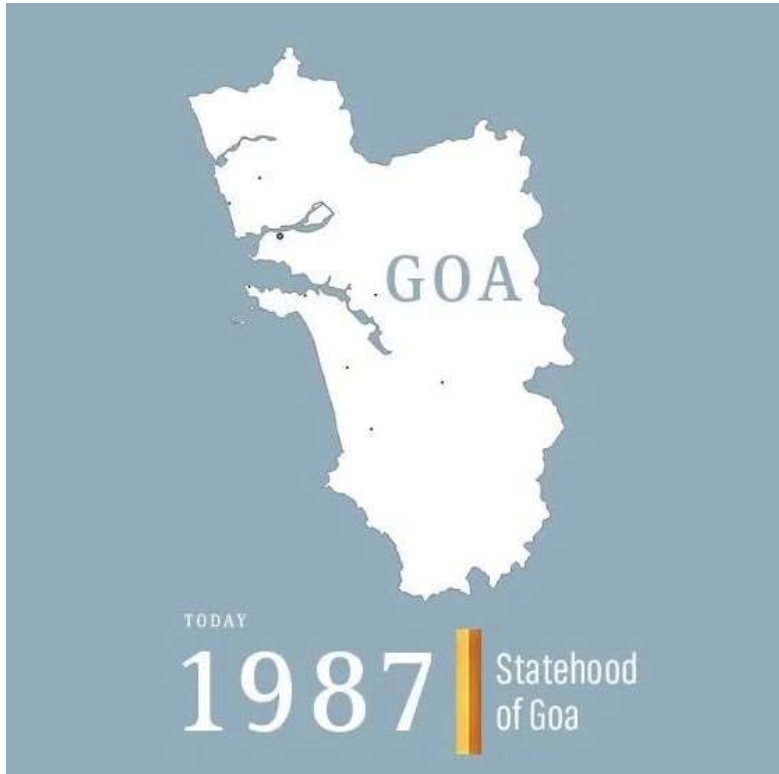
- World Hunger Day is annually observed across the globe to create awareness about the 815 million people across the globe who are living in chronic hunger.
- The day also aims to celebrate the sustainable solution to hunger and poverty.
- The World Hunger Day was the initiative started by The Hunger Project in 2011.
- The theme of World Hunger Day 2021 is “Access Ends Hunger”.

International Everest Day - May 29



- International Everest Day is being observed on this day remembering Nepalese Tenzing Norgay and New Zealand's Edmund Hillary who had climbed Mt. Everest.
- It was on this day in 1953, the humans first achieved this feat.
- Nepal decided to observe the day as International Everest Day in 2008 when the legendary climber Hillary passed away.

Goa Statehood Day - May 30th



- It was on this day in 1987 Goa became the 25th state of the Indian Union.
- Before this, Goa, along with Daman and Diu, was a union territory.
- On 19 December 1961, the Indian Army invaded with Operation Vijay on Portuguese resulting in the annexation of Goa, and of Daman and Diu islands into the Indian union.

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TNPSC GROUP 1 MAINS 2020/2021 TEST SERIES

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- ▲ **PAPER WISE TEST : 24**
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- ONLINE , POSTAL AND CLASSROOM BATCH AVAILABLE
- ANSWER KEY FORMAT FOR EACH TEST
- AFTER COMPLETION OF ONE TEST , NEXT TEST WILL BE PROVIDED ONLY AFTER SUBMISSION AND EVALUATION
- CLASSROOM BATCH ONLY @KARUR
(DISCUSSION FOR EACH TEST)
- FOR POSTAL STUDENTS REFERENCE MATERIAL WILL BE PROVIDED FOR EACH TEST
- TEST WILL BE CONDUCTED ON BOTH TAMIL AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE
- QUESTIONS WILL BE OF RECENT TREND AS PER TNPSC PATTERN

TEST SCHEDULE

TOTAL MODULES : 9 AND MOCK TEST

▲ **MODULE 1 :**

INDIAN POLITY

NO. OF TEST :4 (TEST NO.1 TO TEST NO.4)

