

CURRENT AFFAIRS



AUGUST 2021



HAPPY ACADEMY



PREFACE

This is our special edition of Current Affairs Magazine for various Central & State level Competitive Examinations, covering content from the month of August 2021.

The Magazine is divided into three sections:

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The Third Section covers some major happenings in this month along with analysis. The content has been covered from various online & offline sources including reputed newspapers like The Hindu, Indian Express etc. All the news topics have been explained keeping in mind their underlying issues. Every issue has been covered comprehensively. Some of the information provided may not be directly relevant for the examination. As the content is very wide, we have only covered a limited set of issues. You can utilize it smarty along with the Daily Study of News Papers as well as your other sources.

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SECTION 1

Topic Wise Current Affairs in short

1: Important Days



Muslim Women Rights Day – 1 August

On August 1, the Ministry of Minority Affairs has declared “Muslim Women Rights Day” across the country. It will mark the second anniversary of the law prohibiting triple talaq being passed. Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Minister of Minority Affairs, confirmed a considerable decrease in triple talaq incidents.



TRIFED is gearing up to celebrate its 34th Foundation Day – 6 August

In the presence of Shri. Arjun Munda, Hon'ble Minister of Tribal Affairs, and other guests, TRIFED celebrated its 34th foundation day on August 6, 2021, by recognizing Trifed's achievements in the field of tribal welfare.



National Handloom Day – 7 August

India has marked the 7th National Handloom Day to showcase the legacy of the Indian handloom industry. The day is to commemorate the Swadeshi Movement and to celebrate our country's rich fabrics and colorful weaves. The whole nation will mark the day to showcase the legacy of the Indian handloom industry and to honor the weavers across the country. It was first observed in 2015 by the Govt of India.



International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples – 9 August

Every year on August 9th, the United Nations commemorates the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. The day is commemorated to safeguard the rights of the world's indigenous peoples and to acknowledge their accomplishments and contributions to global challenges such as environmental conservation. “Leaving no one behind: Indigenous peoples and the Call for a New Social Contract” is the topic for 2021.



World Lion Day – 10 August

Every year on August 10th, World Lion Day is observed to promote awareness of lions. The day also aims to rally support for Lion conservation and protection. Though the lion is commonly referred to as the "lord of the jungle," according to the World Wide Fund for Animals (WWF), However, it can only be found on grasslands and plains.



World Organ Donation Day – 13 August

Every year on August 13, World Organ Donation Day is commemorated. The purpose of the day is to promote awareness about the necessity of organ donation and to encourage people to give organs after they have died. Because one organ donor can save up to eight lives, the day provides an opportunity for everyone to come forward and promise to donate their precious organs.



International Youth Day – 12 August

Every year on August 12th, the International Young Day is commemorated to bring governments and others' attention to youth issues around the world. This day is observed to honor the contributions made by youngsters to the benefit of society. The goal of the day is to encourage strategies to engage youngsters and get them more interested in their communities by making positive contributions.



International Lefthanders Day – 13 August

Every year on August 13th, the International Left-Handers Day is commemorated to honor the uniqueness and distinctions of left-handed people and to raise awareness of the benefits and drawbacks of being left-handed in a largely right-handed environment.



Partition Horrors Remembrance Day – 14 August

Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that the anguish of the country's split will never be forgotten and that August 14 will be honored as 'VibhajanVibhishika Smriti Diwas,' or Partition Horrors Remembrance Day. In honor of those who died as a result of the partition of India.



75th Indian Independence Day 2021 – 15 August

On August 15, 2021, India will commemorate its 75th Independence Day, marking the end of nearly two centuries of British colonial rule. India's 75th Independence Day is being commemorated as "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav." The celebrations are being led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from the Red Fort in New Delhi.



Anniversary of Subhadra Kumari Chauhan – 16 August

On the 117th anniversary of her birth, Google dedicated a beautiful doodle to Subhadra Kumari Chauhan. Subhadra Kumari Chauhan was an activist, poet, and independence warrior from India. Prabha Mallya, a New Zealand-based guest artist, designed the Google doodle.



Sanskrit Week.

From August 19 through August 25, 2021, Sanskrit Week will be observed. Sanskrit Week is a week dedicated to promoting and popularising the ancient language of Sanskrit. Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged everyone to learn and promote Sanskrit at the start of the event.



Akshay Urja Diwas – 20 August

Every year on August 20, Akshay Urja Diwas (Renewable Energy Day) is marked to promote awareness about the developments and adoption of renewable energy in India. The Indian Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Sources established Akshay Urja Day in 2004. Biogas, solar energy, wind energy, and hydroelectrical power are only a few examples of Akshay Urja's work. The major goal of Akshay Urja Diwas is to educate people about the importance of renewable energy (Akshay Urja) in addition to traditional energy.



World Senior Citizen Day – 21 August

Every year on August 21, the world celebrates World Senior Citizen Day. The day is observed to raise awareness about issues that impact elders, such as deterioration with age and elder abuse, as well as to support, honor, and express gratitude for seniors' accomplishments.



From August 23 to 29, the I&B Ministry will celebrate 'Iconic Week'

From the 23rd to the 29th of August, Union Minister for

Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur will kick off a slew of activities to commemorate the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.' Thakur will kick off the 'Iconic Week,' which will draw people from all over the country in the spirit of 'Jan Bhagidari and Jan Andolan,' according to the I&B ministry.



World Water Week

Since 1991, the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) has held a World Water Week to address global water issues and related international development concerns. From the 23rd through the 27th of August, the World Water Week 2021 will be held online. 'Building Resilience Faster' is the theme for World Water Week 2021.



International Dog Day – 26 August

Every year on August 26th, International Dog Day is commemorated to promote awareness about dog adoption and the need of providing a secure and loving environment for rescue dogs. Colleen Paige, a pet &

family lifestyle specialist, animal rescue advocate, conservationist, and dog trainer, established National Dog Day in the United States in 2004.



Thematic POSHAN Maah.

In September 2021, the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development plans to host and commemorate the Thematic POSHAN Maah. POSHAN Abhiyaan is the government of India's major program to promote nutrition for pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, children, and adolescent girls.



International Day against Nuclear Tests – 29 August

Every year on August 29, the International Day Against Nuclear Tests is commemorated. This event is being held to raise awareness about the dangers of nuclear weapons testing and to advocate for a stop to such tests. The event will be commemorated for the 12th

time in 2021.



National Small Industry - 30 August

Every year on August 30th in India, the National Small Industry Day is observed to support and promote small businesses for their entire growth potential and prospects for development throughout the year. The industry day is a way to help existing small, medium, and big businesses grow in a balanced way while also assisting in the establishment of new industries to help the state's financial health.



International Day for People of African Descent - 31 August

On August 31, 2021, the International Day for People of African Descent will be commemorated for the first time. The United Nations wants to highlight the outstanding contributions of the African diaspora around the world and prevent all forms of discrimination against persons of African heritage

2: Agreements



Counter-Terrorism Action Plan.

To boost BRICS counter-terrorism cooperation, the BRICS Counter-Terrorism Action Plan has been finalized. This topic was discussed at the BRICS Anti-Terrorism Working Group's sixth meeting, which took place on July 28 and 29. The working group meeting was held virtually, with India, Russia, Brazil, China, and South Africa as participants.



Assam will accept the Centre's solution.

During a border dispute with Mizoram, Assam's spokesperson, Pijush Hazarika, stated the state seeks a permanent peaceful solution and that the state will accept the Centre's answer. "We want a long-term peaceful solution. We want our land to stay with us, and they want their land to stay with them. The federal government should provide a solution, which we will gladly accept" he stated.



INDIA – HARPOON JOINT COMMON TEST SET (JCTS).

The sale of the Harpoon Joint Common Test Set (JCTS) and related equipment to India for an estimated cost of \$82 million has been approved by the United States. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency of the Pentagon informed the United States of this on 2 August.



Approval of General Insurance Business Amendment bill.

On August 2, 2021, the Lok Sabha passed the "General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill" by voice vote without debate. The General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill of 2021 will enable the government to reduce its stake in state-owned general insurance firms while also generating needed funds.



Deal of EU & Novavax.

The European Commission stated on 4 August that it had reached a preliminary agreement with US pharmaceutical firm Novavax to purchase up to 200 million doses of a potential COVID-19 vaccine. The commission said in a statement that the advance purchase agreement was conditional on the European Medicines Agency's approval of the Novavax vaccine.

World Bank signs a \$250 million project.

The Government of India, the Central Water Commission, government representatives from ten participating states, and the World Bank have signed a \$250 million initiative to improve the safety and performance of existing dams in several Indian states.



Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill.

Despite opposition parties' protests over the Pegasus snooping problem, Rajya Sabha passed the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2021 on Wednesday. It will now be forwarded to President Ram Nath Kovind for approval.

Huge Infrastructure Bill.

On 7 August, a massive infrastructure bill dubbed "historic" by US President Joe Biden cleared a major procedural obstacle, with enough Republican senators joining Democrats to ensure its final passage in the upper chamber. The \$1.2 trillion bill is intended to fund much-needed infrastructure improvements.



Zydus Cadila's needle-free Covid-19 vaccine.

India will soon receive its sixth Covid-19 vaccination, as Zydus Cadila's needle-free Covid-19 vaccine, dubbed "ZyCoV-D," is poised to receive emergency use authorization (EUA) approval. Covaxin, Covishield, Sputnik V, Moderna's vaccine, and J&J's single-dose vaccine are currently approved by the Indian government for Covid-19.



Assam passes Cattle Preservation Bill.

The Assam Cattle Preservation Bill, 2021, which prohibits the sale and purchase of beef in areas inhabited by non-beef-eating communities and within a radius of 5 km of a temple or a satra (Vaishnavite monastery) was passed in the state Assembly on the last day of the ongoing Budget session, amid a walkout staged by the Opposition.



UK trade agreement with India.

The United Kingdom (UK) has said that it intends to begin trade negotiations with India by the end of 2021. The pre-negotiation scoping phase of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and the United Kingdom is now underway. By the end of 2021, negotiations will have begun.



Australia – India Navy Relationship.

On August 18, 2021, the Indian Navy and the Royal Australian Navy signed an agreement titled "Joint Guidance for the Australia-India Navy to Navy Relationship." Adm Karambir Singh, Chief of the Naval Staff of the Indian Navy, and Vice Admiral Michael J Noonan, Chief of the Navy of the Australian Navy, virtually signed the documents.



Approval of MoU on disaster management, India-Bangladesh.

The Union Cabinet has accepted the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Disaster Management between India and Bangladesh, which was signed in March 2021, and is chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. NDMA, India's Ministry of Home Affairs, and Bangladesh's Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

to ground stations.



India-ADB, USD 500 million loan agreement.

India inked a USD 500 million loan arrangement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on August 19, 2021, to extend Bengaluru's metro rail network. Bengaluru's metro rail network will be expanded with the building of two new 56-kilometer metro lines.



BRICS deal on satellite data sharing.

Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) have signed an agreement to share remote sensing satellite data. According to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), this agreement will allow BRICS space agencies to create a virtual constellation of defined remote sensing satellites that will transmit data



AK-103 rifles India-Russia deal.

On August 20, 2021, India and Russia agreed to purchase AK-103 rifles immediately. This agreement was made as part of a massive infantry modernization effort. The Indian Army is receiving several AK-103 type assault rifles from Russia as part of this deal.



Ratification of Kigali Amendment.

To phase down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), India has approved the ratification of the Kigali Agreement to the Montreal Protocol. By 2047, India will have to reduce its use of HFCs by 80%. In 2045 and 2034, China and the United States must attain the same goals.



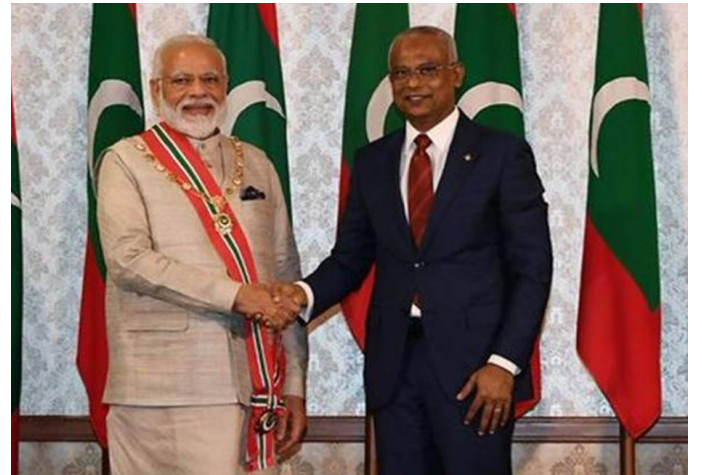
India-Russia 70,000 AK-203 Assault Rifles deal.

On August 19, 2021, India and Russia reached an agreement for the prompt procurement of 70,000 AK-200 class assault rifles. The agreement was reached at a time when both countries are collaborating on a larger project in India to jointly produce 6 lakh AK-203 rifles. The agreement has been pending since 2018.



Rs 15,000 Crore NMP-linked FDI approved.

On August 25, 2021, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved a proposal for Anchorage Infrastructure Investment Holding (AIIH) Ltd to receive up to Rs 15,000 crore in foreign direct investment (FDI). Anchorage Infrastructure Investment Holding is a company that was founded to invest in India's infrastructure and development industries.



Greater Male Connectivity Project.

The "Greater Male Connectivity Project" is one of the key connectivity efforts that India and the Maldives have signed. Under the terms of the deal, India will begin work on the Maldives' largest-ever infrastructure project, the Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP).

3: Appointment



India as UNSC's President for August.

India will be the president of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for August, and the country will thereafter host some events in the three key areas of counter-terrorism, maritime security, and peacekeeping. India's permanent representative to the UN, S. Tirumurti, will hold a press conference on the Security Council's work plan for the month.



Myanmar's military ruler-Prime Minister.

On August 1, 2021, Myanmar's military leader, Min Aung Hlaing, appointed himself Prime Minister of Myanmar. He stated that he intends to lead the country for two years amid a prolonged state of emergency before having elections in 2023.



V M Kanade as the new Lokayukta of Maharashtra.

On the advice of Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari has approved the nomination of retired Bombay high court judge Justice V M Kanade as the new Lokayukta of Maharashtra. For nearly a year, Maharashtra remained without a full-time Lokayukta.



N. K. Singh is appointed as IEG chief.

NK Singh, the chairman of the 15th Finance Commission, has been chosen as president of the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) Society. He took over as President of IEG from former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, who had served as President since 1992. Dr. Manmohan Singh proposed his name to the IEG's general assembly for consideration.

**Ismail Sabri Yaakob, Prime Minister of Malaysia.**

On August 20, 2021, the King of Malaysia nominated Ismail Sabri Yaakob as Prime Minister of Malaysia. Muhyiddin Yassin was replaced as Prime Minister by Ismail Sabri Yaakob. Yassin resigned after losing his majority in parliament due to his inability to effectively manage the public health system.

**Abhay Kumar Singh – joint secretary in the Ministry of Cooperation.**

According to a Personnel Ministry directive released on 23rd August, the Central Government has appointed Abhay Kumar Singh as Joint Secretary of the newly formed Ministry of Cooperation to strengthen the cooperative movement in the country.

4: Award**Cyrus Poonawalla-Lokmanya Tilak Award.**

Cyrus Poonawalla, the founder of the Serum Institute of India (SII) in Pune, has been selected as the winner of the National Lokmanya Tilak Award 2021. He will be recognized for his contributions during the COVID-19 epidemic and how his business, by developing the Covishield vaccine, was able to save countless lives.

**Prof CR Rao Centenary Gold Medal.**

The awardees are Jagdish Bhagwati, University Professor of Economics, Law, and International Relations at Columbia University and Director of the Raj Center on Indian Economic Policies, and C. Rangarajan, former chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister.



Padma Awards 2022.

Online nominations for the Padma Awards, which include the Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri, have begun, with the deadline for nominations set for September 15, 2021. The Padma awards will be announced on Republic Day in 2022. Padma Award nominations and suggestions will only be accepted online through the Padma Award portal.



MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

PMSA Award.

The Government of India has announced that 69 executives will receive Prime Minister's Shram Awards (PMSA) for their professional innovation in 2018. These awards will be given to 69 workers who work in Central and State Government Departmental Undertakings and Public Sector Undertakings, as well as Private Sector Units with 500 or more employees.



1380 police personnel awarded medals.

On the occasion of the 75th Independence Day, which will be marked, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) stated that 1380 police officers will be awarded medals. Medals such as the President's Police Medal for Gallantry (PPMG) and the Police Medal for Gallantry (PMG) have been presented to the honorees.

5: Banking News



Rs 6 Lakh Fine On Hewlett-Packard Financial Services.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of Rs. 6 lakh (Rupees Six Lakh only) on Hewlett-Packard Financial Services (India) Private Ltd, Bengaluru (the company) in an order dated August 03, 2021, for

non-compliance with certain provisions of RBI's directives.



3 official email IDs for taxpayers.

The Income Tax Department notified three official email IDs for taxpayers to register grievances under the faceless or e-assessment scheme. "For faceless

assessments:
samadhan.faceless.assessment@incometax.gov.in; For
faceless penalty:
samadhan.faceless.penalty@incometax.gov.in; For
faceless appeals:
samadhan.faceless.appeal@incometax.gov.in,” the
department said.



Financial Inclusion Index.

On August 17, 2021, the Reserve Bank of India launched the financial inclusion index. To measure the amount of financial inclusion in India, the Financial Inclusion Index will be utilized. This index was part of the first bi-monthly monetary policy statements in April 2021.



N. S. Vishwanathan Panel on UCBs.

The Reserve Bank of India formed a committee led by N. S. Vishwanathan to recommend a framework for urban cooperative banks (UCBs). A panel was formed to recommend deposit-based structures and to prescribe varying capital adequacy and regulatory criteria for

them based on their sizes.



RBI panel on cooperative banks: 4-tier structure suggested!

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has formed a committee to look into the issues surrounding the Urban Cooperative Bank. The committee has delivered its report, which proposes the creation of an umbrella organization to assist small cooperative banks. The minimum capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) for them might range from 9% to 15%, according to the report.



Accounts reached 43 crores under PMJDY.

According to the finance ministry, the number of bank accounts opened under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) has climbed to 43 crores, with total deposits of Rs 1.46 lakh crore. PMJDY, the major financial inclusion scheme, has been in place for seven years.



Trial Project of CBDC.

Governor Shaktikanta Das of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has stated that the pilot program for its digital currency will begin in December 2021. The Reserve Bank of India is now working on a gradual implementation of the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC). CBDC is a new product for RBI as well as the rest of the globe, so RBI is taking it very seriously.



Atul Kumar Goel MD & CEO for next 2 years

The government has extended the term of UCO Bank's MD and CEO Atul Kumar Goel for another two years, the bank announced through a notification dated August 26, the central government extended Atul Kumar Goel's term as managing director and chief executive officer (MD & CEO) of UCO Bank for another two years.



Direct Insurance Broker, PhonePe.

PhonePe, India's fastest-growing Insurtech firm, has received an Insurance Broking license from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and will now act as a Direct Insurance Broker. With a restricted insurance 'corporate agent' license, PhonePe entered the Insurtech market in 2020.

6: Books and Author



'The Khan of Khel Khudai' - Harshaa Bharatula.

Harshaa Bharatula's debut novel, "The Khan of Khel Khudai," was recently published. The book provides readers with an understanding of Afghan and non-Afghan culture and complicated maneuvering. The novel grabs readers' attention, especially now that the political situation in Afghanistan has made international headlines.

7: Defence News



12th round of India, China military-level talks.

On July 31, India and China hold another round of high-level military discussions in an attempt to speed up the process of removing the remaining sources of friction in eastern Ladakh, which has been a source of tension for the past 14 months. The 12th round of negotiations is taking place at the Moldo border post on the Chinese side of the LAC.



Ghormade, New Vice Chief of Indian Navy.

Vice Admiral S.N. Ghormade replaced Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar, who retired after 39 years of service, as Deputy Chief of Naval Staff on 31 July. Vice-Admiral Ghormade was commissioned into the Navy on January

1, 1984, and is a navigation and direction expert.



"Top 10 Target" List.

Vijay Kumar, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) for Kashmir, has announced a list of the top 10 terrorists targeted by the Jammu and Kashmir police. Salim Parray, Yousuf Kantroo, Abbas Sheikh, Reyaz Shetergund, Farooq Nali, Zubair Wani, and Ashraf Molvi are among the seven veteran terrorists, while Saqib Manzoor, Umer Musaq Khandey, and Wakeel Shah are among the three new terrorists.



\$750 million proposals by the Biden administration.

According to a State Department official, two congressional sources, and a notification from the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, the administration gave notice of the planned sale on 4

August. The purchase includes 40 M109A6 Medium Self-Propelled Howitzer Systems as well as supporting equipment.



Rocket fired by Gaza militants.

On August 16, 2021, militants in Gaza fired a rocket into Israel. The rocket, however, was intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome anti-missile system. It was the first time such an attack had occurred since the 11-day battle in May 2021. Israel has promised retaliation. The conflict between Gaza and Israel is a subset of the broader Israeli–Palestinian conflict.



Advanced Chaff Technology, DRDO.

To protect Indian Air Force fighter jets from hostile missiles, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed superior chaff technology. The enemy's radar-guided missiles will be distracted by this modern chaff technology.



DISC-Defence India Startup Challenge.

On August 19, 2021, India's Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh, announced the 5th iteration of the Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC). DISC was established as part of the Defense Innovation Organization's Innovations for Defence Excellence program (iDEX-DIO). The Ministry organized this challenge in collaboration with the Atal Innovation Mission.



India's Defence tech showcase in Moscow.

From August 22 to 28, 2021, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) will attend the International Military-Technical Forum 'ARMY-2021' in Kubinka, Moscow. "India has a big potential in terms of exporting defense systems," stated Dr. NK Arya, Director, Directorate of Public Interface (DPI), DRDO

8: Economy



Indian govt buries retro tax.

The government proposed a bill in the Lok Sabha on Thursday 5th August, aimed at burying retrospective tax demands it had made on corporations like Cairn Energy Plc and Vodafone Group of the UK. "It is also proposed that the cash paid in these situations be refunded without interest," the bill stated.

9: International News



Africa in flood.

Residents of Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, are accustomed to the annual floods that wreak havoc on the coastal city from March to November. However, in mid-July, Lagos Island's main business sector was hit by one of the worst floods in recent memory.

The US issued sanctions on Cuba.

