

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY

## TNPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS - ENGLISH JULY-2021





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## 1. TAMIL NADU NEWS

Activities which held up in Tamil Nadu during July 2021

### First ring well with design unearthed at Keeladi site



- Every season of excavation at Keeladi archaeological site has unearthed ring wells, an indicator of the advanced water conservation technology that existed more than 2,000 years ago. But the recovery of a terracotta ring well with thumb impressions creatively carved on a band around its surface, ushered in a wave of excitement among the staff at work.
- “So far we have excavated a dozen plain ring wells and this is the first one with an intricate design,” said M. Ramesh, one of the four Archaeological Officers (AO), who has been assigned to the Keeladi site from round one.
- The ring well was traced at a depth of 126 cm in one of the eight pits dug for the seventh phase of excavation that resumed last month after the lockdown restrictions were lifted.
- Already three layers of the ring well were exposed. The height of the first ring is 44 cm with a diameter of 77 cm. The overall height of the ring well with a 2.5 cm thick rim is 79 cm. The second ring has a slightly differently designed band around the structure. It has depressions in the shape of small squares.

### 2,300-year-old step-well



- A 2,300 year-old step-well has been found for the first time at the Kodumanal excavation site.
- The habitation-cum-industrial site is located in Chennimalai Union in Erode district.
- The site, located 15 km from Chennimalai, is along the banks of the Noyyal.
- Previous excavations since 1981 revealed the presence of an industrial complex where beads and semi-precious stones were manufactured.

### 2,500-year-old sword and a clay pot



- An excavation at Mayilaadumpaaraai next to Bargur in Krishnagiri district has uncovered 2,500-year-old sword and a clay pot.
- The iron sword was 70 cm long.
- The clay was about 50 cm in size.

### Silver coin at the Keeladi



- A punch-marked silver coin was found at the Keeladi excavation site in Sivagangai during the 7th phase of excavation.
- It indicates that people from this region traded with the north India using these coins prevalent in the 6th century BCE.
- The coin, which is marked with the figures of the sun, moon, bull, taurine, an animal figurine, and geometric designs show that Keeladi inhabitants were a trading community.
- Silver punch-marked coins were in circulation from the time of Mahajana padas of the 6th century BCE.

### Kudankulam - 5th power unit

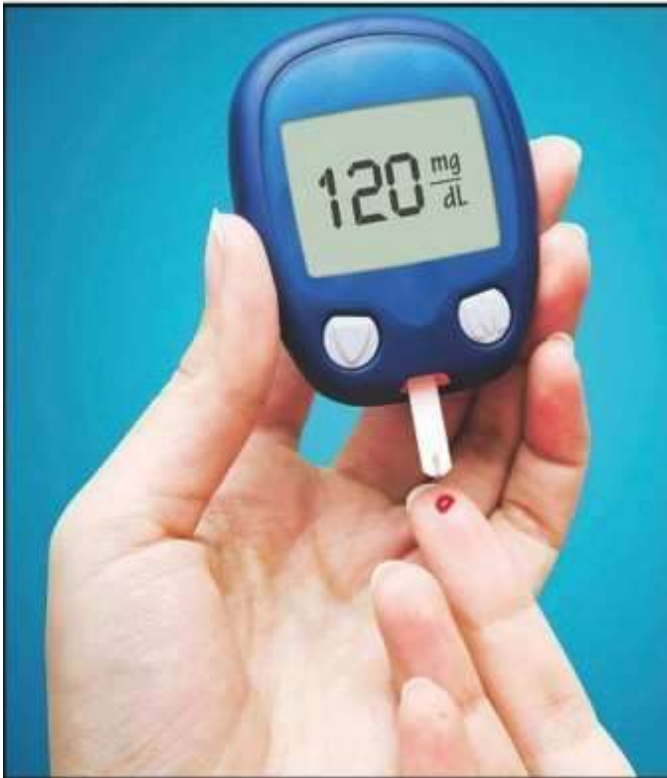
- Russia started construction of fifth nuclear power unit at Kudankulam (Tirunelveli) in Tamil Nadu.
- Rosatom (a Russian company) is providing technology to construct the Kudankulam plant.
- This plant was scheduled to six units each having 1,000 MWe generation capacity.
- It is going to be India's first light water reactor.
- Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant is the largest nuclear power plant of India.
- Construction of the plant started on March 31, 2002.

### Justice Murugesan commission

- It submitted its report to the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu.
- It was formed on June 15.
- It undertook the study of the representation of government school students in technical courses.
- The report discussed how only about 2% of government school students were being admitted to Anna University and less than 10% to State-run engineering colleges.
- It has recommended that they be given "preferential treatment" in admission to government quota seats in professional courses (other than medicine).

## Doorstep care to cut deaths due to diabetes & BP - TN

### 'MAKKALAI THEDI MARUTHUVAM'



➤ Those with elevated blood sugar and or BP will be sent to the nearest govt facility for tests and consultations

➤ Their blood sugar and pressure will be tested periodically by health workers when they visit patients' homes to also deliver drugs

➤ Peritoneal dialysis machines and physiotherapy services will also be provided at home

- The Tamil Nadu government has decided to launch a programme that will take clinics to people's homes across the state and offer home-based dialysis units to people with chronic renal failure.
- This is done with the aim to bring down by 50% nearly five lakh deaths caused ever year due to non-communicable diseases in the state.
- The state will launch a mass screening programme for 10 days as a precursor to the doorstep medical care programme and check for blood sugar and blood pressure
- Under 'makkalai thedi maruthuvam' scheme, those diagnosed with diabetes or hypertension will undergo preliminary screening and consultation at the government primary health centre.

### TNAU identifies grasses & trees to improve Elephant Habitats

- Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and Forest College and Research Institute (FC&RI) has undertaken a project to identify native grasses & trees.
- The objective is to improve quality of elephant habitats by restoring them with native grasses and fodder trees.
- The Forest Department has set up eight-member group for this.
- The team submitted an interim report recently.
- In the report, they have identified 29 native grass species and 14 fodder tree species that are palatable for elephants and other herbivores.
- The team also started a nursery for growing these species in FC&RI campus.



## PSTM reservation

- The Madurai Bench of Madras High Court directed the State to implement PSTM reservation in the state government appointments.
- It reiterated that only the candidates, who have had their entire education – from Class 1 till college or the prescribed higher qualification – in Tamil medium are eligible for the 20 per cent reservation under the PSTM Act.
- The Secretary of the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC) was seeking to exempt the commission from implementing the order in the 2020 Group I recruitment.
- The TNPSC stated that the said recruitment was announced in January 2020.
- But the Bench directed TNPSC to implement it in the current Group I services recruitment (2020) process as well.

## Dindigul Leoni to head Tamil Nadu Textbook Corporation



- Dindigul I Leoni has been appointed head of the Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation.
- The Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation is responsible for publishing, printing, and selling books free of cost to the government and government-aided schools, and also to private schools at a rate fixed by the government.
- It has been producing books for English and Tamil medium syllabus for students of Classes I to XII.

## Tamil Chair at University of Cologne in Germany

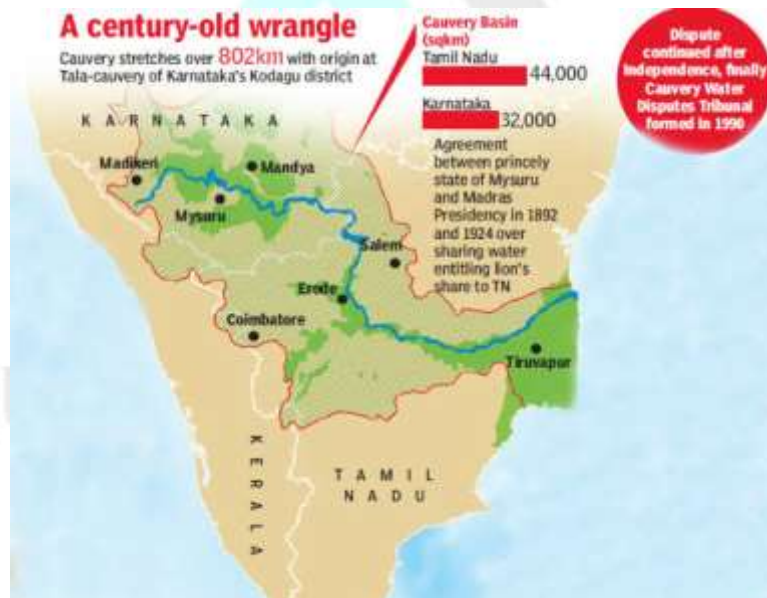
- Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin ordered to provide Rs 1.25 crore financial assistance for the Tamil Chair at University of Cologne in Germany.
- Dr Klaus Ludwig founded this Tamil Chair in 1963 at this university.
- It has one of the largest collections of Tamil books outside Tamil Nadu.

## Hyundai 1 crore car production



- The South Korean Automobile Company Hyundai reached a new milestone rolling out the 10 million vehicles.
- It was the recently launched Hyundai Alcazar.
- The Tamilnadu Chief Minister MK Stalin signed on that car.
- Hyundai's plant at Irrungtukottai in Kancheepuram district near Chennai is celebrating its 25th year in operation in 2021.
- It was started in 1996 during the tenure of Karunanidhi.

## 1892 Agreement between Mysore and Madras



- An Agreement was entered into between the then State of Mysore & Madras (presently State of Karnataka and State of Tamil Nadu) in 1892 with reference to taking up new irrigation works across the rivers
- According to this, when the Mysore Government desires to construct any "New irrigation Reservoir" or any new anicut, the full information regarding the proposed work shall be forwarded to the Madras Government and the consent of that Government shall be obtained previous to the actual commencement of work.
- The Madras Government shall be bound not to refuse such consent except for the protection of prescriptive right.



### **Muthaleetalarkalin Muthal Mugavari - Investment Conclave**

- The CM also said that within 2030 the GDP of Tamilnadu will be increased to one lakh crore US dollars or one trillion economy.
- He has set a target to bring in investment of ₹23 lakh crore by 2030.
- The State government signed Memoranda of Understanding for 35 new projects at an investment conclave in Chennai.
- It is entailing investments worth over ₹17,000 crore.
- The Chief Minister of Tamilnadu MK Stalin launched the Single Window Portal 2.0 with over 100 services spread across 24 departments for existing and new investors in a fully digitalised manner
- The Guidance Tamil Nadu, the state nodal agency for investment promotion, entered into an MoU with the American Tamil Entrepreneurs Association to promote start-ups in the fields of innovation, research and development in Tamil Nadu.
- This digital accelerator program sanctions grants to start-up projects engaged in innovation, research and development.
- The state government has sanctioned Rs 5 crore for this programme.

### **Some of the major investment deals**

- Danish auto component manufacturer Dinex's unit in Mahindra World City, Coral Manufacturing Works' unit in Erode are inaugurated.
- The foundation for liquid oxygen plant of INOX air products was laid at Hosur.
- JSW Renew Energy Two Limited at Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, Dindigul, and Tirupur.
- German firm ZF Wabco at Sipcot Oragadam.
- Singapore firm Capita Land in Ambattur.
- Srivaru Motors in Coimbatore.
- TCS Phase 3 for at Sipcot IT park Siruseri.

## 2. SPECIAL NEWS

Very important events can be called as special news

### Covid -19 Vaccine & Relief measures

#### Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine

## One more joins the battle

Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine has become the fourth one to get emergency use authorisation in India

- Three other COVID-19 vaccines – **Covaxin, Covishield and Sputnik B** – are currently available
- India is also in talks with **Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson** to add to the vaccines available
- Moderna's vaccine can be stored for a period of **seven months** at prescribed temperature and normal storage after the vial is opened is **30 days**
- It has shown to have an efficacy of approximately **94.1%** in protecting against COVID-19, starting **14 days after the first dose**



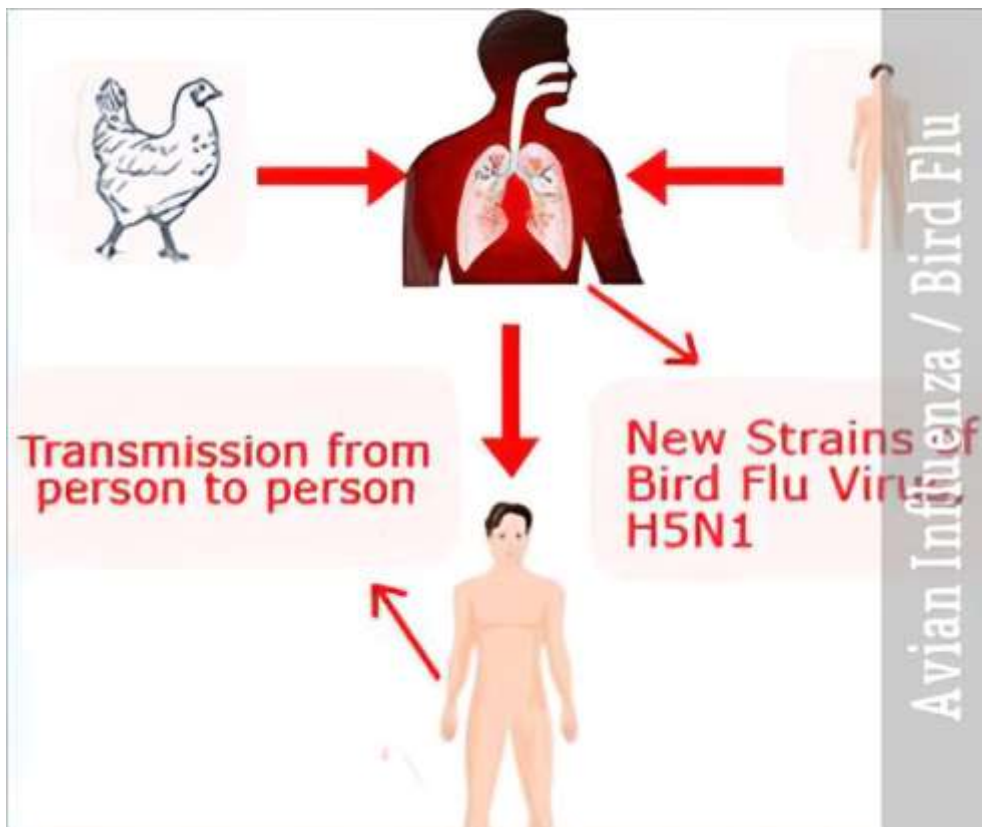
**Based on evidence collected so far, the new variants of SARS-CoV-2 do not alter the effectiveness of the vaccine**

- The Drugs Controller General of India has granted permission to Cipla to import Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine.
- Cipla is a Mumbai-based pharma company.
- This makes the fourth vaccine in the country to be given the emergency use authorisation (EUA).
- Currently, India has made available three COVID vaccines – Covaxin, Covishield and Sputnik.

#### Vaccine production

- Five member states of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) alone will account for three-quarters of the entire global output of COVID-19 vaccines this year.
- They are China, India, Germany, the United States, and France.
- The WTO held that the discriminatory access to vaccines is a root cause of the unequal recovery of the global economy.

## H5N1 avian influenza



- India has recorded first death due to H5N1 avian influenza this year.
- It is a disease caused by avian influenza Type A viruses found naturally in wild birds worldwide.
- Avian Influenza type A viruses are classified based on two proteins on their surfaces.
- They are Hemagglutinin (HA) and Neuraminidase (NA).
- India was declared free from Avian Influenza (H5N1) in 2019.
- The status will last only till another outbreak is reported.

## Cuba develops the world's first conjugate vaccine for COVID-19

- Cuba has developed world's first conjugate Covid-19 vaccine Soberana 2 (Sovereign 2).
- Soberana 2 vaccine is administered in three dose regimens.
- It comprises of two shots of Soberana 2 and one shot of Soberana Plus.
- When the Soberana 2 vaccine is delivered with booster shot of Soberana Plus, it is 91 percent effective against symptomatic Covid-19 cases.
- If this vaccine is approved, Cuba will become first Latin American country to manufacture and produce vaccine against Covid-19.
- Soberana 2 was developed by Finlay Institute in collaboration with Centre for Molecular Immunology and National Biopreparations Centre.
- A conjugate vaccine is a type of vaccine that combines weak antigen with strong antigen as a carrier.
- By doing that an immune system strongly response to a weak antigen.

## DATA POINT

### DATA POINT

## How qualified are teachers in India?

In India, a significant share of teachers in the pre-primary, primary and upper primary levels neither possess an academic degree\* from a college (a graduate or a post-graduate degree) nor a professional degree^ (such as B.Ed. or a certificate in basic teachers training). While the share of such underqualified teachers was lower in the secondary and higher secondary levels, in some States there were quite a few underqualified teachers at these levels. For instance, in Andhra Pradesh, 10% of upper primary and 8% of secondary level teachers were underqualified. The problem is more acute at the lower levels, especially across most north-eastern States. Most such teachers are concentrated in private unaided schools and institutions managed by the Department of Education. The data are sourced from the latest UDISE report for 2019-20. By **Jasmin Nihalani** and **Vignesh Radhakrishnan**

**STATE-WISE** | The table shows the % of teachers who are underqualified across States at various levels of education. For instance, about 16% of pre-primary, 8% of primary, 13% of upper primary, 3% of secondary and 1% of higher secondary teachers were underqualified in Bihar. In general, the share of such teachers decreases as the level of education increases

State	Pre primary	Primary	Upper primary	Secondary	Higher secondary
Karnataka	1.66	0.06	0.03	0.02	0.14
Goa	10.28	0.57	0.03	0.02	0.09
Kerala	0.09	0.22	0.06	0.02	0.00
Gujarat	1.51	0.17	0.08	0.02	0.03
Maharashtra	2.84	0.46	0.22	0.08	0.09
Haryana	4.16	1.38	0.24	0.06	0.04
Himachal	2.87	0.78	0.25	0.15	0.06
Telangana	1.42	0.52	0.31	0.12	0.04
Tamil Nadu	1.96	0.54	0.50	0.24	0.13
W.B.	8.10	7.53	0.54	0.08	0.05
Uttarakhand	3.47	2.54	0.56	0.08	0.06
Rajasthan	7.22	3.25	0.66	0.13	0.08
Punjab	5.91	3.42	1.26	0.34	0.20
U.P.	2.63	2.93	1.49	0.54	0.32
Odisha	2.86	3.46	1.61	0.45	0.34
Tripura	19.8	51.65	1.66	0.19	0.14
Chattisgarh	12.69	6.11	3.29	0.48	0.29
Sikkim	37.53	22.55	3.43	0.79	0
Manipur	16.02	11.66	3.58	0.4	0.05
Mizoram	17.1	7.05	3.6	0.67	0.05
Arunachal	17.07	11.51	4.06	0.28	0.07
J&K	15.35	14.18	6.63	0.57	0.11
M.P.	8.60	2.89	7.55	0.31	0.21
Jharkhand	12.03	9.20	7.67	0.56	0.33
A.P.	-	8.39	10	8.32	2.28
Assam	17.39	19.49	12.61	2.96	0.47
Bihar	16.16	8.47	12.95	2.76	1.32
Meghalaya	33.17	33.91	15.03	2	0.2
Nagaland	20.77	30	15.5	1.84	0.17
India	7.69	4.56	3.27	0.75	0.22

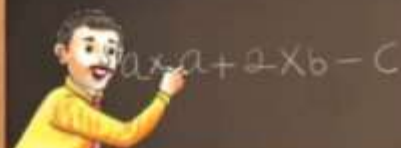
**ACROSS LEVELS** | The table lists the % of teachers who are underqualified across education levels. For instance, of all the underqualified teachers at the higher secondary level, about 60% are in private unaided (recognised) schools while 24% are in schools run by the Dept of Education.

Type of school	Pre primary	Primary	Upper primary	Secondary	Higher secondary
Private unaided	50.81	41.33	55.38	51.94	60.57
Department of education	36.66	35.78	17.25	20.04	23.69
Government aided	0.93	1.79	5.34	6.21	9.87
Madarsa recognised	0.34	2.35	1.79	0.89	1.23
Navodaya vidyalaya	0	0	0.01	0.13	0.73
Unrecognised	6.65	12.67	16.9	2.76	0.59
Kendriya vidyalaya	0.01	0.03	0.1	0.92	0.55
Local body	3.38	3.46	2.22	14.06	0.23
Tribal welfare dept.	0.06	1.69	0.42	1.79	0.23
Madarsa unrecognised	1.08	0.74	0.37	0.46	0.23

**MANAGEMENT-WISE** | The table lists the % of teachers who are underqualified in various kinds of schools. For instance, in private unaided schools, 10% of pre primary, 5.4% of primary, 3.7% of upper primary, 1% of secondary and 0.3% of higher secondary teachers are underqualified. Madarsa schools, in general, have a higher share of such teachers

Type of school	Pre primary	Primary	Upper primary	Secondary	Higher secondary
Madarsa unrecognised	31.9	12.5	10.4	5.9	3.3
Madarsa recognised	9.5	8.5	8.4	3	2.7
Unrecognised	16.9	22.5	19.7	4.3	0.4
Private unaided	10.2	5.4	3.7	1	0.3
Jawahar navodaya vidyalaya	0	0	0.3	0.3	0.3
Local body	18.8	1.4	1.3	2.3	0.1
Tribal welfare dept.	8.2	4.8	1.9	1.1	0.1
Kendriya vidyalaya	0.7	0.4	1.5	0.9	0.1
Department of education	5.1	3.8	1.6	0.4	0.1
Government aided	6.5	2	2.7	0.3	0.1

\*Academic degree from a college: graduate, post-graduate, M.Phil, PhD, Postdoctoral. ^Professional degree: B.El.Ed, B.Ed, Diploma or certificate in basic teachers training, diploma/degree in special education, M.Ed or pursuing any relevant course



## DATA POINT

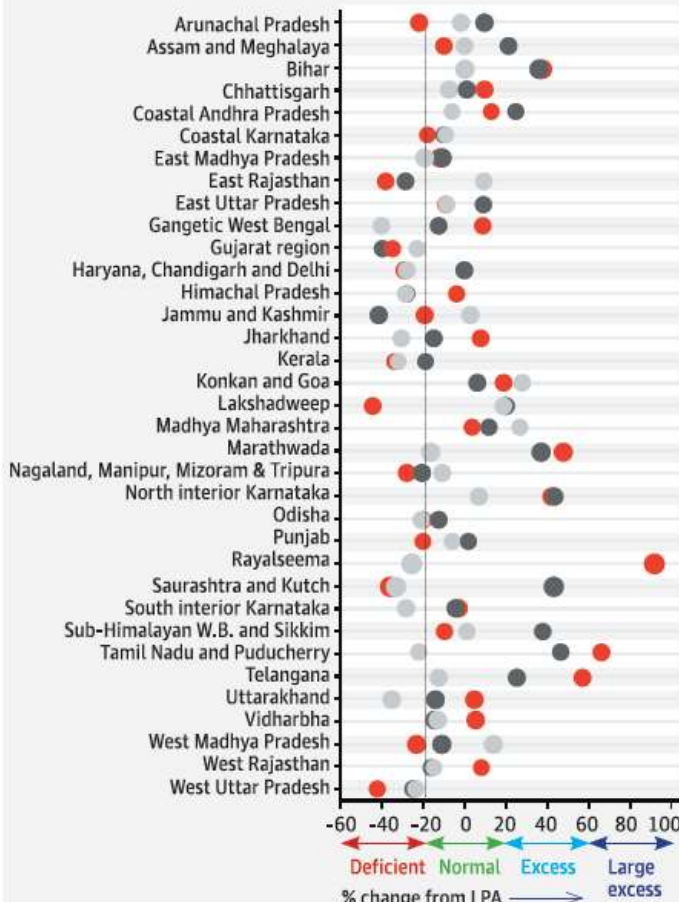
# Poor rains hamper sowing

Rainfall during the southwest monsoon reduced sharply in July compared to June, impacting the sowing of major Kharif crops. The deficit in rainfall is high in West Uttar Pradesh, east Rajasthan, Gujarat, the Saurashtra and Kutch regions, and Kerala this year and has reduced the area sown by more than 10% until July 9, 2021 compared to the same period in 2020. The area sown under paddy, coarse cereals, pulses and oil seeds decreased significantly across many States compared to the last five years. By **Vignesh Radhakrishnan, Sumant Sen and Jasmin Nihalani**