▲ **MODULE 2 :**

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NO. OF TEST :3(TEST NO.5 TO TEST NO.7)

▲ **MODULE 3 :**

TAMIL SOCIETY AND CULTURE

NO. OF TEST : 2 (TEST NO.8 TO TEST NO.9)

▲ **MODULE 4 :**

GEOGRAPHY OF INDIA

NO. OF TEST : 3 (TEST NO.10 TO TEST NO.12)

▲ **MODULE 5 :**

ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY

NO. OF TEST : 2 (TEST NO.13 TO TEST NO.14)

▲ **MODULE 6 :**

INDIAN ECONOMY

NO. OF TEST :3 (TEST NO.15 TO TEST NO.17)

▲ **MODULE 7:**

MODERN HISTORY OF INDIA AND INDIAN CULTURE

GENERAL APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY (SSLC Standard)

NO. OF TEST :3 (TEST NO.18 TO TEST NO.20)

▲ **MODULE 8 :**

SOCIAL ISSUES IN INDIA AND TAMIL NADU

GENERAL APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY (SSLC Standard)

NO. OF TEST :3 (TEST NO.21 TO TEST NO.23)

▲ **MODULE 9 :**

CURRENT AFFAIRS

NO. OF TEST :1 (TEST NO.24)

▲ TEST NO.25 PAPER 3(FULL LENGTH TEST)

▲ TEST NO.26 PAPER 2(FULL LENGTH TEST)

▲ TEST NO.27 PAPER 1(FULL LENGTH TEST)

MODULE 1

NO. OF TEST: 4 (TEST NO.1 TO TEST NO.4)

SUBJECT: PAPER - II

UNIT- I : INDIAN POLITY

TEST NO.	SUBJECT/PORTION
1.	<p>UNIT- I : Indian Polity and emerging political trends across the world affecting India</p> <p>Constitution of India: Historical background - Making of the Indian Constitution - Preamble - Salient features of the Indian Constitution - Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties - Directive Principles of State Policy - Schedules to the Indian Constitution. Union Executive: President, Vice - President, Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, Attorney General of India. Union Legislature: Parliament: Lok - Sabha and Rajya - Sabha - Composition, Powers, Functions and Legislative procedures. Union Judiciary: Structure, Powers and Functions of the Supreme Court - Judicial Review - Latest Verdicts</p>
2.	<p>UNIT- I : Indian Polity and emerging political trends across the world affecting India</p> <p>State Executive: Governor, Chief Minister - Speaker and Council of Ministers , Advocate General of the State. State Legislature: State Legislative Assembly - Organization, Powers and Functions. State Judiciary: Organisation, Powers and Functions of High Courts, District Courts and Subordinate Courts. Local Government: Historical Development - Features and working of 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992. Union Territories: Evolution of States and Union Territories - Administration of Union Territories. Federalism in India: Centre - State Relations - Centre - State Administrative Relations - Centre - State Legislative Relations and Centre - State Financial Relations.</p>
3.	<p>UNIT- I : Indian Polity and emerging political trends across the world affecting India</p> <p>Civil Services in India: Historical background - Classification of Civil Services - Recruitment & Training of Civil Servants. State Services: Classification of State Services and Recruitment. Official Language: Constitutional provision - Official Language Act, VIII Schedule to the Constitution. Amendments: Major Amendments to the Indian Constitution. Special Status to Jammu & Kashmir: Art 370.</p>

UNIT- I : Indian Polity and emerging political trends across the world affecting India

Political Parties: National & Regional parties, Pressure Groups, Interest Groups, Public Opinion, Mass Media, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and their role. **Issue Areas in Indian**

Administration: Corruption in India - Anti - Corruption Measures - CVC - Lok Adalats - Ombudsman - RTI Act - Minister - Secretary Relationship - Generalist Vs. Specialist controversy.

4.

Constitutional and Non-Constitutional Bodies - Composition, Powers and Functions. **Profile of States** - Defence, National Security and Terrorism - World Organisations - Pacts and Summits. **India's Foreign Policy:** Foreign Affairs with Special emphasis on India's relations with neighbouring countries and in the region - Security and defence related issues - Nuclear Policy - Issues and conflicts. The Indian Diaspora and its contribution to India and to the World.