Following recent protests in Cuba against the country's Communist regime, the United States has placed sanctions on the Cuban police force and two of its officials. Thousands of demonstrators came to the streets earlier this month (July 2021), frustrated by the wrecked economy, as well as a scarcity of food and electricity.



The Deadly drone attack, Iran-Israel.

Following the tragic attack on a ship linked to an Israeli billionaire in the Arabian Sea, maritime tensions in the Middle East are rising. The Mercer Street tanker was hit by an armed drone thought to be operated by Iran off the coast of Oman, killing two crew members, a Briton and a Romanian.





Covid vaccine for children aged 3-17.

Covid-19 vaccinations for children aged 3 to 17 have been introduced in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Children aged 3 to 17 will get the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccination from China. Clinical trials and rigorous analyses led to this choice. According to the authorities, the immunological response of 900 children was observed during the trial.



Thailand bans coral-damaging sunscreens.

All of Thailand's coastal national parks have banned sunscreens containing ingredients that harm coral. Four components often found in sun creams have been proved to kill coral larvae, hinder coral reproduction, and induce reef bleaching, according to the Thai Department of Conservation.



New Permanent Forum for African Descent.

On August 2, 2021, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) passed a resolution to establish a Permanent Forum of People of African Descent. This permanent group of people will offer expert advice on how to deal with issues like racism, xenophobia, racial discrimination, and intolerance.



'Matter of deep regret'.

The announcement comes a day after the UN Security Council, which is presently chaired by India August, convened a meeting to discuss the situation in war-torn Afghanistan. Pakistan expressed a "Matter of deep regret" that it was not invited to a UN Security Council meeting on the current situation in war-torn Afghanistan on Saturday (August 7, 2021).



Taliban VS Afghanistan.

To combat Taliban insurgents, Afghan soldiers invaded the provincial capital of Samangan's northern province, Aybak city, on August 9, 2021. At least 20 Taliban fighters were killed and eight more were injured in the attack. Following the infliction of casualties, Taliban fighters fled to the neighboring districts.



The New terminal is at Lhasa Airport, Tibet China.

At Tibet's Lhasa airport, China has opened its freshly constructed terminal. This new terminal is Tibet's largest, and it was established to help the crucial Himalayan region's transportation infrastructure grow. Tibet will be able to establish itself as a global logistics hub for South Asia as a result of this.



Hong Kong to adopt China's anti-sanctions law.

Hong Kong is getting ready to put China's anti-sanctions law into effect. It will be implemented in some form in the country, putting foreign corporations under new regulatory pressure. China's rubber-stamp legislature passed an anti-sanctions law in June 2021 to fight Western sanctions imposed after crackdowns in Hong Kong and Xinjiang.



Carbon-neutral China by 2060.

China's rapid industrialization lifted millions of people out of poverty and converted China into the world's factory. However, China became the world's largest carbon dioxide emitter as a result of this. As a result, China has set a target of carbon neutrality by 2060.



WHO asks power players to end Covid Vaccine Inequity.

To turn the tide, the World Health Organization (WHO) requested the world's top 20 leaders to address the scandalous covid-19 vaccine inequities and global imbalances by October. WHO advised citizens to warn governments and corporate leaders that increasing immunization coverage in impoverished countries is both electorally and financially safe.



Wildfires in Algeria.

Algerian wildfires have claimed the lives of 42 individuals, including 25 troops. Algeria's President, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, extended his sorrow for the deaths of 25 troops. They died while attempting to save people in the fires. The fires are centered in the Bejaïa and Tizi Ouzou areas. Hundreds of fires have also erupted in the Kabyle region.



Pakistan test-fires Ghaznavi Missile.

On August 12, 2021, Pakistan successfully test-fired the Ghaznavi, a surface-to-surface nuclear-capable ballistic missile. The goal of this training was to ensure Army Strategic Forces Command's operational readiness (ASFC). It was also intended to re-validate the weapon system's technical specifications.



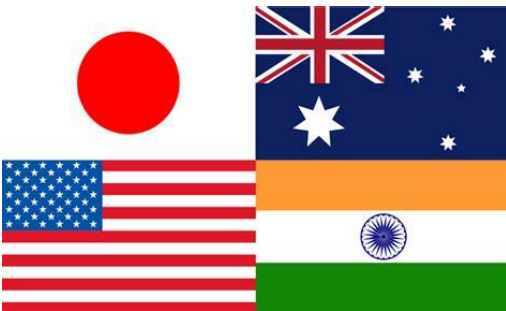
Covid vaccination is not absolute protection.

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, the World Health Organization's (WHO) chief scientist, stated that Covid-19 vaccinations may not provide complete protection against new coronavirus strains. It can, however, minimize the chances of mortality and complications. Dr. Swaminathan went on to say that people should be cautious in the coming months.



Lab-leak theory of coronavirus.

Chinese researchers forced the WHO-led team investigating the origins of Covid to abandon the lab-leak idea, according to a WHO scientist who led the study. This was said by scientists in the documentary "The Virus Mystery."



The Quad includes Taiwan Strait in talks.

On August 13, 2021, the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) included Taiwan straight in talks after the G7. On August 12, Taiwan annoyed China further by publicly thanking the Quad members for including peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait during virtual negotiations.



Afghanistan Govt. steps down.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani has fled Afghanistan, barely hours after insurgent forces surrounded Kabul, the nation's capital city, all but assuring the national government's collapse and the insurgent group's return to power for the first time in two decades.



Withdrawing troops from Afghanistan.

Joe Biden, the US President, stated that he stands by his decision to remove American forces from Afghanistan, and he chastised Afghan leadership for caving into the Taliban without reprisal. American troops cannot be left to die in a war in which Afghan fighters refuse to fight for their country.



Fake COVISHIELD Vaccines.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has issued medical alerts in India regarding fraudulent Covishield vaccines. The WHO has questioned the authenticity of Covishield, which is being distributed to patients in India. Fake vials of the covid-19 vaccine, produced by Oxford-AstraZeneca and manufactured by the Serum

Institute of India(SII), are being circulated in India.



Bilateral Maritime Drill conducted in the South China Sea.

As part of their maritime cooperation, the Indian Navy and the Vietnamese People's Navy conducted joint drills in the South China Sea. INS Ranvijay and INS Kora, both from India, participated in bilateral maritime drills. The frigate VPNS Ly Thai To (HQ-012) represented Vietnam.



A Threefold rise in trauma cases in Afghanistan, WHO.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the number of trauma patients in Afghanistan has increased by more than thrice. WHO has advised that deliveries of life-saving relief and medical supplies to Afghans should not be halted. According to the World Health Organization, 70 WHO-supported medical facilities in Afghanistan treated 14,000 conflict-related cases in August.



Iran has accelerated uranium enrichment.

Iran has increased its uranium enrichment to near weapons-grade, according to the UN's nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). This step, according to the IAEA, is heightening tensions with the West because both sides want to restart talks on restoring the nuclear deal with Iran.



Three-Child Policy - China.

China's national legislature has formally accepted the ruling Communist Party's proposed three-child policy. Chinese officials claim that the one-child policy, which has been in place for almost three decades, has prevented over 400 million births.



Hunger spreading, Afghanistan.

According to the UN food organization, the World Food Programme (WFP), 14 million people in Afghanistan are suffering from extreme hunger. The UN food organization was able to reach an agreement with the Taliban to distribute aid in one of Afghanistan's provincial capitals.



India might be entering an endemic stage of COVID-19.

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, the chief scientist of the World Health Organization (WHO), stated on 25th August that the COVID-19 infection in India will likely enter "some form of endemicity" characterized by low or moderate levels of transmission. Infection is endemic when it is present in a certain community or region, and people have learned to live with it.



Afghanistan's project funding stops.

Following the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan, the

World Bank has halted funding for projects in the nation. The World Bank is also concerned about how the Taliban attack may harm Afghanistan's development prospects, particularly for women.



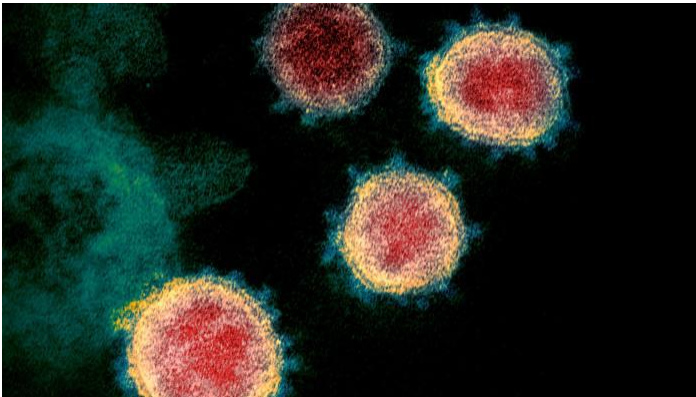
Indo-Kazakhstan Joint Training Exercise, 5th edition.

From August 30 to September 11, 2021, the 5th edition of the Indo-Kazakhstan Joint Training Exercise, known as KAZIND-21, will be held. Military diplomacy will be used to organize this joint training exercise. It aims to strengthen Kazakhstan's expanding strategic relationship.



India-Germany, joint exercise.

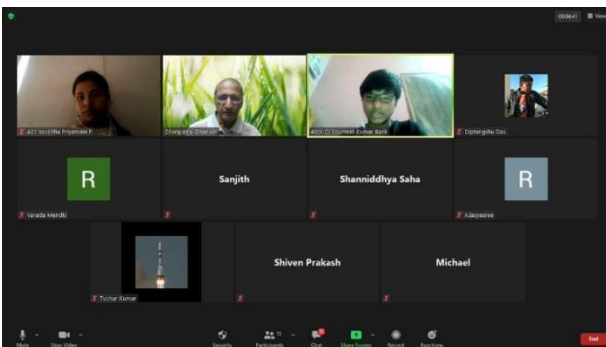
On August 26, 2021, the Indian and German navies performed a joint drill in the Gulf of Aden. Helicopter landings and search and seizure activities were part of the combined exercise. The Indian Navy's ship "Triakand" practiced with the German frigate "Bayern".



COVID-19 origins.

According to the findings of a rigorous study requested by President Joe Biden, the US intelligence community remains split on whether COVID-19 leaked from a Chinese facility or emerged in nature, even though it does not believe the virus was produced as a biological weapon.

10: Miscellaneous News

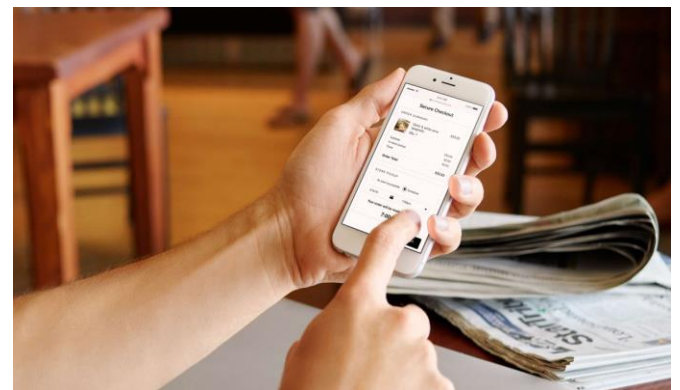


G20 Culture Ministers Meeting.

The first G20 Culture Ministers Meeting was held in Rome on July 29 and 30, and it was a major two-day event held during the Italian G20 leadership. The Colosseum and Palazzo Barberini hosted the G20 Summit in Rome. The meeting began on 29 July on the stage of the Colosseum.

ATL Tinkerpreneur Bootcamp.

The two-month ATL Tinkerpreneur Summer Bootcamp was completed by the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM). 'ATL Tinkerpreneur,' a competition for high school kids, attracted a record-breaking 9,000 competitors from 32 states and 298 districts. It drew well almost 4,000 female participants.



Square to acquire Afterpay.

Square (SQ) CEO Jack Dorsey is spending \$29 billion on an Australian buy-now, pay-later startup, a huge investment that will help his company expand its global payments empire. Square, the financial payments business best known for its popular Cash App, has announced that Afterpay will be merged with its existing apps.



Zoom settles 'zoom bombings.'

In a preliminary lawsuit settlement announced 31 July afternoon, Zoom Video Communications agreed to pay \$85 million. The settlement follows a class action complaint filed by consumers who were concerned that the firm had shared personal data with Facebook (FB), Google, and LinkedIn, as well as cases of "zoo bombing," which occurs when an unwelcome hacker joins a call.



Amazon violated labor law.

The Retail, Wholesale, and Department Store Workers Union said 2 Aug that the National Labor Relations Board concluded that Amazon violated labor law when workers at its Bessemer, Alabama, warehouse attempted to form a union. In April, employees at the Alabama warehouse voted against creating a union.



"Name And Shame" Quarantine Rule-Breakers.

Japan has followed through on a warning to publicly disgrace persons who break coronavirus border control measures by disclosing the names of three people who disobeyed quarantine regulations after returning from abroad. After recently returning from abroad, the three Japanese nationals were mentioned by the health ministry.



India wants peace with Pak.

TS Tirumurti, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, stated on August 2 that India wishes to have peaceful and regular relations with Pakistan, but in a terror-free environment. The Indian Ambassador to the United Nations stated in a UN statement that disputes between the two countries should be handled in a fear-free environment.



National Grid in Aryan Valley.

The Power Grid Corporation of India has successfully commissioned a 40-kilometer transmission line in Ladakh's Aryan Valley (Kargil district). Between Lalung and Darchik, the Prime Minister's Development Program united the villages of Lalung, Darchik, Silmoo, Batalik, Sinikcey, Hurdass, Garkon, and others.



"This is a governor that has to go".

Following a damning report issued 3 August accusing Governor Andrew Cuomo of sexually harassing 11 women and violating federal and state laws, New York state Senator Samra Brouk has called for Cuomo's impeachment if he does not "immediately resign."



Kisan Mazdoor Azadi Sangram Diwas.

Farmers protesting the Centre's three agro laws will mark Independence Day as 'Kisan Mazdoor Azadi Sangram Diwas,' with Tiranga marches taking place across the country, according to the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM). They would stick to their resolution to boycott any such political and governmental engagements involving BJP officials and their allies.



Extension of Rajiv Gauba's Term.

Rajiv Gauba, a 1982-batch IAS officer, has been accepted for a one-year extension in duty as Cabinet Secretary by the Cabinet Appointment Committee beyond August 30, 2021. After PK Sinha's retirement, Rajiv Gauba was appointed as the new Cabinet Secretary in the Government of India on August 30, 2019.



Action against Rahul Gandhi.

A plea has been filed in the Delhi High Court, asking the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) to direct the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) to take appropriate legal action against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for allegedly disclosing the identity of the family of a rape victim in the Delhi Cantonment.



CBI registers case for 6,833.82 cr.

The CBI has filed a case against Shri Lakshmi Cotsyn Limited, situated in Kanpur, and its directors for allegedly defrauding a consortium of 23 banks out of Rs 6,833.82 crore. A CBI official said, "Searches are being conducted at nine locations, including Noida, Roorkee, Fatehpur, and Kanpur."



Threat to human rights: CJI Ramana.

Chief Legal of India NV Ramana remarked that in order to earn citizens' trust and faith, the judiciary must ensure that everyone, even the great majority of vulnerable people who remain outside the justice system, is confident that it exists for them.

भारतीय डाक



Postal Dept. holds a drawing contest.

The Department of Posts is holding a sketching contest for children aged six to fifteen. Under the theme of COVID-19 immunization, a drawing contest is being held to produce special covers. The goal of the competition is to introduce philately as a pastime to young people.



Orders by DDMA.

To efficiently manage COVID-19 in Delhi, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) issued an order to follow the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). A State-Level Expert Committee developed the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). It was accepted during a DDMA meeting headed by the Lieutenant Governor in July 2021.



1st N line Model - Hyundai.

Hyundai Motor India Ltd. (HMIL) has stated that the N Line would make its debut in India in 2021. Over the next few years, more new models will be released. N Line cars, according to the South Korean automaker, would have aesthetic characteristics inspired by motor sports. It will elicit feelings of elation and agility.



Partnership for Self-Reliance – PM Modi.

On August 11, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver a speech to the industry on the issue of government and business collaboration for a self-sufficient India. Through video conferencing, the Prime Minister will address the topic "India at 75: government and business working together for Aatmanirbhar Bharat."



Home Delivery of Liquor challenge.

The Delhi High Court has directed the Delhi government to respond to a petition brought by BJP MP Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma, who is challenging the provision in the new excise policy of 2021 that allows for home delivery of liquor. The petition is being heard by a bench consisting of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh.



NMHC to be developed as an international tourist place.

The National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) will be established as a tourism destination for international visitors. It will be themed to India's marine heritage and will take place at Lothal, Gujarat. It will include tourist attractions such as the National Maritime Heritage Museum, the Maritime Research Institute, the Heritage Theme Park, and landscaping.



Afghanistan leaders must 'fight for their nation'.

Taliban conquered Pul-e-Khumri (capital of Baghlan's northern province) on August 10, 2021, and Afghan security troops retreated to the Kelagi desert. Pul-e-Khumri is the seventh regional capital in less than a week to fall under the control of Islamist terrorists.



COP-26 head to visit India.

Alok Sharma, the President of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP-26) and the UK government's climate chief, will visit India in August to meet with the leaders of the country that has overtaken the US and China as the world's largest producer of greenhouse gases.



Project on Hydrogen Blending.

NTPC Limited, India's largest integrated power generation business, has issued a global Expression of Interest (EoI) for the establishment of a Hydrogen Blending with Natural Gas Pilot Project in India. Hydrogen Blending with Natural Gas will be implemented across India's City Gas Distribution (CGD) Network.



Kingfisher House - Sold for Rs 52.25 Crore.

The Debt Recovery Tribunal finally sold Vijay Mallya's Kingfisher House in Vile Parle, Mumbai, to Hyderabad-based Saturn Realtors for 52.25 crores in its ninth attempt. Kingfisher House was originally the headquarters of Mallya's now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines, which he owns and is suspected of defrauding and laundering over 9,000 crores.



BPCL launches door-to-door delivery of diesel.

To accommodate rising demand, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has begun delivering 'High-Speed Diesel' door-to-door. On the eve of Independence Day, the corporation also dedicated 15 mobile bowsers and 9 jerry can facilities in various parts of the Eastern Region, honoring the "spirit of nationalism."



Sainik Schools Open for Girls.

During his speech at the 75th Independence Day celebrations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that Sainik Schools across India will soon be open to female students as well. This decision was made in response to thousands of female students expressing their desire to attend Sainik School.



My e-Haat – HCL Foundation.

HCL Foundation, the company's corporate social responsibility arm, has established an online site called "My e-Haat" to empower artists and strengthen the country's handicraft value chain. My E-Haat will be a one-of-a-kind (A2C) model in which craftsmen will have direct contact with customers for years to come.



Operation Blue Freedom.

On the occasion of the 75th Independence Day, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar flagged off a pioneering world record expedition dubbed "Operation Blue Freedom" from the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.



Facebook bans Taliban supporting content.

Following the Taliban's designation as a terrorist organization, Facebook banned the Taliban and all content promoting it from its sites. A specialized team of Afghan professionals is monitoring and eliminating anything associated with this Islamic militant group on Facebook.



Hindustan-228 aircraft test.

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), a Defence Ministry public sector venture, has successfully completed ground tests for the production of a civilian aircraft known as the 'Hindustan-228.' The Hindustan-228 aircraft had a ground run and low-speed taxi trials (LSTT) at the HAL facility in Kanpur.



New rules on internet companies, China.

China has released new draught restrictions on Internet companies' anticompetitive conduct. Anticompetitive activities by internet providers would be prohibited under new rules. A new regulation aims to prevent internet corporations from engaging in anticompetitive behavior, such as blocking competing platforms unfairly.



TCS exceeded m-cap of Rs 13 lakh crore.

On August 17, 2021, TCS became the second Indian business to reach a market value of Rs 13 lakh crore. The corporation reached this milestone after selling its stock for the first time in public for the first time after seventeen years. TCS is the second company in India to do so, following Reliance.



'UNITE Aware' tech.

S Jaishankar, the External Affairs Minister (EAM), made the statement while chairing a UN Security Council open debate on "Technology and Peacekeeping" at the UN headquarters in New York. UN peacekeeping deployments continue to face difficult scenarios involving terrorists, armed groups, and non-state actors, he said.



USAID, DFC partner Kotak to finance

women entrepreneurs.

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) have partnered to provide Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMBL) with a \$50 million (roughly Rs 370 crore) loan portfolio guaranty to support increased access to finance for women borrowers and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) across India.



Caste census – Bihar, Nitish Kumar.

On August 23, 2021, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar led a ten-party delegation to South Block, including the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Janata Dal (JD), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), and others, to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and demand a caste-based census.



Tropical storm Henri updates.

Tropical Storm Alerts On August 24, 2021, Henri made landfall near western Rhode Island. It made landfall with wind speeds of 60 mph, according to the US National Hurricane Center (NHC). As a result of the tropical storm, 86 individuals were rescued from

flooded vehicles in New Jersey.



INS Shakti reached 100 tonnes of oxygen.

On August 22, 2021, the Indian naval ship (INS) Shakti arrived in Sri Lanka with 100 tonnes of liquid medical oxygen (LMO) to assist the island nation in combatting the Covid-19 outbreak. The INS Shakti was dispatched to transport oxygen in response to Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's request for an urgent supply of LMO.



Infosys becomes 4th Indian company to touch the \$100 bn market cap.

Infosys became the fourth firm to reach a market capitalization of \$100 billion. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Reliance Industries Limited, and HDFC Bank were the other three corporations to cut, with \$115 billion, \$140 billion, and \$100.1 billion, respectively.



Mobile App for agents, LIC.

To onboard prospective customers, the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) launched a mobile app called "Ananda mobile app" for its agents and intermediaries. Atma Nirbhar Agents New Business Digital Application is known as ANANDA. The paperless solution for new business procedures is ANANDA.



BRICS-Agricultural Research Platform.

The 11th Meeting of the BRICS was headed by Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar, on August 27, 2021. Brazil, Russia, China, and South Africa's agriculture ministers met digitally under the topic "BRICS Partnership for Strengthening Agrobiodiversity for Food and Nutrition Security."



Statue of former CM Sampurnanand, UP.

President Ram Nath Kovind presented a statue of former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Sampurnanand and inaugurated an auditorium named after him at the U.P. Sainik School in Lucknow. From 1954 until 1960, Sampurnanand was the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.