■ **SLOW MOVING** | In June 2021, India received 10% more rainfall than the long period average (LPA) due to the southwest monsoon. However, this reduced in the final days of June and early July. As a result, the cumulative rainfall received between June 1 and July 9 was 5% less than the LPA. While the deficit in 2021 was more than 2020 in the considered period, it was still better than 2019

Period	Rainfall deviation from LPA (%)
June 2019	-33
June 1-July 9, 2019	-9
June 2020	18
June 1-July 9, 2020	0.2
June 2021	10
June 1-July 9, 2021	-5

■ **REGION-WISE RAINFALL** | A similar trend was observed in most regions across India. Between June 1 and July 9, 2021 (●), 12 regions received "deficient (-20% to -59% of LPA)" or "large deficient (<-60% of LPA)" rainfall as against only seven regions for the same period in 2020 (●). However, in 2019 (●), 14 regions received deficient or large deficient rainfall. The chart shows the % deviation of rainfall from the LPA in sub-divisions between June 1 and July 9 in 2021, 2020 and 2019



■ **STATE-WISE SOWN AREA** | The table lists the % change in area sown till July 9, 2021 compared to the average area sown in the 2016-2020 period for select States. States where the area sown in 2021 has decreased compared to the average are coloured red. For instance, in 11 States, the sown area for paddy this year was lower than the average area between 2016 and 2020. The average area reduced in 10, 9 and 11 States for coarse cereals, pulses, and oil seeds, respectively

State	% change in sown area from avg. of 2016-2020			
	Paddy	Coarse cereals	Pulses	Oilseeds
Bihar	-43.18	-26.43	-51.32	-78.81
A.P.	-41.12	-51.20	-84.02	-72.55
Odisha	-38.41	-20.24	-12.95	-12.86
Rajasthan	-37.96	-51.22	-48.69	-21.28
West Bengal	-33.96	8.59	-50.15	-11.11
Jharkhand	-22.05	-37.23	-3.72	-14.23
Gujarat	-19.71	-31.92	13.47	30.98
Haryana	-18.04	-66.97	161.90	171.22
Karnataka	-16.56	24.13	21.57	14.82
Chhattisgarh	-12.57	2.97	22.77	-43.97
Assam	-10.61	103.13	25.00	-30.60
Punjab	4.66	-7.08	-	-64.29
Telangana	12.66	-50.01	-19.30	-35.09
Uttar Pradesh	23.93	19.16	-3.28	-9.13
Tamil Nadu	29.06	-6.32	-54.85	14.04
Maharashtra	46.11	-11.50	59.85	62.70
M.P.	142.20	24.81	27.44	-2.58

SOURCE: AGRICOOP, CMIE



## Great Indian Bustards

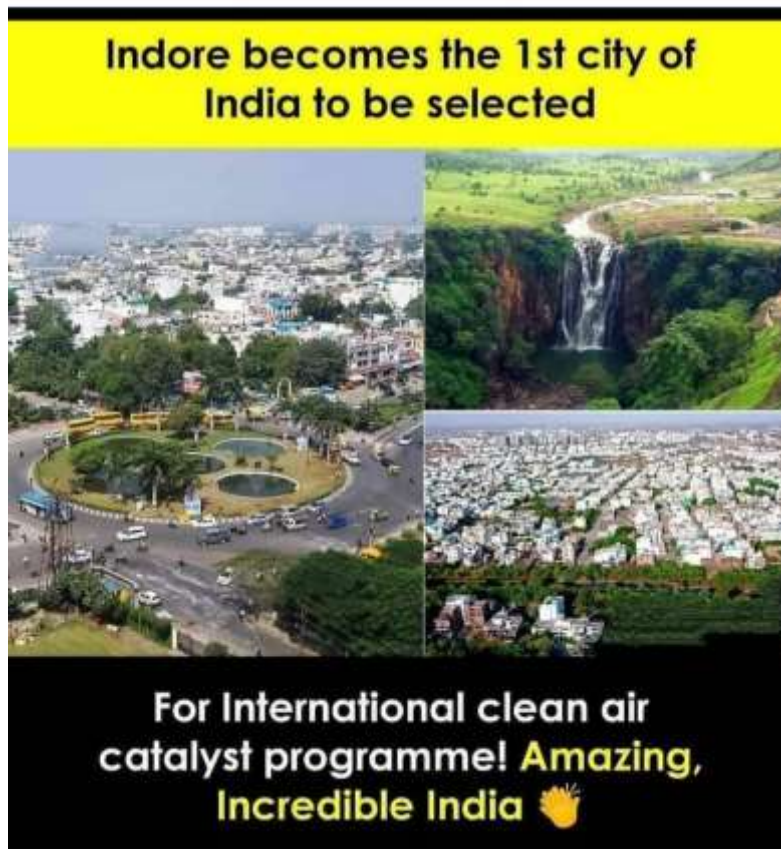


- The Central government informed that there were no Great Indian Bustards (GIB) in Kutch Bustard Sanctuary (KBS) in Gujarat.
- KBS near Naliya in Kutch district's Abdasa block is a tiny sanctuary notified in 1992 and spread over just 2 sq km.
- But its eco-sensitive zone spread over 220 sq km covers most of present-day core GIB habitat.
- The Great Indian Bustards are the largest among the four bustard species in India.
- The other three being MacQueen's bustard, lesser florican and the Bengal florican.
- Overhead power transmission lines are the biggest threat to the GIBs.

### **Nb3n mote**

- In April 2021, the Supreme Court ordered that all overhead power transmission lines in core and potential GIB habitats in Rajasthan and Gujarat should be undergrounded.
- The SC also formed a three-member committee to help power companies comply with the order.

**International Clean Air Catalyst Programme - Indore**



- The Indore city of Madhya Pradesh, or the cleanest city of India, has become the only city from the country to be selected for International Clean Air Catalyst Programme.
- The project will be operated for a period of five years.
- This is to purify the air in the city with the cooperation of Indore Municipal Corporation and Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board.

ARUL IAS ACADEMY

## Pegasus spyware

### What Pegasus spyware can do



- The continued use of spyware Pegasus, which an Israeli company sells to governments worldwide, has been confirmed with fresh reports.
- It is a spyware tool developed by an Israeli firm, the NSO Group.
- Spyware spy on people through their phones.
- Pegasus spyware has been used to conduct surveillance on ministers, opposition leaders, journalists, government officials and scientists of India.
- India was among the 10 countries in the list with the most numbers.
- Mexico topped the list.



### 3. IMPORTANT EVENTS

Events like awards, celebrations, etc...

#### 2020 Millennium Technology Prize



- The 2020 Millennium Technology Prize, announced in May, has been awarded to Shankar Balasubramanian and David Klenerman.
- It is awarded for their development of revolutionary DNA sequencing techniques.
- The award is given by the Republic of Finland, along with top Finnish academic institutions and industries.
- Shankar Balasubramanian was born in Chennai.

#### World's oldest person living



- The Guinness World Records officially named Puerto Rico's Emilio Flores Marquez as the world's oldest person (male) living.
- He is 112 years and 326 days old.
- Jeanne Calment, a French woman who died at 122 has been the oldest person who's ever lived.

## Cannes Film Festival



- Director Payal Kapadia's, "A Night of Knowing Nothing" won the Oeil d'or (Golden Eye) award for best documentary at the 74th Cannes Film Festival.
- She is a Mumbai-based filmmaker.
- Julia Ducournau won the Cannes' top prize, the Palme d'Or, for her film Titane.
- This made her the second woman to win the award.
- The first was Jane Campion in 1993 for the film "The Piano".
- The Best Director Award was won by Leos Carax for the pop-opera musical 'Annette'.
- Cannes Film Festival is an annual film festival held in Cannes, France.

## Equator Prize 2021 - Indian organisations



- Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar Producer Company Limited and Snehakunja Trust are among the 10 awardees of the prestigious Equator Prize 2021.
- They received the award for their work in the field of conservation and biodiversity.
- The UNDP gives a biennial award to recognize community efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
- Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar Producer Company Limited is run entirely by indigenous people from the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve in Tamil Nadu.
- Snehakunja Trust has protected sensitive wetland and coastal ecosystems in the Western Ghats and the Karnataka coast for 45 years.

## Olympic Laurel - Muhammad Yunus



- The Nobel Peace Prize awardee Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh will become the second recipient of the Olympic Laurel at Tokyo Olympics.
- The Kenyan Olympian and social changemaker Kip Keino received this honour at the Rio Olympics in 2016.
- He is often referred to as the “world’s banker to the poor”.
- Yunus founded the Grameen Bank in the 1983 at Bangladesh
- He was a proponent of microfinance and won the Nobel in 2006.

### CoWin Global Conclave

- The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi inaugurated and addressed the CoWin Global Conclave.
- The global meet was participated by representatives from 142 countries.
- The Conclave was jointly organized by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of External Affairs and National Health Authority.
- India has offered its indigenously developed cloud-based CoWIN platform to be made open-source so that it is available to any and all countries.

### Central-South Asia conference



- Uzbekistan hosted this high-level meeting in the capital city of Tashkent.
- It was titled "The International Conference on Central and South Asia Regional Connectivity, Challenges and Opportunities".
- The idea aimed at deepening economic and socio-cultural cooperation in Central and South Asia.
- For better connectivity, Uzbekistan has already established a railway route to Afghanistan.

## 4. PERSON IN NEWS

Persons whom occurred in news

### Violinist Sikkil R Bhaskaran



- The Noted Carnatic Classical Violinist 'Kalaimamani' Sikkil R Bhaskaran passed away.
- He started learning the Violin at the age of 11 from Thiruvarur Subba Iyer and later trained under Mayuram Govindarajan Pillai.
- He was an 'A' Grade Artist of AIR.
- He has served for nearly 2 decades in Chennai radio Station from 1976 to 1994.

### Second Transgender Sub Inspector of Police - Tamil Nadu



- Prithika Yashini from Salem district became the first transgender sub-inspector of Tamil Nadu in 2017.
- Following her, Sivanya, a transgender from Tiruvannamalai district, has now become the second transgender Sub Inspector of Police of the state.
- Sivanya lives in Pavupattu village of Tiruvannamalai district.

## Tamil scholar R.Ilangumaranar passed away



- Tamil scholar R.Ilangumaran, the recipient of Tamil Nadu Government's Thiru.Vi.Ka Award, has recently passed away.
- He was 94 years old.
- He was born in Vazhavandaalpuram village in Nellai district.
- With his creativity he completed the story line of partially availed epic Kundalakesi.
- The epic was then launched in 1958 at the Meenakshi Amman Temple in Madurai.
- In 1963, the Prime Minister Nehru published his collection of essays on Tirukural.

## New CM of Uttarakhand



- Pushkar Singh Dhami will be the next chief minister of Uttarakhand.
- He will be the youngest CM of Uttarakhand.
- 45-year-old Pushkar Singh Dhami is an MLA from the Khatima constituency in Udham Singh Nagar district.
- He will replace Tirath Singh Rawat.

### A teacher-student duo discovers three asteroids



- A teacher-student duo from Trichy has discovered three new asteroids.
- The three asteroids identified by them have been temporarily named BBM2101, BBM2102, and BBM2103.
- This search program is a part of an International Astronomical Search Collaboration (IASC) Citizen Science Programme organised by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).
- Bala Bharathi alias K. Balakrishnan and G. Aazhi mukilan (Physics student) took part in the International Asteroid Search Campaign, wherein they discovered three asteroids.
- Both were part of the Tiruchi Astro Club, which participated in the programme.

### Second India-born woman to fly into space



- Sirisha Bandla will be flying to space with Richard Branson on July 11.
- Richard Branson is the founder of the Virgin Galactic company
- Bandla will be taking care of the researcher's experience on the Unity22 mission.
- She will be one of the six space travellers aboard 'VSS Unity' of Virgin Galactic.
- Sirisha Bandla hailing from Andhra's Guntur district was brought up in Houston.
- She will become the second India-born woman to fly into space after Kalpana Chawla.
- Rakesh Sharma and Sunita Williams were the other Indians who went into space prior to Bandla.

## Actor Dilip Kumar passes away



- Legendary Bollywood actor Mohammed Yusuf Khan passed away at 98.
- He was known professionally as Dilip Kumar.
- He was popularly known as the tragedy king of Bollywood.
- He was last seen in the 1998 film Qila.
- He was the first actor to win the Filmfare Award for Best Actor in 1954.
- He has won it a total of 8 times.
- Dilip Kumar is listed in the Guinness World Records for winning the maximum number of awards by an Indian actor.
- He is also credited as the first method actor in India.
- He was honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 1994 and Padma Vibhushan in 2015.



### Tamil YouTube cooking channel's subscribers cross 1 crore



- The farmers-turned-YouTube stars who took their village, Chinna Veeramangalam in Pudukkottai district, to an international audience through traditional cooking videos have garnered one crore subscribers.
- The Village Cooking Channel was awarded a Diamond Play button by YouTube for its achievement. The group donated ₹10 lakh from their earnings to the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund (CMPRF) to aid the fight against COVID-19.

### Former IPS officer K Annamalai appointed BJP's new Tamil Nadu chief



- BJP President J.P. Nadda has appointed former IPS officer K. Annamalai as the new chief of the party's Tamil Nadu unit, as per a party statement.
- The vacancy arose after incumbent L. Murugan was inducted into the Narendra Modi government as Minister of State in the reshuffle.

## War Memorial of Captain Gurjinder Singh Suri



- The Indian Army inaugurated a war memorial in memory of Captain Gurjinder Singh Suri in Gulmarg near the Line of Control (LOC).
- This was inaugurated on the occasion of the birthday of Captain Gurjinder Singh Suri.
- Captain Gurjinder Singh Suri died during the operation “Birsa Munda” in 1999.

## Yashpal Sharma

**WD** **RIP - YASHPAL SHARMA**  
(1954-2021)

- Yashpal Sharma scored 240 runs at an average of 34.28 in the 1983 ODI world cup.
- In 4 year long career (1979-83), He scored 1606 runs in 37 Tests and 883 runs in 42 ODIs.
- He also served as a national selector for a couple of years.

- The Former Indian cricketer, Yashpal Sharma has passed away.
- He was a member of the Indian team that won the 1983 Cricket World Cup.
- The Punjab-born cricketer had represented three teams in Ranji including Punjab, Haryana and Railways.

## Danish Siddiqui



- The Indian photojournalist Danish Siddiqui has passed away.
- He was killed in a clash while reporting a fight between Afghan troops and the Taliban in Spin Boldak district of Kandahar province in Afghanistan.
- He was employed with the international news agency Reuters.
- He was a recipient of the prestigious Pulitzer Prize.

## Dr. Kadambini Ganguly



- Google on July 18, 2021 honoured Dr. Kadambini Ganguly with a doodle celebrating her 160th birth anniversary.
- She is the first woman to be trained as a physician in India.
- The Google doodle features a sketch of Kadambini Ganguly, by a Bengaluru-based guest artist Oddrija.
- Dr. Kadambini Ganguly was the first woman to get admission to the Calcutta Medical College in 1884.
- Kadambini Ganguly pioneered a successful medical practice in India along with other women doctors as Anandibai Joshi, who hailed from Mumbai.
- Kadambini Ganguly was born in Bhagalpur British India, which is now in Bangladesh.

## Sher Bahadur Deuba becomes Nepal's PM for 5th time



- For Nepal's newly appointed Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, the post is quite a familiar one. This is his fifth time being the Prime Minister of the country, having served in the post during the constitutional monarchy period in the 1990s and early 2000s, including a stint under the rule of then King Gyanendra, who suspended Parliament in the early 2000s and later in 2017 after Nepal became a republic.
- Ironically after the thumping victory of the K.P. Oli-led Nepal Communist Party – formed with the merger of Mr. Oli's Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) and the Pushpa Kumar Dahal-led Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist-Centre) – in the 2018 elections, Mr. Deuba and his Nepali Congress had been reduced into a smaller opposition force.




## New Governors

Sl.no	State	New Governor
1.	Karnataka	Thawarchand Gehlot
2.	Madhya Pradesh	Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
3.	Mizoram	Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati
4.	Himachal Pradesh	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
5.	Goa	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
6.	Tripura	Satyadev Narayan Arya
7.	Jharkhand	Ramesh Bais
8.	Haryana	Bandaru Dattatraya

- The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind has appointed new Governors for eight states.
- According to the article 155, The Governor of a State shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.
- The Union Government is responsible to nominate the governor for each state.

## The Cabinet reshuffle

**EYE ON POLLS** | A look at the new Cabinet of the Central government which was sworn in on Wednesday

 <b>Narayan Tatu Rane, 69</b> Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	 <b>Sarbananda Sonowal, 58</b> Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; and AYUSH	 <b>Virendra Kumar, 67</b> Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment	<b>Kiren Rijju, 49</b>   Minister of Law and Justice <b>Raj Kumar Singh, 68</b>   Minister of Power; and Minister of New and Renewable Energy <b>Hardeep Singh Puri, 69</b>   Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs <b>Ramchandra Prasad Singh, 63</b>   Minister of Steel <b>Bhupender Yadav, 52</b>   Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and Minister of Labour and Employment <b>G. Kishan Reddy, 61</b>   Minister of Culture; Minister of Tourism; and Minister of Development of North Eastern Region <b>Anurag Singh Thakur, 46</b>   Minister of Information and Broadcasting; and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports <b>Pankaj Choudhary, 56</b>   Minister of State, Finance <b>Anupriya Singh Patel, 40</b>   MoS, Commerce and Industry	<b>S.P. Singh Baghel, 61</b>   MoS, Law and Justice <b>Rajeev Chandrasekhar, 57</b>   MoS, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; Electronics and Information Technology <b>Shobha Karandlaje, 54</b>   MoS, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare <b>Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, 63</b>   MoS, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises <b>Darshana Vikram Jardosh, 60</b>   MoS, Textiles and Railways <b>Meenakshi Lekhi, 54</b>   MoS, External Affairs and Culture <b>Annpurna Devi, 51</b>   MoS, Education <b>A. Narayanaswamy, 64</b>   MoS, Social Justice and Empowerment <b>Kaushal Kishore, 61</b>   MoS, Housing and Urban Affairs <b>Ajay Bhatt, 60</b>   MoS, Defence and Tourism <b>B. L. Verma, 59</b>   MoS, Development of North Eastern Region and Co-operation	<b>Ajay Kumar, 60</b>   MoS, Home Affairs <b>Devusinh Chauhan, 56</b>   MoS, Communications <b>Bhagwant Khuba, 52</b>   MoS, New and Renewable Energy and Chemicals and Fertilizers <b>Kapil Moreswar Patil, 60</b>   MoS, Panchayati Raj <b>Pratima Bhoomik, 52</b>   MoS, Social Justice and Empowerment <b>Subhas Sarkar, 67</b>   MoS, Education <b>Bhagwat Karad, 64</b>   MoS, Finance <b>Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, 68</b>   MoS, External Affairs and Education <b>Bharati Pravin Pawar, 42</b>   MoS, Health and Family Welfare <b>Bishweswar Tudu, 56</b>   MoS, Tribal Affairs and Jal Shakti <b>Shantanu Thakur, 38</b>   MoS, Ports, Shipping and Waterways <b>Mahendra Munjapara, 52</b>   MoS, Women and Child Development and AYUSH <b>John Barla, 45</b>   MoS, Minority Affairs <b>Nisith Pramanik, 36</b>   MoS, Home Affairs and Youth Affairs and Sports
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**CABINET COMPOSITION**

12 SC Ministers	27 OBC Ministers	4 former CMs	Out of the 43 ministers sworn in, 36 are new faces
8 ST Ministers	11 Women Ministers	25 Ministers from 25 States/UTs	

- The reshuffle and expansion of the union council of ministers has seen the record induction of members from OBC and SC communities.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi oversaw the swearing-in of 43 Ministers.
- Earlier, 12 Ministers (seven Cabinet and five Ministers of State) were dropped.
- Ravi Shankar Prasad, Prakash Javadekar, Harsh Vardhan, Ramesh Pokhriyal and Santosh Gangwar were among the heavyweights dropped.
- The government now has a record 12 Ministers belonging to the Scheduled Castes and 27 belonging to Other Backward Classes.
- Also Eight Ministers belonging to the Scheduled Tribes and five Ministers belonging to minority communities, including one Muslim, one Christian, one Sikh and two Buddhists.
- Women Ministers are numbered at 11 with two Cabinet Ministers and others being Ministers of State.

**Leader of House in Rajya Sabha - Piyush Goyal**



- The union minister Piyush Goyal has been appointed as the Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha.
- He will succeed Thawar Chand Gahlot, who has taken charge as the Governor of Karnataka.
- This replacement signals the induction of younger leader for a role which is usually handled by veterans.
- Piyush Goyal is serving as the Union minister for commerce, consumer affairs and food & textiles.
- The Leader of the House is responsible for organizing government meetings and business in the House.

## New Cabinet Committees

### Key changes

■ **Smriti Irani**, Bhupendra Yadav, Giriraj Singh, Mansukh Mandaviya and Sarbananda Sonowal included in Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs



■ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs reduced in size from 11 members to eight

■ Virendra Kumar and **Anurag Thakur** included in Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs



■ Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth sees inclusion of Narayan Rane, Jyotiraditya Scindia and Ashwini Vaishnaw

■ Bhupendra Yadav, G. Kishen Reddy and Ashwini Vaishnaw added to Cabinet Committee on Employment and Skill Development

- The Union Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi reshuffled the different cabinet committees.
- There are eight cabinet committees that act as the final decision-making body on important political, economic, security and investment matters.
- There has been no change in the pecking order of the top ministers.
- The Home minister Amit Shah continues to be the second most powerful man in the government after PM Modi.
- He is part of all eight cabinet committees.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi continues to head six of the eight committees.
- They are appointments, economic affairs, political affairs, security, investment and growth, and employment and skill development.

## Shantanu Sen, Trinamool Congress MP, suspended from Rajya Sabha



- Santanu Sen, Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP, was suspended from the Rajya Sabha for the rest of the Monsoon Session.
- This was done because of him being unruly a day after he snatched papers from newly appointed information technology minister Ashwani Vaishnav while he was reading out a statement regarding the Pegasus snooping scandal.
- The government sought the suspension of the TMC MP under Rule 256 (2).

## Syrian president sworn in for 4th term in war-torn country



- The Syrian President Bashar Assad was sworn for a fourth seven-year term.
- He is in power since 2000 at Syria.
- He was accused by the European and the US governments for most of the civil war atrocities.
- But he is supported by Iran and Russia.