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MODULE 2

NO. OF TEST :3 (TEST NO.5 TO TEST NO.7)

SUBJECT: PAPER - II

UNIT - II : ROLE AND IMPACT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN
THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDIA

TEST NO.	SUBJECT/PORTION
5.	<p>UNIT - II : Role And Impact Of Science And Technology In The Development Of India</p> <p>Health and hygiene - Human diseases - Prevention and remedies - Communicable diseases and non-communicable diseases - Genetic Engineering - Organ transplantation - Stem cell Technology - Medical Tourism - Advancements in Horticulture & Agriculture.</p>
6.	<p>UNIT - II : Role And Impact Of Science And Technology In The Development Of India</p> <p>Science and Technology - Role, Achievements and Developments - Their applications and effects in everyday life - Energy - Conventional and Non-conventional - Self-sufficiency - Oil exploration - Defence Research Organizations and other science and technology institutions - Ocean Research and Development - Role and Functions.</p>
7.	<p>UNIT - II : Role And Impact Of Science And Technology In The Development Of India</p> <p>Advancements in the fields of I.T., Space, Computers, Robotics, Nano-Technology - Mobile Communication - Remote sensing and its benefits. Achievements of Indians in the fields of Science and Technology. Latest inventions in science & technology.</p>

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MODULE 3

NO. OF TEST :2 (TEST NO.8 TO TEST NO.9)

SUBJECT: PAPER - II

UNIT - III : TAMIL SOCIETY - ITS CULTURE AND HERITAGE

(Candidates may answer the questions in this unit

EITHER in Tamil OR in English)

TEST NO.	SUBJECT/PORTION
8.	<p>UNIT - III : TAMIL SOCIETY - ITS CULTURE AND HERITAGE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Tamil Society : Origin and expansion.2) Art and Culture : Literature, Music, Film, Drama, Architecture, Sculpture, Paintings and Folk Arts.3) Socio - economic history of Tamil Nadu from Sangam age to till date.4) Growth of Rationalist, Dravidian movements in Tamil Nadu - Their role in the socio - economic development of Tamil Nadu.5) Social and cultural life of contemporary Tamils : Caste, Religion, Women, Politics, Education, Economy, Trade and relationship with other countries.6) Tamil and other Disciplines: Mass Media, Computer etc.
9.	<p>UNIT - III : TAMIL SOCIETY - ITS CULTURE AND HERITAGE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Tamil Society : Origin and expansion.2) Art and Culture : Literature, Music, Film, Drama, Architecture, Sculpture, Paintings and Folk Arts.3) Socio - economic history of Tamil Nadu from Sangam age to till date.4) Growth of Rationalist, Dravidian movements in Tamil Nadu - Their role in the socio - economic development of Tamil Nadu.5) Social and cultural life of contemporary Tamils : Caste, Religion, Women, Politics, Education, Economy, Trade and relationship with other countries.6) Tamil and other Disciplines: Mass Media, Computer etc.

MODULE 4

NO. OF TEST :3 (TEST NO.10 TO TEST NO.12)

SUBJECT: PAPER - III

UNIT-I : GEOGRAPHY OF INDIA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO
TAMILNADU

TEST NO.	SUBJECT/PORTION
10.	<p>UNIT-I : GEOGRAPHY OF INDIA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO TAMILNADU</p> <p>Location - Physical features - Major Rivers - Weather & Climate - Monsoon, Rainfall - Natural resources:- Soil, Water, Forest, Minerals and Wild life - Agricultural pattern - Livestock - Fisheries - Industries; Major industries - Growth and Development</p>
11.	<p>UNIT-I : GEOGRAPHY OF INDIA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO TAMILNADU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▲ Social- Cultural geography - Population : Growth, Density and Distribution - Racial, linguistic and major tribes.▲ GEOGRAPHY -CURRENT AFFAIRS
12.	<p>UNIT-I : GEOGRAPHY OF INDIA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO TAMILNADU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▲ Oceanography - Bottom relief features of Indian Ocean, Arabian sea and Bay of Bengal.▲ Basics of Geospatial Technology: Geographical Information System (GIS) and Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS).▲ Map: Geographical landmarks - India and its neighbours.