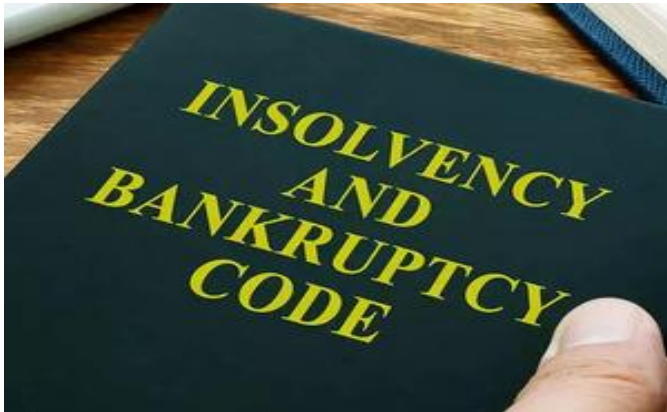
PMJDY completes 7 years.

The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) celebrated its seventh anniversary, with the Union Ministry of Finance reporting that over 430 million accounts had been opened as of August 18, 2021. It went on to call the program "one of the world's largest financial inclusion projects."



Rajasthan Forestry is funded by AFD.

According to a state official announcement, the Rajasthan Forestry and Bio-development Project would be funded by the French development agency AFD. A delegation from AFD, led by country director Bruno Bosle, recently visited Jaipur to discuss the project with senior state government officials.



IBBI to amend in Liquidation Process.

To improve transparency, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has proposed changes to the liquidation procedure under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). The regulatory framework for the liquidation process has been improved on several occasions in the last five years, according to IBBI, to solve the issues faced by stakeholders.

11: National News



India's lightest metro train.

The first train for the Pune Metro coach has been rolled out by Titagarh Wagons Ltd's plant in Italy, according to the company. From Italy, a total of 34 trains will be dispatched. Three carriages will make up each train. These coaches will arrive in Pune in September of 2021.



Compliance Information Portal (CIP).

The Indian Customs Compliance Information Portal (CIP) was launched by the Central Board for Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on 04 AUG 2021 at www.cip.icegate.gov.in/CIP to provide free access to information on all Customs procedures and regulatory



compliance for nearly 12,000 Customs Tariff Items.



Major Dhyan Chand is the new name for the Khel Ratna Award.

India's highest athletic honor, the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, has been renamed Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, according to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was the first recipient of the prize, which has recently been renamed in honor of hockey legend Dhyan Chand.



By 2031, India would have 22,480 MW of nuclear power.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences; and Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy, and Space, told the Lok Sabha on 4th August that India will have 22,480 MW of nuclear power by 2031.



Installment of PM-Kisan.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release the next installment of financial benefit under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme through a video conference on August 9 at 12:30 p.m., according to an official release from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).



Johnson & Johnson's COVIDVaccine.

The single-dose Covid-19 vaccine from Johnson & Johnson has become the fifth vaccination to be licensed by the Indian government. According to the corporation, the vaccine showed high potential against the Delta variation and other developing strains. COVID-19 will be prevented in those aged 18 and up who receive the vaccine.



Rail Madad.

If you are a frequent train traveler, you will no longer have to deal with the inconvenience of trying to find numerous hotline numbers for various issues, as the Indian Railways has created Rail Madad, an integrated one-stop solution. The national transporter has consolidated a variety of existing helplines that were utilized for varied purposes into a single number.



PM-DAKSH.

Dr. Virendra Kumar, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, unveiled the 'PM-DAKSH' Portal and 'PM-DAKSH' Mobile App, which were developed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in conjunction with the National e-governance Division (NeGD) to make skill development initiatives more accessible to target communities.



75 years of Independence celebration- BRO.

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has begun the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' to commemorate India's 75th anniversary of independence. BRO will organize nationwide welfare and patriotic programs and festivities to commemorate this historic anniversary.



127th Constitution Amendment Bill introduced.

On August 9, 2021, the Central Government introduced the 127th Constitution (amendment) bill in the Lok Sabha. The measure aims to provide states the authority to create their OBC lists. Virendra Kumar, the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, introduced the bill.



India's first Internet Governance Forum (IIGF).

India's inaugural Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) will take place over three days beginning October 20, 2021. Anil Kumar Jain, CEO of the National Internet Exchange

of India (NIXI), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, and Chairman of the Coordination Committee, announced the launch.



Foreigners are now allowed to take the COVID vaccine.

On August 9, 2021, India authorized foreign nationals living in the country to acquire the covid-19 vaccine by registering on the Co-Win site. Foreigners can register on the Cowin site using their passports as identification. They will be given a slot to get vaccinated after enrolling on this website.



India's first Water Plus City.

Indore, India's cleanest city, has been designated as the country's first water plus city under the Swachh Survekshan 2021. Indore has become a model for the entire country because of its commitment to

cleanliness. On August 11, 2021, the city of Indore acquired this certification from the central government.



SC offers to fill vacancies in Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions.

The Supreme Court of India has given the Union and State governments eight weeks to fill vacancies on the Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission. In consumer courts around the country, there are approximately 800 vacancies. The Supreme Court has ordered that all vacancies in consumer courts at the national, state and district levels be filled.



PM announced Rs 1,625 crore for women's SHGs.

On August 12, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with members of women's self-help groups (SHGs) across the country as part of the "AatmanirbharNari Shakti se Samvad" event and announced the disbursement of Rs 1,625 crore in capitalization assistance funds. Over 4 lakh SHGs will benefit from the

capitalization assistance fund.



BRICS Partnership.

BRICS Agriculture Ministers met virtually on the topic "BRICS Partnership for Strengthening Agro Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition Security." The BRICS countries have established robust agricultural research infrastructure. The BRICS Working Group meeting will support the 2021-24 Action Plan for adoption at the BRICS meeting.



Diabetes and hypertension in India fuelled COVID waves.

According to researchers from India and California, India's high prevalence of chronic disorders such as diabetes and hypertension has fueled the deadly coronavirus outbreaks. Patients from the southern district of Madurai had a higher chance of dying than those from China, Europe, South Korea, and the United States, according to findings from large-scale Covid-19 research.



The Nasal vaccine got approved.

The Department of Biotechnology has approved phase 2 and 3 clinical trials for India's first nasal vaccination against COVID-19. Bharat Biotech created the Nasal Covid Vaccine. A Phase 1 clinical trial of the vaccine in people aged 18 to 60 years old was completed successfully.



Rs 100 lakh crore 'Gatishakti' plan.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has proposed a Rs 100 lakh crore "Gatishakti" project to create jobs for the youth and aid in infrastructure development. On India's 75th Independence Day, he addressed the nation from the Red Fort's ramparts, announcing the launch of the "Pradhan Mantri Gatishakti National Master Plan."



Energy Independent by 2047 - India.

In his address to the nation on August 15, Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized India's goal of becoming "energy independent" by 2047, when the country will be celebrating its 100th year of independence. India aims to become energy independent by combining electric mobility, a gas-based economy, and the use of ethanol in gasoline.



Six lakh villages to get internet.

According to Rajeev Chandrashekhar, Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, India's Bharat Net program will connect six lakh villages to the internet by 2024. According to the minister, over 2.8 lakh villages now have access to the internet.



Women can appear for the NDA exam.

The Supreme Court has granted women the right to sit for the National Defense Academy (NDA) exam, which will take place on September 5, 2021. The Supreme Court also chastised the Indian Army for not allowing women to sit for NDA admission exams. The Army's

policy decision was labeled as gender discrimination by the court.



Plea to declare PM CARES to fund a 'State'.

The Delhi High Court has summoned the Centre to respond to a petition seeking to make the "Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM CARES) Fund" a constitutional state. SamyakGangwal, a lawyer, filed the petition. On September 13, 2021, a bench consisting of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh scheduled a hearing.



Religious Tourism: PM Modi.

On August 20, Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for several projects in Somnath. The Somnath Promenade, the reconstructed temple precinct of Old (Juna) Somnath, and the Somnath Exhibition Centre are among the projects that have been inaugurated.



India's Highest Herbal Park.

At a height of 11,000 feet, India's highest herbal park was opened near the Indo-China border in Mana village, Uttarakhand's Chamoli district. This high-altitude herbal park was established to conserve a variety of medicinal and culturally significant alpine species, as well as to research their propagation and habitat ecology.



India's Largest Floating Solar Power Plant.

NTPC Limited began operations at its Simhadri thermal station in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, with India's largest floating solar PV project. After commissioning a 15 MW floating solar project at Simhadri thermal station, the project was declared open. The facility's total installed capacity now stands at 25 MW.



INS Tabar And HMS Westminster, Konkan Exercise.

On the sixteenth of August, within the English Channel, Train Konkan-2021 was held between INS Tabar and HMS Westminster. The two ships' integrated helicopters and the Falcon Digital Warfare jet took part in the Indo-UK Naval Train.



India's first smog tower.

Arvind Kejriwal, the Delhi Chief Minister, unveiled India's first smog tower at Connaught Place in Delhi on August 23, 2021. The Chief Minister said at the inaugural event that the government has installed India's first smog tower in the National Capital to combat pollution.



Zydrus Cadila to begin vaccine trials.

Dr. Sharvil Patel, Zydrus Cadila's Managing Director, revealed on August 21, 2021, that the company will apply for COVID-19 vaccine trials in children aged 3 to 12 years old in the following 7 to 10 days. Patel stated that the three-dose ZyCoV-D vaccine could be available by the middle or end of October 2021.

mRNA COVID vaccine gets DCGI nod.

The Phase 2/3 trials of India's first mRNA-based COVID vaccine, HGCO19, have been approved by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI). The Vaccine Subject Expert Committee (SEC), which examined the interim Phase I trial results, determined that the vaccine was safe.



Vaccinate India Programme.

M. Venkaiah Naidu, India's Vice President, announced the "Vaccinate India Program" on August 24, 2021. On the occasion, he urged everyone to adhere to the COVID-19 standards to the letter. The Give India Foundation and the Sustainable Goals Coordination Centre in Bengaluru hosted this event.

Forum for Decarbonizing Transport in India.

As part of the NDC-Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA) initiative, NITI Aayog and the World Resources Institute (WRI) together established the 'Forum for Decarbonizing Transport' in India. The project intends to reduce Asia's highest level of GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions from the transportation sector.



Government to launch an e-Shram portal.

The Minister addressed the crowd at an event in New Delhi attended by all key Central trade union leaders that the portal would be launched on Thursday, August 26th. "A significant focus of the Indian government's programs has been targeted delivery and last-mile distribution.



New registration mark for new vehicles.

For new automobiles, the government of India has created a new registration mark under the Bharat Series (BH-Series). A new registration mark was introduced to make car transfers more simple. To facilitate mobility, this citizen-centric, IT-based car registration system was established.



Drone Rules 2021.

On August 26, 2021, the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) published the liberalized Drone Rules, 2021. The unmanned aircraft system (UAS) Rules 2021, which were announced on March 12, 2021, will be replaced by these liberalized rules. New regulations also decreased the number of forms from 25 to 5, as well as the types of fees from 72 to 4.



Mera Watan, Mera Chaman.

The Minority Affairs Ministry hosted a "Mera Watan, Mera Chaman" symposium here as part of the "Amrit Mahotsav," which commemorated India's 75th anniversary of independence. Poets delivered their poems and couplets on the 75th anniversary of India's independence, the ministry said in a statement while honoring the sacrifices of freedom fighters.

12: Obituaries



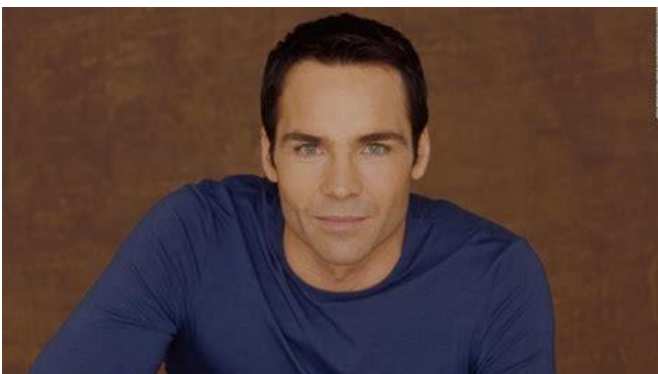
Man Kaur passes away.

Man Kaur dubbed the "Miracle from Chandigarh," died of a heart attack at the age of 105. Patiala's multiple World Masters Games medalist received her first medal in 2010 in the Chandigarh Master's, where she was discovered by David Premnath, the general secretary of the Masters Athletic Federation of India.



Raven Saunders' mother died.

Clarissa Saunders, the mother of Olympic shot putter Raven Saunders, died two days after her daughter won her first medal at the Summer Games on August 3. Raven, who sparked outrage by holding up a protest symbol during the medal ceremony on August 1, confirmed the heartbreaking news in a Twitter post.



Jay Pickett dies at 60.

Jay Pickett, who played Port Charles, General Hospital, and Days of Our Lives, died Friday, July 30 at the age of 60. Mark Chancer, the spokesman for the late actor, told E! News in a statement. confirmed death. According to Jim Heifel, who revealed the heartbreaking news on Facebook, he died just as he was ready to shoot a scene.



Simone Biles' Aunt Died.

Simone Biles, a gymnastics superstar, said on 3 August that her aunt died "unexpectedly" at the Tokyo Olympics. Biles won a bronze medal on the balance beam on 3 August after returning to the competition following a week out due to mental health problems. The 24-year-old later told reporters about the passing of her aunt on her father's side during a press conference.



SS Narayan, a Malayali footballer dies.

Shankar Subramaniam, also known as "Babu" Nayaran, was a two-time Olympian who passed away on 5th August. During the 1956 and 1960 Olympics, he was India's goalkeeper. Apart from representing Maharashtra in football and basketball, Narayan has established himself as one of India's most dependable goalkeepers.



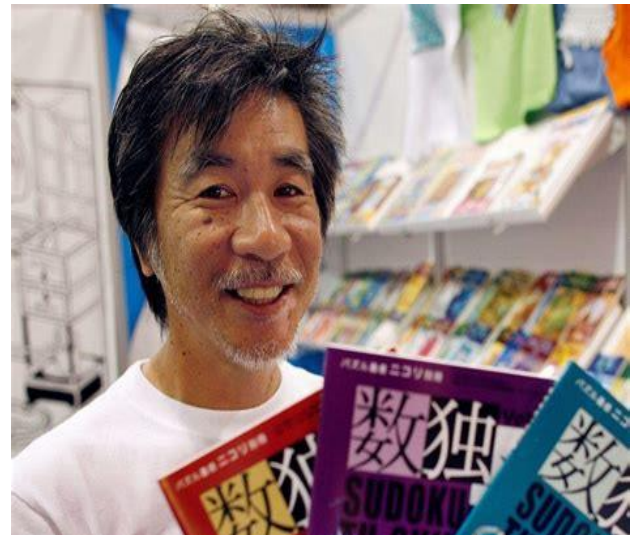
Gerd Müller passes away.

Gerd Muller, a former West German forward and Bayern Munich great, has passed away. He played for West Germany at the international level, scoring 68 goals in 62 appearances, and for Bayern Munich at the club level, scoring a Bundesliga-record 365 goals in 427 games.



Chinmoy Chatterjee passes away.

Chinmoy Chatterjee, a legendary Indian footballer who played for the three Maidan heavyweights during his pomp in the 1970s and 1980s, has died. He was a member of the Indian team that finished fourth in the quarterfinal round at the 1978 Asian Games in Bangkok.



Maki Kaji passed away.

Maki Kaji, the Godfather of Sudoku, died on August 17, 2021, at the age of 69, from bile duct cancer. He invented the popular number puzzle Sudoku. His effort was aimed at bringing the delight of puzzles to as many people as possible. He designed the puzzle to be simple enough for youngsters and anyone to complete.



Kalyan Singh dies at 89.

Kalyan Singh, the former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, died on 21 August, in Lucknow after a protracted illness. He was 89 years old at the time. Following a deterioration in his health, Kalyan Singh was admitted to Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences on July 4.



Chitra passes away.

Chitra, a Malayalam actress, died on 21 August morning at her home in Chennai. She was 56 years old at the time. Chitra is said to have had a heart attack. The actress, who was well-known on Tamil television, had also appeared in more than 100 films in several languages.



Pradeep Guha passes away.

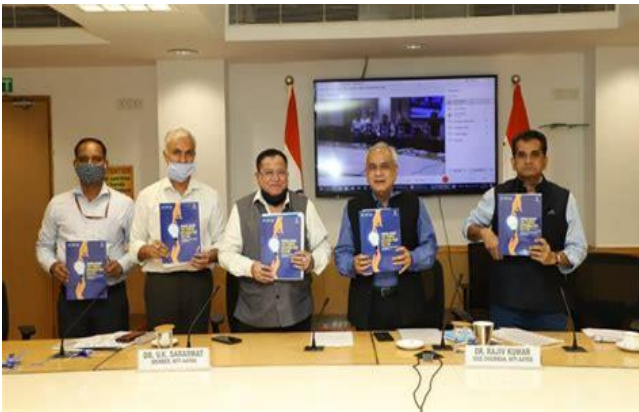
Mumbai On August 21, Pradeep Guha, managing director of 9X Media and former president of Bennett Coleman and Company Ltd (BCCL, popularly known as the Times Group), died in Mumbai. Guha was recently diagnosed with fourth-stage liver cancer and was receiving treatment at Kokilaben Ambani Hospital in the city.



Sean Lock, a British comedian, has died.

On 25th August, award-winning British comedian Sean Lock, star of '8 Out Of 10 Cats,' died of cancer. According to Variety, the TV star, who was known for his bizarre content, died at the age of 58. He died of cancer at home, surrounded by his loved ones.

13: Ranks & Reports



NITI Aayog Report.

NITI Aayog has produced a report on the Power Distribution Business, which outlines reform paths to overhaul India's power distribution sector. The publishing of a report outlining strategies to strengthen policy making in the distribution industry. "Turning Around the Power Distribution Sector" is the title of the report.



1st woman director of Zoological Survey: Dhriti Banerjee.

Dhriti Banerjee is the first woman to be named director of India's 105-year-old Zoological Survey of India (ZSI). On 3rd August, the Cabinet's appointments committee "accepted the request for the appointment of Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, scientist E, Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) as director".



NSO survey: rose in unemployment.

The eighth periodic labor force survey was released by the National Statistical Office (NSO). According to the poll, India's jobless rate jumped to 13.3 percent from July to September 2020. In July-September 2020, the unemployment rate was 8.4%.



ICMR: Mixing Covaxin and Covishield are better.

The ICMR found that combining these two COVID-19 vaccines elicited better immunogenicity than two doses of the single vaccination in research involving 98 patients in Uttar Pradesh, 18 of whom had unintentionally gotten Covishield as the first dose and Covaxin as the second.



COVID death.

In 2021, less than 300,000 Indians perished as a result of covid-19 infection, according to official statistics. According to the most recent data from the YouGov-Mint-CPR Millennial Survey, however, this is a massive underestimating of real deaths. Between June and July 2021, the YouGov-Mint-CPR Millennial Survey was performed online.



Global Youth Development Index.

In the Global Youth Development Index, 2020, India was placed 122nd out of 181 countries. This triennial ranking of youth development for 181 countries was produced by the Commonwealth Secretariat. The index assesses the well-being of young people in 181 nations throughout the globe.



COVID-19 during pregnancy is linked with preterm birth.

A study on the impact of covid-19 on pregnancy was recently published in "The Lancet Regional Health-Americas." According to the study, covid-19 is associated with preterm birth during pregnancy. Preterm birth, defined as a birth occurring before 32 weeks of pregnancy, was 60 percent more likely in those infected with COVID-19.



Delhi Airport is among the world's top-50.

Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi was been ranked among the world's top-50 best airports in the Skytrax World Airport Award list for 2021. For the third year in a row, Delhi Airport has been named India's greatest airport. Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru have all been ranked among the top 100 airports in the world.



Four more sites are added to the Ramsar

list.

According to the Ramsar Convention, four new wetlands in India have been added to the Ramsar list and designated as wetlands of global importance. More than a dozen threatened and near-threatened bird species can be found in India.



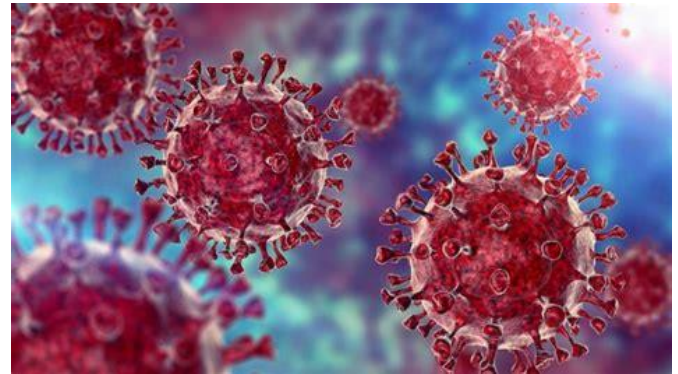
SC issued a formal notice to the Centre over Pegasus.

Because of many petitions, a Supreme Court (SC) bench led by Chief Justice of India N. V. Ramana issued a formal notice to the government. The SC issued this warning after the center refused to provide any more affidavits confirming or denying Pegasus use.



World Trade Organisation report.

Global commerce trade is continuing to recover well following the COVID-19 epidemic, according to the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Goods Trade Barometer. In its most recent measurement, the trade barometer reached a new high. A value of 110.4 was recorded by the barometer. Since July 2016, it has been the highest on record.



INSACOG report- Delta variant raising infections in India.

INSACOG, an Indian genome sequencing government consortium of laboratories, stated that a large proportion of breakthrough coronavirus cases in India are of the Delta strain. Continuing COVID-19 outbreaks in India are a result of the Delta variation, a susceptible population, and diminished vaccine efficiency in interrupting the transmission, according to INSACOG.



High risk of climate crisis impacts.

According to a new UNICEF assessment, India is one of four South Asian nations where children are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, which endanger their health, education, and safety. The UNICEF publication 'The Climate Crisis Is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index' (CCRI) is the organization's first to focus on children.



Five women officers were promoted to Colonel Time Scale Rank.

After 26 years of service, the Indian Army's Selection Board promoted five women officers to Colonel rank for the first time. Previously, Only women in the Army Education Corps (AEC), Judge Advocate General (JAG), and Army Medical Corps (AMC) were eligible for advancement to the Colonel Time Scale rank.



Covid-19 vaccinations fell by 80%, UNICEF report.

According to a UNICEF report, Covid-19 immunizations in Afghanistan dropped by 80% in the first week after the Taliban took control of the country. Approximately two million doses of Johnson & Johnson vaccinations

were given to Afghanistan, according to UNICEF. In November, half of the immunizations will expire.



NERDSD Goal Index Report.