## BS Yeddyurappa resigns



- At a two-year celebration of his government, Karnataka Chief Minister, BS Yeddyurappa announced his resignation.
- He will remain as caretaker Chief Minister of the state while his party decides on his replacement.
- BS Yeddyurappa became the first Chief Minister in the south of the BJP.
- He had served as the chief minister of Karnataka for four terms.
- He was the only chief minister to do so in Karnataka history.

## Basavaraj S Bommai



- The BJP legislature party has unanimously elected Lingayat MLA Basavaraj S Bommai as the new Chief Minister of Karnataka.
- He will succeed BS Yediyurappa.
- He will be sworn in as the 23rd Chief Minister of Karnataka.

### Kavitha Maloth



- Kavitha Maloth, a Member of Parliament from the Telangana Rashtra Samithi, was convicted by a special court in Hyderabad.
- She reportedly bribed voters with cash during the 2019 Lok Sabha election.
- The MP from Mahabubabad constituency in Telangana was convicted by a special sessions court for MP and MLA cases.




### Youngest mountaineer to scale K2



- A 19-year old Pakistani climber became the youngest person in the world to reach the summit of K2.
- K2 is the second-highest peak in the world.
- Mr. Shehroze Kashif from Lahore achieved the feat of scaling the 8,611-metre high peak with the aid of bottled oxygen.
- Pakistan, Nepal, and China are home to the 14 highest peaks in the world, also known as the 8,000ers.
- Five 8,000-metre peaks, including K2 and Nanga Parbat are in Pakistan.

**Relief measures - Finance ministry**

# Relief measures

HEALTH 	BALM FOR COVID-HIT SECTORS 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>₹50,000 crore</b> credit guarantee for new and ongoing projects outside metros</li> <li>■ Interest rate capped at <b>7.95%</b></li> <li>■ <b>₹15,000 crore</b> for public projects to augment paediatric care, ICU beds, oxygen supply and medical personnel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme expanded by <b>₹1.5 lakh crore</b></li> <li>■ <b>₹60,000 crore</b> loan guarantees and concessional credit for some sectors</li> <li>■ <b>25 lakh</b> small borrowers to get guaranteed cheap loans worth <b>₹7,500 crore</b> through micro-finance firms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Fresh loans to over 11,000 tourism agents and guides to <b>resume work</b></li> <li>■ EPF sops for new jobs with salaries less than <b>₹15,000</b> per month extended till March 2022</li> <li>■ Free tourist visas for <b>first five lakh</b> visitors</li> </ul> 

- The government has announced some fresh relief measures for the economy.
- This is the first such package after the second COVID-19 wave.
- The following eight measures were proposed by Ministry of Finance.
- Rs 1.10 lakh crore Loan Guarantee Scheme for COVID Affected sectors
  - This includes Rs 50,000 crore for the health sector and Rs 60,000 crore for other sectors, including tourism.
- Additional Rs 1.5 lakh crore for Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme.
- Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro Finance Institutions (New scheme).
  - Amount per loan capped at Rs 1.25 lakh at an interest rate of MCLR (the minimum lending rate for a bank) plus 2 per cent.
- Scheme for Tourists guides/ stakeholders
  - Tourism Stakeholders will be eligible to get a loan up to Rs. 10 lakh each while tourist guides can avail of loan up to Rs 1 lakh each.
- Free one-month tourist visa to 5 lakh tourists
  - The total amount sanctioned for the scheme is Rs 100 crore.
  - The facility will be applicable till 31st March 2022 or till 5 lakh visas are issued, whichever is earlier.
- Extension of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana
  - The date of registration under the scheme has been extended from 30 June 2021 to 31 March 2022.
- The Additional Subsidy for DAP & P&K fertilizers.
- Free food grains under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) to be provided from May to November 2021.

## Financial Stability Report



- The Reserve Bank of India released the 23rd issue of its Financial Stability Report.
- It is published biannually.
- The Gross Non-Performing Asset ratio of India's Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) may climb by the end of 2021-22 to as much as 11.2%.
- It was 7.48% in March 2021.
- The GNPA ratio of SCBs may increase to 9.8% by March 2022 under the baseline scenario.
- The RBI Financial Stability Report is released by the Financial Stability and Development Council.
- The Union Finance Minister is the chairperson of this Council.
- The idea of the council was mooted by Raghuram Rajan Committee in 2008.

## NPCI extends BHIM UPI to Bhutan

- Bhutan has become first country to adopt Unified Payment Interface (UPI) standards of India for its quick response (QR) code.
- Bhutan after Singapore has become the second country to have BHIM-UPI acceptance at merchant locations.
- International wing of the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) called NPCI International Payments Ltd. (NIPL) announced partnership with Royal Monetary Authority (RMA) of Bhutan to implement BHIM UPI QR-based payments in Bhutan.
- Bhutan will also become the only country to issue & accept RuPay cards and accept BHIM-UPI.

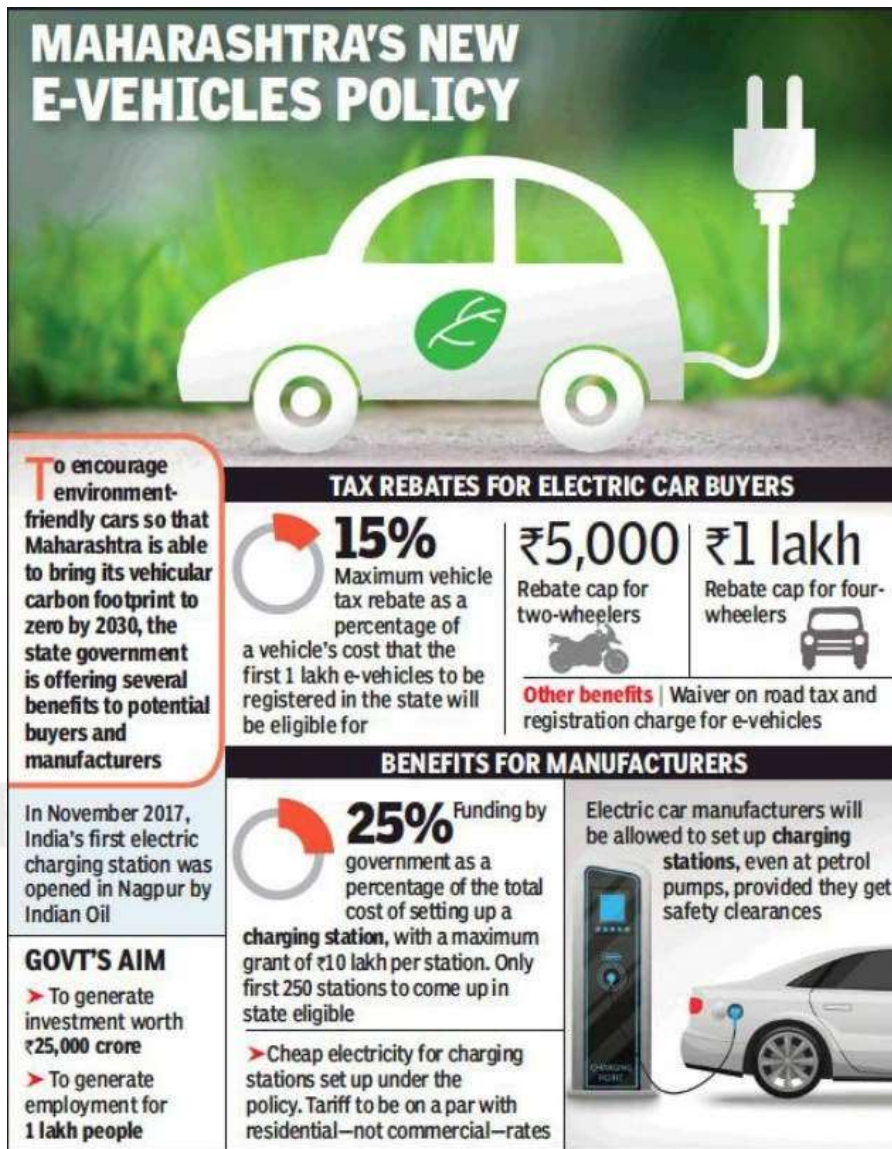
## Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM)

- It is an Indian mobile payment App developed by National Payments Corporation of India.
- It is named after B. R. Ambedkar.
- It was launched on December 30, 2016.

## Restrictions on Mastercard Asia - RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India has imposed restrictions on Mastercard Asia/Pacific Private Limited for adding new domestic customers from 22nd July 2021.
- MasterCard will not be allowed to add customers, be it for debit, credit or pre-paid cards onto its network.
- This is because the entity has failed to comply with the directions on Storage of Payment System Data.

## EV Policy



**MAHARASHTRA'S NEW E-VEHICLES POLICY**

To encourage environment-friendly cars so that Maharashtra is able to bring its vehicular carbon footprint to zero by 2030, the state government is offering several benefits to potential buyers and manufacturers

**TAX REBATES FOR ELECTRIC CAR BUYERS**

**15%** Maximum vehicle tax rebate as a percentage of a vehicle's cost that the first 1 lakh e-vehicles to be registered in the state will be eligible for

**₹5,000** Rebate cap for two-wheelers

**₹1 lakh** Rebate cap for four-wheelers

**Other benefits** | Waiver on road tax and registration charge for e-vehicles

**BENEFITS FOR MANUFACTURERS**

**25%** Funding by government as a percentage of the total cost of setting up a charging station, with a maximum grant of ₹10 lakh per station. Only first 250 stations to come up in state eligible

Electric car manufacturers will be allowed to set up **charging stations**, even at petrol pumps, provided they get safety clearances

**GOVT'S AIM**

- To generate investment worth ₹25,000 crore
- To generate employment for 1 lakh people

In November 2017, India's first electric charging station was opened in Nagpur by Indian Oil

➤ Cheap electricity for charging stations set up under the policy. Tariff to be on a par with residential—not commercial—rates

- Maharashtra government has unveiled the “Maharashtra Electric Vehicle (EV) policy, 2021”.
- All EVs sold in State will be exempted from road tax and registration charges.
- It also seeks to ensure that by 2025 EVs comprise at least 10% of new vehicles registered and 25% electrification of public transport in six urban centres namely, Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune, Amravati, Aurangabad and Nashik.
- It will also set up 2,500 charging stations in urban areas and highways.

**RBI Retail Direct' scheme**

# DIRECT ACCESS TO GOVT BONDS

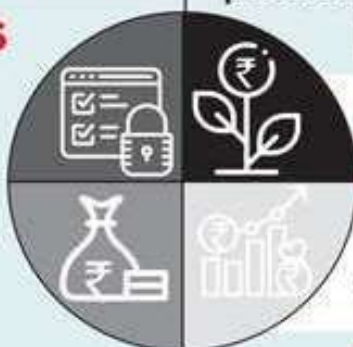
**What are government securities**

| G-Secs are low-risk, sovereign-guaranteed bonds with assured interest paid every six months. Trading makes them liquid

**Compare with stocks, FDs**

| Stocks are high-risk, volatile assets, in which returns can fluctuate. FDs have assured returns, but don't have guarantee over Rs 5 lakh

**RBI initiative** | It enabled retail investors to directly invest and trade G-Secs. Currently, it is possible to invest in G-Sec



auction only through an NSE platform or through Gilt MFs

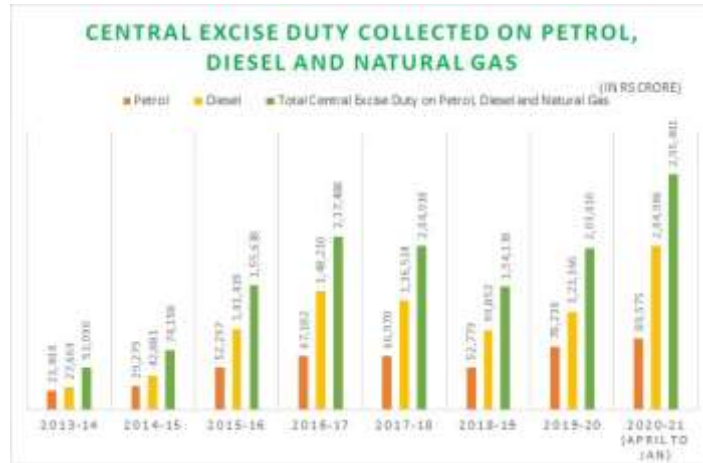
**How to invest directly** | Open an account on RBI's Retail Direct platform online. Guidelines will be published soon

**What could be the obstacles** | The current lot size is ₹5 crore (to be cut), lack of awareness

**Global practice** | India is the first in Asia to allow retail investors in G-Secs. Other countries that allow include the US, the UK and Brazil

- RBI's Retail Direct Scheme is a one-stop solution to facilitate investment in Government Securities (G-Sec) by individual investors.
- The retail investors will be provided a facility to open and maintain Retail Direct Gilt Account with RBI.
- This facility was launched as part of continuing efforts towards increasing retail participation in government securities.
- It was launched to improve ease of access by retail investors by online access to primary as well as secondary government securities market.

**Excise duty on Auto fuel**



- The central government's tax collections on petrol and diesel jumped to Rs 3.35 lakh crore in FY21.
- It was from Rs 1.78 lakh crore in FY20.
- It includes excises on not just petrol and diesel but also Aviation Turbine Fuel, natural gas and crude oil.
- The Collections would have been higher but fuel sales were falling due to lockdown in last year.
- The Centre had raised excise duty by Rs 13 per litre on petrol and Rs 16 on diesel between March-end and May 2020.
- If petrol is selling for more than Rs 100 a litre and diesel over Rs 90 in most states, it is more due to high taxes rather than costlier crude.


**The Department of Public Enterprises under Finance Ministry**

**THE NEW STRUCTURE**

<p><b>Finmin had 3 departments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Expenditure</li> <li>➤ Revenue</li> <li>➤ Economic affairs</li> </ul>	<p><b>Subsequently more were added</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Financial services</li> <li>➤ Dipam</li> <li>➤ Public enterprises</li> </ul>
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➤ Department of public enterprises has come under the direct control of finance minister **Nirmala Sitharaman**.

➤ This is seen as a move to exercise greater financial control over state-run enterprises



- The government split the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises and brought the Department of Public Enterprises under the administrative control of the Finance Ministry.
- This move is aimed at ensuring that the Centre's privatisation, asset monetisation and capital expenditure plans for state-owned companies are aligned and coordinated.
- Department of Public Enterprises becomes the sixth department in the Finance Ministry.

### **India - 5th largest Forex reserve**

- India has surpassed Japan, China, Russia and Switzerland to become the world's fifth-largest foreign exchange reserve holder with \$608.99 billion.
- India's balance of payments has surpassed in both the capital and current accounts in the year 2020-21.
- That largely contributed to the gains in the foreign exchange reserves of the country.
- India's present foreign exchange reserves are sufficient enough to provide the payment for imports for more than 18 months.
- The Forex reserves mainly comprise of bonds, foreign currencies, gold, bank deposits, financial assets and special drawing rights.

### **IFC invests \$16.5 million in MedGenome**

- The IFC will be investing \$16.5 million in genetics diagnostics and research company 'MedGenome'.
- It aims to increase the access to COVID-19 testing in India.
- IFC is a leading global development institution that focuses on the private sector in developing countries.
- It is a member of the World Bank Group founded in 1956.
- The institution advances economic development and improves the lives of the people.





## 6. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Inventions and updations of Science

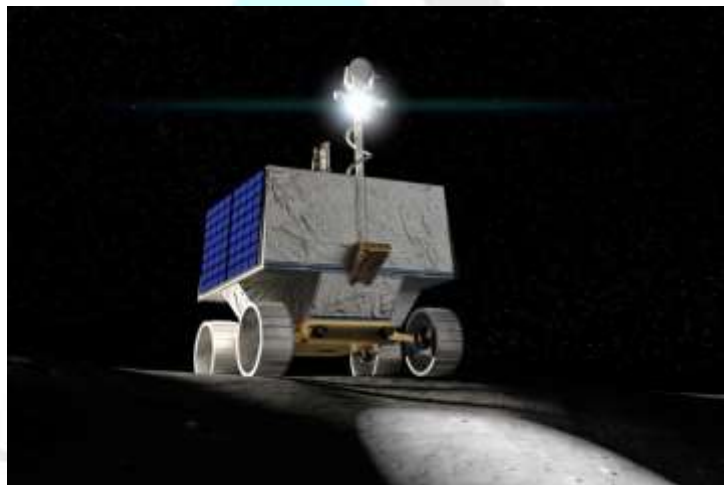
#### Asteroid Ryugu

- NASA has received its first sample of asteroid Ryugu that returned to Earth in December 2020 by Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's (JAXA) Hayabusa2 spacecraft.
- Samples from asteroid Ryugu is one of the first samples to leave Japan for preliminary investigation.
- Mike Zolensky was one of the first scientists to examine this sample so as to determine its basic nature.

#### Note

- Asteroid Ryugu is also called as 162173 Ryugu.
- It is provisionally designated as 1999 JU3.
- It is a near-Earth object and a potentially hazardous asteroid belonging to Apollo group.

#### NASA's VIPER Mission



- NASA has announced that it will launch its Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover, or VIPER, in 2023.
- NASA is undertaking the mission to understand if it is possible for human life to sustain there, by using locally available resources.
- VIPER is a mobile robot.
- It is the first resource mapping mission on any other celestial body.
- NASA's Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) will be providing the launch vehicle and lander for what's going to be a 100-day mission.

#### Objectives of the mission

- Explore the Moon's South Pole region.
- Help create lunar resource maps.
- Evaluate the concentration of water as well as other potential resources on its surface.

### **Supernova spotted by Indian researchers**

- The Indian researchers have spotted an extremely bright, hydrogen deficient, fast-evolving supernova.
- The rare spotted supernova (SN) shines with energy borrowed from exotic type of neutron star having ultra-powerful magnetic field.
- The Study on such ancient spatial objects can help in solving the mysteries of early universe.
- This SN was spotted using special arrangements at India's Devasthal Optical Telescope (DOT-3.6m), Sampurnanand Telescope-1.04m and Himalayan Chandra Telescope-2.0m.

### **India's first 'green hydrogen' plant**

- India's largest oil firm, the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), will build the country's first 'green hydrogen' plant at its refinery in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.
- Hydrogen is the latest buzz as it is a clean fuel and energy-intensive.
- But manufacturing it causes carbon by-products.
- With Hydrogen fuel cell powered buses are plying on the road it will be essential to set up hydrogen power plants.

### **Maglev train - China**



- China unveils 600 kmph maglev train.
- It is the fastest ground vehicle globally.
- The maglev train will use the electro-magnetic force.
- It levitates above the track with no contact between the body and the rail.
- Countries from Germany to Japan have also been looking to build Maglev networks.

## S-500 air defence missile systems



- Russia has successfully test-fired S-500 new air defence missile systems.
- It is named as Triumfator-M and Prometheus.
- It is the most advanced anti-missile system in the world.
- It is expected to have a range of 600 km.
- It is also capable of countering attacks from the space.

### High-strength beta Titanium alloy - Ti-10V-2Fe-3Al

- A high strength titanium alloy has been developed by India's Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).
- This alloy has been developed for applications in aerospace structural forgings.
- The titanium alloys are unique due to their ductility, higher strength, fracture toughness and fatigue.
- Also, this alloy has relatively lower lifetime cost due to its superior corrosion resistance in comparison to steels.
- It contains Iron, Vanadium, and Aluminum.

## Vikas Engine

### Soaring high

The Vikas engine is aimed at improving the payload capability of PSLV, GSLV and GSLV Mk-III launch vehicles



■ Vikas is a family of liquid fuelled rocket engines

■ **Utility:** The engine is the workhorse liquid rocket engine powering the second stage of India's PSLV; second stage and the four strap-on stages of GSLV ; and twin engine core liquid stage (L110) of GSLV Mk-III

■ **Performance:**

Thrust 800 kN<sub>2</sub>  
Specific impulse: 290 seconds

■ **Dimension**

Length 3.70 m (12.1 feet)

■ **Liquid-fuel engine:**

Propellant: N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>

■ **Cycle:** Gas generator

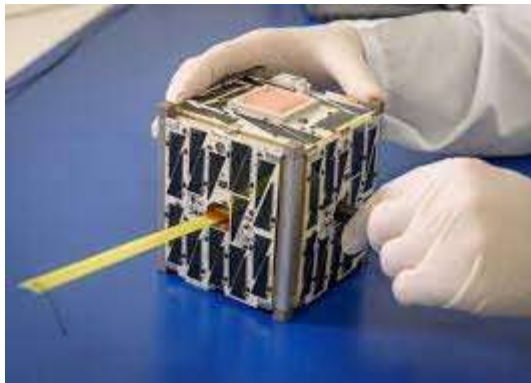
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully conducted the third long duration hot test of liquid fuel powered, Vikas Engine.
- It was done at engine test facility of ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu.
- With this testing, ISRO has moved further for its first human space mission Gaganyaan.
- It was conducted for core L110 liquid stage (engine) of human rated Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk III (GSLV Mk III).

## MiG-29 fighter jets



- The Indian Air Force received approval from the defence ministry to procure 21 MiG-29 fighter jets besides 12 Sukhoi MK1 from Russia
- Russia will supply 21 MiG-29 fighters to India.
- Designed by the Soviet Union, Mikoyan MiG-29 is a twin-engine jet fighter aircraft.
- This aircraft is equipped with air-to-surface missiles.

## Near-Earth Asteroid Scout (NEA Scout)



- NASA has announced its next new spacecraft.
- It is a small spacecraft which is not bigger than a big shoebox.
- It is also known as Cubesat.
- Its primary mission is to collect data from a near-Earth asteroid.
- It is among one of several payloads that will hitch a ride on Artemis I.
- This will be America's first interplanetary mission that will be using special solar sail propulsion.
- This spacecraft will take around two years to reach the targeted asteroid and
- It will fly nearly 93 million miles away from the Earth to reach that asteroid.
- Artemis I is a crew-less test flight of the SLS rocket and Orion spacecraft.
- Under this programme, the NASA space agency has aimed to land the first woman on the Moon in the year 2024.

## First uncrewed mission - ISRO

- The first unmanned launch was scheduled for December 2020 and the second unmanned launch was scheduled for July 2021 and the final human spaceflight was scheduled in December 2021.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the dates were postponed.
- The first unmanned mission is planned in December 2021 and the second unmanned mission in 2022-23, followed by human spaceflight.
- GSLV Mk III, ISRO's heavy-lift launcher has also been identified for the mission.
- With the success of the Gaganyaan mission, India would become the fourth country to successfully launch a crewed mission into space after the US, China, and USSR/Russia.

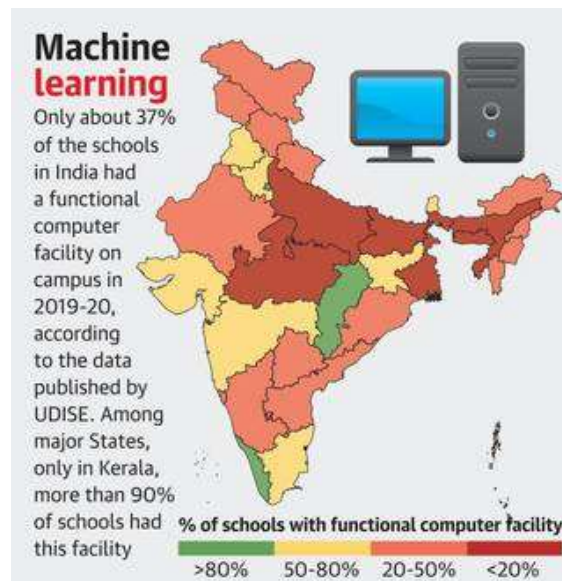
## Intrinsic

- Alphabet, the parent company of Google, has announced of the launch of a new company called Intrinsic.
- It will be solely focused on software developing for robots.
- Wendy Tan White has been appointed as the CEO of Intrinsic.