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MODULE 5

NO. OF TEST :2 (TEST NO.13 TO TEST NO.14)

SUBJECT: PAPER - III

UNIT II: ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

TEST NO.	SUBJECT/PORTION
13.	<p>UNIT II: ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Ecology: Structure and function of Ecosystem – Ecological succession - Biodiversity conservation: Types – Biodiversity Hot Spots in India – Biodiversity : Significance and Threats – In situ and Ex situ conservation measures – Roles of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) & Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Environmental Laws, Policies & Treaties in India and Global scenario - Natural calamities and Disaster Management – Environmental Health and Sanitation.</p>
14.	<p>UNIT II: ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Environmental Pollution and Management: Air, Water, Soil, Thermal and Noise pollution and control strategies – Solid and Hazardous waste management - Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): Steps in EIA process – Environmental Clearance – Environmental Auditing. Climate Change: Global Environmental Issues and Management – Changes in monsoon pattern in Tamil Nadu and India – Environmental consequences of climate change and mitigation measures – Clean and Green Energy – Environmental Sustainability.</p> <p>Environment CURRENT AFFAIRS</p>

MODULE 6

NO. OF TEST :3 (TEST NO.15 TO TEST NO.17)

SUBJECT: PAPER - III

UNIT III : INDIAN ECONOMY - CURRENT ECONOMIC TRENDS AND
IMPACT OF GLOBAL ECONOMY ON INDIA

TEST NO.	SUBJECT/PORTION
15.	<p>UNIT III : INDIAN ECONOMY - CURRENT ECONOMIC TRENDS AND IMPACT OF GLOBAL ECONOMY ON INDIA</p> <p>Features of Indian Economy - Demographical profile of India - National Income - Capital formation - NEP (New Economic Policy) - NITI AYOOG - National Development Council. Agriculture - Role of Agriculture - Land reforms - New Agricultural Strategy - Green Revolution - Price Policy, Public Distribution System (PDS), Subsidy, Food Security- Agricultural Marketing, Crop Insurance, Labour - Rural credit & indebtedness - WTO & Agriculture. Industry - Growth - Policy - Role of public sector and disinvestment - Privatisation and Liberalization - Public Private Partnership (PPP) - SEZs. - MSMEs. - Make in India. Infrastructure in India - Transport System - Energy - Power - Communication - Social Infrastructure - Science & Technology - R&D.</p>
16.	<p>UNIT III : INDIAN ECONOMY - CURRENT ECONOMIC TRENDS AND IMPACT OF GLOBAL ECONOMY ON INDIA</p> <p>Banking & Finance - Banking, Money & Finance - Central Bank - Commercial Bank - NBFIs. - Stock Market - Financial Reforms - Financial Stability - Monetary Policy - RBI & Autonomy. Public Finance - Sources of Revenue - Tax & Non-Tax Revenue - Canons of taxation - GST - Public expenditure - Public debt - Finance Commission - Fiscal Policy Issues in Indian Economy - Poverty & inequality - Poverty alleviation programmes - MGNREGA - New Welfare programmes for rural poverty - Unemployment - Inflation - Inflation targeting - Sustainable economic growth - Gender issues. India's Foreign Trade - BOP, EX-IM Policy, FOREX Market, FDI; Globalization & its impact - Global economic crisis & impact on Indian economy.</p>

17.

UNIT III : INDIAN ECONOMY -
CURRENT ECONOMIC TRENDS AND
IMPACT OF GLOBAL ECONOMY ON INDIA

International Agencies - IMF (International Monetary Fund) World Bank - BRICS - SAARC - ASEAN. Tamil Nadu Economy & Issues - Gross State Domestic Product - Trends in State's economic growth - Demographic profile of Tamil Nadu - Agriculture - Industry & entrepreneurship development in Tamil Nadu - Infrastructure - Power, Transportation systems - Social Infrastructure - SHGs. & Rural Women empowerment - Rural poverty & unemployment - Environmental issues - Regional economic disparities - Local Government - Recent government welfare programmes.