The first edition of the North Eastern Region District Sustainable Development (NERDSD) Goal Index Report and Dashboard 2021-22 launched on August 26, 2021, by NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region (DoNER). In India, this will be the first region-wide district SDG index.



Delhi has the most CCTV cameras.

Delhi has eclipsed megacities like Shanghai, New York, and London in terms of the number of CCTV cameras placed per square mile, according to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. CM referenced a Forbes India study on the world's most monitored cities.

14: Schemes & Committee



Biotech-PRIDE Guidelines.

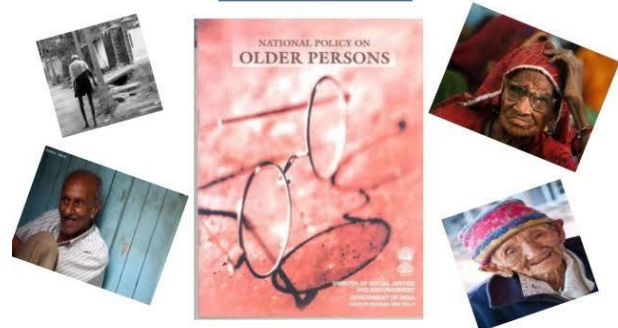
Union Minister Jitendra Singh announced the “Biotech-PRIDE (Promotion of Research and Innovation via Data Exchange) Guidelines” made by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology (DBT). This guideline is intended to facilitate information sharing and foster research and innovation in a variety of research organizations around the country.



E-RUPI.

On August 2, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has introduced e-RUPI via video conferencing. It's a digital payment system that's tailored to each individual and their needs. PM Modi's vision of good governance and a digital India is being carried forward with the electronic voucher.

.National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP), 1999



Ref: National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP), 1999 Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, GOI

National Council for Older Persons.

Following the National Policy for Older Persons, the National Council for Older Persons (NCOP) was established in 1999. (NPOP). It was established with the Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment as its Chairperson. The council oversees the policy's implementation and advises the government on how to develop and implement policies and programs for elderly citizens.



Fit India Freedom Run.

Anurag Thakur, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports inaugurated Fit India Freedom Run 2.0 on August 13, 2021, to commemorate the Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav. The program has been launched at 75 "iconic" locations, according to the union sports minister.



Fortified Rice by 2024.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the provision of fortified rice to the underprivileged under various initiatives while speaking to the country on the 75th anniversary of India's independence. This decision was made to solve India's malnutrition problem. The government has made it a priority to provide nutrition to all of India's disadvantaged people.



Student Entrepreneurship Program 3.0.

On August 16, 2021, the third series of the Student Entrepreneurship Program 3.0 (SEP 3.0) was inaugurated for Atal Tinkering Labs'(ATL) young innovators. The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog, in conjunction with La Fondation Dassault Systemes, established this program.



Vriksharopan Abhiyan.

The Coal Ministry's Vriksharopan Abhiyan – 2021 is planned to begin on August 19, 2021. As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, it will be unveiled. This year, the Ministry of Coal's coal PSUs have set a lofty goal of covering 2385 hectares of land as part of the "Go Greening" campaign. Bio-reclamation or plantation will be used to cover areas.



Ayushman Bharat Mission.

So far, the Ayushman Bharat Mission has provided 2 crore hospitalizations to the poor. For secondary and tertiary care, the Ayushman Bharat Mission promises free and cashless services worth up to Rs 5 lakh per year. It assists more than 10.74 crore needy families, totaling more than 53 million people.



Ubharte Sitaare Fund.

In a ceremony in Lucknow, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled the ambitious 'Ubharte Sitaare Fund' -US\$ for export-oriented enterprises and startups. The Fund's goal is to raise cash for the promotion of micro, small, and medium-sized businesses. Exim Bank and SIDBI established the fund.

Arogya Dhara 2.0.

On August 18, 2021, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya introduced Arogya Dhara 2.0 to expand the scope of the Ayushman Bharat - Jan Arogya Yojana. Arogya Dhara 2.0 aims to raise public knowledge about the Ayushman Bharat Scheme.



National Monetisation Pipeline.

On August 23, 2021, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled the National Monetisation Pipeline in Delhi. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman remarked at the event that the National Monetization Pipeline refers to brownfield assets where investment has already been made but assets are languishing, not completely monetized, or underutilized.

Covid Relief Package, Assam.

COVID aid has been announced by the Assam government for helpers, drivers, and priests. Drivers and assistants of privately run buses would receive a one-time compensation of Rs 10,000 under the relief package. The temple priests and the head of the Namghars (Vaishnavite places of worship) will each receive Rs 15,000 each.



Yuktdhara launched.

Under Bhuvan, the government established a new geospatial planning portal called 'Yuktdhara.' Minister

of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh introduced it. With the aid of remote sensing and geographic information system-based data, this new site will assist in the facilitation of new MGNREGA assets.



SUJALAM campaign.

On August 25, 2021, the Ministry of Jal Shakti launched the SUJALAM campaign. The SUJALAM Campaign is a 100-day event held in conjunction with the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations. By implementing wastewater management in communities across India, this effort aims to establish more ODF Plus villages.



Samarth Scheme.

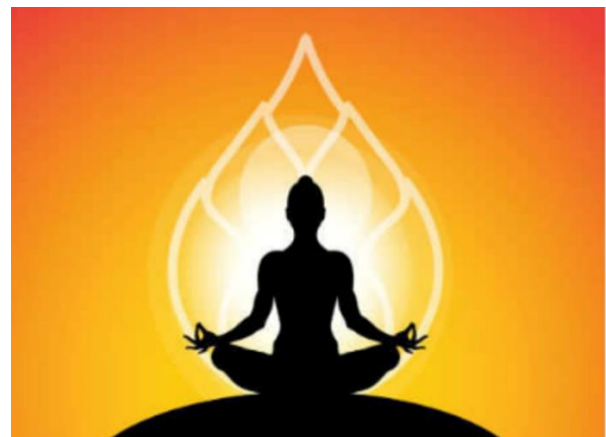
More than 1,500 artisans have benefited from training at 63 Samarth Training Centres, according to the Textiles Ministry. The Textile Ministry has designated around 65 clusters for the rapid development of artisans. The Ministry accomplishes this by ensuring

that craftspeople in these clusters are self-sufficient.



My Pad, My Right.

On August 28, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who was in Tripura for a two-day visit, inaugurated a mobile ATM and an initiative to raise awareness about menstruation hygiene among rural women. Along with Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb, Ms. Sitharaman met with members of self-help groups at a school ground in the Gomati district.



Y-Break App.

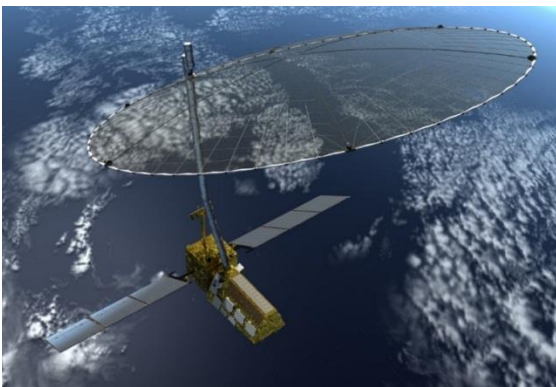
On August 29, 2021, the Union AYUSH Ministry released the Y-Break App from Vigyan Bhawan. Sarbananda Sonowal, the Union Minister for AYUSH, unveiled it. On this occasion, the Ministry of Ayush launched a slew of activities and campaigns to mark Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.



FIT India Mobile App.

On the occasion of the Fit India Movement's second anniversary, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur unveiled the Fit India Mobile Application. On the occasion of National Sports Day on August 29, 2021, the application was launched as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi.

15: Science & Technology



NISAR Satellite.

The ISRO-NASA Joint Mission NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite is set to launch in early 2023, to measure changes in the earth's surface globally using improved radar imagery. L-band SAR and related systems are being developed by NASA, whereas S-band SAR, spacecraft buses, launch vehicles, and related launch services are being developed by ISRO.

RedmiBook Series Launching.

August 3, at noon, the RedmiBook series will be launched in India (noon). The RedmiBook series will comprise Xiaomi's Redmi brand's debut laptop models for the Indian market. The Chinese company has already released several RedmiBook laptops in China, but none of them have made it to India, even though it sells laptops in India under the Mi name.



Zomato- free delivery.

Zomato, a food delivery service, is about to launch a Zomato Pro Plus subscription for a select group of users. Some lucky users will receive an invitation from Zomato to unlock Zomato Pro Plus membership. For Pro Plus subscribers, Zomato touts the benefit of "Unlimited Free Delivery," claiming that the service will waive surge and distance fees for selected consumers.





Magnetic wireless charging to Android.

Realme is the first company in the world to introduce magnetic wireless charging to Android. Without a doubt, this is Realme's version of Apple MagSafe, although the manufacturer claims it is faster. The 15W MagDart charger, which the business claims are the thinnest magnetic wireless charger on the market, will be the most popular of the MagDart accessories.



New tool to fight against skin cancer.

More than 100,000 Americans are expected to be diagnosed with melanoma, the most dangerous form of skin cancer, this year. In the fight against the disease, however, there is some good news in the form of breakthrough new approaches to screening for it.



ISRO to launch earth observation satellite.

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has announced the date for its second rocket launch for the year 2021. On November 7, India will launch its latest earth observation satellite EOS-01, as well as nine international client spacecraft, from the Sriharikota spaceport in Andhra Pradesh, according to ISRO.



Google is about to buy Epic Games.

Google pondered buying some or all of Epic Games, the producer of the popular Fortnite game on the Play Store, as they fought furiously over it. Google allegedly offered a "special deal" to bring Fortnite back on the Android Store, according to recently released court files obtained by The Verge.



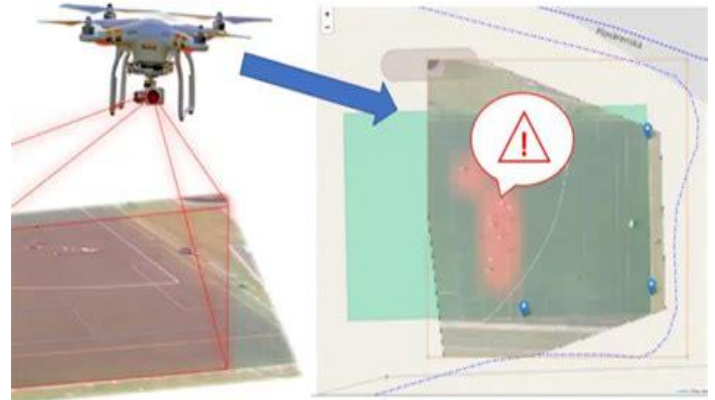
A boy died due to an explosion of Bluetooth earphones.

A Rajasthan youngster died in a terrible incident on Friday, August 6, 2021, when the Bluetooth earphone device he was using exploded. Rakesh Nagar, the dead, was a resident of the Udaipuria village in Jaipur's Chomu. The event occurred while Nagar was talking to someone on his Bluetooth device in his ears when the earphone exploded, knocking him out.



Google approves 85% of 10,000 requests.

The majority of requests for employees to relocate or work remotely have been approved by Google. During an initial evaluation cycle, roughly 85 percent of employees who requested relocation and remote work were approved. Employees whose jobs necessitated the use of specialized equipment were rejected such requests by Google.



Drone with 'Brains'.

Law enforcement organizations all across the world are using technology to better equip themselves to prevent crimes and respond faster. With limited manpower, the majority of them are using drones to monitor huge groups of people or a large region of interest. Though extremely useful, one aspect of this technology is limited: the ability to determine what is normal and what is not.



Animal DNA lab - Delhi.

In a first, the Capital established an "Animal DNA Laboratory" in the Rohini Forensic Science Laboratory. Previously, samples were shipped to other states with animal DNA testing facilities for the findings of the tests. Investigations were sometimes delayed as a result of the process.



EOS-03 satellite launch.

The countdown for the launch of the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle-F10 EOS-03 mission has begun, according to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Jitendra Singh, a Union minister of state (MoS), recently revealed in the Lok Sabha that the Earth Observation Satellite-03 will be launched on August 12.



GSLV fails to put Earth Observation Satellite into orbit.

The Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) GSLV rocket failed to successfully launch India's largest earth observation satellite (EOS-3) into orbit. It failed because the GSLV's cryogenic stage was not ignited. It failed despite the rocket's first and second stages performing normally.



Water molecules on Moon.

The Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Chandrayaan-2 orbiter has discovered water molecules on the Moon's surface. The researchers claim that there was widespread lunar hydration and unequivocal detection of OH and H₂O signals between 29 and 62 degrees north latitudes on the moon.



Clean city app.

On August 13, 2021, the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) introduced the "Cleancity app." It was a mobile-based application that was created to assist individuals in filing concerns about the rubbish collection in their neighborhood. It was inaugurated by North Delhi Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh on the occasion of the country's 75th birthday.



Mysterious Chinese fashion app.

The company is a secretive online shopping upstart that has recently made news for overtaking Amazon (AMZN) in app downloads in the US and establishing a cult following for its fast-fashion items sold all over the world. Some experts even believe it is beating mainstays like Zara and H&M at their own game by producing goods faster and interacting with customers more digitally.



Launch of National Hydrogen Mission.

On the 75th anniversary of India's independence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Hydrogen Mission from Lal Quila on August 15, 2021. This mission was established to promote India's energy security. This initiative was declared against the backdrop of India's yearly energy expenditure of Rs 12 trillion.



Pencil Lead COVID test.

Researchers from the University of Pennsylvania in the United States have developed a new Covid diagnostic test that employs graphite electrodes to test for the SARS CoV-2 Virus. It's the substance that makes up pencil lead. Current testing, according to the researchers, is constrained by the trade-off between accuracy and sample analysis time.



Antibodies post-vaccine vs Delta variant.

The Delta version of the SARS-CoV-2 virus cannot avoid antibodies created by vaccination, according to a lab study done in the United States. The results were reported in the journal 'Immunity.' It helped to explain why persons who had been vaccinated had escaped the worst of the Delta variant epidemic.



14 y/o Diksha Shinde – NASA'S MSI Fellowship.

Diksha Shinde, a 14-year-old girl from Aurangabad, has been selected as a panelist on NASA's Minority Serving Institution (MSI) Fellowships Virtual Panel. She came up with a notion about black holes. At NASA, it was well-liked and accepted.



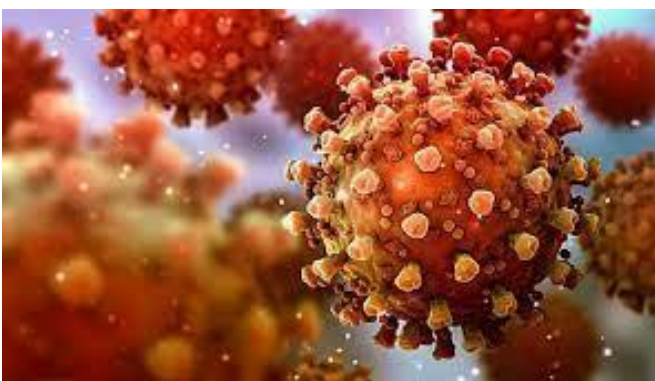
Small Business Loans Initiative, FB India.

On August 20, 2021, Facebook India unveiled a new project called the "Small Business Loans Initiative." This program was established in collaboration with Indifi, an online loan platform. Facebook has launched this program in India for the first time.



DCGI approves the ZyCoV-D vaccine.

Zydus Cadila's ZyCoV-D vaccine has been certified for Emergency Use Authorization by the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI). According to the Ministry of Science and Technology, the ZyCoV-D vaccine is the world's first and India's first DNA-based COVID-19 vaccine.



Researchers found the best effective Covid antibody.

A COVID antibody that protects against a wide range of COVID-19 variations has been discovered by researchers. The Covid antibody attaches to a portion of the virus that varies somewhat between variations. According to researchers, this suggests that resistance is unlikely to form at this location.



Solar-driven change, Moon.

As the moon lacks the protective magnetic field and atmosphere that protects us here on Earth, asteroid strikes and solar radiation damage it in unique ways. On the moon, tiny iron nanoparticles unlike any found on Earth have been discovered practically everywhere.



100 more earthquake observatories by 2026.

India will add 100 more observatories by 2026, according to Science and Technology Minister Jitendra

Singh, who stated this on August 21, 2021. By the end of this year, the country will have 35 more seismic observatories, according to the ministry. The IASPEI and IAGA have come together to hold a joint assembly in 2021.



Amazon CEO to join White House cybersecurity meeting.

Tim Cook, CEO of Apple Inc., and Satya Nadella, CEO of Microsoft Corp., are expected to attend a White House cybersecurity meeting. Andy Jassy, the CEO of Amazon, will meet with President Joe Biden and other tech CEOs on August 24, 2021, at the White House.



ISRO's 'Announcement of Opportunity.

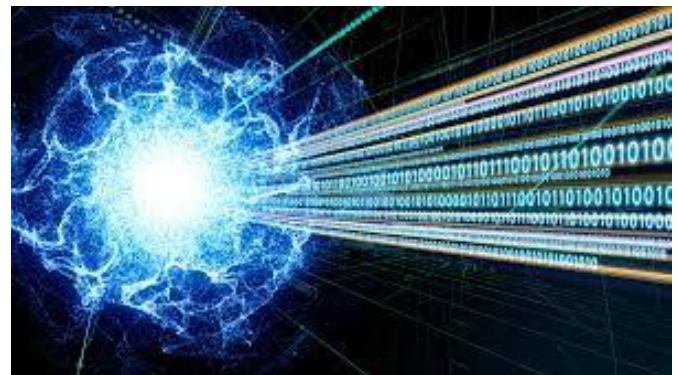
The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has issued an "Announcement of Opportunity" in which it is looking for a plan to scientifically analyze and use data from all Chandrayaan-2 orbiter experiments. All scholars from recognized academic institutions, colleges, universities, planetaria, and government

organizations will be eligible to apply for this chance.



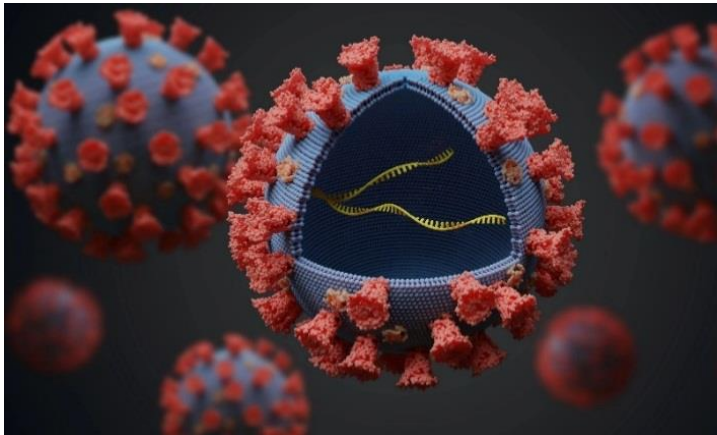
NeoBolt, advanced wheelchair.

NeoBolt, India's first indigenous motorized wheelchair vehicle, was created by the Indian Institute of Technology (Madras). NeoBolt may be used on both smooth and uneven surfaces. It has a top speed of 25 kmph and a range of up to 25 kilometers per charge.



QSim, Quantum Computer Simulator Toolkit.

India's first "Quantum Computer Simulator (QSim) Toolkit" has been launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). QSim is a first-of-its-kind toolset created entirely in India. It was designed to be a useful tool for learning and comprehending the practical aspects of programming with Quantum Computers.



Delta Variant's new AY.12 sub-lineage.

In recent months, new instances of SARS-CoV-2 Delta mutant sub-lineage AY.12 have been recorded in Indian states. Experts believe that this new sub-lineage is to blame for the recent increase of COVID cases in Israel. The Delta Family has grown from four to thirteen varieties.

SpaceX launched many techs.

On August 29, 2021, SpaceX sent ants, avocados, and a human-sized robotic arm to the International Space Station. The cargoes are scheduled to arrive on August 30, 2021. It will be SpaceX's 23rd NASA mission in the last ten years. As test subjects, the Girl Scouts sent ants, brine shrimp, and plants.

16: Sports News



PV Sindhu won bronze.

On August 1, 2021, PV Sindhu won the bronze medal after defeating China's He Bingjiao 21-13, 21-15 in the bronze medal match. This is remarkable since she has won two Olympic medals, making her the first Indian woman to do so. PV Sindhu has become the second Indian to win two individual Olympic medals, following Sushil Kumar.



Katarina Johnson-Thompson got injured.

Katarina Johnson-Thompson, a British heptathlete, demonstrated remarkable courage on 4 August by insisting on finishing a race despite suffering an injury that will certainly end her Tokyo Olympics. The 28-year-old was racing in the seven-discipline heptathlon's 200 meters, one of her finest events, and appeared to be running well until she reached the curve and pulled up.



A 13-year-old skateboarder won the medal at Tokyo Olympics.

On 4 August, Sky Brown, a thirteen-year-old skateboarder, earned bronze in the women's park skateboarding event at the Tokyo Olympics. The 13-year-old is Great Britain's youngest Olympic medallist and the third 13-year-old to win a medal in skateboarding at the Tokyo Games.



India Beat Germany 5-4 To Win Bronze.

The Indian men's hockey team won their first Olympic medal in 41 years, defeating Germany. India wins the bronze medal in men's hockey at the Tokyo Olympics, defeating Germany 5-4. India had previously reached to the top of the Olympic podium in 1980, when it earned its eighth gold medal at the Games.



Ravi Kumar Dahiya won Bronze Medal

Ravi Kumar Dahiya, India's standout wrestler, made history by capturing a silver medal for the country at the Tokyo Olympics. Ravi Kumar Dahiya, the reigning Asian Champion, was defeated in the finals of the Men's 57 kg Wrestling event. Ravi is defeated 7-4 by world champion ZaurUguev of the Russian Olympic Committee.



Neeraj Chopra won India's first track and field gold.

Subedar Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal in the men's javelin throw with a throw of 87.58 meters, making history for India. Chopra was considered a medal candidate for India at the Tokyo Olympics 2020, and his performance in the qualification round had sparked his fans' excitement.



Bajrang Punia won Bronze Medal.

Bajrang Punia of India won the bronze medal in the men's freestyle 65kg division on Saturday, defeating Daulet Niyazbekov of Kazakhstan. The second seed, who had suffered a humiliating 5-12 defeat in the semifinals to Azerbaijan's Haji Aliyev, redeemed himself by winning India's sixth medal of Tokyo 2020 with a convincing 8-0 victory in the bronze medal battle.



World Athletics Rankings 2021.