## 7. NATIONAL NEWS

Activities which held up in India during July 2021

**In academic year 2019-20, only 22% Indian schools had Internet**



- Union Education Minister has released the **Report on Unified Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2019-20** for School Education in India.

### (UDISE+) Report:

- UDISE+ report collates data from more than 15 lakh schools across India.
- The Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL) has developed the UDISE+ system.
- The UDISE+ system of online data collection was developed in 2018-19 to overcome the issues related to manual data filling in paper format and subsequent feeding at the block or district level, which was in practice from 2012-13.
- Being an online application, UDISE+ has a number of entry-level checks built in the data entry module at all levels in real-time. That helps to improve data quality and speed up data entry and its verification.
- UDISE+ data is hosted on the server of the National Informatics Centre (NIC).

### Key Findings:

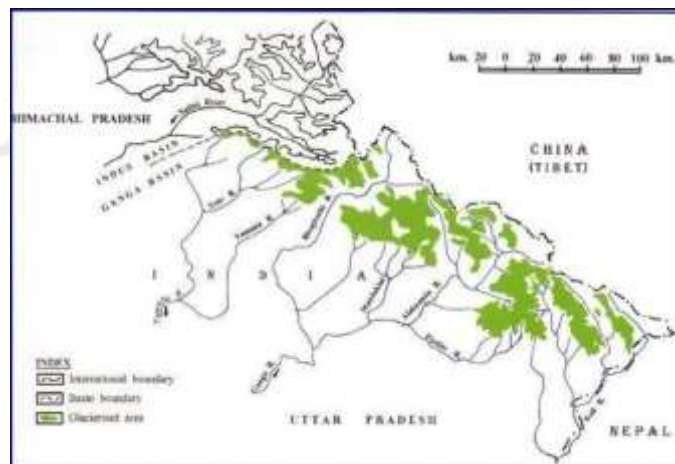
- The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at all levels of school education has improved in 2019-20 compared to 2018-19.
  - 98% of students in Classes 1-8 attended school, though the GER for secondary and senior secondary students stood at 78% and 51% respectively.
- Efforts have been made to ensure universal accessibility of education for persons with disabilities.
  - The enrolment of Divyang students has increased by 6.52% (2018-19).

- **Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) has improved** at all levels of school education.
- Between 2012-13 and 2019-20, the **Gender Parity Index (GPI) at both Secondary and Higher Secondary levels have improved.**
  - At present, the **GPI is 1 or more at all levels of school education.**
- In 2019-20, **more than 90% of schools in India had hand wash facilities** as compared to only 36.3% in 2012-13.
- In the academic year that ended with school closures due to COVID-19, **only 22% of schools in India had Internet facilities.**
- Among **government schools, less than 12% had Internet** in 2019-20, while **less than 30% had functional computer facilities.**
  - This affected the kind of **digital education options** available to schools **during the pandemic**, as well as **plans for hybrid learning** in the days ahead.
  - UDISE+ data makes clear the **digital divide**. The **internet connectivity divide** is even starker.

## One Nation, One Ration Card Scheme

- The Supreme Court has directed all states and UTs to implement the One Nation, One Ration Card system.
- ONORC was launched in August, 2019.
- It comes under the National Food Security Act, 2013.
- Four states are yet to join the scheme.
- They are Assam, Chhattisgarh, Delhi and West Bengal.

## Atlas of glacial lakes

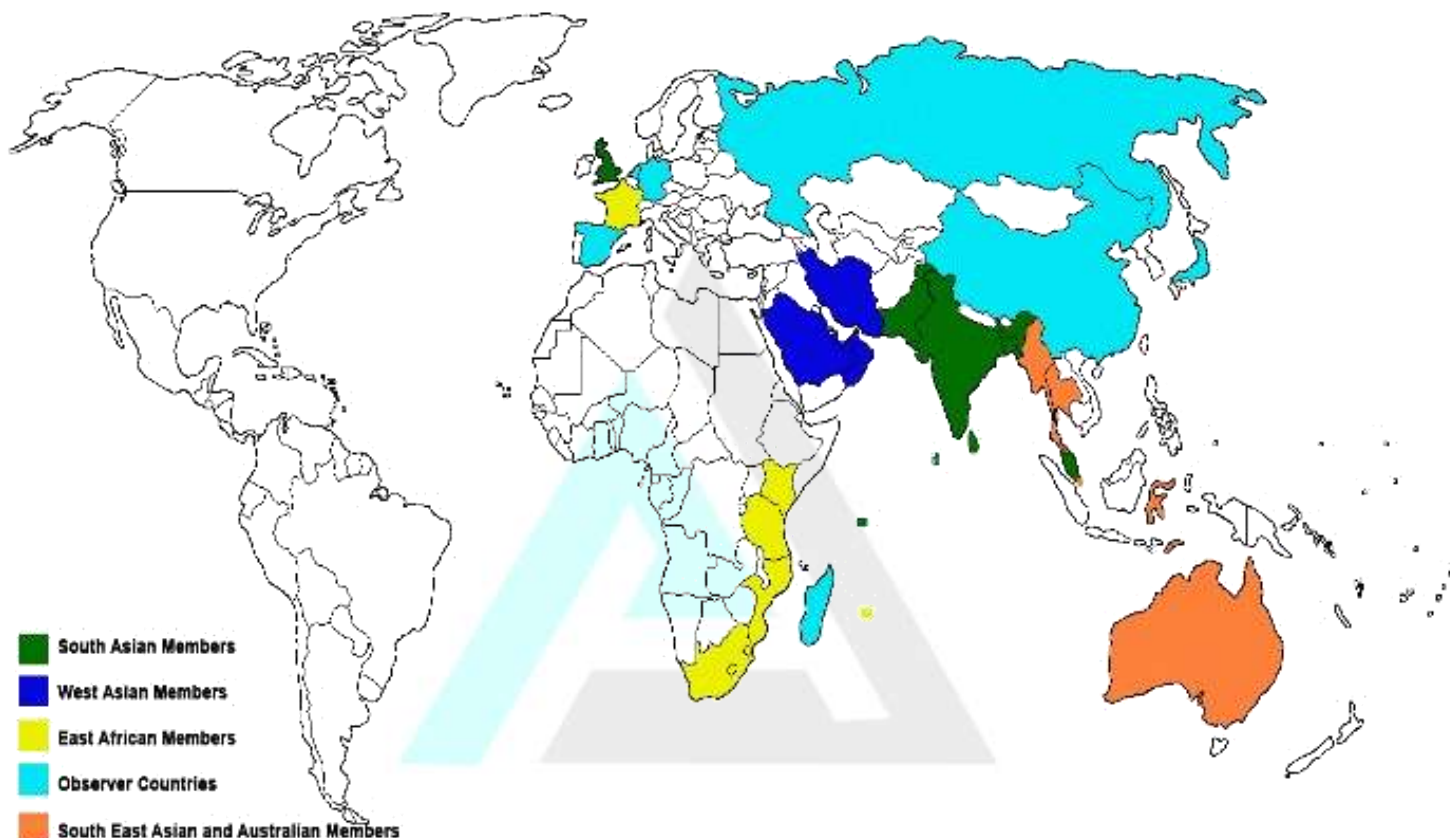


- The Ministry of Jal Shakti has released an updated atlas of glacial lakes that are part of the Ganga River basin.
- About 4,707 glacial lakes have been mapped in the Ganga basin.
- Glacial lakes with water spread area greater than 0.25 ha were mapped using Resourcesat-2 Linear Imaging Self Scanning Sensor-IV satellite data.
- The Atlas is available on Bhuvan portal of National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), ISRO.

### **National Convention on Prevention of Obesity - NITI Aayog**

- The National Convention on Prevention of Maternal, Adolescent and Childhood Obesity was convened by NITI Aayog.
- This Convention was held under the chairmanship of Dr. V.K. Paul and Co-chairmanship of Dr. R Hemalatha.
- NITI Aayog described obesity as “silent epidemic”.

### **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium**



- 7th edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) was hosted by the French Navy recently.
- It is a biennial event.
- IONS is a significant international maritime security initiative launched in February 2008.
- It provides a forum for discussion of regional maritime issues and promotes friendly relationships among member nations.
- IONS includes 24 nations that permanently hold territory within the Indian Ocean, and 8 observer nations.
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### **Coal production - India**

- India's total coal production registered a marginal decline of 2.02% to 716.084 million tonnes during the last fiscal year.
- Chhattisgarh registered the highest coal production of 158.409 MT.
- It is followed by Odisha 154.150 MT, Madhya Pradesh 132.531 MT, and Jharkhand 119.296 MT.



### India and Hydropower projects by 2030

- India is expected to add 26 GW (or 26,000 MW) of Hydropower projects by 2030.
- This is according to the 'Hydropower Special Market Report – Analysis and forecast to 2030' released by International Energy Agency (IEA).
- At present, the installed capacity of the 207 hydropower projects running in India is 46,209 MW.
- The Global hydropower capacity is set to increase by 17%, or 230 GW, between 2021 and 2030.
- China will remain the single largest hydropower market through 2030, accounting for 40% of the global capacity growth in the Hydropower sector.
- The world's largest hydroelectric facility is the Three Gorges Dam in China.

### Ambedkar Memorial and Cultural Centre

- The President Ram Nath Kovind laid the foundation stone for Ambedkar Memorial and Cultural Centre in Lucknow.
- The cultural centre will come in front of Aishbagh Eidgah in Lucknow.
- It will have a 25-ft high statue of Dr Ambedkar.

### Miyazaki mango



- The fruit is primarily cultivated in the Japanese city of Miyazaki, which is a capital city on the Kyushu Island.
- It is considered as the world's costliest mangoes.
- The Miyazaki mangoes can weigh up to 350 grams.
- It is enriched with nutrients like antioxidants, beta-carotene, and folic acid.
- Recently, this fruit was found to be grown by the Jabalpur couple, Rani and Parihar.

**UPI based parking facility**



- Delhi Metro Rail Corporation launched India’s first FASTag or Unified Payments Interface based parking facility.
- This facility was launched to reduce time for entry and payment.
- This facility was launched at Kashmiri Gate metro station.

**New penalty slabs for fraud messages**

**CRACKING THE WHIP**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ New rules come as Unwanted Commercial Communication (UCC) continues to remain a menace for users</li> <li>➤ Failure even after Do-No-Disturb (DND) directory</li> <li>➤ New rules censure both registered and unregistered telemarketers</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Repeated troublemakers face disabling of their numbers and mobile devices</li> <li>➤ Disconnection will take place when unwanted communication continues for three months in particular cases, or exceeds 50 cases in a month for two months</li> </ul>
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- The Department of Telecom (DoT) has proposed to fine Rs 10,000 for fraud messages in order to tighten noose on pesky callers.
- New penalties are,
  - Rs 1,000 per violation for 0-10 breaches,
  - Rs 5,000 each for 10-50 violations and
  - Rs 10,000 each for more than 50 violations.

### **Bhalia wheat**

- The first shipment of Geographical Indication (GI) certified Bhalia variety of wheat was exported to Kenya and Sri Lanka from Gujarat.
- This wheat variety has high protein content and is sweet in taste.
- The crop is grown mostly across the Bhal region of Gujarat.
- It is grown in rainfed conditions without irrigation and cultivated in around two lakh hectares of agricultural land in Gujarat.
- Bhalia variety of wheat received GI certification in July, 2011.
- Registered proprietor of GI certification is Anand Agricultural University in Gujarat.

### **Stoliczka vanhnuailianai**



- The Researchers from Mizoram University found new species of the Stoliczka genus and only the third species of Stoliczka from India.
- The team named it Stoliczka vanhnuailianai.
- The name was given in honour of Vanhnuailiana, a famous Mizo warrior.
- He was one of the most powerful chiefs of the Lushai Hills.

### **National Dolphin Research Centre**

- The National Dolphin Research Centre will soon come up in Patna.
- Opening up of the research centre will be a big step towards conservation of endangered Gangetic River dolphin.
- Bihar is home to half of estimated 3,000 Gangetic dolphins in India.

## **Bryum Bharatiensis**



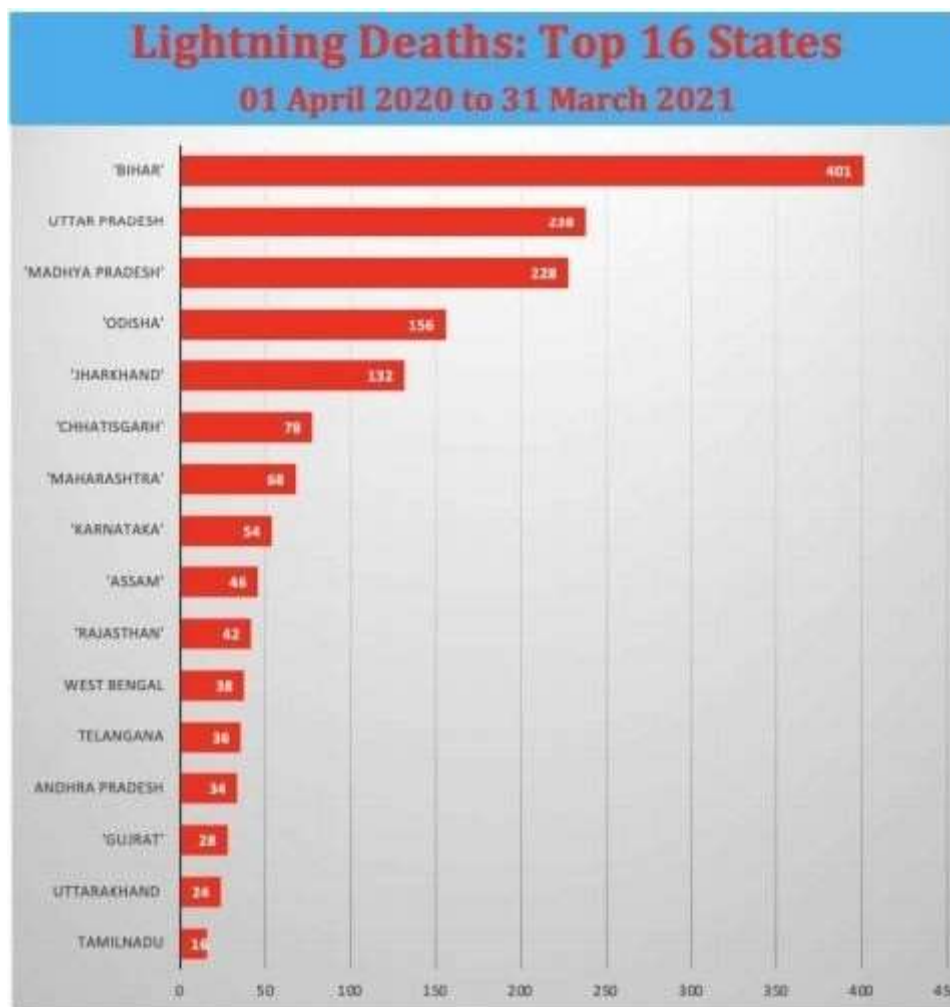
- A team of botanists from the Central University of Punjab (CUPB), Bhatinda have discovered a new native plant species of moss from Eastern Antarctica.
- Dr Felix Bast from CUPB found the plant species of moss on rocks near Bharati station at Larsemann Hills during his expedition visit in Indian Antarctic Mission 2016-17.
- The botanists have named the species 'Bryum Bharatiensis'.
- Dr Bast confirmed that the new species 'Bryum Bharatiensis' is the first and only plant species discovered till now under the Indian Antarctic Mission.

## **Black Leopard**



- Sightings of the rare Black Leopard were reported in the Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve (NNTR), Tadoba Andheri Tiger Reserve and the Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra.
- They are mainly found in Southwestern China, Burma, Nepal, Southern India, Indonesia, and the southern part of Malaysia.
- In India, they are reported from densely forested areas of South India, mostly from the state of Karnataka.
- They are listed in IUCN Red List as Vulnerable species.

## Second annual Lightning Report



- India's second annual Lightning Report was recently published.
- According to it, lightning in India has become the biggest cause of death by forces of nature.
- As per the report, Bihar has reported most deaths because of lightning.
- Bihar is followed by Uttar Pradesh
- UP is followed by Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Jharkhand.

### External Affairs Minister Jaishankar at Georgia

- The External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has unveiled a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Georgia at a prominent Tbilisi Park.
- During his two-day visit to Georgia, Jaishankar held talks with the country's top leadership.
- He also handed over the relics of 17th century St. Queen Keteva.
- Georgia is a strategically important country situated at the intersection of Eastern Europe and Western Asia.

### Note

- St. Queen Ketevan was a 17th century Georgian Queen who attained martyrdom.
- Her relics were found in 2005 at the St. Augustine Convent in Old Goa.

## 10th P-8I aircraft from Boeing



- Indian Navy received 10th anti-submarine warfare aircraft P-8I from Boeing.
- Boeing is an US-based aerospace company.
- P-8I was delivered to replace ageing Tupolev Tu-142 aircraft of Indian navy.
- Contract for eight P81 aircraft was signed by defence ministry in 2009.
- In 2016, ministry signed a contract for four additional P-8I aircraft.

## MoU on coking Coal - India and Russia

- The Union Cabinet approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Russia on cooperation in coking Coal.
- The Coking coal is used for Steel making.
- MoU was signed between Ministry of Steel (India) and Ministry of Energy (Russia).
- MoU will benefit entire steel sector by reducing their input cost.
- It will reduce cost of steel and promote equity & inclusiveness.
- An institutional mechanism for co-operation in coking coal sector will also be provided by MoU.

## Coking coal

- Coking coal is also known as metallurgical coal.
- It is a grade of coal which can be used to produce good-quality coke.
- Coke is an essential fuel and reactant in the process of blast furnace for primary steelmaking.

### National Forensic Science University

- The Home Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated a research-based centre of excellence at National Forensic Science University in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- This centre will help in research and analysis of drugs and narcotics seized in the different parts of the country and its routes.
- Home Minister also inaugurated the virtual training model on Investigation of Crime against women for Indian Police.

### Country's first Grain ATM

## HOW IT WORKS

- Beneficiary has to enter his/her Aadhaar card or ration card details on the machine that has a touchscreen attached to it
- On authentication, the food grain will get filled in bags kept under the machine

Grains being distributed

**Wheat, rice and millet**

Where is the machine

**Farrukhnagar**



- The country's first 'Grain ATM' has been set up as a pilot project in Gurugram, Haryana.
- It works just like a bank ATM.
- This machine has been installed under the 'World Food Programme' of the United Nations (UN).
- It is called the 'Automated, Multi Commodity, Grain Dispensing Machine'.
- Wheat, rice and millet can be distributed through this machine.
- At present, the distribution of wheat has been started from the 'Grain ATM' machine installed at Farrukh Nagar.

## Insurance to Himalayan yaks



- National Research Centre on Yak in West Kameng district, Arunachal Pradesh has tied up with the National Insurance Company Ltd. for insuring Himalayan Yak.
- The insurance policy would shield the yak owners against the risks posed by weather calamities, diseases, in-transit mishaps, surgical operations and strikes or riots.
- The Highest Yak Population is in the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir.

## Indian Institute of Heritage

**FOCUS ON CONSERVATION & RESEARCH**

**Courses proposed:** Masters and PhD courses in history of arts, conservation, museology, archival studies, archaeology, preventive conservation, epigraphy, numismatics, manuscriptology



**INTEGRATION PROPOSED**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Institute of Archaeology (Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology)</li> <li>➤ School of Archival Studies under National Archives of India, New Delhi</li> <li>➤ National Research Laboratory for Conservation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>of Cultural Property, Lucknow</li> <li>➤ National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology (NMICHM)</li> <li>➤ Academic Wing of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi</li> </ul>
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- It will be set up by the Union government under the Ministry of Culture at Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.
- This would be a standalone Institution of its type in the country.
- It will be a world-class University that would focus on the conservation and research in India's rich tangible heritage.



## Tele-Law programme



- Recently, the Justice Department commemorated the milestone of crossing 9 lakh beneficiaries under its Tele-Law programme through Common Service Centres.
- It was launched by the Ministry of Law and Justice in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in 2017 to address cases at the pre-litigation stage.
- It enables anyone to seek legal advice without wasting precious time and money.
- The service is free for those who are eligible for free legal Aid as mentioned under the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987.
- Common Services Centre (CSC) programme is an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY).
- It serves as the access points for delivery of various electronic services to villages in India.

## Supreme Court on 97th amendment

- The Supreme Court upheld the validity of the 97th constitutional amendment.
- But it struck down a part inserted by the 97th amendment.
- Upholding the Gujarat High Court's 2013 decision it was striking down certain provisions of the 97th constitutional amendment.
- The Supreme Court held that the Parliament cannot enact laws with regard to cooperative societies as it is a state subject.
- The amendment made a direct in-road into the exclusive domain of states to enact laws with regard to cooperatives.
- The Centre has stated that the amendment was enacted to bring uniformity in the management of cooperative societies and it did not take away the powers of states.
- If the Centre wanted to achieve uniformity, then the only way available was to take the recourse under Article 252 of the Constitution.
- 252 deals with the power of Parliament to legislate for two or more states by consent.

## Stand Up India Scheme



- The Government of India has extended the duration of the 'Stand Up India Scheme' up to the year 2025.
- The scheme was launched by the Prime Minister in April 2016 to facilitate loans to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and women borrowers, to promote entrepreneurship among them.
- The scheme offers bank loans to encourage them in setting up a greenfield enterprise.
- It must be outside of the farm sector, that is in the manufacturing, services or trading sector.

## 'Renewables Integration in India' report

- A report named Renewables Integration in India 2021 was jointly launched by NITI Aayog and International Energy Agency.
- This report is based on the outcome of workshops held in three states along with the Governments of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- This is to understand the energy transition challenges which is faced by these renewable-rich states.
- According to the report, India's power system can efficiently integrate renewables (175 GW by the year 2022 and 450 GW by the year 2030).