ECONOMY CUURENT AFFAIRS



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MODULE 7

NO. OF TEST :3 (TEST NO.18 TO TEST NO.20)

SUBJECT: PAPER - I

UNIT- I: MODERN HISTORY OF INDIA AND INDIAN CULTURE

UNIT-III : GENERAL APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY

(SSLC Standard)

TEST NO.	SUBJECT/PORTION
18.	<p>UNIT- I: MODERN HISTORY OF INDIA AND INDIAN CULTURE UNIT-III : GENERAL APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY (SSLC Standard)</p> <p>Advent of European invasion - Expansion and consolidation of British rule - Early uprising against British rule - 1857 Revolt - Indian National Congress - Growth of militant movements - Different modes of agitations - Emergence of national leaders - Gandhi, Nehru, Tagore, Netaji, Moulana Abulkalam Azad, Ambedkar and Patel - Era of different Acts & Pacts - Second World War & final phase struggle - Communalism led to partition.</p> <p>GENERAL APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY</p> <p>Information technology - Basic terms, Communications - Application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) - Decision making and problem solving - Basics in Computers / Computer terminology.</p>
19.	<p>UNIT- I: MODERN HISTORY OF INDIA AND INDIAN CULTURE UNIT-III : GENERAL APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY (SSLC Standard)</p> <p>Effect of British rule on socio-economic factors - National renaissance - Socio religious reform movements. Role of Tamil Nadu in freedom struggle - Bharathiar, VOC, Subramania Siva, Rajaji, Periyar and others - Political parties and Welfare schemes.</p> <p>GENERAL APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY</p> <p>Conversion of information to data - Collection, compilation and presentation of data - Tables, Graphs, Diagrams - Parametric representation of data - Analytical interpretation of data - Percentage - Highest Common Factor (HCF) - Lowest Common Multiple (LCM)</p>
20.	UNIT- I: MODERN HISTORY OF INDIA AND INDIAN CULTURE

UNIT-III : GENERAL APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY
(SSLC Standard)

India since independence - Characteristics of Indian culture - Unity in diversity - Race, Language, Religion Custom - India: a secular state - Organizations for fine arts, dance, drama and music.

Latest diary of events: National and International - National symbols- Eminent personalities & places in news - Sports & Games - Books & Authors - Awards & Honours - Cultural panorama - Latest historical events - Latest terminology - Appointments - who is who?

GENERAL APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY

Ratio and Proportion - Simple interest - Compound interest



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MODULE 8

NO. OF TEST :3 (TEST NO.21 TO TEST NO.23)

SUBJECT: PAPER - I

UNIT- II : SOCIAL ISSUES IN INDIA AND TAMIL NADU

UNIT-III : GENERAL APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY

(SSLC Standard)

TEST NO.	SUBJECT/PORTION
21.	<p>UNIT- II : SOCIAL ISSUES IN INDIA AND TAMIL NADU UNIT-III : GENERAL APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY (SSLC Standard)</p> <p>SOCIAL ISSUES IN INDIA AND TAMIL NADU Population Explosion - Unemployment issues in India & Tamil Nadu - Child Abuse & Child Labour - Poverty - Rural and Urban Sanitation - Illiteracy. Women Empowerment - Role of the Government in Women Empowerment - Social injustice to Women - Domestic violence, Dowry menace, Sexual assault - Role of women and women's organisations</p> <p>GENERAL APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY Area - Volume</p>
22.	<p>UNIT- II : SOCIAL ISSUES IN INDIA AND TAMIL NADU UNIT-III : GENERAL APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY (SSLC Standard)</p> <p>Social changes in India - Urbanization and its impact on the society - Problems and remedies - Impact of violence on Society - Religious violence, Terrorism and Communal violence - Regional Disparities - Problems of Minorities - Human Rights issues. Education - Linkage between Education and Social Development - Community Development Programmes - Employment Guarantee Schemes - Self Employment and Entrepreneurship Development - Role of N.G.Os in Social Welfare</p> <p>GENERAL APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY Time and Work</p>
23.	<p>UNIT- II : SOCIAL ISSUES IN INDIA AND TAMIL NADU UNIT-III : GENERAL APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY (SSLC Standard)</p> <p>Government Policy on Health. Welfare Schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Central and State governments and their performance.</p> <p>GENERAL APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY Probability.</p>