Neeraj Chopra, a javelin thrower, finished second in the World Athletics rankings after winning a gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics 2020. With a score of 1315, Neeraj Chopra was rated second. He is only a few points behind German athlete Johannes Vetter, who has 1396.



Flame of Hope.

Tokyo Olympics 2020 was completed on August 8, 2021, despite the ongoing covid-19 pandemic and imminent typhoon. The Japanese capital put an end to one of the most unique games in history, passing the torch of hope to Paris. The flame of hope, or flag, was carried to Paris with the message of moving forward.



Durand Cup to be held in Kolkata.

Durand Cup, the world's third oldest and Asia's oldest football event, will be hosted in Kolkata from September 5 to October 21, 2021. Due to the Covid-19 outbreak, the Durand Cup will be held after a year. The tournament will be organized with the help of the All India Football Federation (AIFF), the West Bengal Football Association (IFA), and the West Bengal Government.



Indian athletes leave for Tokyo Paralympics.

On August 18, 2021, the first wave of Indian athletes, including flagbearer Thangavelu Mariyappan, travelled for the Tokyo Paralympics. Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games is the name given to the Summer Paralympics in 2020. They are a big international multi-sport parasports event that will take place soon.



Pune stadium named after Neeraj Chopra.

In Pune Cantt, the stadium will be known as the 'Neeraj Chopra Army Sports Stadium.' Neeraj Chopra, a Tokyo Olympics gold medallist, will have a stadium named after him on the grounds of the Army Sports Institute in Pune. The official naming ceremony of the stadium was scheduled for August 23 and was carried out by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.



India's Amit Khatri Wins Silver.

Amit Khatri of India won silver in the men's 10,000m race walk at the World Athletics U20 Championships in Nairobi with a timing of 42 minutes 17.94 seconds. Amit came in second to Kenya's Heristone Wanyonyi, who won gold with a timing of 42:10.84.



Tek Chand Named India's New Flag Bearer.

On August 24, Tek Chand carried the tricolour at a stunning opening ceremony full with music, pyrotechnics, and theme-based dance performances as India launched its Paralympic campaign in Tokyo with the goal of setting a new record for medal haul. A total of 54 para-athletes from nine different sports disciplines will compete for India.



Princepal Singh becomes the first Indian to play on an NBA championship squad.

Princepal Singh of the Sacramento Kings made history by becoming the first Indian to play on a championship squad in the National Basketball League at any level (NBA). The 6-foot-9 forward was a member of the Sacramento Kings' team that won the NBA Summer League in 2021, defeating the Boston Celtics 100-67.



India vs England, 3rd Test

The third Test at Headingley Cricket Ground in Leeds ended with India losing by an innings and 76 runs. With India behind by 139 runs on day 4, all dreams of a comeback disappeared in the opening hour of play when Ollie Robinson (5/65) and James Anderson (1/63) ripped through the visitors' middle order.



Avani Lekhara wins Gold Medal.

Shooter Avani Lekhara won India's first gold medal at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics on August 30, 2021. In the women's 10m Air Rifle Standing (SH1) event, Avani Lekhara earned a medal. She is a 19-year-old Lekhara who equaled the world record set by Ukraine's Iryna Shchetnik in the Paralympics.



Silver Medal - Yogesh Kathuniya.

Yogesh Kathuniya, a discus thrower, won a silver medal in the men's F56 event at the 2020 Paralympics on August 30. On August 29, India won silver in the high jump and bronze in the discus throw, which is now on hold due to a protest. Claudiney Batista dos Santos, the defending champion and world record holder, won the gold medal with a throw of 45.59 metres.

17: State News



Approval of Medical Oxygen Production Promotion Policy.

The Delhi Cabinet has approved a policy to boost medical oxygen production by providing incentives to the private sector to invest in medical oxygen production plants, tankers, and storage facilities. It would aid in enhancing oxygen supply in Delhi, which has had a difficult time dealing with the second Covid-19 wave.



Uttarakhand taking more measures for COVID.

Despite a decrease in positive instances, the night curfew and other Covid-related restrictions in Uttarakhand have been prolonged for another week till August 10 without any additional relaxation. The night curfew will be in effect till 6 a.m. on August 10

according to an order issued by Chief Secretary Sukhbir Singh Sindhu.



Monsoon season in Himachal Pradesh.

In the previous three weeks of the monsoon season in Himachal Pradesh, 218 people died and 12 have gone missing, according to Jal Shakti Minister Mahender Singh Thakur, who notified the state Assembly on August 4th. Damaged roads, water lines, and power transmission have cost the state a total of Rs 451.56 crores since June 13.



Decentralised biomedical waste incinerator

Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, virtually launched a decentralised biomedical waste incinerator in Buxar, Bihar. Ganesh Engineering Works' technology was chosen as a finalist in the Waste to Wealth Mission's

Biomedical Waste Treatment Innovation Challenge, which was launched in June 2020.



Nutrition-focused programmes for women, children: Rajasthan.

During the pandemic, a number of nutritional welfare programmes were developed in Rajasthan to assist mothers and children who had been impacted by disruptions in routine activities such as integrated child development services and the lunch programme. The state government is facing a severe difficulty as a result of the micronutrient crisis.



Assam-Mizoram border clashes.

Officials claimed that representatives from Assam and Mizoram met here on 5th August and decided to address the inter-state border conflict amicably. According to them, the Assam administration also decided to rescind an earlier advise against travelling to Mizoram..



Heavy rain in Rajasthan.

So far, 80 people have died and 55 have been injured in Rajasthan as a result of heavy monsoon rain. Bundi has the most deaths (16), followed by Jaipur, the state capital (15). As many as eight persons have died in Tonk, followed by Kota with six, and Sawai Madhopur with four.



Madhya Pradesh in flood.

The number of people killed in rain-related incidents in Madhya Pradesh's flood-ravaged Gwalior and Chambal divisions has risen to 24. According to authorities, the flood situation is gradually improving, and there is presently "no life-threatening" scenario in the zone where rescue and relief efforts are underway.



Karnataka issued NEP implementation order.

Karnataka Higher Education Minister C N Ashwath Narayan said on Saturday (August 7, 2021) that his state was the first in the country to release an order

implementing the National Education Policy-2020. CN Ashwath Narayan further stated that the implementation will be done in accordance with the NEP principles.



Projects in Uttarakhand.

Nitin Gadkari, the Union Minister of Roads, Transport, and Highways, has announced road and highway projects in Uttarakhand for Rs 1,000 crores. A total of Rs 300 crore has also been announced for the Central Road Infrastructure Fund. He also stated that the Centre will assist Uttarakhand with ropeways and cable vehicles.

Kakori Train Conspiracy renamed.

The Uttar Pradesh administration has renamed the historic liberation movement known as the "Kakori Train Conspiracy" to the "Kakori Train Action," paying respect to the revolutionaries who were hung for robbing a train in Kakori, Uttar Pradesh. In 1925, revolutionaries looted the train to purchase guns.



Landscape change in Odisha.

According to the Wildlife Society of Orissa (WSO), the elephant landscape in Odisha has changed dramatically due to uncontrolled development and careless mining. The elephant landscape has altered considerably in the previous two decades, according to WSO.

Faceless Transport Services.

On August 11, 2021, the Delhi government will launch faceless public transportation. It will make all driver's licences, registrations, and permit-related services available online. In a ceremony on August 10 at the I.P. Estate office, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also introduced 33 faceless services.



APEDA exports five varieties of apples.

In order to encourage agricultural and processed food

product exports to newer destinations, APEDA collaborated with Himachal Pradesh Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Ltd (HPMC) to ship the first consignment, which included five distinct types of apples.



Tamil Nadu govt appoints trained aspirants.

The DMK administration has appointed as many as 24 trained "archakas" of diverse communities as priests in shrines, fulfilling its electoral pledge of selecting aspirants from all castes as temple priests. According to the government, the 208 appointees include "Bhattacharyas," "Odhuvars," Poojaris, and technical and office assistants who were recruited after due process.



Agriculture budget - first time in Tamil Nadu.

Agriculture is scheduled to get 50% of the budget allocated to the special budget for the agriculture sector. Chief Minister Stalin's cabinet presented the

general budget for the first time in Tamil Nadu. This budget was given without the use of paper.



Petrol price slashed by Rs 3 per litre- Tamil Nadu.

As part of the state budget for 2021-22, Tamil Nadu Finance Minister P ThiagaRajan proposed a state tax drop on petrol of Rs 3/litre. The reduction will cost the state exchequer Rs 1,160 crore each year. This action will come as a relief to people of Tamil Nadu.



Smart Health Cards Odisha.

Under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said that his administration will give smart health cards. In the state, 3.5 crore people will be given smart health cards, which will be distributed to 96 lakh families. These cards will be distributed to beneficiaries of national and state food security schemes, as well as Annapurna and Antyodaya projects.



Chhattisgarh govt to provide Rs 6,000 to landless laborers.

The 'Rajiv Gandhi Grameen BhumihinMajdurNyay Yojana' was introduced by the Chhattisgarh government. Each of the 12 lakh landless labourers will receive Rs 6000 under this scheme. The scheme began with a budget of Rs 200 crores. It will help 12 lakh families who are landless.



Special Programme for Widows, Maharashtra.

The Maharashtra government created "Mission Vatsalya," a unique mission to assist women who have lost their husbands to COVID-19. Mission Vatsalya will give those women with a variety of services and 18 advantages all under one roof. It was created for widows, with a special focus on widows from rural areas, low-income families, and underprivileged areas.



COVID-19 Affected Livelihood Support Scheme, Manipur.

On August 23, 2021, Manipur's Chief Minister, N. Biren Singh, introduced the COVID-19 Affected Livelihood Support Scheme. This scheme was created in order to help persons in Manipur who had been adversely affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. This scheme was created in response to the economic downturn.



At Nava Raipur, central secretariat opened, Chhattisgarh.

Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri virtually inaugurated a central secretariat in Nava Raipur, Chhattisgarh, that would accommodate 15 Union government agencies. The structure, which has five levels and a basement, can hold 800 people and 192 automobiles, according to the company.



Telangana's Narasimha Rao's home became museum.

The ancestral home of former Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, Vangara, in Telangana's Karimnagar district, is expected to become a tourist attraction. The latest step comes after state tourism minister V Srinivas Goud shared images of the proposed proposal on Twitter.

18: Summits & Conferences



PM meeting with NE states CMs.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will have a video conference tomorrow at 11 a.m. with the Chief Ministers of eight north-eastern states to discuss the COVID-19 situation in their region. The Chief Ministers of Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, and Mizoram will meet with PM Modi.



Dushanbe meet.

The meeting was dominated by the deterioration of Afghanistan's security situation. Representatives from nations with SCO observer status as well as SCO members attended the meeting. S Jaishankar, India's external affairs minister, highlighted these concerns when he met with his SCO counterparts.



APEC meeting.

US President Joe Biden, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, and other international leaders convened digitally for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to discuss the Covid-19 outbreak and its economic consequences.



Abdulla Shahid calls on PM Modi in New Delhi.

Abdulla Shahid, the President-elect of the United Nations General Assembly's 76th session and the Maldives' Foreign Minister, paid a visit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday. Mr. Modi congratulated Mr. Shahid on his landslide election victory, adding that it shows the Maldives' expanding international status.



Al-Qahtani meets S. Jaishankar in New Delhi.

After meeting with Qatari special envoy for conflict resolution Mutlaq bin Majed Al-Qahtani, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said the rapid deterioration of the security situation in Afghanistan is a "serious matter." Al-Qahtani is in India, ostensibly to talk about the recent developments in Afghanistan.



India-Australia meeting in September.

In September 2021, India and Australia are expected to hold their first ministerial-level 2+2 meeting. This will be the first meeting of Foreign and Defense Ministers as part of a bilateral plan to upgrade Secretary-level 2 plus 2 engagements. In September, Foreign Minister Marise Payne and Defence Minister Peter will travel to India and Indonesia.



UNSC ask to unite.

Antonio Guterres, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, has urged the international community to unite and utilise all available tools to guarantee that Afghanistan is not used as a safe haven for terrorists again. Under India's presidency, the UN Security Council convened for the second time in a week to discuss Afghanistan.



S. Jaishankar, slammed at China for terror stand.

S. Jaishankar, the President of the United Nations Security Council and India's External Affairs Minister (EAM), criticised China for its anti-terror stance. On August 19, 2021, he presided over a UNSC briefing on "Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts."



First G20 Ministerial Conference.

On August 26, 2021, Smriti Irani, the Union Minister for Women and Child Development, spoke at the First G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment. During the conference, India's commitment to resolving gender and women's concerns through mutual cooperation was stressed by the union minister.

SECTION 2

Practice Questions with Answers

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Which edition of the biannual event was the 2021 India-Indonesia CORPAT, which took place in July 2021?

- A) 50th
- B) 52nd
- C) 35th
- D) 36th

2. Which technology firm collaborated with the CBSE and the Ministry of Education to establish the "AI For All" initiative?

- A) Intel
- B) Google
- C) Amazon
- D) IBM

3. The maiden National women's online chess tournament was recently held by the All India Chess Federation (AICF). Who was crowned champion?

- A) Rishita Singh
- B) Vashya Sharma
- C) Srija Seshadri
- D) Vantika Agarwal

4. The International Day of Friendship is commemorated on which date of every year?

- A) 24 July
- B) 31 July
- C) 15 August

D) 30 July

5. Which country has nominated Guido Bellido as its new Prime Minister?

- A) Germany
- B) Uzbekistan
- C) Peru
- D) Kazakhstan

6. Who has been named the next India Controller General of Accounts (CGA)?

- A) Pankaj Thakur
- B) Radhe singh
- C) Deepak Das
- D) Piyush Goyal

7. Which country has taken over as the UN Security Council's (UNSC) President?

- A) USA
- B) Germany
- C) Israel
- D) India

8. Who won the 2021 Hungarian Grand Prix?

- A) Esteban Ocon
- B) Luis Dambell
- C) David Morie
- D) Sebastian Thrun

9. The G20 Culture Ministers Meeting, which lasted two days and was hosted by Italy, took place on July

29 and 30, 2021. The Indian Minister of State for Culture attended the meeting and led the Indian delegation. In the Indian government, who is the Minister of State for Culture?

- A) Rekha Devi
- B) Venketshwa Ramaswami
- C) Anita chouhan
- D) Meenakashi Lekhi

10. Which player did PV Sindhu defeat to win bronze in the women's single badminton event at the Tokyo Olympics 2020?

- A) He Bingjiao
- B) Thai cing
- C) Trung ung
- D) Beiwen Zhang

11. What is the name of the author of the book "In An Ideal World"?

- A) Rajeev Raj
- B) Arnab Ray
- C) Kunal Basu
- D) Dipak Das

12. Which country's Prime Minister, Min Aung Hlaing, has been appointed?

- A) Myanmar
- B) Germany
- C) Bangladesh
- D) Nepal

13. Man Kaur, who died recently at the age of 105, was

linked with this sporting event?

- A) Javelin Throw
- B) Shotput Throw
- C) Shooting
- D) Sprinting

14. Which bank has introduced a new function called "SIM Binding" for its mobile banking customers?

- A) Axis Bank
- B) State bank of india
- C) HDFC
- D) Bank of India

15. Which country's Prime Minister, Nikol Pashinyan, has been re-appointed?

- A) Nigeria
- B) Ohio
- C) Lebanon
- D) Armenia

16. Who has been appointed as Armenia's Prime Minister?

- A) Rajeev Gandhi
- B) Ramesh singh
- C) Nikol Pashinyan
- D) Amar sharma

17. What is the name of the first Indian javelin thrower to reach the Olympic finals?

- A) Neeraj Chopra
- B) Rakesh Patel

C) Deepa Malik

D) Varun Singh

18. When is Hiroshima Day remembered?

A) August 4th

B) August 6th

C) August 7th

D) August 5th

19. Which athlete won gold in the men's 100 metres at the Tokyo Olympics?

A) Rasheed Dwyer

B) Fred Kerley

C) Andre de Grasse

D) Marcell Jacobs

20. Which state administration intends to implement a forest protection policy?

A) Rajasthan

B) Uttar Pradesh

C) Gujarat

D) Jharkhand

21. When is the World Lung Cancer Day?

A) August 1

B) August 3

C) August 4

D) August 2

22. From which class to which class does the Samagra Shiksha Scheme cover school education?

A) From preschool to Class 10

B) From preschool to Class 11

C) From preschool to Class 12

D) From preschool to Class 9

23. Bob Mathias became the youngest Olympic gold champion in which event?

A) Field Hockey

B) Table Tennis

C) Sailing

D) Decathlon

24. Which Indian Olympian footballer has recently passed away?

A) Ahmed Khan

B) Krishna Kittu

C) Neville D'Souza

D) Shankar Subramaniam

25. What amount of money will the government spend over the next five years to implement the Deep Ocean Mission?

A) Rs 4,065 cr

B) Rs 4,077 cr

C) Rs 4,000 cr

D) Rs 4,087 cr

26. In which event did Neeraj Chopra just win a gold medal for India at the Tokyo Olympics?

A) Shooting

B) Running

- C) Boxing
- D) Javelin throw

27. SBI General Insurance has partnered by which platform to improve its presence in the rural market?

- A) e-Rupi
- B) AmazonPay
- C) SahiPay
- D) GooglePay

28. What is the Policy Repo Rate at the moment?

- A) 4.25%
- B) 4%
- C) 3.75%
- D) 4.5%

29. Bajrang Punia earned a bronze medal in which category at the Tokyo Olympics?

- A) 65kg
- B) 50kg
- C) 75kg
- D) 80kg

30. The Quit India Day is an annual event that takes place every year on _____

- A) 5 August
- B) 6 August
- C) 7 August
- D) 8 August

31. On which day is the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, also known as World

Tribal Day?

- A) 8 August
- B) 9 August
- C) 7 August
- D) 6 August

32. Which country is hosting the Zayed Talwar 2021 bilateral naval exercise of the Indian Navy?

- A) Germany
- B) Russia
- C) UAE
- D) Israel

33. How many medals have the Indian delegations in the 2020 Summer Olympics won?

- A) 7
- B) 8
- C) 6
- D) 9

34. At the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, which country has won the most medals?

- A) Japan
- B) India
- C) United States
- D) China

35. What is the theme of the 2021 International Day of Indigenous Peoples?

- A) Indigenous Languages
- B) COVID-19 and indigenous peoples' resilience

C) Leaving no one behind: Indigenous peoples and the call for a new social contract

D) Indigenous peoples' migration and movement

36. The Athletics Federation of India has designated which day of the year as Javelin Throw Day?

A) 8 August

B) 9 August

C) 7 August

D) 6 August

37. 'The Earthspinner' is the title of a novel written by _____

A) Chetan Bhagat

B) Vikram Seth

C) Anuradha Roy

D) Ruskin Bond

38. How much of a monetary penalty would the RBI levy on ATMs/WLAs if they are cash-out for more than 10 hours per month?

A) Rs 10000

B) Rs 5000

C) Rs 12000

D) Rs 8000

39. Which ministry started the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)?

A) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

B) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

C) Ministry of Rural Development

D) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

40. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has established a 'Scheme of Penalty for Non-Replenishment of ATMs', which would impose penalties on banks if ATMs run out of cash. On what date will the scheme go into effect?

A) 1 oct 2021

B) 1 nov 2021

C) 1 sept 2021

D) 1 dec 2021

41. Which country's Prime Minister, Hichem Mechichi, was fired by the president?

A) Turkey

B) Algeria

C) Tunisia

D) Germany

42. When is World Lion Day celebrated?

A) 8 aug

B) 9 aug

C) 10 aug

D) 11 aug

43. Which of the following organisations teamed up with UNICEF India to start a one-year cooperative project to eradicate child violence, with an emphasis on internet safety?

A) Instagram

B) Tiktok

C) Microsoft

D) Facebook

44. Which movies did Saranya Sasi play role in before she died?

A) Malayalam

B) Telugu

C) Bengali

D) Bojpuri

45. Where will the world's first Ayurvedic Bio-Bank be established?

A) Hyderabad

B) Mumbai

C) Goa

D) New Delhi

46. According to the 2021 Skytrax World Airport Awards, which Indian airport has been named the finest in the country?

A) Delhi Airport

B) Bengaluru Airport

C) Hyderabad Airport

D) Mumbai Airport

47. Which cloud computing service provider has RBL Bank chosen as its preferred cloud provider?

A) Microsoft Azure

B) Google Cloud

C) IBM Cloud

D) AWS

48. In 2021, which city will host the Durand Cup?

A) Kolkata

B) Bengaluru

C) Mumbai

D) Delhi

49. At the 28th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Foreign Ministers Meeting, who represented India?

A) Nisith Pramanik

B) Pratima Bhoumik

C) Rajkumar Ranjan Singh

D) Rajeev Chandrasekhar

50. When is International Left Handers Day celebrated around the world?

A) 10 Aug

B) 11 Aug

C) 13 Aug

D) 14 Aug

51. What is the name of the WHO's new advisory body tasked with studying the emergence of future emerging viruses that could cause pandemics?

A) SAGO

B) PEARL

C) MAHO

D) HALO

52. Which day has PM Modi announced to be "Partition Horrors Remembrance Day"?

A) 13 Aug

B) 14 Aug

C) 15 Aug

D) 16 Aug

53. What is the current number of Ramsar sites in India?

A) 54

B) 62

C) 53

D) 46

54. Which ministry launched the Training for Augmenting Productivity and Services (TAPAS) online portal?

A) Ministry of Minority Affairs

B) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

C) Ministry of Infrastructure

D) Ministry of Steel & Iron

55. What is the name of India's first Cow Genomic Chip, which is used to preserve pure breeds of indigenous cattle breeds?

A) DeshiGau

B) GauMata

C) IndiGau

D) BharGau

56. The Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) of the Reserve Bank of India has how many parameters?

A) 4

B) 5

C) 3

D) 7

57. The Indian Navy and the Navy of which country recently held a bilateral navy drill called "Exercise Konkan 2021"?

A) Russia

B) Japan

C) USA

D) Britain

58. What would be the interest rate on HDFC Bank's green and sustainable deposits programme for retail customers?

A) 6.65%

B) 6.55%

C) 6.25%

D) 6.45%

59. Muhyiddin Yassin, the Prime Minister of whose country, recently resigned?

A) India

B) Nepal

C) Malaysia

D) Bhutan

60. Maki Kaji, who recently passed away, was the brains behind which revolutionary innovation.

A) Chess

B) Sudoku

C) Super Capacitors

D) LED

61. In Hyderabad, which organisation has established a specialised lab for camera innovation?

- A) Xiaomi
- B) Realme
- C) Nokia
- D) Oppo

62. Which organisation has announced a new Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Cybersecurity?

- A) World Bank
- B) Reserve Bank of India
- C) African Bank
- D) Asian Development Bank

63. Under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumihin Majdur Nyay Yojana initiative, whose state/UT government will grant Rs 6000 to landless labourers?