## New Generation Akash Missile



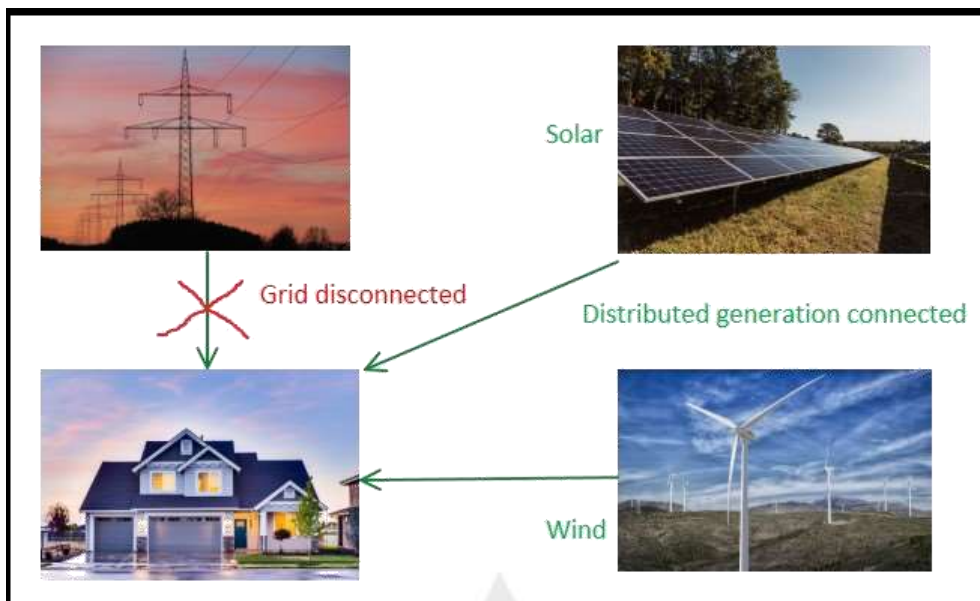
- It was developed by the DRDO.
- It was successfully flight-tested from Integrated Test Range (ITR) off the coast of Odisha.
- It is a surface-to-air missile system.
- It has a strike range of 60 km and fly at a speed of up to Mach 2.5.

## Dairy Investment Accelerator



- The Government of India's Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) has setup this cell.
- This has been set up with a view of providing dedicated focus towards the promotion and facilitation of investments in dairy sector of the country.

## Power Islanding systems



- India plans to create power islanding systems in several cities of the country.
- This to protect the critical infrastructures from potential attacks on the electricity grid of the nation.
- Bengaluru and Jamnagar, which has two of India's largest oil refineries are included.
- Cities such as Mumbai and New Delhi having existing systems are being revamped.
- The Islanding systems feature generation capacity and can automatically isolate from the main grid during an outage.

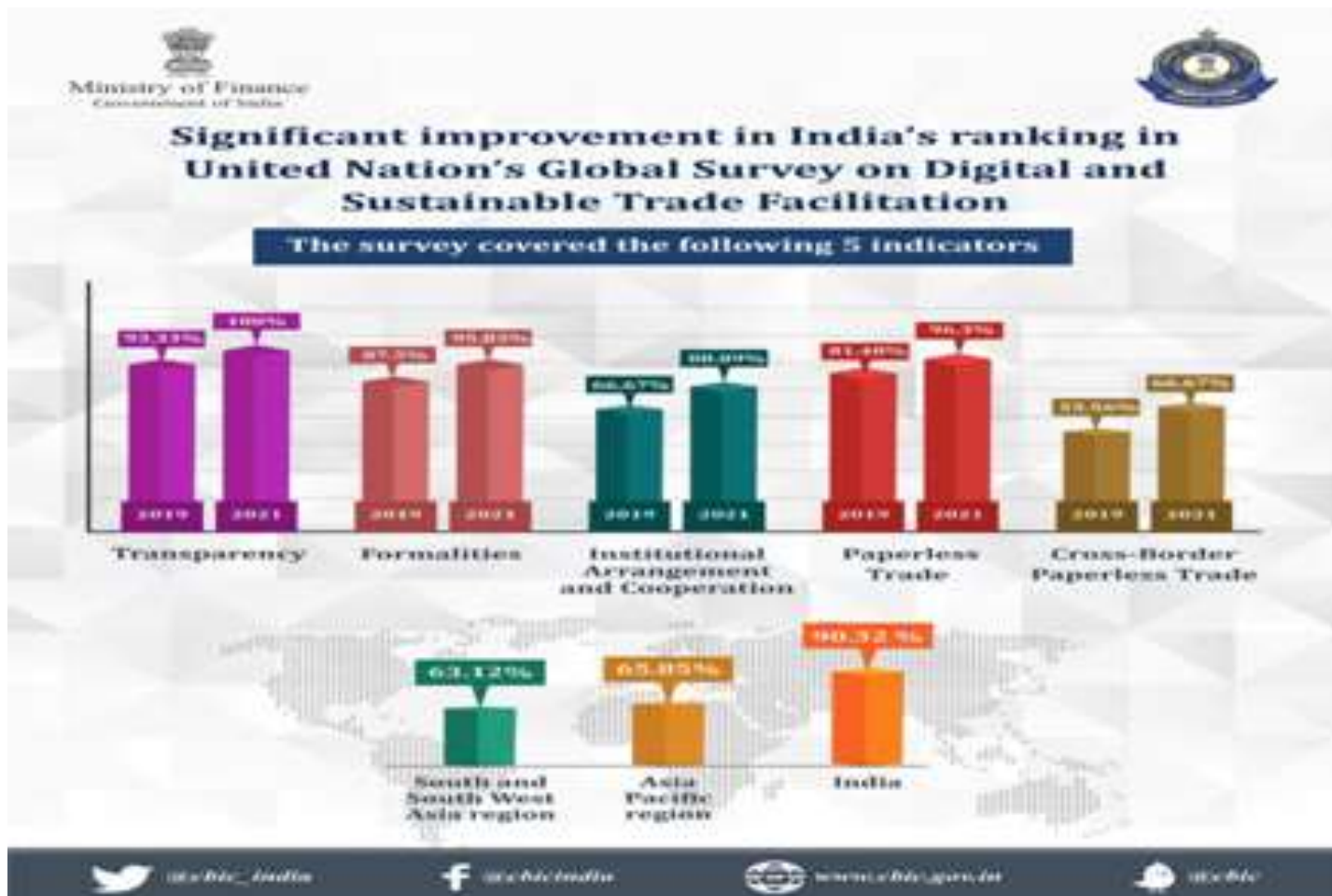
## ARMEX-21

- The defence minister Rajnath Singh has flagged in the Indian Army's skiing expedition.
- It was conducted in the Himalayan mountain ranges.
- The expedition, called ARMEX-21, was flagged off at Karakoram Pass in Ladakh on March 10 and culminated at Malari in Uttarakhand on July 6 covering 1,660 km in 119 days.
- The ARMEX-21 was conducted in the mountain ranges of the Himalayan region to promote the adventure activity in the country and the Indian Army.

## Gujarat's Kandla becomes first Green SEZ

- Kandla SEZ became the first green SEZ to achieve the IGBC Green Cities Platinum Rating for Existing Cities after it was awarded the IGBC Platinum Rating.
- IGBC Green Cities Platinum Rating is part of activities that have been envisaged under the government's commitment towards the Green SEZs Mission of celebrations marking India@75 - Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav.

## Trade facilitation survey - India



- India has substantially improved its score on a trade facilitation survey conducted by the United Nations.
- India scored 90.32 per cent in the UNESCAP's (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific's) latest Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation
- It had improved from 78.49 per cent in 2019.
- In its evaluation of 143 economies, the Survey for 2021 has pointed out India's improvement in the scores on all five key indicators.
- The indicators are transparency, formalities, institutional arrangement and cooperation, paperless trade and cross-border paperless trade.
- Under the transparency indicator, India scored 100 per cent in 2021.
- The survey is conducted every two years by UNESCAP.
- A higher score for a country helps businesses in their investment decisions.

## India in top 10 list of Agri produce exporters



- The World Trade Organization report is based on the trends in world agricultural trade in the past 25 years.
- India entered the top 10 list of the countries exporting agricultural produce in the year 2019.
- India and Mexico with 3.1% and 3.4% share in global Agri exports, respectively, replaced New Zealand (9th) and Malaysia (7th) as the largest exporters across the globe.
- India is also the third-largest cotton exporter (7.6%), and the fourth-largest importer (10%) in 2019.
- However, India lagged behind as a value-added contributor to world agri exports.
- The US, which topped the list in 1995 (22.2%), was overtaken by the European Union in 2019 (16.1%).
- China climbed from the sixth spot in 1995 (4%) to fourth in 2019 (5.4%).
- The top 10 exporters accounted for more than 96% of exports in both 1995 and 2019.

## Dholavira & Ramappa Temple



- A Harappan-era metropolis, Dholavira in Gujarat has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.
- Now Gujarat has three world heritage sites.
- They are Champaner near Pavagadh, Rani ki Vav in Patan and the historic city of Ahmedabad.
- Dholavira is now the 40th treasure in India to be given.

**A HARAPPAN DELIGHT**

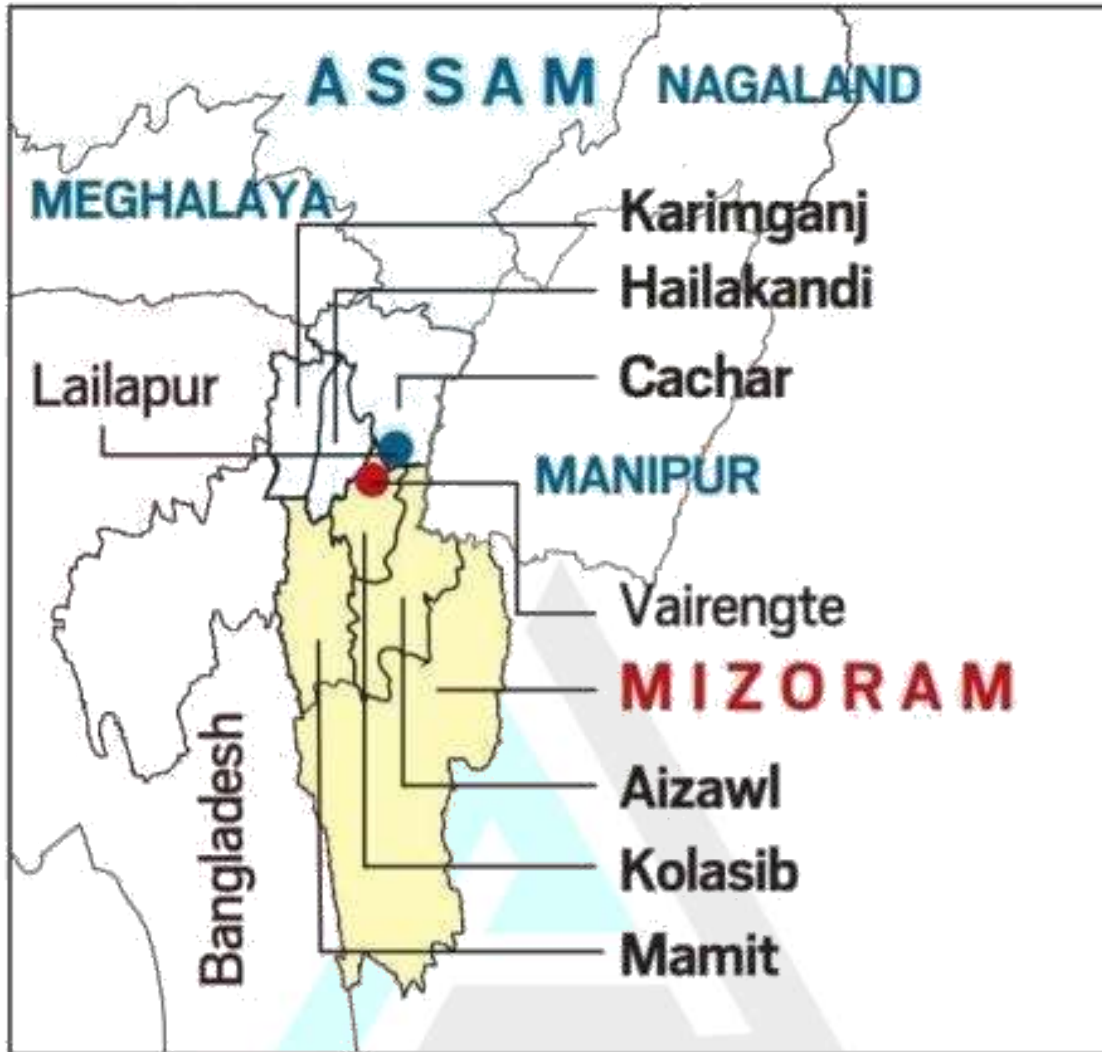
- Dholavira is the fifth largest excavated site in south Asia after Harappa and Mohenjo Daro in Pakistan, Rakhigarhi in India, and Ganwerwala in Pakistan
- It's second Harappan site after Mohenjo Daro to get the Unesco World Heritage Site tag
- The city is known for its impeccable town planning, adherence to ratio, water management system, and possible access to sea in its formative years

- According to the Unesco website, the town thrived for 1200 years (3000 BCE-1800 BCE) before its decline

- Experts believe that major water reservoirs in the later period may indicate it to be one of the first proofs of how climate and seismic change affect population in the past

- The ongoing 44th session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO has already given India a new world heritage site in the form of the Rudreshwara/Ramappa Temple in Telangana.
- The temple dates built by Kakatiya dynasty back to the 13th century.
- This session of the World Heritage Committee is being chaired from Fuzhou in China.

## Assam-Mizoram border dispute



- Mizoram was carved out of Assam as a Union Territory in 1972.
- By 1987, it became a full-fledged state.
- The two states have sparred over this 164.6 km long inter-state border over the past, sometimes leading to violent clashes.
- The dispute stems from two notifications passed under British era.
- First, notification of 1875 that differentiated Lushai Hills from the plains of Cachar.
- Second, notification of 1933 that demarcates a boundary between Lushai Hills and Manipur.
- Mizoram claims that the land is theirs is based on an 1875 notification, which came from the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act of 1873.
- Assam for its part, claims that the land is theirs.
- It goes by a 1933 notification by the state government that demarcated the Lushai Hills, which Mizoram was formerly known as, from the province of Manipur.
- During colonial times, Mizoram was known as Lushai Hills, a district of Assam.



### **National Institutes of Food Technology Bill**

- The Parliament has passed the National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2021.
- The Bill was unanimously passed by the Lok Sabha.
- It was already been passed in the Rajya Sabha.
- This bill was moved by Pashupati Kumar Paras who is the Food Processing and Industries Minister.
- This bill lays down various provisions for institutes of food technology, management and entrepreneurship.
- This bill got introduced and passed in a time of just 8 minutes making it a record.
- This bill also seeks to declare the Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology which is located at Thanjavur and the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management which is located at Kundli (Haryana) as institutions of national importance.

### **Exercise Cutlass Express 2021**

- In the maritime Exercise Cutlass Express 2021, INS Talwar is participating.
- This naval exercise is being conducted along the Eastern Coast of Africa.
- This maritime exercise is held annually.
- It is conducted to promote regional and national maritime security in the Western Indian Ocean and East Africa.

### **Centre for Bio-Resources & Sustainable Development**

- The Ministry of Science and Technology will set up a first-of-its-kind Centre of Excellence in the Northeast.
- The prestigious project for establishing Centre for Bio-Resources and Sustainable Development as a Centre of Excellence was sanctioned by the Department of Biotechnology.
- The location of the project is at Kimin in district Papum Pare in Arunachal Pradesh.

### **India's Top 11 Cycling Pioneers**

- 11 cities across the country have been awarded with the prestigious title of being Top 11 Cycling Pioneers of India.
- This was announced by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- They are Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Kohima, Nagpur, New Town Kolkata, Pimpri Chinchwad, Rajkot, Surat, Vadodara and Warangal.
- Four cities (Aurangabad, Gurugram, Jabalpur and Silvassa), received a special mention by the jury for the efforts put in by them in testing the pilot initiatives of the challenge.

## Garima Grihas for transgender persons



- The Garima Grihas for transgender persons is being set up with the help of community-based organizations.
- 12 pilot shelter homes have been initiated with the aim of providing safe and secure shelter to transgender persons.
- Such shelter homes have been set up in the states of Maharashtra, Delhi, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu and Odisha.

## Rafale squadron at Hasimara

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) operationalised its second Rafale fighter squadron by formally inducting jets into the No. 101 Squadron at Air Force Station Hasimara in West Bengal.
- The IAF has so far inducted 26 Rafale jets in eight batches; the previous batch was inducted on July 21.
- The squadron, bestowed with the title 'Falcons of Chamb and Akhnoor', was formed on May 1, 1949 at Palam.
- It has operated the Harvard, Spitfire, Vampire, Su-7 and MiG-21M aircraft in the past.
- The squadron saw active participation in 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pak wars.
- The first Rafale squadron, the No.17 Golden Arrows, is based at Ambala.

## Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill

- This Bill has been passed recently.
- This bill seeks to increase the role of additional district magistrates and district magistrates regarding the matters which concern adoption and child care.
- This Bill seeks to amend the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.
- The Act states that only on the issuance of an adoption order by the civil court child adoption becomes final.
- The Bill will amend the rule and instead of the court, the additional district magistrate as well as district magistrate will issue adoption orders.

## Marine Aids to Navigation Bill 2021



**MARINE AIDS TO NAVIGATION BILL 2021**  
Moving Towards New Era of Modern and Safe Navigation

**Highlights:**

- Replace **Lighthouse Act 1927**
- Development, maintenance and management of Navigational Aids
- Facilitate training and certification of Operators
- Development of historical, educational and cultural value of Navigational Aids
- Ensure compliance of India's obligation under maritime international treaties

[www.sagarmala.gov.in](http://www.sagarmala.gov.in) [www.shipmin.gov.in](http://www.shipmin.gov.in) [facebook.com/ShipminIndia](https://facebook.com/ShipminIndia) [twitter.com/shipmin\\_india](https://twitter.com/shipmin_india) [Instagram.com/shipmin\\_india](https://Instagram.com/shipmin_india)


- The Parliament passed the landmark 'Marine Aids to Navigation Bill 2021'.
- This bill will repeal and replace the Lighthouse Act 1927.
- The Bill seeks to provide a framework for the development, maintenance, and management of aids to navigation in India.
- As per the bill, the central government will appoint Director General, Deputy Director Generals or Directors for districts.
- The Director General can advise the central government on matters related to aids to navigation, among others.
- The provisions of the bill will apply to the entire country including various maritime zones including territorial waters, continental shelf and exclusive economic zone

## 8. INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Activities which held up out of Nation

### European Union's Green Pass list

## No-Go Zone

<b>EU 'Green Pass' recognises only 4 EMA-okayed vaccines</b>	<b>Covishield is approved by WHO, not EMA</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>AZ vaccine is approved by EMA under brand name Vaxzevria</b></p>	
<p><b>People who have received Covishield via Covax will not be eligible for EU 'Green Pass'</b></p>	

<p><b>Relief shot</b> Countries that have cleared Covishield for travellers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Austria</li> <li>2. Germany   3. Slovenia</li> <li>4. Greece   5. Iceland</li> <li>6. Ireland</li> <li>7. Spain</li> <li>8. Estonia (<i>has authorised all vaccines approved by Government of India</i>)</li> <li>9. Switzerland (<i>Non-EU member</i>)</li> </ol>	<p style="background-color: #007bff; color: white; padding: 2px;">Vaccines cleared by European Medicines Agency for the Green Pass applicable in all 27 EU member states</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pfizer/BioNTech's Comirnaty</li> <li>2. Moderna's Spikevax</li> <li>3. Oxford-AstraZeneca's Vaxzevria</li> <li>4. Johnson &amp; Johnson's Janssen</li> </ol>	 <p><b>Safety cover:</b> Students planning to travel abroad waiting for Covishield shots at a vaccination camp in Bengaluru. • K. MURALI KUMAR</p>
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- Travellers vaccinated with Covishield may not be eligible for the European Union's 'Green Pass' that will be available for use from July 1.
- At present, four vaccines have been approved by the European Medicines Agency.
- They are,
  - Comirnaty (Pfizer/BioNTech),
  - Moderna,
  - Vaxzervria (AstraZeneca),
  - Janssen (Johnson & Johnson).

## UN Report on International tourism

- The International tourism arrivals are set to stagnate in 2021, except in some Western markets.
- This is according to the report by UNCTAD and UN's World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).
- As per this report, stagnation would result into losses of \$2.4 trillion.
- UNWTO is a United Nations specialized agency to promote responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.
- It is headquartered in Madrid, Spain.

## Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021



- India stands at the 20th spot among the top 100 countries that have been ranked in the Global Start-up Ecosystem Index 2021.
- This index is released by Start-up Blink.
- India currently has 43 of its cities listed in the top 1000 globally.
- Bengaluru (10th), New Delhi (14th) and Mumbai (16th) are in the top 20.
- The US, the UK, Israel, Canada and Germany are in the top five spots this year too.

## Malaria-free China

### Malaria around the world

A preventable and treatable mosquito-borne illness that mostly affects African children

► **229 million**  
cases in 2019

► **409,000 deaths**  
About **67% children** under five

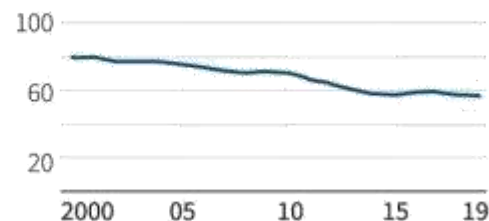
► **95%** of all malaria deaths  
occur in **sub-Saharan Africa**

#### Transmission zone

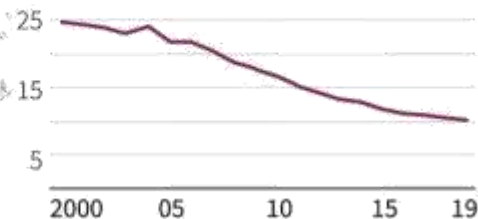
- Cases detected in 2020
- No cases for more than 4 years
- No cases since 2018
- No cases since 2000

#### Trend over time

Malaria **cases**  
per 1,000 population at risk



Malaria **deaths**  
per 100,000 population at risk



- China was certified as malaria-free by World Health Organisation on June 30, 2021.
- No indigenous case was reported in the last four consecutive years.
- Nations that have achieved at least three consecutive years of zero indigenous cases of Malaria can apply for WHO certification of malaria-free status.
- China has become 40th territory to get malaria-free status by WHO.
- El Salvador also gained this status in 2021.

### Report on Indigenous Peoples' food systems

- Traditional food gathering techniques of indigenous communities are under threat because of accelerated climate change and economic pressures right from Arctic to the Amazon.
- This is according to the U.N. Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO)'s report.

#### Note

- As per FAO, food systems used by different indigenous peoples were among world's most sustainable in terms of efficiency.
- It was avoiding waste and adapting to the seasons.

### **U.S. left Afghan airbase without notice**

- United States military has left Afghanistan's Bagram airfield after nearly two decades.
- Bagram airfield has now been handed over to Afghan National Security and Defense Force.
- This airbase has been the site of US military's war against Taliban and al-Qaida terrorist outfits.

### **Chinese astronauts complete first spacewalk at new station**

- The Chinese astronauts have successfully performed China's first tandem spacewalk at the Tiangong station.
- They worked for seven hours outside new Tiangong station in orbit around the Earth.
- Three astronauts were blasted off in June 2021 to become station's first crew.