MODULE 9

NO. OF TEST :1 (TEST NO.24)

CURRENT AFFAIRS

TEST NO.	SUBJECT/PORTION
24.	<p>UNIT- II : SOCIAL ISSUES IN INDIA AND TAMIL NADU UNIT-III : GENERAL APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY (SSLC Standard)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▲ Current Affairs On▲ Indian Polity, Law,▲ Latest Diary Of Events: National And International - National Symbols- Eminent Personalities & Places In News - Sports & Games - Books & Authors - Awards & Honours - Cultural Panorama - Latest Historical Events - Latest Terminology - Appointments - Who Is Who?▲ Latest Inventions In Science & Technology,▲ Geography Current Affairs,▲ Environmental Current Affairs,▲ Economy Current Affairs.
	<p>MOCK TEST NO.1 PAPER 3 - TEST NO. 25 MOCK TEST NO.1 PAPER 2 - TEST NO. 26 MOCK TEST NO.1 PAPER 1 - TEST NO. 27</p> <p>ALL THE BEST.....</p>

- ✂ **Total No. of Tests -27 (Including Mock Tests)**
- ✂ Question paper will be in **both language Tamil and english**
- ✂ **Answer Booklet** will be provided as per **TNPSC Group I Main Examination** conducted by TNPSC
- ✂ Test series with TNPSC GROUP 1 MAINS syllabus covered .
- ✂ Paper correction within 2 days from the day of test mark and rank will be published on the same day of valuation
- ✂ Each and every student will be guided after every valuation of paper and result.

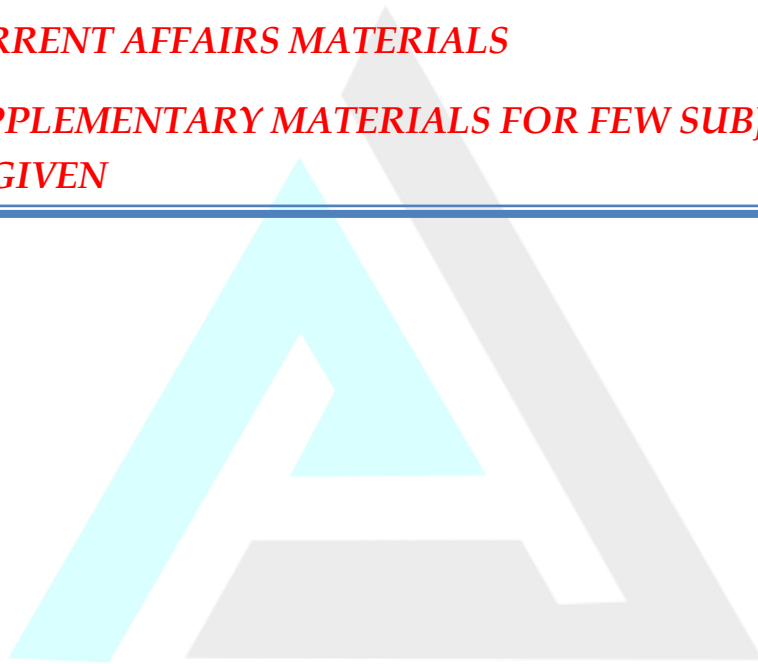
TYPE OF BATCHES AVAILABLE:

TNPSC GROUP1 MAINS

- ▲ Online(Mail Mode)
- ▲ Postal (Courier)
- ▲ Classroom

NOTE

- ▲ **CURRENT AFFAIRS MATERIALS**
- ▲ **SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS FOR FEW SUBJECT WILL BE GIVEN**



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BASED ON REVISED SCHEME OF EXAMINATION