- A) Haryana
- B) Chhattisgarh
- C) Jharkhand
- D) Madhya Pradesh

64. Student Entrepreneurship Program 3.0 was developed by NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) in conjunction with which organisation?

- A) Microsoft
- B) Google
- C) Dassault Systemes
- D) Virgin Galactic

65. Harshit Raja is India's 69th and most recent Grandmaster in chess. Which city is he from?

- A) Delhi
- B) Pune

- C) Patna
- D) Kolkata

66. What day of the year is World Humanitarian Day observed?

- A) 17 Aug
- B) 18 Aug
- C) 19 Aug
- D) 20 Aug

67. On which day is World Photography Day observed?

- A) 17 Aug
- B) 18 Aug
- C) 19 Aug
- D) 20 Aug

68. What is the theme for World Humanitarian Day in 2021?

- A) #WomenPowerHumanitarian
- B) #HeroesofRealLife
- C) #NotATarget
- D) #TheHumanRace

69. Which telecom operator has signed a deal with the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to provide high-quality, high-speed internet to states in India's North Eastern region?

- A) BSNL
- B) VI (Vodafone-Idea)
- C) Airtel
- D) Jio

70. Deepika Padukone has been replaced as

chairperson of the Mumbai Academy of Moving Image (MAMI) Film Festival by which actress?

- A) Ananya Pandey
- B) Priyanka Chopra
- C) Sonam Kapoor
- D) Anushka Sharma

71. When is World Mosquito Day celebrated around the world?

- A) 17 Aug
- B) 18 Aug
- C) 19 Aug
- D) 20 Aug

72. On which day is Akshay Urja Diwas observed?

- A) 17 Aug
- B) 18 Aug
- C) 19 Aug
- D) 20 Aug

73. Which ministry is responsible for the DISC 5.0 initiative?

- A) Ministry of Current affairs
- B) Ministry of Defence
- C) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- D) Ministry of Culture

74. What technology platform has India established in conjunction with the United Nations to improve the safety and security of UN peacekeepers?

- A) Cognizant View

- B) Unite Aware
- C) Plugged Ware
- D) Ultimate Visual

75. The Indian Army organised the "JAZBAA-E-TIRANGA" Relay Marathon in which state/UT?

- A) Bihar
- B) Jammu and Kashmir
- C) Uttarakhand
- D) Haryana

76. Which bank introduced Neo Collections, a DIY Digital Repayment platform?

- A) BOI Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- D) SBI Bank

77. On which day of the year is the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism observed?

- A) 17 Aug
- B) 18 Aug
- C) 21 Aug
- D) 20 Aug

78. Every year on which day is World Senior Citizen Day observed?

- A) 20 August
- B) 21 August
- C) 19 August

D) 18 August

79. The top Indian firm in the Hurun Global 500 Most Valuable Companies list for 2021 is Reliance Industries, which is rated 57th. How many Indian firms are included in the list?

A) 16

B) 8

C) 7

D) 12

80. PM Narendra Modi recently inaugurated many Somnath Temple-related projects. Which state is home to the historic temple?

A) Gujarat

B) Jammu and Kashmir

C) Uttarakhand

D) Haryana

81. What is the IUCN Status of Slender Loris?

A) Extinct

B) Endangered

C) Extremely Endangered

D) Vulnerable

82. How long has the Chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities been in office?

A) 2 yrs

B) 3 yrs

C) 4 yrs

D) 5 yrs

83. Which Indian Film Festival of Melbourne Award

goes to the Best Feature Film?

A) Soorarai Pottru

B) KGF

C) Evil Return

D) Bahubali

84. What is the location of Kadavur Reserve Forest?

A) Triuchirappalli

B) Puri

C) Pune

D) Karur

85. Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries and Jal Shakti Prahlad Singh Patel introduced which state's seven indigenous food products?

A) Manipur

B) Odisha

C) Jharkhand

D) Bihar

86. Which company has recently partnered with HDFC Bank to develop complete payment gateway, point of sale equipment, and credit products solutions?

A) Paytm

B) TCS

C) Google

D) Facebook

87. Which city in India boasts the country's first smog tower?

A) Pune

B) Ratangiri

C) New Delhi

D) Indore

88. Which brokerage firm has agreed to lend the Indian government \$500 million to extend Bengaluru's metro train network?

A) World Bank

B) IMF

C) ADB

D) RBI

89. NeoBolt is the country's first motorised wheelchair vehicle. Which institution was responsible for the development of the vehicle?

A) IIT Bombay

B) IIIT Hyderabad

C) IIT Delhi

D) IIT Madras

90. What is the name of the new CEO of BARC India?

A) Nakul Chopra

B) Piyush Goyal

C) Rahul Gandhi

D) Sandeep Bansal

91. In collaboration with the World Resources Institute (WRI) India, which agency has launched the 'Forum for Decarbonizing Transport'?

A) NITI Aayog

B) MyGov

C) NASA

D) Facebook

92. Who is the author of Address Book: A Publishing Memoir In the time of COVID?

A) Vikram Seth

B) Amanjeet Singh

C) Ritu Menon

D) Zoya Hasan

93. Which city came out on top in the 2021 Safe Cities Index?

A) Indore

B) Singapore

C) Tokyo

D) Copenhagen

94. Ed4All collaborated with which company to create the Virtual Open Schooling platform for NIOS?

A) Microsoft

B) Amazon

C) TCS

D) Deloitte

95. Which country developed the world's first "fossil-free" steel recently?

A) United States

B) Russia

C) India

D) Sweden

96. Which company has partnered with NITI Aayog to launch the Women Entrepreneurship Platform "WEP Nxt"?

- A) Google
- B) Cisco
- C) TCS
- D) Amazon

97. Which edition of the yearly event is the International Military-Technical Forum ARMY 2021?

- A) 4th
- B) 5th
- C) 6th
- D) 7th

98. Which bank has chosen Hitendra Dave as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO)?

- A) HSBC India
- B) Kotak Mahindra
- C) Axis Bank
- D) HDFC Bank

99. Who wrote the book "Accelerating India: 7 Years of Modi Government?"

- A) Pinarayi Vijayan
- B) Vikram Seth
- C) Rohini Saw
- D) K J Alphons

100. What is the current balance of the RBI's Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) Scheme?

- A) Rs. 380 crore
- B) Rs. 260 crore
- C) Rs. 345 crore
- D) Rs. 525 crore

ANSWERS

1. Correct Answer: D

The 36th edition of CORPAT took place in the Indian Ocean region on July 30 and 31, 2021, between India and Indonesia. The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Saryu, an indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessel, coordinated petrol with the Indonesian Naval Ship KRI Bung Tomo (CORPAT).

2. Correct Answer: A

Intel, a chipmaker, has partnered with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and the Ministry of Education to create the 'AI For All' programme, which aims to raise awareness and fundamental understanding of artificial intelligence (AI) among all Indians.

3. Correct Answer: D

Vantika Agarwal of Delhi won the first National women's online chess championship, held by the All India Chess Federation (AICF) from July 26 to 28, 2021.

4. Correct Answer: D

Every year on July 30, the International Day of Friendship (World Friendship Day) is observed to commemorate friendships and the sharing of gifts amongst friends.

5. Correct Answer: C

On July 29, 2021, Peru's newly sworn-in President, Pedro Castillo, appointed Guido Bellido as the country's new prime minister.

6. Correct Answer: C

On August 1, 2021, Shri Deepak Das was appointed Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

7. Correct Answer: D

For the month of August 2021, India will preside over

the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

8. Correct Answer: A

The Hungarian Grand Prix 2021 was won by Esteban Ocon (Alpine-Renault/ France) on August 1, 2021 at the Hungaroring in Mogyoród, Hungary.

9. Correct Answer: D

On behalf of the Indian government, Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for Culture, attended the G20 Culture Ministers' Meeting on July 30, 2021. Italy held the two-day meeting on the 29th and 30th of July 2021, as part of their G20 Presidency.

10. Correct Answer: A

On August 1, 2021, ace Indian badminton player PV Sindhu defeated China's He Bingjiao to earn bronze in the women's singles event at the Tokyo Olympics.

11. Correct Answer: C

Kunal Basu, a well-known Indian novelist of English fiction, has released a new novel titled "In An Ideal World."

12. Correct Answer: A

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the Myanmar military chief, was appointed as the country's interim prime minister on August 1, 2021.

13. Correct Answer: D

Man Kaur, a multiple World Masters Athletics Championship gold medalist, has died. She lived to be 105 years old. At the age of 93, the Patiala, Punjab, sprinter began her career as an athlete.

14. Correct Answer: B

State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest lender, has introduced a new and improved security feature dubbed "SIM Binding" for its YONO and YONO Lite apps

to protect clients from different digital frauds.

15. Correct Answer: D

President Armen Sarkissian re-appointed Nikol Pashinyan as Prime Minister of Armenia on August 2, 2021.

16. Correct Answer: C

The chairman of the Civil Contract Party, Nikol Pashinyan, has been re-appointed as Prime Minister of Armenia. In 2018, he was chosen Prime Minister for the first time.

17. Correct Answer: A

On August 4, 2021, Neeraj Chopra competed in the Javelin Throw final. With a big throw of 86.65m, he won Group A qualification. Subedar Neeraj Chopra, VSM is a Junior Commission Officer in the Indian Army and an Indian track and field athlete. He is the first Indian to win a U-20 World Championship in Track & Field. He is a Panipat native (Haryana).

18. Correct Answer: B

Every year on August 6, Japan commemorates Hiroshima Day. The purpose of the day is to raise awareness of the devastation caused by the atomic bombs that were unleashed on Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the close of World War II.

19. Correct Answer: D

On August 1, 2021, Marcell Jacobs of Italy won the men's 100 metres gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics, becoming the first Italian to win the most coveted title in athletics.

20. Correct Answer: A

Rajasthan's Chief Minister, Ashok Gehlot, announced on August 1, 2021, that the state government is preparing to introduce a policy for forest protection in the state soon. During the virtual introduction of the scheme under which medicinal plants will be handed to the

people of Rajasthan, he informed them about the forest policy.

21. Correct Answer: A

On August 1, World Lung Cancer Day is commemorated to promote awareness of the causes and treatment of lung cancer, as well as the problems that a lack of adequate research funding can bring.

22. Correct Answer: C

The Union Cabinet authorised the extension of the Samagra Shiksha Scheme for school education for another five years on August 4, 2021. The Samagra Shiksha Scheme includes preschool through 12th grade education.

23. Correct Answer: D

At the age of 17, Bob Mathias (USA) won his first decathlon, which he repeated four years later. Daley Thompson of England was a two-time winner, winning in 1980 and 1984.

24. Correct Answer: D

Shankar Subramaniam alias 'Babu' Narayan, a two-time Olympian, died. During the 1956 and 1960 Olympics, he was India's goalkeeper.

25. Correct Answer: B

The Deep Ocean Mission would be implemented over a five-year period with a budget of approximately 4,077 crore rupees. The Mission's several components will begin in 2021.

26. Correct Answer: D

On August 7, 2021, India's great javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra won a historic gold medal in the men's javelin throw at the Tokyo 2020 Games. In his second attempt, Neeraj Chopra threw 87.58 metres to win the yellow medal.

27. Correct Answer: C

In order to enhance its non-life insurance penetration in the rural market, SBI General Insurance has teamed with Manipal Business Solutions to tap users of fintech platform SahiPay.

28. Correct Answer: B

Repo Rate – 4.00%

29. Correct Answer: A

On August 7, 2021, ace Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia defeated Kazakhstan's Daulet Niyazbekov 8-0 to win the bronze medal in men's freestyle 65kg wrestling at the Tokyo Olympics.

30. Correct Answer: D

Every year on August 8, the Quit India Day (or August Kranti Day) commemorates the anniversary of the Quit India Movement, which was launched by the Father of the Nation, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, at the All-India Congress Committee session in Bombay on August 8, 1942.

31. Correct Answer: B

Every year on August 9, the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (World Tribal Day) is commemorated to safeguard the rights of the world's indigenous peoples.

32. Correct Answer: C

On August 7, 2021, the Indian Navy and the UAE Navy conducted the bilateral naval exercise 'Zayed Talwar 2021' off the coast of Abu Dhabi.

33. Correct Answer: A

The Indian contingent won 7 medals, including 1 gold, 2 silver, and 4 bronze. Out of 86 countries, the country was ranked 48th in the medal standings.

34. Correct Answer: C

With 113 medals, the United States has won the overall medal tally, with 39 gold, 41 silver, and 33 bronze

medals.

35. Correct Answer: C

"Leaving no one behind: Indigenous peoples and the Call for a New Social Contract" is the topic for 2021.

36. Correct Answer: C

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has declared August 7 as "Javelin Throw Day" in India, in honour of Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, who won India's first Olympic gold medal in athletics in the Tokyo Olympics.

37. Correct Answer: C

The Earthspinner, a new novel by award-winning novelist Anuradha Roy, published on September 3, 2021.

38. Correct Answer: A

A penalty of Rs. 10,000 per ATM would be imposed if any of the ATMs is cashed out for more than 10 hours in a month.

39. Correct Answer: C

The Government of India's Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) launched the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) by reorganising the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY).

40. Correct Answer: A

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the commencement of the 'Scheme of Penalty for Non-Replenishment of ATMs,' under which it will penalise ATMs/WLAs that run out of cash. The system will be implemented on October 1, 2021.

41. Correct Answer: C

Following rallies in many towns, Tunisia's president declared he was sacking Prime Minister Hichem Mechichi and freezing parliament in a huge escalation of political fighting in the democratic country.

42. Correct Answer: C

World Lion Day is observed on August 10 every year around the world to honour the "king of the jungle" and raise awareness about the need for its conservation.

43. Correct Answer: D

UNICEF India and Facebook have announced a year-long partnership to reduce violence against children, with an emphasis on online safety.

44. Correct Answer: A

Saranya Sasi, a Malayalam actress who primarily appeared in television shows, died at a private hospital in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, at the age of 35.

45. Correct Answer: D

Ayush Minister SarbanandaSonowal has pledged his full support for the establishment of the world's first Ayurvedic Bio-Bank at the All India Institute of Ayurveda in New Delhi.

46. Correct Answer: A

In the 2021 Skytrax World Airport Awards, the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in New Delhi was named among the top 50 finest airports in the world.

47. Correct Answer: D

RBL Bank, situated in Mumbai, has chosen Amazon Web Services (AWS) as its preferred cloud provider.

48. Correct Answer: A

The Durand Cup, Asia's and the world's third-oldest football tournament, is poised to return after a one-year hiatus. Between September 5 and October 3, 2021, the 130th edition of the Durand Cup will be place in and around Kolkata.

49. Correct Answer: C

Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, India's Minister of State for External Affairs, led the delegation.

50. Correct Answer: C

Every year on August 13th, the International Left Handers Day is commemorated to honour the uniqueness and diversity of left-handed people and to raise awareness of the benefits and drawbacks of being left-handed in a predominately right-handed environment.

51. Correct Answer: A

The International Scientific Advisory Group on Origins of Novel Pathogens, or SAGO, has been established by the World Health Organization (WHO).

52. Correct Answer: B

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has named August 14 as 'Division Horrors Remembrance Day,' or 'Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas,' in honour of people's efforts and sacrifices during the country's 1947 partition.

53. Correct Answer: D

In India, there are 46 Ramsar sites spanning a total area of 1,083,322 hectares.

54. Correct Answer: B

TAPAS (Training for Augmenting Productivity and Services) is an online platform developed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to give filmed lectures/courses and e-study material in the subject of social defence.

55. Correct Answer: C

Dr. Jitendra Singh unveiled the 'IndiGau' chip today. It is India's first Cattle Genomic Chip, designed to preserve pure breeds of indigenous cattle such as Gir, Kankrej, Sahiwal, and Ongole.

56. Correct Answer: C

FI-Index parameters: The FI-Index is made up of three parameters: Access (35 percent), Usage (45 percent), and Quality (20 percent), each of which has a number of dimensions that are calculated based on a number of

indicators. There are a total of 97 indications.

57. Correct Answer: D

On August 12, 2021, the Indian Naval Ship Tabar landed in Portsmouth, England, for the annual bilateral drill 'Exercise Konkan 2021' between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of the United Kingdom.

58. Correct Answer: B

HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector bank, has created a green and sustainable deposits programme for retail customers, with the goal of preventing climate change. These fixed-income funds will be utilised to finance green and sustainable housing credit solutions and services. 6.55 percent interest rate.

59. Correct Answer: C

After losing a confidence vote in parliament, Malaysia's Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin and his government resigned.

60. Correct Answer: B

Maki Kaji, the puzzle's developer Sudoku died of bile duct cancer when he was 69 years old.

61. Correct Answer: D

Oppo, a smartphone manufacturer, has established a photography innovation lab at its Hyderabad research and development centre.

62. Correct Answer: A

The World Bank has announced a new Cybersecurity Multi-Donor Trust Fund with the goal of better defining and systematically implementing the cybersecurity development agenda so that cybersecurity considerations are more prominently reflected throughout its programmes and finances.

63. Correct Answer: B

The 'Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumihin Majdur Nyay Yojana' was introduced by the Chhattisgarh

government.

64. Correct Answer: C

The third series of the 'Student Entrepreneurship Program' (SEP 3.0) for the young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs was launched by the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog in conjunction with La Fondation Dassault Systemes in India (ATL).

65. Correct Answer: B

Harshit Raja, a 20-year-old chess player from Pune, Maharashtra, has been named the 69th Grandmaster of India.

66. Correct Answer: C

Every year on August 19, World Humanitarian Day (WHD) is commemorated to honour humanitarian workers and those who have lost or risked their lives while performing humanitarian work.

67. Correct Answer: C

Every year on August 19, World Photography Day is observed to promote photography as a pastime and to encourage photographers all over the world to share a single shot with the rest of the world.

68. Correct Answer: D

#TheHumanRace is the subject for the 2021 World Humanitarian Day, a global challenge for climate action in solidarity with those who need it most. The World Humanitarian Day (WHD) is observed every year on 19 August.

69. Correct Answer: A

The Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) have inked an agreement to provide high-quality, high-speed internet to states in India's North Eastern region.

70. Correct Answer: B

Actress-producer On August 17, 2021, Priyanka Chopra

Jonas was named chairperson of the Jio Mumbai Academy of Moving Image (MAMI) Film Festival. She was nominated by the MAMI's Board of Trustees comprising Nita M Ambani (Co-chairperson) and Anupama Chopra (Festival Director).

71. Correct Answer: D

Every year on August 20th, World Mosquito Day is commemorated to promote awareness about the causes of malaria and how it can be prevented. This Day honors the date when Sir Ronald Ross, British army surgeon working in India, proved mosquitoes transmit malaria by identifying pigmented malaria parasites in mosquitoes that fed on an infected patient.

72. Correct Answer: D

Since 2004, the 20th of August has been commemorated as Akshay Urja Diwas (also known as 'Renewable Energy Day') to promote awareness about the development and acceptance of renewable energy in India. This special day commemorates the birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi.

73. Correct Answer: B

Raksha Mantri, On August 19, 2021, Shri Rajnath Singh announced the Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC) 5.0 as part of the Innovations for Defence Excellence – Defence Innovation Organization (iDEX-DIO) project.

74. Correct Answer: B

In partnership with the UN, India has built a software platform called "UNITE Aware" to improve the safety and security of UN peacekeepers. This will access live video and satellite imagery, and in very volatile circumstances can also deliver early warnings to peacekeepers.

75. Correct Answer: B

The Indian Army recently held a 400-kilometer "JAZBAA-E-TIRANGA" Relay Marathon in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The event was flagged

off by Major General Rajeev Puri, General Officer Commanding (GOC), Ace of Spades Division, who led the relay, closely followed by other military personnel.

76. Correct Answer: C

For delayed loan repayments, Kotak Mahindra Bank has introduced a platform called 'Neo Collections,' which is a Do It Yourself Digital Repayment Platform. Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched the Neo Collections platform in tie-up with Creditas Solutions.

77. Correct Answer: C

The International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is a United Nations-designated day held on August 21 to honour those who have been attacked, injured, traumatised, or lost their lives as a result of terrorist actions around the world.

78. Correct Answer: B

Every year on August 21, the World Senior Citizen Day is commemorated around the world to raise awareness about issues affecting older people, such as deterioration with age and elder abuse, as well as to support, honour, and show gratitude for seniors and their accomplishments.

79. Correct Answer: D

The top Indian firm on the list is Reliance Industries (USD 188 billion), which is ranked 57th. This list includes a total of 12 Indian firms as against 11 in the year-ago period. Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries' valuation increased 11 per cent to USD 188 billion but ranking slipped by three places to 57 in the rankings which use the valuation on July 15 as the cut-off.

80. Correct Answer: A

On August 20, 2021, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi used video conference to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for numerous projects in Somnath, Gujarat. The projects inaugurated include the Somnath Promenade, Somnath Exhibition Centre and

reconstructed temple precinct of Old (Juna) Somnath.

81. Correct Answer: B

The Slender Loris is a nocturnal primate that is small and secretive. These animals have long, slender arms and are roughly 25 cm long. The pair of huge, closely set brown eyes is their most striking feature. They have a habit of bathing their faces and limbs with urine, which is great for soothing or fighting against the sting of the poisonous insects they eat. Endangered according to the IUCN.

82. Correct Answer: B

Every Member, including the Chairperson, is elected for a three-year term beginning on the date he or she takes office. At any time, you can join. Minorities' interests or the public interest: Provided, however, that no one shall be removed under this clause unless they have been given a reasonable opportunity to be heard in the case.

83. Correct Answer: A

Pankaj Tripathi received the Prestigious Diversity in Cinema Award from LaTrobe University during the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2021. In addition, the film Soorai Potru won the Best Feature Film award, while Suriya was named Best Actor in Soorai Potru.

84. Correct Answer: D

The State government has been asked to proclaim the Kadavur Reserve Forest in Karur district as a Slender Loris sanctuary. Kadavur taluk has roughly 6,000 hectares of forest out of 6,327 hectares in Karur district. The entire forest in the taluk has been designated as a reserve forest and is a Slender Loris hotspot in the state.

85. Correct Answer: A

As part of the Make in India initiative, Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries and Jal Shakti Prahlad Singh Patel introduced seven indigenous Manipur food products in Imphal. The indigenous foods are Black Rice Laddoo, Black Rice Fruit & Nut Cookies,

Hot and Spicy Bhujia, Kabok (puffed rice) Mixture, Manipuri Casava Burfi, Bamboo Shoot Muraba and Fig Laddoo.