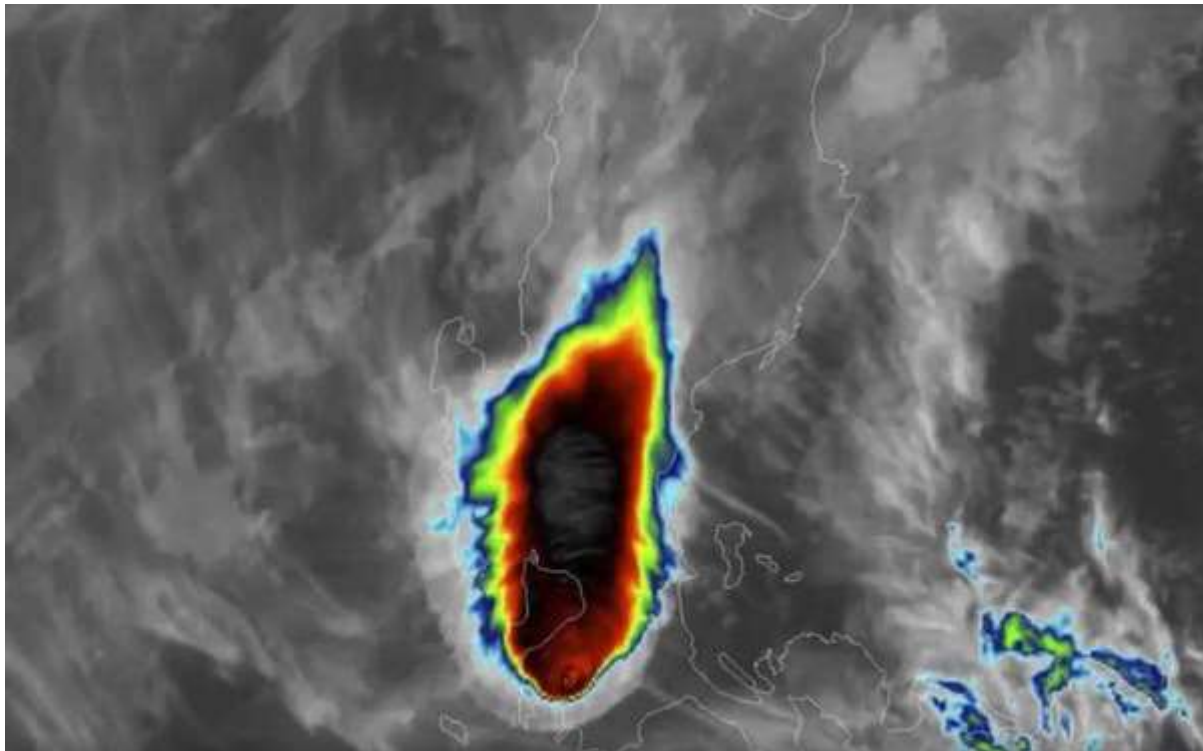
### **Tropical Storm Elsa headed to landfall on central Cuba coast**

- Tropical Storm Elsa got strengthened recently and its centre approached south-central Cuba.
- Elsa is an active tropical cyclone which is affecting and threatening portions of Caribbean and South-eastern United States.
- It is the fifth named storm and first hurricane of Atlantic hurricane season 2021.
- It is the strongest July hurricane in eastern Caribbean Sea after Hurricane Emily in 2005.

### **Trafficking in Persons report 2021**

- Trafficking in Persons report 2021 was recently released by US State Department.
- As per the report, Covid-19 pandemic has increased vulnerability to human trafficking and interrupted existing anti-traffic efforts.
- The Countries were categorised on the basis of efforts they made to meet minimum standards of eliminating of human trafficking.
- There are totally three tiers.
- Countries whose governments do not comply with Trafficking Victims Protection Act's (TVPA) minimum standards completely are placed in Tier II.
- India is in this category.
- TVPA is US's law on human trafficking.

## Taal volcano



- The Philippine scientists warned that Taal volcano to the south of Manila could erupt again "anytime soon".
- This has forced thousands of people from vulnerable communities to flee from their homes.
- The volcano has been emitting sulphur dioxide for the past week.
- The Taal volcano had erupted last in January 2020.

## Murder of a President: On assassination of Jovenel Moise

- Haiti President, Jovenel Moise was assassinated in his house.
- The incident has further inflicted more chaos on the unstable Caribbean country.
- The interim Prime Minister of Haiti, Claude Joseph confirmed the killing of the President.
- Haiti is the poorest country in the North American continent.

## Oxfam's Hunger Virus Multiplies Report

- As per report, 11 people are likely dying every minute from acute hunger because of three C's: conflict, Covid-19, and climate crisis.
- This rate of hunger related rate outpaces the covid-19 pandemic mortality rate, which is 7 people per minute.
- It highlights, 155 million people across the world are now living in crisis levels of food insecurity or worse.
- It has increased by 20 million as compared to 2020.
- Two third of the 155 million people face hunger because their country is in military conflict.



### World's tallest sandcastle



- A sandcastle in Denmark has entered into new Guinness World Record for being the tallest sandcastle in the world.
- Dutch creator, Wilfred Stijger, was assisted by 30 of the world's best sand sculptors to build this.
- The triangular-shaped sandcastle has been built in the town of Blokhus in Denmark.
- It stands at a height of 21.16 metres (69.4 feet).
- The previous record was held by sandcastle measuring 17.66 m in Germany in 2019.

### Richard Branson takes off first in space tourism race



- British billionaire, Richard Branson, soared for 50 miles above New Mexico desert on his Virgin Galactic rocket plane.
- He also made safe return in vehicle's first fully crewed test flight to space.
- With this, Richard Branson becomes first billionaire to fly to space on own craft.



## **U.S. approves Blue Origin license for human space travel ahead of Bezos flight**

- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has approved “Blue Origin license” in order to carry humans on New Shepard launch system into space.
- Former Amazon Chief Executive, Jeff Bezos, is to fly to space on July 20 through Blue Origin’s maiden crewed voyage.
- Blue Origin is authorized to carry humans while FAA license is valid through August.
- Blue Origin is approved to conduct these missions from its Launch Site One facility in Texas.
- This flight is coming after space-tourism rival Virgin Galactic successfully sent its crew to the edge of space.
- Virgin Galactic, Blue Origin, SpaceX firm are working to usher in new era of routine commercial civilian space travel.
- Space travel has been popularized as “billionaire space race.”

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

- This report was published recently by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- The report provides a grim reminder of impact of COVID-19 pandemic on Food security.
- The FAO’s study was conducted in 63 low- and middle-income countries.
- As per the study, there is a significant decrease in affordability of healthy food because of loss in income.
- Covid-19 pandemic led to an additional 141 million people being unable to afford healthy diet because of loss of income and rising food price
- The Cost of healthy diet was 60 percent more than diet that meets “requirements for essential nutrients”.
- In 2020, 2.37 billion people couldn’t access adequate food.
- One in three people worldwide couldn’t access adequate food in 2020.
- 12 per cent of global population faced severe food insecurity.

## Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meet - Highlights



- The SCO meeting was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan
- The Meeting was dominated by deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan.
- Meeting was attended by representatives from countries having observer status with SCO and SCO members.
- External affairs minister of India, S Jaishankar, raised these issues when he joined his counterparts from SCO states.
- Three prominent issues discussed by members were Afghanistan, public health and economic recovery.

### India's call

- India sought to stop terror financing and deter digital facilitation.
- It also urged the need of early universal vaccination against Covid-19.
- Indian minister also spoke on reformed multilateralism.

## Deep Dive Dubai: world's deepest swimming pool



- Dubai has now opened the deepest swimming pool in the world.
- Deep Dive Dubai takes underwater explorers to depths of 60 m (196 ft).
- The pool resembles a "Sunken City" that divers can explore.

### World's smallest cow



- A tiny farm in Bangladesh claims to have bred the world's smallest cow.
- It's just 20 inches tall.
- Its name is Rani.
- Rani is 23-month-old dwarf cow.
- The mini cow is 26 inches long and weighs only 57 pounds.

### U.S., Afghanistan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan to form quad group to enhance regional connectivity



- The United States of America, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan, have made a principal agreement to establish a new quadrilateral diplomatic platform.
- Its primary aim is to enhance regional connectivity.
- This QUAD group was announced by the administration of Biden.

## India and Nepal sign MoU on 679 MW Arun Hydro Electric Project to SJVN



- Nepal has inked a USD 1.3 billion deal with Sutlej Jal Vidyut Nigam of India.
- This is to develop a 679-megawatt hydropower project in eastern Nepal.
- This will be the second mega venture in Nepal, undertaken by India.
- It is the single largest foreign investment project.
- This hydropower project will be developed under build, own, operate and transfer (BOOT) model.
- The first project undertaken by India in Nepal was USD 1.04 billion 900-MW Arun-3 hydroelectric project.
- Arun River is the largest trans-Himalayan River that passes through Nepal.
- River drains into Sapta Kosi river system.

## Russia Tests Hypersonic Zircon Missile



- Russia successfully tested its Zircon hypersonic cruise missile.
- Zircon is a part of a new arsenal of weapons of Russia.
- It could hit targets at sea and on land with a range of 1,000 kilometres and a speed of Mach 9.

## Democrats to introduce bill to impose tax on imports from countries without climate laws

- The European Union unveiled a proposal to levy the world's first carbon border tax by 2026.
- It will see a cost placed on carbon emissions through a carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM).
- The mechanism will impose a tax linked to carbon prices on an array of products such as imported steel, aluminium, fertiliser and cement.
- The policy is aimed at companies not countries
- But it has triggered a sharp response from its trading partners, mainly Russia.
- Russia is Europe's biggest supplier of carbon-intensive products including coal, oil, rolled steel and aluminium.

## UNESCO strips Liverpool of its world heritage status



- Liverpool of the United Kingdom was removed from the list of UNESCO World Heritage sites.
- It was granted the title in 2004 in recognition of its maritime history.
- Previously, only two sites have lost their heritage status.
- They are - Arabian Oryx Sanctuary in Oman in the year 2007, and the Dresden Elbe Valley in Germany in the year 2009.

### **EAGLE Act - USA**

- It is called as “Equal Access to Green cards for Legal Employment Act”.
- It is to eliminate per country cap on employment-based green card.
- It was introduced to benefit Indian IT professionals who are waiting over decades for green card.
- 75 percent of the backlog for employment based visas was made up of Indians
- It will benefit the US economy by allowing American employers to focus on hiring immigrants based on their merit, not their birthplace.

### **IAF Sarang helicopter performs at MAKS-2021 air show in Moscow**



- The Indian Air Force (IAF) Sarang Helicopter team performed for the first time at the MAKS 2021 Air Show in Moscow of Russia.
- This is the first occasion when the Sarang Team is performing its four helicopter aerobatics display in Russia.
- Sarag participated with its ‘Made in India’ ‘Dhruv’ Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH).
- Sarang Team was formed in 2003 at Bangalore.
- Dhruv helicopter was developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

### **Navies of India, U.K. hold Passage Exercise**

- For the first time, the United Kingdom’s Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 2021 recently had participated in the maritime exercises in the Bay of Bengal with the Indian Navy.
- The CAG group was led by the HMS Queen Elizabeth.
- The HMS Queen Elizabeth carrier is the largest surface vessel to have been ever constructed in the United Kingdom.
- It is said to be taller than the famous Niagara Falls.

## **Mekong region is of great importance to India: Jaishankar**



- Its 11th meeting was recently held.
- It was 20th anniversary meet of MGC.
- The Foreign Minister of Cambodia co-chaired the meeting along with foreign minister of India.
- It was launched in the year 2000 with the aim of boosting cooperation in tourism, connectivity and culture and other range of areas.
- This initiative comprises of six countries.
- They are: India, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam.

## **'Vision for Everyone' - UN**

- The United Nations General Assembly adopted a new first-ever resolution on vision named 'Vision for Everyone'.
- The objective is to provide eye care service for at least 1.1 billion people with vision impairment by 2030, especially those who lack eye service.
- The resolution 'Vision for Everyone: accelerating action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)' was introduced by Bangladesh's U.N. Ambassador Rabab Fatima and proposed by Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh and Ireland to the UN General Assembly.

## **Affordable New Drug for Hepatitis c - Malaysia**

- The World's first affordable as well as effective new drug for hepatitis C has been registered by Malaysia.
- The drug which has been named ravidasvir has been approved for use along with an existing drug named sofosbuvir.
- Hepatitis C which is a blood-borne virus that is one of the leading causes of liver cancer and can lead to cirrhosis.
- Hepatitis C has no vaccine.
- The WHO plans to eliminate this disease by reducing new infections by 90% and deaths by 65 % by the year 2030.



**Cloud seeding - UAE**

## MAKING RAIN THROUGH ARTIFICIAL MEANS

**1** Aircraft drops flares to introduce artificial nuclei into cloud systems that have the right conditions.

**2** The **artificial nuclei** attract water vapour within the cloud system to become larger droplets. Once they become heavy, the droplets fall as rain. **Hygroscopic seeding**, which involves using salts such as sodium chloride or potassium chloride, are larger nuclei resulting in very big cloud droplets.

**3** Once seeded, it could take less than an hour to rain. In case of **warm cloud systems**, wherein the temperature is not colder than 0°C, salt is preferred for seeding. Silver iodide or dry ice is generally used for clouds colder than 0°C.

**187** cloud seeding operations carried out by the National Centre of Meteorology in 2018

**6** full time pilots employed by NCM

**4** Beechcraft King aircraft used in cloud seeding operations

Source: National Centre of Meteorology

©Gulf News

- The United Arab Emirates is one of the first countries in the Persian Gulf region to use cloud seeding technology.
- It is now testing a new method that has drones fly into clouds to give them an electric shock to trigger rain production
- Cloud seeding is a kind of a weather modification technology to create artificial rainfall.
- It was pioneered by atmospheric scientist Bernard Vonnegut.
- It works only when there are enough pre-existing clouds in the atmosphere.
- These 'seeds' of rain can be the iodides of silver or potassium, dry ice (solid carbon dioxide), or liquid propane.
- The seeds can be delivered by plane or simply by spraying from the ground.

## Report on Drowning Prevention



- The World Health Organization launched its first Regional Status Report on Drowning Prevention in the South-East Asia and Western Pacific regions.
- This report said that nearly two-thirds of all global deaths due to drowning occur in the Asia Pacific region.
- Drowning is the third leading cause of unintentional injury and death worldwide.
- It accounts for 7% of all injury-related deaths.
- On an average, men were more likely to drown than women.

## 2008 GO20 Asteroid



- A giant stadium-sized asteroid was headed towards the Earth.
- It was expected to fly past the Earth on July 24, 2021.
- The giant asteroid called 2008 GO20 flew past the Earth previously on June 20, 2008.

## Golden Rice



- “Golden Rice” which is genetically modified has been given approval for commercial production by Philippines.
- Health experts believe that this decision will save lives and combat childhood blindness in the developing regions of the world.
- The government issued a bio safety permit which paves way for this rice which is enriched with beta-carotene.
- International Rice Research Institute along with the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Rice Research Institute has spent two decades to develop the golden rice which is named so due to its bright yellow hue.
- This is the first kind of genetically modified rice which has been approved for commercial usage in the South and Southeast Asia region.

## UNESCO adds 7 sites to World Heritage List

- The World Heritage Committee added seven sites to UNESCO’s World Heritage List.
- Four of the sites have been inscribed for their rich biodiversity. They are
  - Amami-Oshima Island, Tokunoshima Island, northern part of Okinawa Island, and Iriomote Island (Japan),
  - Getbol, Korean Tidal Flats (Republic of Korea),
  - Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex (Thailand) and
  - Colchic Rainforests and Wetlands (Georgia).
- The three cultural sites are the
  - Dutch Water Defence Lines;
  - Arslantepe Mound archaeological tell in Turkey; and
  - Colonies of Benevolence in Belgium and the Netherlands.

## Madrid's Paseo del Prado and Retiro Park - World Heritage Status



- The historic Paseo del Prado boulevard and Retiro Park of Madrid, in Spain, has been granted the status of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- The wide tree-lined Paseo del Prado, in the centre of the Spanish capital is home to prominent buildings such as the Prado Museum.
- The iconic Retiro Park, just adjoining with Paseo del Prado, is a 125-hectare green space.
- It is one of the most visited attractions in Madrid's history.

## INDRA 2021



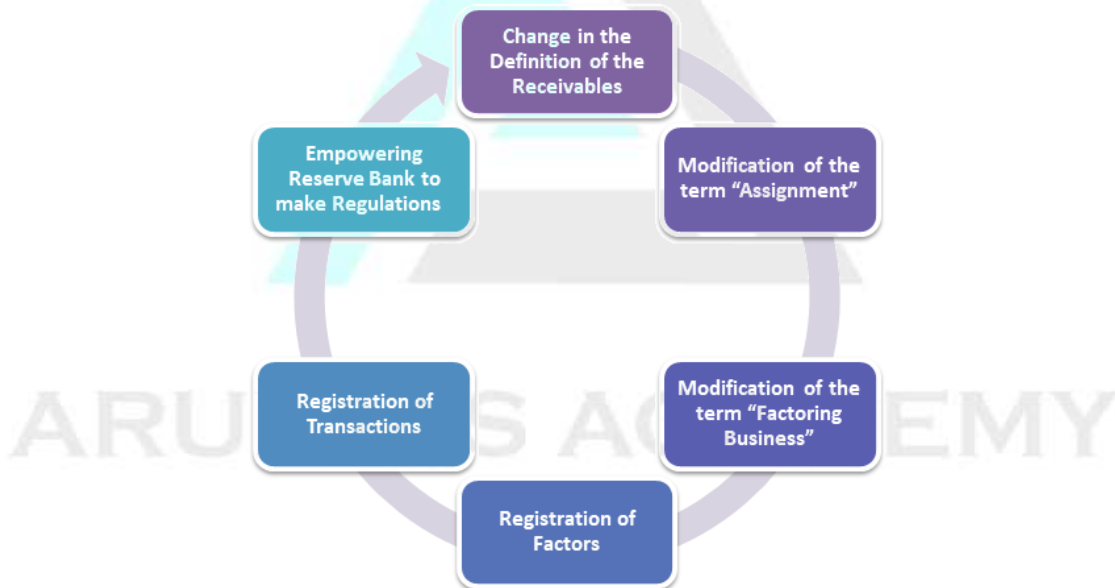
- India and Russia will hold the 12th edition of joint military exercise in Russia's Volgograd.
- The exercise is named INDRA 2021.
- It will further strengthen and develop the bilateral security cooperation of the two countries.
- 250 personnel from both the nations will take part in this exercise.

## Serendipity Sapphire



- The world's largest star sapphire cluster was found Ratnapura area, Sri Lanka.
- It weighs around 510 kilograms or 2.5 million carats.
- The cluster has been named the "Serendipity Sapphire".

## The Factoring Regulation (Amendment) Bill



- The Bill that seeks to open up factoring business to non-bank lenders was passed in the parliament.
- The Bill will provide relief to micro, small and medium enterprises and help them, ensuring a smoother capital cycle and healthier cash flow.
- The current law on factoring business was enacted in 2011.
- It gave the Reserve Bank of India authority to allow non-bank finance companies to remain in factoring business only if it was their principal business.
- That is, more than half of assets were to be deployed and income earned from factoring business.
- The Bill removes this threshold.

**9. OTHER STATE NEWS****Activities which held up in other states of India****Drones, unmanned vehicles banned in Srinagar**

- The Jammu and Kashmir administration on July 4, 2021, banned the sale, possession, storage, transport, and use of drones or any other unmanned aerial vehicles in the capital Srinagar.
- The decision has been taken a week after two Indian Air Force Personnel were injured in twin drone-driven blasts at an Air Force base in Jammu.
- In an official order, the Srinagar District Magistrate Mohammad Aijaz said that to secure the aerial space near the vital installations and highly populated areas, it is imperative to discontinue the use of drones in all the social and cultural gatherings to eliminate any risk of injury to the life and damage to property.
- The order, issued under Section 144 of Cr.PC further stated that decentralized airspace access has to be regulated in view of the recent episodes of the misuse of drones posing a threat to security infrastructure.
- Keeping in view the security situation apart from the concerns of breach of privacy, nuisance, and trespass, it is extremely dangerous to let the unmanned aerial vehicles wander around within the territorial jurisdiction of Srinagar.

**Cloud-based Health Project - Delhi**

- The Delhi government has informed that a cloud-based Health Care Information Management System (HIMS) is likely to be rolled out by March 2022.
- Delhi will become the only place in India to have this system.
- Along with HIMS, a health helpline will be issued.
- Special surveys will also be conducted to issue e-health cards for residents of Delhi.

## Legislative Council - West Bengal



- The West Bengal Assembly has passed a resolution to set up a Legislative Council.
- Under Article 169 of the constitution, Parliament may by law create or abolish the second chamber in a state.
- For this the Legislative Assembly of that state passes a resolution to that effect by a special majority.
- As per article 171 of the Indian Constitution, the total number of members in the legislative council of a state shall not exceed one third of the total number of the members in the legislative Assembly of that state.
- Also the total number of members in the legislative council of a state shall in no case be less than 40.

## Financial assistance scheme - Delhi Government

- The Chief Minister of Delhi Arvind Kejriwal launched a social security scheme 'Mukhyamantri COVID-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojana'.
- He also launched a portal to provide financial assistance to the families who lost their loved ones to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Under the scheme, Rs. 50,000 ex-gratia will be given to every family that lost a member to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- An additional amount of Rs. 2,500 per month will also be given if the deceased was the sole breadwinner of the family.

## Green India Challenge sets world record



- Green India Challenge organized a plantation in Adilabad in Telangana.
- One million saplings were planted in one hour on the occasion of local MLA Jogu Ramanna's birthday.
- With this Green India Challenge is all to break the record of planting 3 lakh, 3 thousand saplings in Turkey in 2019.
- Joginipally Santosh Kumar (Rajya Sabha MP) is the founder of Green India Challenge.

## Spiders from Assam

- Two species of spiders have been found in Jharbari range of western Assam's Chirang Reserve Forest.
- Both the species have been sharing same space.
- Gravelyia boro is a newly discovered burrow spider.
- Dexippus kleini is an oriental jumping spider.
- Both the spiders were discovered from Bodoland Territorial Region.
- Gravelyia boro belongs to Nemesiidae family.
- Dexippus kleini belongs to Salticidae family.
- Salticidae family is the largest family of all spiders on earth.



## Delhi's Excise Policy 2021-22

**'Rules to ease access, target liquor mafia'**

**FOR THE CONSUMERS**

- Age bar to be lowered from 25 to 21
- Vends to have walk-in facility, be air-conditioned and well-lit
- New super vends with imported, expensive liquor to come up, will be open 1 hour longer
- People to be allowed to take away draught beer from restaurants, clubs
- Dry days to be brought at par with those in neighbouring states

**FOR CLUBS & RESTAURANTS**

- ID checks to restrict entry of those under 21 unless accompanied by someone older
- Licences and rules to be simplified to help ease of business
- No automatic 10% annual increase in licence fee

**FOR TRADERS**

- All liquor shops will need to be at least 500 sq ft in size and allow walk-in purchases
- Duties and taxes will mostly be paid as licence fees, with nominal rates applicable on sales
- No retail margin limit will be fixed by the government

**FOR STATE REVENUE**

- Revenue expected to grow by 20% in a year
- Equitable distribution across 30 zones to reduce hold of liquor mafia, help increase tax net
- Manufacturers will not be allowed to enter distribution cutting off-book sales

- Delhi's Excise Policy 2021-22 was launched for public recently.
- Delhi government has made new norms for bars in hotels, clubs and restaurants under the policy.
- As per policy document, Delhi is the 28th most visited city worldwide by foreign visitors.
- In India, Delhi holds first rank in the most visited city list.
- Excise is an important source of revenue in State.
- Thus, reforms were made in excise policy and new policy was put forward with the aim of boosting revenue in Delhi.
- It will also crack down on liquor mafia.
- As per new policy, bars in hotels, clubs & restaurants can remain open till 3 am.
- The Government will not be actively involved in retail liquor trade.
- This will lead to closure of state-run shops, hence promote private players in Delhi.