TEST SCHEDULE FOR TNPSC

GROUP - II/IIA PRELIMS

- ▲ SCHOOL BOOK TEST : 10
- ▲ SYLLABUS BASED : 10
- ▲ TOTAL TEST : 20

**MODULE 1: SCHOOL BOOK MANDATORY TEST
SCHEDULE**

S.NO	TITLE	NO.OF QUES
1.	CIVICS 6 TH -8 TH STD	100
2.	CIVICS 9 TH -10 TH STD	100
3.	POLITICAL SCIENCE 11 TH AND 12 TH	150
4.	GEOGRAPHY 6 TH TO 10 TH	150
5.	GEOGRAPHY 11 TH AND 12 TH	100
6.	ECONOMICS 6 TH TO 12 TH	150
7.	HISTORY 6 TH TO 8 TH STD	150
8.	HISTORY 9 TH TO 12 TH STD	150
9.	SCIENCE 6 TH TO 10 TH	200
10.	SCIENCE 11 TH AND 12 TH	150

MODULE 2: SYLLABUS BASED TEST

DATE OF EXAM: Will Be Given Individually For Students Joining Test Batch

TEST NO	TITLE	NO.OF QUES
11.	UNIT-VI: INDIAN ECONOMY (i) Nature of Indian economy - Five year plan models - an assessment - Planning Commission and Niti Ayog. (ii) Sources of revenue - Reserve Bank of India - Fiscal Policy and Monetary Policy - Finance Commission - Resource sharing between Union and State Governments - Goods and Services Tax. (iii) Structure of Indian Economy and Employment Generation, Land reforms and Agriculture - Application of Science and Technology in agriculture - Industrial growth - Rural welfare oriented programmes - Social problems - Population, education, health, employment, poverty. APTITUDE ✓ Highest Common Factor (HCF) ✓ Lowest Common Multiple (LCM) CURRENT AFFAIRS ✓ 2020 CURRENT AFFAIRS	200 QUES
12.	UNIT- III: GEOGRAPHY OF INDIA (i) Location - Physical features - Monsoon, rainfall, weather and climate - Water resources - Rivers in India - Soil, minerals and natural resources - Forest and wildlife - Agricultural pattern. (ii) Transport - Communication. (iii) Social geography - Population density and distribution - Racial, linguistic groups and major tribes. (iv) Natural calamity - Disaster Management - Environmental pollution: Reasons and preventive measures - Climate change - Green energy. APTITUDE ✓ SIMPLIFICATION AND PERCENTAGE CURRENT AFFAIRS ✓ JAN&FEB 2020	150 QUES
13.	UNIT-VII: INDIAN NATIONAL MOVEMENT (i) National renaissance - Early uprising against British rule - Indian National Congress - Emergence of leaders - B.R.Ambedkar, Bhagat Singh, Bharathiar, V.O.Chidambaranar, Jawaharlal Nehru, Kamarajar,	150 QUES

	<p>Mahatma Gandhi, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Thanthai Periyar, Rajaji, Subash Chandra Bose and others.</p> <p>(ii) Different modes of Agitation: Growth of Satyagraha and Militant movements.</p> <p>(iii) Communalism and partition.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">APTITUDE</p> <p>✓ RATIO and PROPORTION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CURRENT AFFAIRS</p> <p>✓ MAR&APRIL&MAY 2020</p>	
14.	<p style="text-align: center;">UNIT-V: INDIAN POLITY</p> <p>(i) Constitution of India - Preamble to the Constitution - Salient features of the Constitution - Union, State and Union Territory.</p> <p>(ii) Citizenship, Fundamental rights, Fundamental duties, Directive Principles of State Policy.</p> <p>(iii) Union Executive, Union legislature - State Executive, State Legislature - Local governments, Panchayat Raj.</p> <p>(iv) Spirit of Federalism: Centre - State Relationships.</p> <p>(v) Election - Judiciary in India - Rule of law.</p> <p>(vi) Corruption in public life - Anti-corruption measures - Lokpal and LokAyukta - Right to Information - Empowerment of women - Consumer protection forums, Human rights charter.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">APTITUDE</p> <p>✓ SIMPLE and COMPOUND INTEREST</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CURRENT AFFAIRS</p> <p>✓ JUNE TO SEPT 2020</p>	200 QUES
15.	<p style="text-align: center;">UNIT - IV: HISTORY AND CULTURE OF INDIA</p> <p>(i) Indus valley civilization - Guptas, Delhi Sultans, Mughals and Marathas - Age of Vijayanagaram and Bahmani Kingdoms - South Indian history.</p> <p>(ii) Change and Continuity in the Socio - Cultural History of India.</p> <p>(iii) Characteristics of Indian culture, Unity in diversity - Race, language, custom.</p> <p>(iv) India as a Secular State, Social Harmony.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">UNIT- VIII : History, Culture, Heritage and Socio - Political Movements in Tamil Nadu</p> <p>(i) History of Tamil Society, related Archaeological discoveries, Tamil Literature from Sangam age till contemporary times.</p> <p>(ii) Thirukkural :</p>	175 QUES