86. Correct Answer: A

HDFC Bank and Paytm have teamed up to create complete payment gateway, point-of-sale, and credit product solutions. Paytm Postpaid, a Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) option, Eazy EMI, and Flexi Pay are all examples of this.

87. Correct Answer: C

In Connaught Place, Delhi, India's first smog tower has been built. Within a 1 kilometre radius, it will filter 1,000 cubic metres of air each second. Smog towers are tall structures designed to filter the air. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on 23 August, 2021 inaugurated the "country's first smog tower".

88. Correct Answer: C

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India have agreed to a \$500 million loan to expand Bengaluru's metro rail network by building two new metro lines totaling 56 kilometres. The project will bring various benefits including road de-congestion, better urban livability and environmental improvement.

89. Correct Answer: D

Indian Institute of Technology Madras has developed India's first indigenous motorized wheelchair vehicle that can be used not only on roads but even on uneven terrains. Called 'NeoBolt', it has a maximum speed of 25 kmph and travels up to 25 km per charge.

90. Correct Answer: A

Television monitoring agency Broadcast Audience Research Council (Barc) has announced the appointment of Nakul Chopra as its chief executive officer (CEO) effective 25 August 2021. Former CEO Sunil Lulla has resigned to pursue his ambition as an entrepreneur, the firm said in a statement.

91. Correct Answer: A

NITI Aayog and World Resources Institute (WRI), India, jointly launched the 'Forum for Decarbonizing Transport' in India as part of the NDC-Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA) project on 23 August. The launch was held virtually and inaugurated by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant.

92. Correct Answer: C

Indian feminist writer and publisher Ritu Menon has come out with her new book titled "Address Book: A Publishing Memoir In the time of COVID". The book has been published under the imprint 'Women Unlimited', a non-profit trust, and an associate of 'Kali for Women', first Indian publishing house dedicated to publishing on and for women.

93. Correct Answer: D

Denmark's capital city Copenhagen has secured the top position in the "safest city" study conducted by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). On 25th August, 2021, the EIU produced its Safe Cities Index 2021, under which it enlisted names of 60 safe cities based on 76 indicators.

94. Correct Answer: A

The National Institute of Open School has launched Virtual Open School along with Microsoft and Ed4All. The NIOS Virtual Open School is powered by BLEAP, Blended Learning and Pedagogy for 2021 and candidates who are interested to register for the NIOS Virtual Open Schools can visit the official website to complete the registration and application process.

95. Correct Answer: D

HYBRIT, a Swedish steel conglomerate, has developed the world's first ever "fossil-free" steel in an effort to reduce the steel industry's global carbon footprint, which currently accounts for 8% of global emissions. HYBRIT is a joint venture of SSAB (Swedish steelmaker), LKAB (Europe's largest iron ore producer) and Vattenfall

(one of Europe's largest energy companies).

96. Correct Answer: B

NITI Aayog and Cisco on August 26, 2021 launched the next phase of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) to build on their shared commitment to empower women entrepreneurs across India. The next phase of NITI Aayog's flagship platform titled 'WEP Nxt'.

97. Correct Answer: D

From August 22 to 28, 2021, the International Military and Technical Forum 'ARMY 2021' was held in Moscow, Russia, at Patriot Expo, Kubinka Air Base, and Alabino military training grounds. The biennial International Military-Technical Forum, ARMY 2021, is in its seventh edition.

98. Correct Answer: A

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Hitendra Dave as Chief Executive Officer, HSBC India for a period of three years with effect from August 24, 2021, the bank said in a press release on August 25. Dave is a General Manager within the HSBC Group and a member of the Asia Pacific Executive Committee of HSBC.

99. Correct Answer: D

Shri K J Alphons, a former Union Minister, presented Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with his book "Accelerating India: 7 Years of Modi Government." In his book, 'Accelerating India,' the Prime Minister stated he made a praiseworthy attempt to capture many aspects of India's reform path.

100. Correct Answer: C

The Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) scheme, with a corpus of Rs 345 crore, envisages creating 30 lakh new touch points every year for digital payments in tier-3 to tier-6 centres. The scheme, operationalised in January this year, has now been extended to select street vendors in tier 1 & 2 centres.

SECTION 3

Detailed Analysis of Important Events

Economics

Strategic Petroleum Reserves

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Strategic Petroleum Reserves Programme

Mains level : Oil prices volatility and its impact on India



Under Phase II of the petroleum reserve program, the Government has approved two additional commercial-cum-strategic facilities at Chandikhole (Odisha) and Padur (TN) on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.

Strategic Petroleum Reserves Programme

- To maintain energy security, the government chose to build a strategic crude oil storage facility with a capacity of 5 million metric tonnes (MMT) in three locations: Visakhapatnam, Mangalore, and Padur (near Udupi).
- These strategic storages would be in addition to

the oil firms' existing crude oil and petroleum product storage, and would provide as a safety net in the event of a supply disruption.

- The petroleum reserves constructed are strategic, and the crude oil stored in them will be used in the case of an oil shortage, as and when the Indian government declares it.
- The Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL), a Special Purpose Vehicle, is in charge of the building of the Strategic Crude Oil Storage facilities.

Why need SPR?

- The Gulf War in 1990 resulted in a dramatic spike in oil prices, as well as a large increase in India's imports.
- During the subsequent Indian economic crisis in 1991, foreign exchange reserves were not enough to cover three weeks' worth of imports, and the government came dangerously near to defaulting on its debts.
- India was able to resolve the issue by implementing economic liberalisation policies. The unpredictability of oil prices, on the other hand, continued to affect India.
- Building petroleum reserves was recommended by the AB Vajpayee administration in 1998 as a long-term approach to controlling the oil market.
- In Mangalore, Visakhapatnam, and Padur, three subterranean storage facilities were built.

Construction of ISPR

- The crude oil storage facilities are located on India's east and west coastlines, and are built in subterranean rock caverns.
- Pipelines or a combination of pipelines and coastal transportation can be used to transport

crude oil from underground caves to Indian refineries.

- Underground rock caverns are thought to be the most secure way to store hydrocarbons.

[pib] IndiGau: India's first Cattle Genomic Chip

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : IndiGau

Mains level : Not Much



The National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB), Hyderabad has launched a chip called IndiGau.

IndiGau

- IndiGau is India's first cattle genomic chip, designed to preserve pure breeds of indigenous cattle such as Gir, Kankrej, Sahiwal, and Ongole.
- It is the world's largest cattle chip and is entirely indigenous.
- It has 11,496 more markers than the 777K Illumina chip used for US and UK breeds.
- This chip is made in collaboration with the Rashtriya Gokul Mission and is an excellent

example of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Utility of IndiGau

- Indigenous bovines are tough and adaptable, and they're well-suited to the climate and environment of their breeding grounds. As a result, their output is less likely to be harmed by climate change.
- The fat and SNF (solids-not-fat) composition of indigenous animals' milk is high.

(SNF content are the substances in milk other than butterfat and water in the form of casein, lactose, vitamins, and minerals which contribute significantly to the nutritive value of milk.)

Components of the scheme

NPBBDD has the following three components.

- National Programme for Bovine Breeding (NPBB)
- National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD) and
- Rashtriya Gokul Mission.

Differences between all these schemes:

1) National Programme for Bovine Breeding

It aims-

- To provide high-quality Artificial Insemination services to farmers at their homes.
- To coordinate breeding of all breedable females through artificial insemination or natural service with high genetic merit germplasm.

2) National Programme for Dairy Development

It aims-

- To build and develop infrastructure for the production of high-quality milk, including a cold chain that connects the farmer to the customer.

- At the rural level, to strengthen dairy cooperative societies/producers companies
- Increase milk production by giving technical inputs such as cattle feed and mineral mixture, among other things.

3) Rashtriya Gokul Mission

It aims-

- To carry out a breed improvement programme for indigenous cattle breeds in order to improve genetic makeup and stock numbers.
- To increase the milk production and productivity of native cattle.
- Using superior indigenous breeds like as Gir, Sahiwal, Rathi, Deoni, Tharparkar, and Red Sindhi, to enhance nondescript cattle.

What is Gati Shakti Master Plan?

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Gati Shakti Master Plan

Mains level : Infrastructure development

In his I-day speech, the PM has announced a ₹100 lakh crore “Gati Shakti” infrastructure plan.

What is Gati Shakti Master Plan?

- The project, according to the PM, will provide future employment prospects for the kids.
- The plan will lay the groundwork for a comprehensive infrastructure and provide an integrated roadmap for our economy.
- More information, as well as the project's launch date, are awaited.

What are the focus areas of the project?

- The Gati Shakti initiative will assist local firms gain a global presence and compete with their

international counterparts.

- It also opens up the possibility of other economic zones in the future.
- India's production and exports, according to the Prime Minister, must both rise.

Why need such a plan?

- The infrastructure drive is in line with the government's aim to boost infrastructure spending in order to boost economic growth.
- Infrastructure development has the potential to provide a multiplier impact, resulting in substantially better returns for every rupee invested.

Positive Pay System for high-value cheques

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Positive Pay System

Mains level : Not Much

Banks have been informing customers about making mandatory, the positive pay system, a process of reconfirming the key details of high-value cheques.

What is the Positive Pay System?

- The National Payments Corporation of India established the Positive Pay System, which is a method of reconfirming the critical elements of large-value cheques.
- Under this approach, the person issuing the high-value cheque transmits to the drawee bank some vital details about the cheque, such as the date, the name of the beneficiary/payee amount, and so on.
- Electronic means, such as SMS, mobile app, online banking, ATM, and so on, can be used to submit the information.

- While issuing the check, the information is double-checked, and any discrepancies are noted.

Try answering this PYQ:

Q. Which one of the following links all the ATMs in India? (CSP 2018)

(a) Indian Banks' Association

(b) National Securities Depository Limited

(c) National Payments Corporation of India

(d) Reserve Bank of India

What is the limit on the amount for the system?

- The Reserve Bank of India has instructed banks to make the option available to all account holders who issue checks in sums of \$50,000 or more.
- While it is the account holder's choice whether or not to use the service, banks may explore making it mandatory in the case of checks valued at \$5 lakh or more.

Why is this system important for customers?

- Customers have been told by several banks that large-value cheques will be returned if the details are not pre-registered.
- Customers should ensure that details are submitted within the timeframe stipulated by the banks for hassle-free clearance when a high-value cheque is issued.
- Only cheques registered in the Positive Pay System will be accepted under the dispute settlement mechanism, according to the RBI.
- Customers will receive an SMS indicating if the check was accepted or refused for any reason.

What are the details of the cheque that must be submitted?

- Account number, cheque number, date of cheque, amount, transaction code, beneficiary name, MICR CODE.

How can these details be submitted?

- These details can be entered on the bank's website, via internet banking, or via mobile banking.
- If a customer does not use electronic banking, they can submit their information in a bank branch.

What is RoDTEP Scheme?

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : MEIS, RODTEP Scheme

Mains level : Export promotion schemes in India

The Centre has notified the rates and norms for the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme asserting that it would put 'direct cash in the pockets of exporters' soon.

RoDTEP Scheme

- RoDTEP is a scheme designed to help exporters make Indian products more cost-competitive and level the playing field in the global market.
- It came in effect in January 2021, replacing the previous Merchandise and Services Export Incentive Schemes (MEIS and SEIS), which were found to be in breach of WTO rules.
- The new RoDTEP Scheme complies with all WTO requirements.
- It will compensate any federal, state, and local taxes, tariffs, and levies that are not currently repaid under any existing scheme but are incurred during the manufacturing and distribution process.

Answer this Question

Q. With reference to the international trade of India at present, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. *India's merchandise exports are less than its merchandise imports.*
2. *India's imports of iron and steel, chemicals, fertilizers and machinery have decreased in recent years.*
3. *India's exports of services are more than its imports of services.*
4. *India suffers from an overall trade/current account deficit.*

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
 (b) 2 and 4 only
 (c) 3 only
 (d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Why need such a scheme?

- In 2020, the initiative was unveiled as a substitute for the Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS), which was deemed to be in violation of World Trade Organization standards.
- A dispute settlement panel had decided against India's use of MEIS after the US filed a complaint, finding the duty credit scrips issued under the scheme to be in violation of WTO standards.

Coverage of the scheme

- It encompasses around 75% of traded commodities and 65% of India's exports.
- All taxes, including those paid by states and even Gram Panchayats, will be returned under

the scheme to enable zero-rating of exports by ensuring domestic taxes are not exported.

- Steel, pharmaceuticals, and chemicals have been left out of the strategy since their exports have performed well without them.

Government Securities Acquisition Programme (GSAP 2.0)

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : G-Secs

Mains level : Not Much

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that it will conduct an open market purchase of government securities of 25,000 crore under the G-sec Acquisition Programme (G-SAP 2.0).

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. *The Reserve Bank of India manages and services the Government of India Securities but not any State Government Securities.*
2. *Treasury bills are issued by the Government of India and there are no treasury bills issued by the State Governments.*
3. *Treasury bills offer are issued at a discount from the par value.*

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
 (b) 3 Only
 (c) 2 and 3 only
 (d) 1, 2 and 3

What are Government Securities?

- These are debt instruments issued by the

government to borrow money.

- The two key categories are:
 1. Treasury bills (T-Bills) – short-term instruments which mature in 91 days, 182 days, or 364 days, and
 2. Dated securities – long-term instruments, which mature anywhere between 5 years and 40 years

Note: T-Bills are issued only by the central government, and the interest on them is determined by market forces.

Why G-Secs?

- G-secs are not tax-free like bank fixed deposits.
- Because they are backed by the government, they are widely regarded as the safest form of investment. As a result, the danger of default is essentially non-existent.
- They are not without risk, however, because they are sensitive to interest rate swings.
- The Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation, on the other hand, only guarantees bank fixed deposits up to Rs 5 lakh (DICGC).

[pib] Simhadri PV Project: Largest floating Solar Project in the country

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : India's largest solar PV Project

Mains level : Renewable Energy in India

The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has commissioned the largest floating solar PV project of 25MW on the reservoir of its Simhadri thermal station in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

Simhadri PV Project

- Simhadri Station, a coal-fired power plant with a capacity of 2000 MW, was the first to use an open sea intake from the Bay of Bengal, and it has been operational for more than 20 years.
- This is the first solar project to be built under the coal-fired plant flexibilization strategy, which was announced in 2018.
- In a RW reservoir, the floating solar project, which has a novel anchoring mechanism, is spread out over 75 acres.
- More than 1 lakh solar PV modules can be used to generate electricity in this floating solar project.
- This would not only assist to light roughly 7,000 homes, but it would also ensure that at least 46,000 tonnes of CO2 are held at bay each year over the project's lifespan.
- In addition, the project is estimated to save 1,364 million litres of water per year. This would be enough to cover the annual water needs of 6,700 families.

Other important facts you must know

- India has 95.7 GW of renewable energy capacity as of May 2021, accounting for 25% of total installed power capacity.
- By 2030, the government wants to build 523 GW of renewable energy capacity (including 73 GW from hydro).
- In 2020, India was the world's third largest renewable energy producer, with renewable energy accounting for 38 percent of total installed energy capacity (136 GW out of 373 GW).
- Tamil Nadu has the most solar power capacity built in India. Near Madurai, the Kamuthi Solar Power Project is the world's second-largest solar park.

Enviro & Diversity

Common survey to count India's elephant and tiger populations

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Read the attached story

Mains level : NA

From December, India will move to a system that will count tigers and elephants as part of a common survey.

Common survey for elephants and tiger

- Given that elephants and tigers occupy 90% of the area, and once estimation methodologies are standardised, having a common survey can save money greatly.
- Once every four years, a tiger survey is conducted, and once every five years, elephants are tallied.
- According to the most recent 2018-19 survey, India has 2,997 tigers and 29,964 elephants at the time of the latest count in 2017.

Q. With reference to Indian Elephants, consider the following statements :

1. The leader of an elephant group is a female.
2. The maximum gestation period can be 22 months.
3. An elephant can normally go on calving till the age of 40 years only.
4. Among the States in India, the highest population is in Kerala.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 4 only

(c) 3 only

(d) 1,3 and 4 only

Why need a common survey?

- Tiger numbers are calculated using data from camera traps and indirect estimating methods.
- Elephant numbers are mostly based on states counting elephants directly.
- Techniques like examining dung samples have been used to assess elephant birth rates and population trends in recent years.

About All India Tiger Estimation

- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) conducts a tiger census every four years, providing information on the number of tigers in the 18 tiger-reigning states and 50 tiger reserves.
- It is organised by the National Trust for Conservation of Animals (NTCA) and the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), in partnership with state forest departments.
- In terms of breadth and sample intensity, the full four-year project is considered the world's greatest wildlife survey operation.
- Over 15,000 cameras have been put at several important locations to monitor tiger movement.
- This is backed up by a wealth of data gathered by field employees as well as satellite mapping.

Four new Wetlands added to Ramsar list

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Ramsar wetlands in India

Mains level : Wetland conservation

Four more wetlands from India get recognition from the Ramsar Secretariat as Ramsar sites.

What are Wetlands?

- A wetland is a unique environment that is inundated by water on a regular or seasonal basis, and where oxygen-free processes predominate.
- The peculiar flora of aquatic plants, adapted to the specific hydric soil, is the key component that separates wetlands from other landforms or water bodies.

Significance of Wetlands

- Food, water, fibre, groundwater recharge, water purification, flood reduction, erosion management, and climate regulation are all key resources and ecological services provided by wetlands.
- They are, in reality, a vital source of water, with an assortment of wetlands that help soak up rainfall and recharge groundwater serving as our primary source of freshwater.
- They provide a variety of societal benefits, including food and habitat for fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species; improved water quality; flood storage; shoreline erosion control; economically beneficial natural products for human use; and recreational, educational, and research opportunities, among others.

Which are the new sites added to the Ramsar List?

- Thol and Wadhvana from Gujarat and
- Sultanpur and Bhindawas from Haryana

With this, the number of Ramsar sites in India are 46 and the surface area covered by these sites is now 1,083,322 hectares.

(1) Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary

- The largest wetland in Haryana, Bhindawas WLS, is a man-made freshwater wetland.
- Throughout the year, around 250 bird species use the sanctuary as a resting and roosting spot.
- The endangered Egyptian Vulture, Steppe Eagle, Pallas's Fish Eagle, and Black-bellied Tern are among the more than 10 internationally threatened species that call the location home.

(2) Sultanpur National Park

- More than 220 species of resident, winter migratory, and local migratory waterbirds are supported at important stages of their life cycles in Haryana's Sultanpur NP.
- The highly endangered sociable lapwing, as well as the endangered Egyptian Vulture, Saker Falcon, Pallas's Fish Eagle, and Black-bellied Tern, are among the more than ten species on the list.

(3) Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary

- Thol Lake WLS in Gujarat is located on the Central Asian Flyway and is home to around 320 bird species.
- More than 30 threatened waterbird species call the wetlands home, including the highly endangered White-rumped Vulture and Sociable Lapwing, as well as the vulnerable Sarus Crane, Common Pochard, and Lesser White-fronted Goose.

(4) Wadhvana Wetland

- The Wadhvana Wetland in Gujarat is internationally significant for its birdlife because it serves as a wintering ground for migrating waterbirds, including more than 80 species that migrate via the Central Asian Flyway.
- They contain endangered Pallas's fish-eagles, vulnerable Common Pochards, and near-

threatened Dalmatian Pelicans, Grey-headed Fish-eagles, and Ferruginous Ducks.

Species in news: Slender Loris

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Slender Loris

Mains level : Various endemic species of India



The Kadavur hills in central Tamil Nadu's Karur district are home to the Kadavur Reserve Forest. These forests are home to the shy and reclusive slender loris, a species of primate.

Slender Loris

- The slender loris (*Loris tardigradus*) is nocturnal and reclusive. It frequently moves from one tree canopy to the next. However, there are occasions when it is necessary to feed bushes on the ground level.
- It can also be found in the surrounding woodland sections on the Kadavur hills' eastern, southern, and western slopes.
- During the day, it sleeps in the foliage or in a hole or crevice. It emerges at dusk in the hunt for prey.
- They eat insects, lizards, tiny birds, tree frogs, fragile leaves, and buds in addition to lantana

fruit.

- They are normally seen alone, however they can also be found in couples.

Conservation

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature has classified the slender loris as "endangered."
- It has been placed on Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, to ensure the greatest level of legal protection.

Threats

- These animals are trapped and sold because it is thought that they have medicinal powers.
- These animals are illegally transported since there is such a high demand for them as pets.

Melting of the Greenland's Snow Cover

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Greenland

Mains level : Not Much



Recently the summit of Greenland received rain and not snow. This has sparked fear as scientists are pointing to it as evidence that Greenland is warming rapidly.

About Greenland

- Greenland is the world's largest island, lying east of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago, between the Arctic and Atlantic oceans.
- It is a self-governing region inside the Kingdom of Denmark.
- Despite being geographically part of North America, Greenland has long been connected with Europe politically and culturally (specifically Norway and Denmark, the colonial powers).
- The Inuit, whose ancestors moved from Alaska through Northern Canada and gradually settled across the island by the 13th century, make up the bulk of the population.
- It has a permanent ice sheet covering three-quarters of its surface, which is increasingly threatened by climate change.

Rain at Greenland: The rarest phenomenon

- The US maintains a Summit Station, a research station that observes changes occurring over the island as well as in Arctic weather, near the highest point on Greenland's ice sheet.
- Rain was detected at the normally icy peak, with the precipitation stretching all the way to Greenland's southeast coast, according to researchers.
- The rain, combined with the warm weather, resulted in a massive melting event at the peak.
- This resulted in large amounts of ice melting and flowing into the ocean, hastening global sea-level rise.

A cause of worry

- Greenland, which is two-thirds the size of India, has already experienced one of the worst melting catastrophes in its history.
- It has lost 8.5 billion tonnes of surface mass in a single day, the third time this has happened in the last decade.
- In the last 20 years, the use of fossil fuels has caused Greenland to melt, according to the UN's "code red" climate study released last week.
- Polar bears are also threatened by the rapid melting, as they must now travel hundreds of kilometres from the beaches to the interior of Greenland, where they usually find ample food.

Places in news: Corbett Tiger Reserve

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Jim Corbett NP, NTCA

Mains level : Tiger Conservation



The Delhi High Court has asked the National Tiger

Conservation Authority (NTCA) to consider as a representation a petition to stop the alleged illegal construction of bridges and walls within the tiger breeding habitat of the Corbett Tiger Reserve.