## Digital Kendra

- Amazon has launched its first Digital Kendra in India in Surat, Gujarat.
- Amazon Digital Kendra was inaugurated by Vijay Rupani, Chief Minister of Gujarat.
- Digital Kendra of Amazon are centres that will provide micro small and medium enterprises the opportunity to learn about the benefits of e-commerce.

### **Gujarat International Maritime Arbitration Centre**

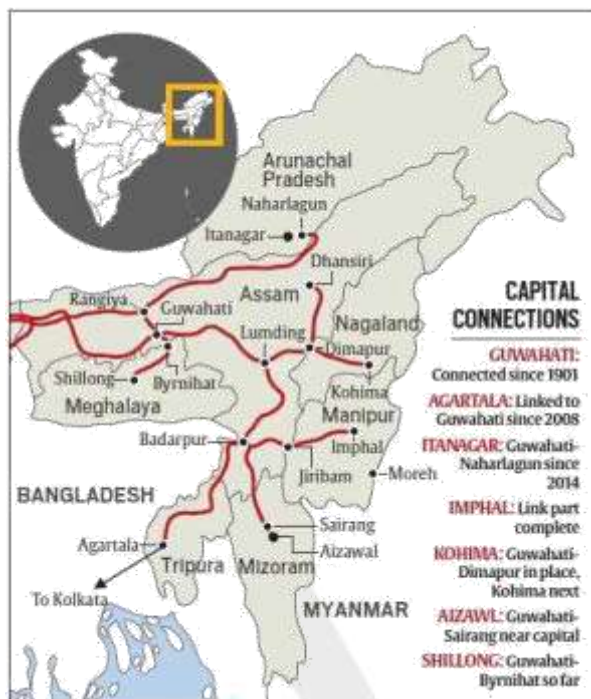
- The Gujarat Maritime University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Financial Services Centres Authority in GIFT City.
- This is to set up the Gujarat International Maritime Arbitration Centre (GIMAC).
- GIMAC will be the first of its kind centre in India to manage arbitration and mediation proceedings for disputes related to the maritime and shipping sector.
- It will be part of a maritime cluster that is being set up by the Gujarat Maritime Board at GIFT City in Gandhinagar.

### **Movable freshwater tunnel aquarium**



- The Bengaluru City Railway Station has become the first railway station in India with a movable freshwater tunnel aquarium.
- The state-of-the-art aquarium has been jointly opened by the Indian Railway Stations Development Cooperation Limited (IRSDC) in collaboration with the HNi Aquatic Kingdom.
- Bengaluru City Railway Station is also known as Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station.
- The Aquatic Kingdom aquarium is based on the concept of the Amazon River.
- It is 12-feet long.

## Manipur enters India's railway map



- A passenger train Rajdhani Express from Assam's Silchar railway station has reached the Vaingaichunpao railway station in Manipur for a trial run.
- This puts the state on the Indian Railways map.
- The Vaingaichunpao-Imphal (capital of Manipur) railway line is also under construction.
- Once completed, it will be the longest railway tunnel near Imphal.


## Koyas celebrate last 'Bhumi Panduga' in their ancestral villages



- These are celebrations marking the beginning of farm operations every year.
- Celebrated by Koya tribes in Andhra Pradesh.
- For men, hunting is mandatory as part of the festival.
- The catch is distributed among all the families in the hamlet equally during a feast every evening.
- Usually celebrated in the month of June.

## Population policy for 2021-2030 - Uttar Pradesh

**Future planning** | The Uttar Pradesh Population Policy 2021-2030 was launched to reduce maternal and infant deaths in a time-bound manner. The policy aims to:



- Decrease the **total fertility rate** (number of children per woman) from 2.7 to **2.1 by 2026** and **1.7 by 2030**
- Increase **modern contraceptive prevalence rate** from 31.7% to **45% by 2026** and **52% by 2030**
- Increase **male methods of contraception use** from 10.8% to **15.1% by 2026**
- Decrease **maternal mortality rate** (per 1,00,000 live births) from 197 to **150 by 2026** and **98 by 2030**
- Decrease **infant mortality rate** (per 1,000 live births) from 43 to **32 by 2026** and **22 by 2030**
- Decrease **under 5 mortality rate** (per 1,000 live births) from 47 to **35 by 2016** and **25 by 2030**

**Baby steps:** Yogi Adityanath encouraging a newly married couple to opt for family planning in Lucknow on Sunday. • PTI

**Awareness and extensive programmes would be held among those communities, cadres and geographical areas that have a higher fertility rate**  
U.P. POPULATION POLICY

**We should not forget that the increase in population contributes to poverty in society. Hence, until all sections are made comprehensively aware, there will be a delay in fulfilling various goals**  
YOGI ADITYANATH, UTTAR PRADESH CM

- The Uttar Pradesh government has proposed a population control bill titled The Uttar Pradesh Population (Control, Stabilization and Welfare) Bill, 2021.
- The Uttar Pradesh government announced a new population policy for 2021-2030.
- The Bill called to debar those having more than two children from contesting in local polls.
- They will also be prevented from applying for or getting promotion in government jobs.
- They would also be debarred from receiving government subsidy.
- The new policy has provisions to give incentives to those who help in population control.
- The Public servants who adopt the two-child norm will get two additional increments during the entire service.
- They will get maternity or paternity leave of 12 months with full salary and allowances.
- Three percent increase in the employer's contribution fund under the National Pension Scheme.

## India's First Private LNG Facility plant - Nagpur

- The Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, inaugurated India's first Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facility plant at Nagpur.
- The plant has been set up by Baidyanath Ayurvedic Group, the makers of Ayurvedic medicines.
- LNG is natural gas, mainly methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) with some mixture of ethane (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub>).
- It is odourless, colourless, non-toxic and non-corrosive gas.

## India's first Cryptogamic Garden



- India's first cryptogamic garden has been inaugurated in Deoban area of Dehradun in Uttarakhand.
- Located in the district's Chakrata town, the garden was inaugurated by social activist Anoop Nautiyal.
- Cryptogamae means "hidden reproduction".
- This refers to the fact that no seed, no flowers are produced.
- Thus, cryptogams represent the non-seed bearing plants.

## Live stream of court proceedings



- The Gujarat High Court announced that it is launching live streaming of court proceedings of all "willing benches" of the court from July 17.
- This makes it the first high court in the country to allow public viewing of the proceedings virtually.
- Earlier, in October 2020, the high court had started live streaming of proceedings of the first court, headed by the chief justice, on YouTube channel for public viewing.

## Kunwar Yatra



- The Supreme Court issued a notice to the Uttar Pradesh government for allowing the 'Kunwar Yatra' in the state.
- Kunwar Yatra is a pilgrimage, which is undertaken annually by the devotees of Lord Shiva.
- The devotees, mostly from northern states travel on foot to collect water from River Ganga at Haridwar in Uttarakhand to offer at Shiva temples in their areas.
- The Kunwar Yatra 2021 is scheduled to begin on July 25.
- The yatra was cancelled last year due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and ensuing lockdown.

## Satellite by Government School

- The Malleshwaram Government Boys High School in Bengaluru is to become a part of the satellite launch program in 2022.
- It will become the country's first government school to develop a satellite.
- The dream project of launching 75 satellites was conceived by the Indian Technology Congress Association (ITCA) to celebrate the country's 75th Independence Day.

### **One Block, One Product scheme**

- The Haryana government will soon introduce the 'One Block, One Product' scheme.
- This is to encourage and promote small industries in the rural areas.
- Under the scheme, the state government plans to connect every block of the state with some industrial vision.

### **Bonalu festival**



- 'Bonalu' is a traditional folk festival celebrated every year in the Telugu month of Ashadham (falling in June/July).
- It is celebrated in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad, and some other parts of Telangana state.
- The Bonalu festival was declared a 'state festival' of Telangana.
- It was declared so by the K Chandrasekhar Rao-led government after the state's formation back in 2014.

### **Gross Environment Product - Uttarakhand**

- The Uttarkhand government announced that it will initiate valuation of its natural resources in the form of 'Gross Environment Product' (GEP), said to be along the lines of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- Gross Environment Product (GEP) is an assessment system to measure the ecosystem services of any area.
- It reflects the aggregated annual value of goods and services provided by ecosystems (forests, water bodies, oceans, etc.) to people in a given region.
- It summarizes the value of ecosystem services in a single monetary metric.
- The term "ecosystem services" (ES) was coined in 1981 to attract academics to address environmental issues.
- ES are the benefits human populations derive, directly or indirectly, from ecosystem functions.

## Adarsh Smarak scheme



- Three monuments in the State of Andhra Pradesh have been identified under this Scheme.
- The Buddhist remains at Salihundam in Srikakulam, monuments at Nagarjunakonda in Guntur and Veerabhadra temple (Lepakshi) in Anantapur have been selected for this scheme.
- These monuments will be provided with additional amenities and will be made into more tourist-friendly sites.
- This scheme has been launched by the Ministry of Culture in the year 2014.

## Pink Protection project



- The Kerala Police launched a new initiative called the Pink Protection project.
- This project is for the protection of women in public, private and digital spaces.
- The Pink Protection project aims to prevent dowry-related issues, cyber-bullying & humiliation in public places.



## Export of Raja Mircha



**Bringing the North-Eastern States on the Export Map**

**'RAJA MIRCHA' FROM NAGALAND EXPORTED TO LONDON FOR THE FIRST TIME**

A consignment of King Chilli 'Raja Mircha' was sourced from Peren district of the state

- APEDA in collaboration with the Nagaland State Agricultural Marketing Board (NSAMB) facilitated the export consignment
- The chilli, referred to as Bhoot Jolokia and Ghost pepper, got GI certification in 2008
- Naga King Chilli is one of the top five world's hottest chillies based on the Scoville Heat Units (SHUs)

- Over 250 kilograms of Raja Mircha, was exported to London from Nagaland.
- Raja Mircha is also known as Naga King Chilli.
- It is the first such export from Nagaland.
- Raja Mircha got Geographical Indication certification in 2008.
- It constantly figures in the top five on the list of the world's hottest chillies based on Scoville Heat Units.

## 10. SPORTS NEWS

Its about sports and gaming

### Tamil Nadu Athletes to Tokyo Olympics



ஆரோக்கிய ராஜீவ்

நாகநாதன்

தனலட்சுமி

சுபா

ரேவதி

- For the first time, five athletes from the Tamil Nadu Athletic Association finds berths in the Indian Olympic team.
- The five athletes are Arokiya Rajiv, Naganathan Pandi (Men 4x400 relay), Dhanalakshmi Sekhar, Revathi Veeramani, and Subha Venkatesan (Mixed 4x400 relay).

### New World record - 400m hurdles



- Karsten Warholm broke the long-standing world record in the 400m hurdles during the Bislett Games.
- He is a 25-year-old athlete from Norway.
- Earlier the record was held by American hurdler Kevin Young for 29 years.
- His mark of 46.78 seconds was set at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain.
- This was finally broken with an official time of 46.70 seconds by Warholm.

## Scripps National Spelling Bee competition



- Zaila Avant-garde became the first African American to win the 2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee competition.
- She is a 14-year-old girl from New Orleans of USA.
- She won the championship after correctly spelling 'Murraya,' a genus of plants.

## Cadet World Wrestling Championship 2021



- It was held in Budapest, Hungary.
- The India's Young wrestlers Aman Gulia and Sagar Jaglan emerged as the new world champions.

## Youngest-ever Chess Grandmaster



- Indian-origin American Abhimanyu Mishra has become the youngest-ever chess Grandmaster in the world.
- At 12 years, four months and 25 days, he obliterated the record held by Sergey Karjakin.
- Sergey Karjakin was 12 years and seven months old when he attained the title.

## India's flagbearers



- MC Mary Kom, the six-time world boxing champion, and Manpreet Singh, the men's hockey team skipper, will be India's flag-bearers at the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Olympics.
- Bajrang Punia, a silver medallist at the 2018 World Wrestling Championships, will be the flag-bearer at the closing ceremony on August 8.
- In a first, India is having two flag-bearers, one male and one female, at the upcoming Tokyo Games to ensure "gender parity".

**Maana Patel**



- Maana Patel is the First Indian Female Swimmer to qualify Tokyo Olympics.
- Maana Patel is also the First Female player to qualify Tokyo Olympics
- Maana Patel joins Srihari Nataraj and Sajan Prakash to have qualified for the Olympics.
- She is a 21-year-old backstroke swimmer from Ahmedabad.

**Mithali Raj's recent achievement**



- India captain Mithali Raj became the highest run-getter in women's cricket across formats.
- She overtook the former England skipper Charlotte Edwards.
- Mithali achieved this feat against England.

## James Anderson



- Veteran England fast bowler James Anderson has completed 1000 wickets in first-class cricket.
- Anderson achieved this feat during Lancashire's County Championship clash against Kent in Manchester.
- Anderson is the leading wicket-taker among pacers in Test cricket.
- Anderson is only the 14th player to claim 1,000 first-class wickets this century and only the fifth among pacers.

## Hockey legend Keshav Datt



- Two-time Olympic gold medallist in hockey, Keshav Datt passed away.
- He was part of India's historic feat at the 1948 Olympics where they beat home team Britain 4-0.
- It was held at the Wembley Stadium in London.
- This made to win the first gold post-Independence.

## Novak Djokovic wins 20th Grand Slam



- World No 1 tennis player Novak Djokovic of Serbia defeated Italian Matteo Berrettini to win the Wimbledon 2021 Men's Final Title.
- Djokovic also clinched his record 20th Grand Slam title, equalling the record of the most Men's Grand Slams Singles Titles.
- He joins Rafael Nadal of Spain and Roger Federer of Swiss as players to have won most singles titles in men's tennis (20 each).
- This is the third Grand Slam victory for Djokovic, who earlier in the year had already won Australian Open, French Open.

## Copa America 2021



- Lionel Messi-led Argentina beat Neymar's Brazil 1-0 to win the Copa America Cup.
- The final match was held at the Maracanã Stadium in Rio de Janeiro of Brazil.
- With this win, Lionel Messi has secured his first major international trophy.
- The 2021 Copa America was the 47th edition of the annual international men's football championship.
- It was organised by South America's football ruling body CONMEBOL.

### European Championship trophy



- Italy has won second European Championship trophy.
- They defeated England by 3-2 in penalty shoot-out in final of Euros 2020 trophy at Wembley Stadium in London.
- This is the first major international trophy won by Italy since their 2006 FIFA World Cup win.

### First ever Indian juror for shooting at Tokyo Olympics



- Pawan Singh has become the first-ever Indian juror for shooting at Tokyo Olympics 2020.
- He is the Joint-Secretary General of the National Rifle Association of India.
- He was the competition manager of the recent ISSF- International Shooting Sports Federation World Cup in New Delhi.
- A total of 26 jury members will officiate at the upcoming Tokyo Olympics 2020.
- Out of this 6 will be from Japan and the rest will be from the other nations.



## Wimbledon Singles title - Ashleigh Barty



- Barty clinched her maiden Wimbledon title after beating Karolina Pliskova
- Barty has become the first Australian woman to win Wimbledon women's singles title since 1980.
- Her victory comes 50 years after her idol, Australian Evonne Goolagong Cawley, won her first Wimbledon title.
- Ashleigh Barty is currently ranked no. 1 in the world in women's singles by the Women's Tennis Association.

## Rubina Francis



- Madhya Pradesh shooter, Rubina Francis has set a world record at the ongoing Para Sport Cup in Peru.
- She has won gold in the 10-metre air pistol para-event for women.
- This win also secured her the quota for India at the Tokyo Summer Paralympics 2020.

## 2032 Summer Olympics



- Australia's Brisbane will be the host of the 2032 Olympics and Paralympics.
- Brisbane becomes the third Australian city to host the Games after Sydney in 2000 and Melbourne in 1956.
- Australia becomes the second country after the United States, to stage summer Olympic Games in three different cities.
- Brisbane was also the host of the 2018 Commonwealth Games.
- Paris of France will host the 2024 summer Olympics.
- The 2028 Summer Olympics will be hosted by Los Angeles of USA.

## Tokyo Summer Olympic Games



- On July 23 Japanese Emperor Naruhito declared the Tokyo Summer Olympic Games open.
- The opening ceremony of the 32nd Olympic Games is taking place at the National Stadium in Tokyo without spectators due to the pandemic.
- Japan is hosting the Olympics for the fourth time.
- Previously, the country hosted the Winter Olympics twice (Sapporo-1972 and Nagano-1998), as well as the 1964 Summer Olympics in Tokyo.

## Mirabai Chanu bags silver



- Mirabai Chanu won the silver medal and became the first Indian to win an Olympic medal at the 2020 Tokyo Games in the Women's 49kg category.
- China's Zhihui Hou won the gold medal in the women's 49-kg weightlifting.
- She lifted a total of 210 kg.
- Indonesia's Windy Cantika Aisah won the bronze medal.
- Chanu managed to lift a total of 202 kg in the women's 49 kg category.
- She became the second Indian weightlifter after Karnam Malleswari to win an Olympic medal.
- A new Olympic record was registered by Mirabai Chanu with a successful lift of 115kg in clean and jerk.

## First ever Olympic gold medal in skateboarding



- Japan's Yuto Horigome has won the first-ever skateboarding competition at the Olympic Games.
- He won the gold medal in men's street event at the Ariake Urban Sport in Tokyo.
- Kelvin Hoefler of Brazil won silver in the men's street skating competition.
- Jagger Eaton of the United States clinched the bronze.

**Japan's youngest gold medallist**



- 13 years old Japanese skateboarder Momiji Nishiya won the gold medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.
- She became one of the youngest gold medallists ever at the Olympic Games.
- Nishiya won the gold in the women's street competition which debuted for the first time in Tokyo 2020 Olympics.
- Yuto Horigome of Japan won the men's competition.
- This makes Japan the gold medal holder in both the categories.

**Note**

- Marjorie Gestring is the youngest gold medal winner of the Olympics.
- At the 1936 Berlin Games she dominated the women's diving competition.
- During that time she was only 13 years and 268 days old.



## **PV SINDHU TOP WINS**

**SILVER: 2016**  
RIO OLYMPICS

**GOLD: 2019**  
BASEL WORLD  
CHAMPIONSHIPS

**SILVER: 2018**  
JAKARTA-  
PALEMBANG  
ASIAN GAMES

**SILVER: 2018**  
GOLD COAST  
COMMONWEALTH  
GAMES

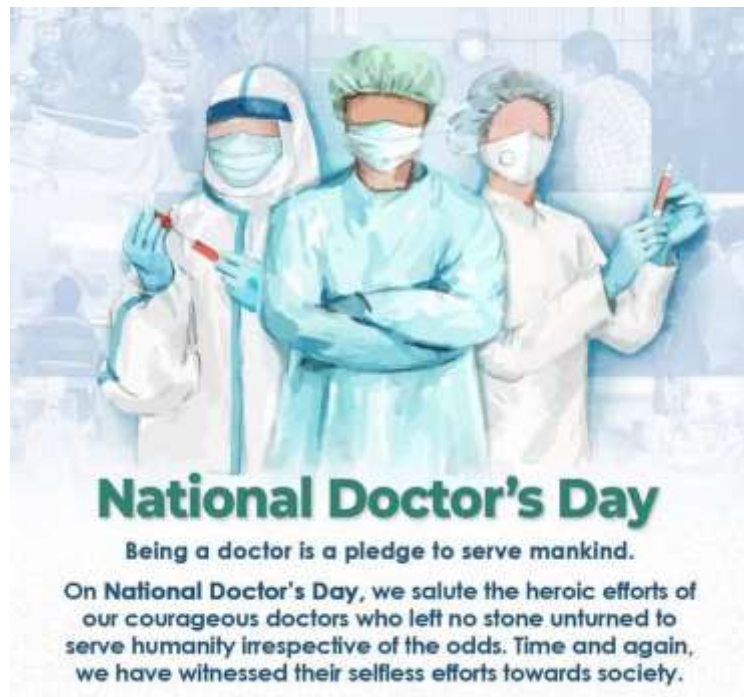
**BRONZE: 2014**  
GIMCHEON ASIAN  
CHAMPIONSHIPS

- PV Sindhu has become first Indian woman to win two Olympic medals after defeating 'He Bingjiao' of China.
- She is the first Indian woman to win Olympic silver.
- At 2016 Rio Olympics, Sindhu had won women's singles badminton silver in her Olympics debut.
- She won bronze at the Tokyo Olympics.
- She has become second Indian athlete to win 2 Olympic medals in individual events following Sushil Kumar.
- Sushil Kumar had won wrestling bronze in 2008 in Beijing and won Silver at London Games of 2012.
- In London Olympics of 2012, India achieved its best-ever tally of 6 medals.

## 11. IMPORTANT DAYS

Its about significance of special days

### National Doctors' Day - July 1



- The day is organised in India by the Indian Medical Association (IMA).
- The day is celebrated to honour the great physicians and help us understand the importance of doctors in our lives.
- The day commemorates the birth anniversary of the second Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy.

### National Chartered Accountants Day - July 1



- This day is celebrated to commemorate the founding of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) by the parliament of India in 1949.
- Every year CA Day is celebrated to honour the Chartered Accountants.
- ICAI is India's national professional accounting body and also the second biggest accounting organization in the world.
- Headquarters of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India is in New Delhi.

## National Postal Worker Day - July 1



- The day is celebrated every year across the globe.
- It was first commemorated by a Seattle-area postal carrier.
- It is dedicated to express gratitude towards postal workers for ensuring uninterrupted services.

## GST Day - July 1



- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) is an indirect, multi-stage, comprehensive tax in India, imposed on the supply of goods and services.
- The date has been designated by the central government as 'GST Day'.
- India marks the fourth anniversary of the Goods and Services Tax this year (2017).

## State Bank Day - July 1



- The 66th Foundation Day of State Bank of India was celebrated recently.
- On 1 July 1955, the Imperial Bank of India, which came into existence in 1921, became the State Bank of India.
- SBI is a Fortune 500 company.
- It is an Indian Multinational, Public Sector Banking and Financial services statutory body.
- It is headquartered in Mumbai.

## World UFO Day - July 2



- It is observed by the World UFO Organization.
- The day aims to raise awareness about the existence of Unidentified flying objects.
- It also encourages people to think about the possibility of us not being alone in the Universe.



## World Sports Journalists Day - July 2



- The day aims to acknowledge the work of sports journalists & to encourage them to do better at their work.
- The associations of the journalists all over the world were found and united by the International Sports Press Association.
- The World Sports Journalist Day was established by the International Sports Press Association in 1994.

## International Plastic Bag Free Day - July 3



- The day was started by Zero Waste Europe.
- The purpose of observing this day is to raise awareness against the use of this often non-biodegradable material which causes harm to our environment.
- The organisation aims to eliminate single-use plastics from our daily use.

## World Zoonoses Day - July 6



- It is held every year on to raise awareness of the risk of zoonotic diseases.
- Zoonoses are infectious diseases (virus, bacteria and parasites) that can spread from animals to humans, and vice versa.
- It was on July 6, 1885, when Louis Pasteur successfully administered the first vaccine against Rabies virus.
- Rabies is a zoonotic disease.