	<p>(a) Significance as a Secular literature (b) Relevance to Everyday Life (c) Impact of Thirukkural on Humanity (d) Thirukkural and Universal Values - Equality, Humanism, etc (e) Relevance to Socio - Politico - Economic affairs (f) Philosophical content in Thirukkural (iii) Role of Tamil Nadu in freedom struggle - Early agitations against British Rule - Role of women in freedom struggle. (iv) Evolution of 19th and 20th Century Socio-Political movements in Tamil Nadu - Justice Party, Growth of Rationalism - Self Respect Movement, Dravidian movement and Principles underlying both these movements, Contributions of Thanthai Periyar and Perarignar Anna.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">APTITUDE</p> <p>✓ TIME AND WORK</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CURRENT AFFAIRS</p> <p>✓ OCT TO DEC 2020</p>	
16.	<p style="text-align: center;">UNIT - IX : Development Administration in Tamil Nadu</p> <p>(i) Human Development Indicators in Tamil Nadu and a comparative assessment across the Country - Impact of Social Reform movements in the Socio - Economic Development of Tamil Nadu. (ii) Political parties and Welfare schemes for various sections of people - Rationale behind Reservation Policy and access to Social Resources - Economic trends in Tamil Nadu - Role and impact of social welfare schemes in the Socio - economic development of Tamil Nadu. (iii) Social Justice and Social Harmony as the Cornerstones of Socio - Economic development. (iv) Education and Health systems in Tamil Nadu. (v) Geography of Tamil Nadu and its impact on Economic growth. (vi) Achievements of Tamil Nadu in various fields. (vii) e-governance in Tamil Nadu.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">APTITUDE</p> <p>✓ AREA AND VOLUME</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CURRENT AFFAIRS</p> <p>✓ JAN TO FEB 2021</p>	150 QUES

17.	<p style="text-align: center;">UNIT-I : GENERAL SCIENCE</p> <p>(i) Scientific Knowledge and Scientific temper - Power of Reasoning - Rote Learning Vs Conceptual Learning - Science as a tool to understand the past, present and future.</p> <p>(ii) Nature of Universe - General Scientific Laws - Mechanics - Properties of Matter, Force, Motion and Energy - Everyday application of the basic principles of Mechanics, Electricity and Magnetism, Light, Sound, Heat, Nuclear Physics, Laser, Electronics and Communications.</p> <p>(iii) Elements and Compounds, Acids, Bases, Salts, Petroleum Products, Fertilizers, Pesticides.</p> <p>(iv) Main concepts of Life Science, Classification of Living Organisms, Evolution, Genetics, Physiology, Nutrition, Health and Hygiene, Human diseases.</p> <p>(v) Environment and Ecology.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">APTITUDE</p> <p>✓ REASONING</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CURRENT AFFAIRS</p> <p>✓ MARCH AND APRIL & MAY - 2021</p>	150 QUES
18.	MOCK TEST NO.1	200 QUES
19.	MOCK TEST NO.2	200 QUES
20.	MOCK TEST NO.3	200 QUES

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