## Global Forgiveness Day - July 7



- The day is observed every year to encourage the art of forgiving.
- It aims to spread awareness about the healing power of forgiveness and its importance for a peaceful life.
- Studies have proved that people who choose to forgive are healthier and happier.

### International Mango festival - July 9 to 10



- The International Mango Festival is annually held at the Dilli Haat in Delhi.
- It tends to demonstrate the mango specialities from various states of India.
- The event is organized by the Delhi Government in association with Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation.

### National Fish Farmers' Day - July 10



- The day is celebrated every year by the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying in association with the National Fisheries Development Board.
- The event aims to draw attention to changing the way the country manages fisheries resources to ensure sustainable stocks and healthy ecosystems.
- The day is commemorated annually in remembrance of scientists Dr K H Alikunhi and Dr H.L. Chaudhury.
- They invented induced breeding technology of Indian major carps on 10 July 1957.
- 2021 will mark 21st National Fish Farmers' Day.

## World Population Day - July 11



- The year 2021 marked the 32nd world population day.
- It highlights problems of overpopulation.
- The day also raises awareness about effects of overpopulation on environment and development.
- This year theme of World Population Day 2021: “the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on fertility”.
- First World Population Day was observed on July 11, 1989.
- This day was established by Governing Council of United Nations Development Programme.
- This day was suggested by Dr. K. C. Zachariah when the World population reaches Five Billion.

## NABARD day - July 12



**NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE  
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) came into existence on 12 July 1982.
- NABARD was established on the recommendations of B.Siva raman Committee.
- NABARD this year marks its 40th Foundation Day.

## World Malala Day - July 12



- The United Nations has declared this day to honour the young activist, Malala Yousafzai.
- Malala Day is commemorated, the birthday of Malala Yousafzai to honour women and children's rights around the world.

### Note

- In 2012, she was awarded the first-ever National Youth Peace Prize by the Pakistan government.
- In 2014, at age 17, she became the youngest-ever recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.
- The UN has declared her as "the most famous teenager in the world" in its Decade in Review report in late 2019.

## World Youth Skills Day - July 15



- The United Nations celebrates the day to make the world know the importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship.
- The theme of World Youth Skills Day 2021 is "Reimagining Youth Skills Post-Pandemic".
- The United Nations General Assembly in 2014 declared 15th July as World Youth Skills Day.

## World Plastic Surgery day - July 15



- India's National Plastic Surgery Day will now be celebrated as the World Plastic Surgery Day.
- The announcement was made in a statement released by the Association of Plastic Surgeons in India (APSI).
- The concept of National Plastic Surgery Day was first introduced by Dr S Raja Sabapathy in the year 2011.

## International Justice Day - July 17



- The World Day for International Justice is celebrated globally to support and recognize the work of the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- The day marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute on July 17, 1998.
- The Rome Statute is the founding treaty of the ICC.

## Nelson Mandela Day - July 18



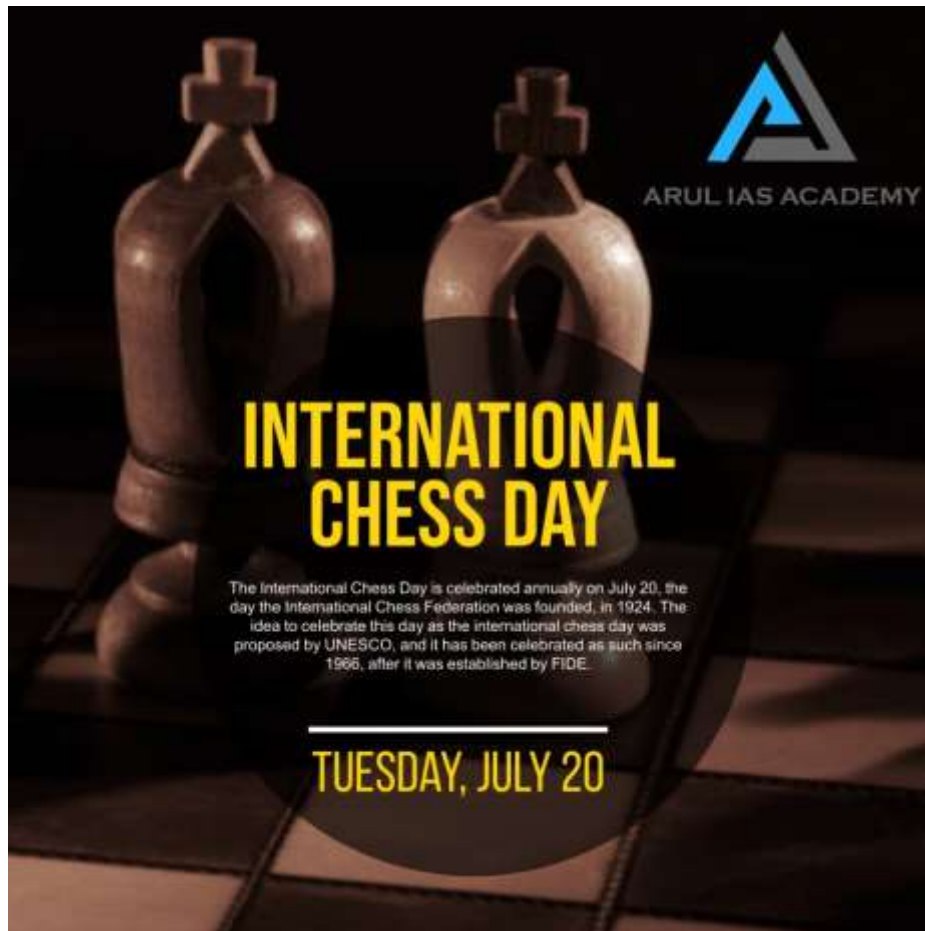
- The United Nations observes 18 July every year as Nelson Mandela International Day.
- The theme of this year for this Day is “One Hand Can Feed Another”.
- On 18 July 2009, the first Mandela Day was observed in New York.
- This year marks the 103rd birth anniversary of Nelson Mandela.
- He was the first democratically elected president of a free South Africa (1994-1999).

## Bank Nationalization Day - July 19



- On this day in 1969, 14 top banks were nationalised in India by the then Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi.
- These banks contained 85 percent of bank deposits in the country.
- The stated reason for the nationalization was to give the government more control of credit delivery.
- In 1980, another six more banks were nationalised.

## International Chess Day - July 20



- It was on this day that the International Chess Federation (FIDE) was founded, in 1924.
- Invented in India in the fifth century AD, it was originally named "Chaturanga".

## Pi Day - July 22



- It is an annual celebration of the mathematical constant  $\pi$  (pi).
- Pi ( $\pi$ ) is the ratio of the circumference of a circle and its diameter.
- 22/7, day/month format, is an approximation of  $\pi$ .



## World Brain Day - July 22



- The World Federation of Neurology (WFN) celebrates this day every year since 2014.
- The theme for this year is “Stop Multiple Sclerosis”.

## National Mango Day - July 22



- Mango is the national fruit of India, Pakistan, and the Philippines.
- In India, mangoes are commonly harvested during the months March-May.
- It is called as “king of fruit”.
- Each year since 1987, “The International mango festival” is held in Delhi.

## Kargil Vijay Diwas - July 26



- It is the 22nd anniversary of the Kargil Vijay Diwas.
- The day marks the victory of Indian soldiers in recapturing the mountain heights that were occupied by the Pakistani Army.
- Kargil war was declared over on July 26, 1999.
- The day is observed as 'Kargil Vijay Diwas' to commemorate India's victory.

## International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem - July 26



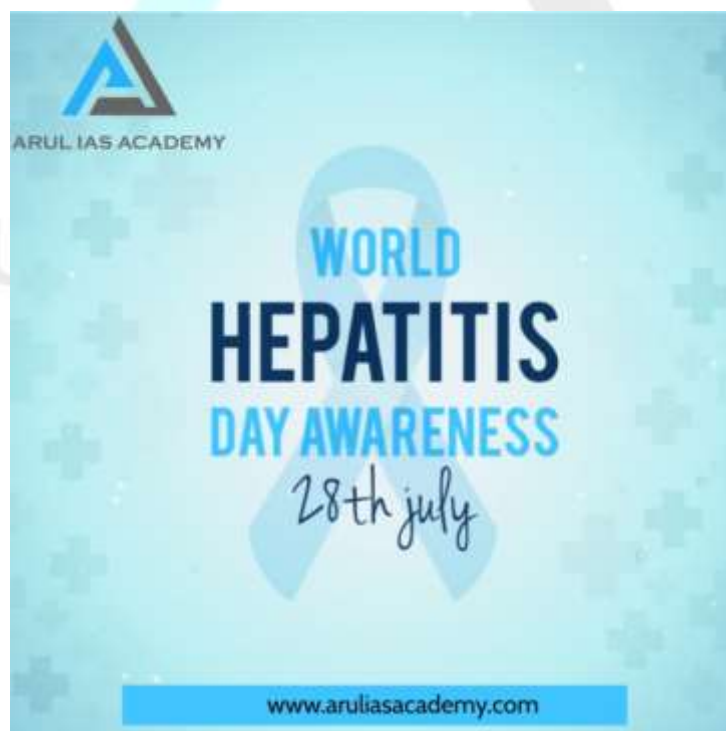
- The day was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 2015.
- It aims to raise awareness of the importance of mangrove ecosystems as "a unique, special and vulnerable ecosystem" and to promote solutions for their sustainable management, conservation and uses.

## World Nature Conservation Day - July 28



- The main objective of celebrating this day is to raise awareness about protecting nature and adopting best practices for conserving our natural resources.
- The Earth is supplied a limited amount of properties that we all rely upon each day like water, air, soil and trees.
- Theme of this year is “Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet”.

## World Hepatitis Day - July 28



- The day is celebrated to enhance awareness of viral hepatitis.
- Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver that causes a range of health problems, including liver cancer.
- This year theme of World Hepatitis Day 2021 is ‘Hepatitis Can’t Wait’.

**International Tiger Day - July 29**



- Global Tiger Day or International Tiger Day is observed every year to raise awareness about the declining population of wild cats and making efforts to conserve them.
- This year marks the 11th International Tiger Day.
- The theme/Slogan for the 2021 International Tiger Day celebration is “Their Survival is in our hands”.
- The Global Tiger Day came into being during the signing of the Saint Petersburg declaration.
- It was signed by 13 tiger range countries in 2010 in Russia.
- The governments of these tiger range countries had resolved to encourage the conservation, protecting natural habitats and double the number of tigers by 2022.



# ARUL IAS ACADEMY

SINCE 2014

## TNPSC GROUP 1 MAINS 2020/2021 TEST SERIES

**EXCLUSIVE**

- ▲ **GROUP 1 MAINS TEST SERIES**
- ▲ **TOTAL NUMBER OF TEST : 27**
- ▲ **PAPER WISE TEST : 24**
- ▲ **MOCK TEST TEST : 3**

**CONTACT US : 79044 52287**

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### KEY FEATURES

- 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><b>Constitution of India:</b> 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. <b>Union Executive:</b> President, Vice - President, Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, Attorney General of India. <b>Union Legislature:</b> Parliament: Lok - Sabha and Rajya - Sabha - Composition, Powers, Functions and Legislative procedures. <b>Union Judiciary:</b> 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><b>State Executive:</b> Governor, Chief Minister - Speaker and Council of Ministers , Advocate General of the State. <b>State Legislature:</b> State Legislative Assembly - Organization, Powers and Functions. <b>State Judiciary:</b> Organisation, Powers and Functions of High Courts, District Courts and Subordinate Courts. <b>Local Government:</b> Historical Development - Features and working of 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992. <b>Union Territories:</b> Evolution of States and Union Territories - Administration of Union Territories. <b>Federalism in India:</b> 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><b>Civil Services in India:</b> Historical background - Classification of Civil Services - Recruitment &amp; Training of Civil Servants.</p> <p><b>State Services:</b> Classification of State Services and Recruitment.</p> <p><b>Official Language:</b> Constitutional provision - Official Language Act, VIII Schedule to the Constitution.</p> <p><b>Amendments:</b> Major Amendments to the Indian Constitution. <b>Special Status to Jammu &amp; Kashmir:</b> 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 &amp; 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 &amp; 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/PORITION
8.	<p><b>UNIT - III : TAMIL SOCIETY - ITS CULTURE AND HERITAGE</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Tamil Society : Origin and expansion.</li><li>2) Art and Culture : Literature, Music, Film, Drama, Architecture, Sculpture, Paintings and Folk Arts.</li><li>3) Socio - economic history of Tamil Nadu from Sangam age to till date.</li><li>4) Growth of Rationalist, Dravidian movements in Tamil Nadu - Their role in the socio - economic development of Tamil Nadu.</li><li>5) Social and cultural life of contemporary Tamils : Caste, Religion, Women, Politics, Education, Economy, Trade and relationship with other countries.</li><li>6) Tamil and other Disciplines: Mass Media, Computer etc.</li></ol>
9.	<p><b>UNIT - III : TAMIL SOCIETY - ITS CULTURE AND HERITAGE</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Tamil Society : Origin and expansion.</li><li>2) Art and Culture : Literature, Music, Film, Drama, Architecture, Sculpture, Paintings and Folk Arts.</li><li>3) Socio - economic history of Tamil Nadu from Sangam age to till date.</li><li>4) Growth of Rationalist, Dravidian movements in Tamil Nadu - Their role in the socio - economic development of Tamil Nadu.</li><li>5) Social and cultural life of contemporary Tamils : Caste, Religion, Women, Politics, Education, Economy, Trade and relationship with other countries.</li><li>6) Tamil and other Disciplines: Mass Media, Computer etc.</li></ol>

## 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 &amp; 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"><li>▲ Social- Cultural geography - Population : Growth, Density and Distribution - Racial, linguistic and major tribes.</li><li>▲ <b>GEOGRAPHY -CURRENT AFFAIRS</b></li></ul>
12.	<p>UNIT-I : GEOGRAPHY OF INDIA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO TAMILNADU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▲ Oceanography - Bottom relief features of Indian Ocean, Arabian sea and Bay of Bengal.</li><li>▲ Basics of Geospatial Technology: Geographical Information System (GIS) and Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS).</li><li>▲ Map: Geographical landmarks - India and its neighbours.</li></ul>

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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
<b>13.</b>	<p><b>UNIT II: ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p><b>Ecology:</b> 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) &amp; Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).</p> <p>Environmental Laws, Policies &amp; Treaties in India and Global scenario - Natural calamities and Disaster Management – Environmental Health and Sanitation.</p>
<b>14.</b>	<p><b>UNIT II: ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p><b>Environmental Pollution and Management:</b> 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. <b>Climate Change:</b> 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><b>Environment CURRENT AFFAIRS</b></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/PORITION
<b>15.</b>	<p><b>UNIT III : INDIAN ECONOMY - CURRENT ECONOMIC TRENDS AND IMPACT OF GLOBAL ECONOMY ON INDIA</b></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 &amp; indebttness - WTO &amp; 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 &amp; Technology - R&amp;D.</p>
<b>16.</b>	<p><b>UNIT III : INDIAN ECONOMY - CURRENT ECONOMIC TRENDS AND IMPACT OF GLOBAL ECONOMY ON INDIA</b></p> <p>Banking &amp; Finance - Banking, Money &amp; Finance - Central Bank - Commercial Bank - NBFIs. - Stock Market - Financial Reforms - Financial Stability - Monetary Policy - RBI &amp; Autonomy. Public Finance - Sources of Revenue - Tax &amp; Non-Tax Revenue - Canons of taxation - GST - Public expenditure - Public debt - Finance Commission - Fiscal Policy Issues in Indian Economy - Poverty &amp; 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 &amp; its impact - Global economic crisis &amp; 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 &amp; 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 &amp; Pacts - Second World War &amp; final phase struggle - Communalism led to partition.</p> <p><b>GENERAL APTITUDE &amp; MENTAL ABILITY</b></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 &amp; 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><b>GENERAL APTITUDE &amp; MENTAL ABILITY</b></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/PORITION
<b>21.</b>	<p>UNIT- II : SOCIAL ISSUES IN INDIA AND TAMIL NADU UNIT-III : GENERAL APTITUDE &amp; MENTAL ABILITY (SSLC Standard)</p> <p><b>SOCIAL ISSUES IN INDIA AND TAMIL NADU</b> Population Explosion - Unemployment issues in India &amp; Tamil Nadu - Child Abuse &amp; 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><b>GENERAL APTITUDE &amp; MENTAL ABILITY</b> Area - Volume</p>
<b>22.</b>	<p>UNIT- II : SOCIAL ISSUES IN INDIA AND TAMIL NADU UNIT-III : GENERAL APTITUDE &amp; 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><b>GENERAL APTITUDE &amp; MENTAL ABILITY</b> Time and Work</p>
<b>23.</b>	<p>UNIT- II : SOCIAL ISSUES IN INDIA AND TAMIL NADU UNIT-III : GENERAL APTITUDE &amp; 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><b>GENERAL APTITUDE &amp; MENTAL ABILITY</b> 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 &amp; MENTAL ABILITY (SSLC Standard)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▲ Current Affairs On</li><li>▲ Indian Polity, Law,</li><li>▲ Latest Diary Of Events: National And International - National Symbols- Eminent Personalities &amp; Places In News - Sports &amp; Games - Books &amp; Authors - Awards &amp; Honours - Cultural Panorama - Latest Historical Events - Latest Terminology - Appointments - Who Is Who?</li><li>▲ Latest Inventions In Science &amp; Technology,</li><li>▲ Geography Current Affairs,</li><li>▲ Environmental Current Affairs,</li><li>▲ Economy Current Affairs.</li></ul>
	<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.

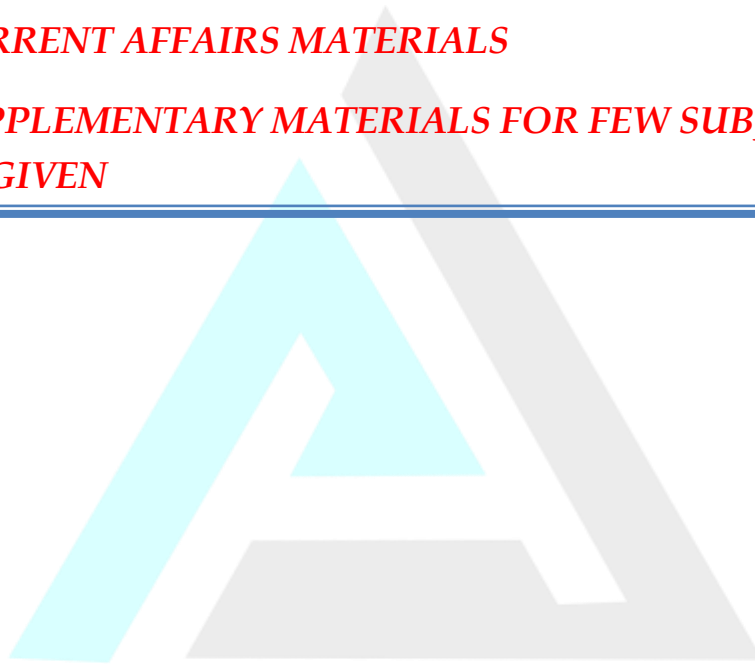
**TYPE OF BATCHES AVAILABLE:**

**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**

<b>S.NO</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>NO.OF QUES</b>
1.	CIVICS 6 <sup>TH</sup> -8 <sup>TH</sup> STD	100
2.	CIVICS 9 <sup>TH</sup> -10 <sup>TH</sup> STD	100
3.	POLITICAL SCIENCE 11 <sup>TH</sup> AND 12 <sup>TH</sup>	150
4.	GEOGRAPHY 6 <sup>TH</sup> TO 10 <sup>TH</sup>	150
5.	GEOGRAPHY 11 <sup>TH</sup> AND 12 <sup>TH</sup>	100
6.	ECONOMICS 6 <sup>TH</sup> TO 12 <sup>TH</sup>	150
7.	HISTORY 6 <sup>TH</sup> TO 8 <sup>TH</sup> STD	150
8.	HISTORY 9 <sup>TH</sup> TO 12 <sup>TH</sup> STD	150
9.	SCIENCE 6 <sup>TH</sup> TO 10 <sup>TH</sup>	200
10.	SCIENCE 11 <sup>TH</sup> AND 12 <sup>TH</sup>	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.	<b>UNIT-VI: INDIAN ECONOMY</b> (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. <b>APTITUDE</b> ✓ Highest Common Factor (HCF) ✓ Lowest Common Multiple (LCM) <b>CURRENT AFFAIRS</b> ✓ 2020 CURRENT AFFAIRS	200 QUES
12.	<b>UNIT- III: GEOGRAPHY OF INDIA</b> (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. <b>APTITUDE</b> ✓ SIMPLIFICATION AND PERCENTAGE <b>CURRENT AFFAIRS</b> ✓ JAN&FEB 2020	150 QUES
13.	<b>UNIT-VII: INDIAN NATIONAL MOVEMENT</b> (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;"><b>APTITUDE</b></p> <p>✓ RATIO and PROPORTION</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CURRENT AFFAIRS</b></p> <p>✓ MAR&amp;APRIL&amp;MAY 2020</p>	
14.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>UNIT-V: INDIAN POLITY</b></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;"><b>APTITUDE</b></p> <p>✓ SIMPLE and COMPOUND INTEREST</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CURRENT AFFAIRS</b></p> <p>✓ JUNE TO SEPT 2020</p>	200 QUES
15.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>UNIT - IV: HISTORY AND CULTURE OF INDIA</b></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;"><b>UNIT- VIII : History, Culture, Heritage and Socio - Political Movements in Tamil Nadu</b></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  <b>(iii)</b> Role of Tamil Nadu in freedom struggle - Early agitations against British Rule - Role of women in freedom struggle.  <b>(iv)</b> 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;"><b>APTITUDE</b></p> <p>✓ TIME AND WORK</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CURRENT AFFAIRS</b></p> <p>✓ OCT TO DEC 2020</p>	
16.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>UNIT - IX : Development Administration in Tamil Nadu</b></p> <p><b>(i)</b> 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.  <b>(ii)</b> 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.  <b>(iii)</b> Social Justice and Social Harmony as the Cornerstones of Socio - Economic development.  <b>(iv)</b> Education and Health systems in Tamil Nadu.  <b>(v)</b> Geography of Tamil Nadu and its impact on Economic growth.  <b>(vi)</b> Achievements of Tamil Nadu in various fields.  <b>(vii)</b> e-governance in Tamil Nadu.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>APTITUDE</b></p> <p>✓ AREA AND VOLUME</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CURRENT AFFAIRS</b></p> <p>✓ JAN TO FEB 2021</p>	150 QUES



17.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>UNIT-I : GENERAL SCIENCE</b></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;"><b>APTITUDE</b></p> <p>✓ REASONING</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CURRENT AFFAIRS</b></p> <p>✓ MARCH AND APRIL &amp; MAY - 2021</p>	150 QUES
18.	<b>MOCK TEST NO.1</b>	200 QUES
19.	<b>MOCK TEST NO.2</b>	200 QUES
20.	<b>MOCK TEST NO.3</b>	200 QUES

CONTACT :

**ARUL IAS ACADEMY**

**246, ALLWIN COMPLEX, JAWAHAR BAZAAR, KARUR-1**

**CONTACT: 9597234 231, 79044 52287**

**WHATSAPP: 9597234 231**