Jim Corbett National Park

- The oldest national park in India, Jim Corbett National Park, was founded in 1936 as Hailey National Park to conserve the endangered Bengal tiger.
- It was named after hunter and naturalist Jim Corbett and is located in Uttarakhand's Nainital and Pauri Garhwal districts.
- The park was the first to be included in Project Tiger's efforts.
- It features geological and ecological traits similar to the Himalayan belt.
- Sal, haldu, peepal, rohini, and mango trees dominate the dense damp deciduous forest.
- Nearly 73 percent of the park is covered in forest, with grasslands accounting for the remaining 10%.

Q. Among the following Tiger Reserves, which one has the largest area under "Critical Tiger Habitat" ? (CSP 2020)

(a) Corbett

(b) Ranthambore

(c) Nagarjunasagar- Srisailem

(d) Sunderbans

National Tiger Conservation Authority

- The NTCA was founded in December 2005, following a suggestion from the Prime Minister of India's Tiger Task Force.
- In 2006, the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 was revised to make the National Tiger Conservation

Authority (NTCA) accountable for carrying out the Project Tiger strategy to safeguard endangered tigers.

- It is dedicated to the reorganisation of Project Tiger and India's several Tiger Reserves.
- The Government of India, in collaboration with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), launched the 'Tiger Protection Program' (also known as Project Tiger) in 1973.

SUJALAM Campaign

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : SUJALAM Campaign

Mains level : Not Much

The Ministry of Jal Shakti began 'SUJALAM', a '100 days campaign' to create more and more ODF Plus villages by undertaking wastewater management at the village level.

SUJALAM Campaign

The key activities that will be organized in the villages under this campaign include:

- Community dialogues, Khuli Baithaks, and Gram Sabha meetings are being organised to assess the current situation.
- Pass a resolution to ensure ODF's long-term viability and the installation of the required number of soak pits to handle greywater.
- Create a 100-day schedule for actions linked to sustainability and soak pit development.
- Build the required number of soak pits.
- IEC and community mobilisation were used to retrofit toilets where they were needed.
- Ascertain that all newly established households in the village have access to toilet facilities.

Objectives of the campaign

- The campaign's efforts would be focused on securing ODF plus status for communities across the country in a timely and efficient manner.
- The campaign will not only provide the necessary infrastructure for the management of greywater in villages, but it will also assist in the long-term management of water bodies.
- One of the primary issues is the dumping of wastewater and the blockage of water bodies in communities or on the fringes of villages.

Pantanal Wetlands

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Pantanal Wetlands

Mains level : Not Much



Pantanal, the world's largest tropical wetlands is facing a severe crisis due to wildfires and climate change.

Pantanal Wetlands

- The Pantanal is a natural environment in Brazil that includes the world's largest tropical marsh and flooded grasslands.
- It is predominantly found in Brazil, although it also extends to parts of Bolivia and Paraguay.

- It covers a land area of between 140,000 and 195,000 square kilometres.
- Roughly 80% of the Pantanal floodplains are submerged during the rainy seasons, nurturing a biologically diverse collection of aquatic plants and helping to support a dense array of animal species.

Risks faced

- Unlike the Amazon rainforest, the Pantanal's vegetation has evolved to live beside fire; many plant species in the Pantanal rely on the heat of fires to sprout.
- Natural flames erupt at the conclusion of the dry season, sometimes as a result of lightning strikes, but they are prevented from spreading by the adjacent floodplains.

Hurricane Ida makes landfall in US

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Hurricane (Tropical Cyclones)

Mains level : Impact of frequent cyclonic landfalls

Hurricane Ida has made landfall in Louisiana, US as an extremely dangerous Category 4 storm.

What is a Hurricane?

- In the Atlantic Ocean and the northeastern Pacific Ocean, a hurricane is a tropical storm.
- In the northwestern Pacific Ocean, a typhoon occurs; similar storms in the south Pacific or Indian Ocean are referred to simply as "tropical cyclones" or "strong cyclonic storms."

What are Tropical Cyclones?

A Tropical cyclone is an intense circular storm that originates over warm tropical oceans and is characterized by low atmospheric pressure, high winds,

and heavy rain.

- Over slightly warm ocean waters, cyclones form. To encourage the formation of a cyclone, the temperature of the top layer of the sea, up to a depth of about 60 metres, must be at least 28°C.
- This explains why cyclones thrive in the months of April-May and October-December.
- The low level of air above the seas must therefore rotate in a 'anticlockwise' direction (in the northern hemisphere; clockwise in the southern hemisphere).
- During these times, an ITCZ exists in the Bay of Bengal, with winds blowing from west to east on the southern boundary and east to west on the northern boundary.

Q.Consider the following statements:

1. *Jet Streams occur in the Northern Hemisphere only.*
2. *Only some cyclones develop an eye.*
3. *The temperature inside the eye of a cyclone is nearly 10 degree Celsius lesser than that of the surroundings.*

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 2 only

(d) 1 and 3 only

Destruction caused

- **Strong Winds:** High-speed winds are known to cause serious damage to infrastructure during cyclones.
- **Torrential rains and inland flooding:** Torrential rain (more than 30 cm/hour) caused by cyclones is another important source of devastation. Unprecedented floods result from unrelenting rain.
- **Storm Surge:** A storm surge is a sudden rise in sea level along the shore generated by a powerful tropical cyclone.

Some (unexpected) benefits

Although Tropical cyclones are known for the destruction they cause, when they strike they also bestow certain benefits to the climatic conditions of that area such as

- Relieve drought conditions
- Carry heat and energy away from the tropics and transport it towards temperate latitudes
- Maintain a relatively stable and warm temperature worldw

Governance

Government e-Marketplace (GeM) System

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Government e-Marketplace

Mains level : Not Much

The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) system has resulted in a 10% savings in public procurement costs in five years.

Government e-Marketplace

- GeM is an online platform used by numerous government departments, organisations, and public sector undertakings in India to acquire goods and services.

- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced the project on August 9, 2016, with the goal of creating an open and transparent procurement platform for government buyers.
- GeM SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle), a 100% government-owned, non-profit company under the Ministry of Commerce and Industries, owns it.
- GeM intends to improve public procurement transparency, efficiency, and speed.
- It offers technologies like as e-bidding, reverse e-auction, and demand aggregation to help government users get the most bang for their buck.
- The Ministry of Finance has allowed and mandated that government users purchase through GeM.

Advantages for Buyers

- Provides a comprehensive inventory of products for specific categories of goods and services.
- Provides the ability to search, compare, choose, and buy.
- Allows you to buy goods and services online as and when you need them.

- Transparency and ease of purchase are provided.
- Ensures that the vendor rating system is up to date.
- A user-friendly dashboard for purchasing, tracking supplies, and making payments that is always up to date.

Advantages for Sellers

- All government departments are accessible directly.
- With minimal effort, a one-stop shop for marketing
- Bids / reverse auction on products / services in one place
- Sellers have access to a new product suggestion feature.
- Pricing that changes over time: Price is subject to fluctuate depending on market conditions.
- Seller-friendly dashboard for selling and inventory and payment tracking
- Purchase methods that are consistent and uniform

History

Dara Shikoh (1615-1659)

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Dara Shikoh and his legacy

Mains level : Secular polity in Medieval India

The final resting place of Mughal prince Dara Shikoh remains a mystery, with the Archaeological Survey of India saying it has not located the grave within the Humayun's Tomb complex.

Dara Shikoh

- After losing the fight of succession, Dara Shikoh, the son and expected heir of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan, was assassinated on the orders of his brother Aurangzeb in 1659.
- He was the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan's eldest son and heir-apparent.
- Dara was given the title Padshahzada-i-Buzurg Martaba (Prince of High Rank), and his father and older sister, Princess Jahanara Begum, regarded him as a successor.
- Dara was beaten by his younger brother Prince Muhiuddin in the succession struggle that erupted after Shah Jahan's sickness in 1657.

(Aurangzeb).

- In a fierce struggle for the imperial crown, he was executed on Aurangzeb's orders in 1659.



His legacy

- In contrast to the orthodox Aurangzeb, Dara was a liberal-minded unorthodox Muslim.
- He wrote The Confluence of the Two Seas, which argues for the compatibility of Sufi and Vedanta philosophy in Islam and Hinduism.
- Dara Shikoh was the one who had the Upanishads translated and made available to the Western world.
- Yoga Vasistha had been commissioned as a translation.

- He was a strong supporter of the arts and was more interested in philosophy and mysticism than in military pursuits.
- Historians speculate about what might have happened to the Indian subcontinent if Dara Shikoh had won the battle against Aurangzeb.

Q. Who among the following Mughal Emperors shifted emphasis from illustrated manuscripts to album and individual portrait?

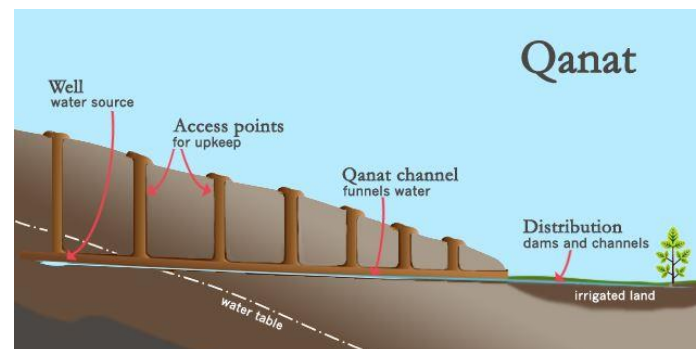
- (a) Humayun
- (b) Akbar
- (c) Jahangir
- (d) Shah Jahan

Karez System of Irrigation

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Karez/ Qanat

Mains level : Not Much



The Taliban are set to seize Kabul, but some expert believes they will spare the age-old Karez system of underground aqueducts in the country given its importance.

What is a Qanat / Karez?

- This is a system of underground vertical shafts developed from an upland aquifer to ground

level in a gently sloping tube.

- The initial developers, according to certain historians and archaeologists, were from the southeast Arabian Peninsula. Others, on the other hand, credit it to the Persians of old.
- The Qanat / Karez system quickly expanded across various Persian, Arab, and Turkic lands, regardless of where it was developed.
- During the 800-year-old Islamic Period, it even reached the Indian Subcontinent.

Karez in India

- During the Bahamani Sultanate, created by Alaudin Bahman Shah, the system was brought to the Indian Subcontinent.
- Bijapur, Golconda, Ahmadnagar, Bidar, and Berar were the five Sultanates that later split apart.
- The Bahamani Sultanate was Persian in character and supported numerous Persian traditions, like the Karez, among them.
- During the reign of Bahamani Sultan Ahmad Shah Wali (1422-1436), who moved the capital from Gulbarga to Bidar, they were constructed in the city of Bidar.
- Bijapur had a pipeline system in place by the 15th century. Water was available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for everyone.
- Since the Karez was created, it has also served as a means of establishing trust between the Sultan and his subjects.

With reference to the economic history of medieval India, the term Araghatta’ refers to:

(CSP 2016)

(a) bonded labour

(b) land grants made to military officers

(c) waterwheel used in the irrigation of land

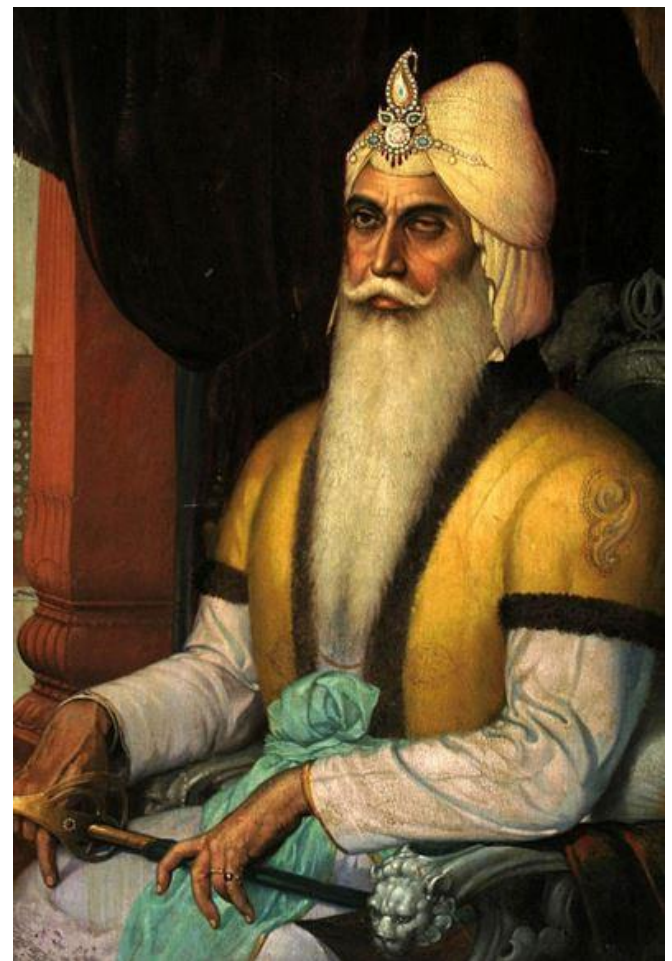
(d) wastel and converted to cultivated land

Maharaja Ranjit Singh

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Maharaja Ranjit Singh

Mains level : Not Much



A bronze statue of the first ruler of the Sikh Empire, Maharaja Ranjit Singh, was vandalized in Pakistan.

Who was Maharaja Ranjit Singh?

- The first Maharaja of the Sikh Empire was Maharaja Ranjit Singh (13 November 1780 – 27 June 1839), also known as Sher-e-Punjab or

"Lion of Punjab."

- He escaped smallpox as a child, but his left eye was blinded.
- The Punjab region had numerous warring misls (confederacies) prior to his ascension, twelve of which were ruled by Sikhs and one by a Muslim.
- To form the Sikh Empire, Ranjit Singh successfully absorbed and merged the Sikh misls, as well as other local kingdoms.
- He fought attacks by foreign forces on several occasions, particularly those from Afghanistan, and built close relations with the British.

Empirical expansion

- The trans-regional empire of Ranjit Singh spanned multiple states. He ruled over the old Mughal provinces of Lahore and Multan, as well as a portion of Kabul and all of Peshawar.
- In the northeast, his state's borders reached Ladakh, which had been won in Ranjit Singh's name by Zorawar Singh, a commander from Jammu.
- His dominion stretched from the Khyber Pass in the northwest to Panjnad in the south, where the Punjab's five rivers joined the Indus.
- Punjab was a land of six rivers during his reign, the sixth of which was the Indus.

His legacy

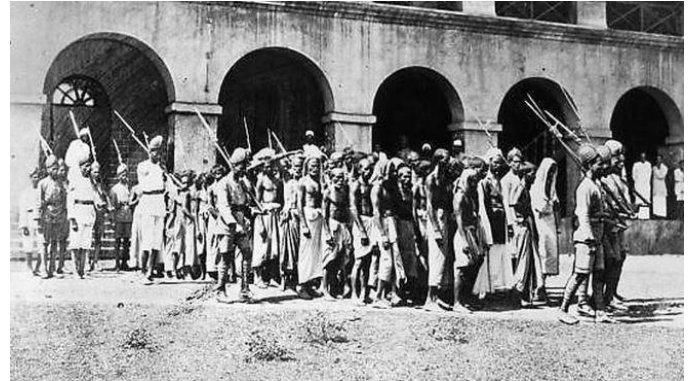
- Reforms, modernisation, infrastructure investment, and general prosperity were all part of Ranjit Singh's rule.
- Sikhs, Hindus, Muslims, and Europeans made up his Khalsa army and government.
- His legacy includes the rebuilding of the Harmandir Sahib in Amritsar, Takht Sri Patna Sahib in Bihar, and Hazur Sahib Nanded in Maharashtra under his sponsorship.

Malabar Rebellion of 1921

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Moplah Revolt

Mains level : Various tribal uprisings in India



This August 20, marked the centenary of the Malabar rebellion, which is also known as the Moplah riots.

Q. With reference to the history of India, "Ulgulan" or the Great Tumult is the description of which of the following event?

- (a) The Revolt of 1857
- (b) The Mappila Rebellion of 1921
- (c) The Indigo Revolt of 1859-60
- (d) Birsa Munda's Revolt of 1899-1900

Malabar Rebellion

- In 1921, the Malabar Rebellion began as a protest against British colonial control and the feudal system in southern Malabar, but it ended in sectarian violence between Hindus and Muslims.
- Throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, there were a series of battles between Mappila peasantry and their landowners, who were backed by the British.

- It originated as a response to the British authorities' harsh treatment of the Khilafat Movement, a campaign in Malabar's Eranad and Valluvanad taluks to defend the Ottoman Caliphate.
- Police stations, British government buildings, courts, and government treasuries were all attacked and taken over by the Mappilas.

Who was Variyankunna Kunjahammed Haji?

- He was one among the Malabar Rebellion's commanders in 1921.
- He raised 75,000 indigenous, wrested control of vast swaths of land from British rule, and established a parallel government.
- The British deceived Haji through his close friend Unyan Musaliyar in January 1922, arresting him from his hiding and bringing him before a British judge under the pretence of a treaty.
- Along with his fellow countrymen, he was sentenced to death.

PM inaugurates Jallianwala Bagh Memorial

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

Mains level : Not Much

Prime Minister has virtually inaugurated the renovated Jallianwala Bagh complex in Amritsar.

What led to Jallianwala Bagh Massacre?

Protesting the contentious Rowlatt Act

- In 1919, the Imperial Legislative Council passed the Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act, which was officially known as the Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act, 1919.

- It had given the British government the authority to detain anyone suspected of terrorist activity.
- It also gave the government the authority to hold such people for up to two years without charge or trial.
- It gave authorities the authority to search a location without a warrant. It also imposed severe restrictions on the press's freedom.
- The colonial government's major goal was to suppress the country's developing nationalist movement.
- A Ghadarite revolt in Punjab and the rest of the country was also a concern for the British.

The day

- The massacre took place on 13 April 1919 when troops of the British Indian Army under the command of Col. Reginald Dyer fired rifles into a crowd of Indians.
- The civilians had assembled for a peaceful protest to condemn the arrest and deportation of two national leaders, Satya Pal and Saifuddin Kitchlew.
- Dyer without warning ordered his troops to fire at the unarmed crowd which included children as well.
- The indiscriminate firing went on for about 10 minutes which resulted in the deaths of at least 1000 people and injured more than 1500 people.

Aftermath

- Rabindranath Tagore renounced his knighthood in protest of the tragedy.
- Gandhiji renounced the title of "Kaiser-e-hind," which the British had bestowed on him for his efforts during the Boer War in South Africa.
- Udham Singh assassinated Michael O'Dwyer,

the then Lieutenant-Governor of Punjab, who had approved Dyer's conduct, in London in 1940 in retaliation for the massacre.

- The gallant response to Dyer's horrible crime set a new standard for imperial arrogance.

Hunter Commission for enquiry

- Edwin Montagu, the Secretary of State for India, ordered the creation of a commission to

investigate the occurrences in Punjab in October 1919.

- It was originally known as the Disorders Inquiry Committee, but was later renamed the Hunter Commission (Not to be confused with Hunter Education Commission).
- In India, there are still long-standing requests that Britain apologise for the killing.

International Relations

Panjshir Valley

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Panjshir Valley

Mains level : Not Much



The Taliban has sent hundreds of its fighters to the Panjshir Valley, one of the few parts of Afghanistan not yet controlled by the group.

Panjshir Valley

- The Valley is located 150 kilometres north of

Kabul, near the Hindu Kush Mountain range.

- The Panjshir river divides it, and the Panjshir mountains in the north and the Kuhestan mountains in the south surround it.
- Throughout the year, the mountain summits are covered in snow.
- For attackers, the Valley's rugged topography is a nightmare.

Why is it significant?

- Because to its geographical isolation from the rest of the country, the Valley has played a crucial part in Afghanistan's military history on numerous occasions.
- The Panjshir River creates a small corridor that may be readily defended militarily as the region's single access point.
- The territory hidden into the Hindu Kush mountains, famed for its natural fortifications, was never taken by the Taliban during the civil war of the 1990s, nor by the Soviets a decade before.
- During the NATO-backed government's tenure from 2001 to 2021, the Panjshir Valley was one of the safest areas in the country.
- The valley is also famed for its emeralds, which

were once used to fund anti-authoritarian resistance groups.

Answer this PYQ:

Consider the following pairs

Towns: Country in news

1. Aleppo: Syria
2. Kirkuk: Yemen
3. Mosul: Palestine

4. Mazar-i-sharif: Afghanistan

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched? (CSP 2018)

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 1 and 4
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) 3 and 4

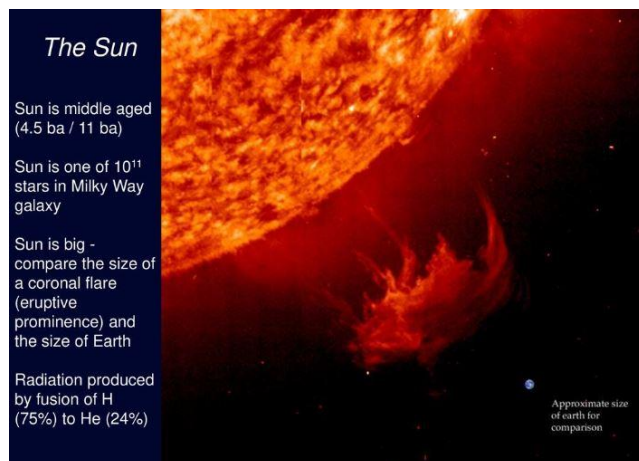
Science Tech Art & Culture

Stellar Mid-life Crisis: What ails the middle-aged Sun?

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Stellar Middle Age

Mains level : Not Much



Stars like our Sun can go through a mid-life crisis, according to new research carried out by scientists from IISER Kolkata.

Stellar Middle Age

- The sun is middle-aged at about 4.6 billion years old, which means it will survive for roughly the same amount of time.
- There are precise methods for determining the Sun's age, such as radioactive dating of very old meteorites that have fallen to Earth.
- Such procedures, on the other hand, are not conceivable for more distant stars that are similar in mass and age to the Sun.
- Gyrochronology is one of the techniques employed.
- There is a link between rotation rate and age, which means that a star's rotation rate lowers as it becomes older.

How does it occur?

- When stellar wind exits from a star, it carries away a portion of the star's angular momentum, causing the star to slow down.
- The stellar wind is driven by two factors. The first is the high temperature of the outer atmosphere of stars, known as the corona, which causes outward expansion and, as a result, plasma winds to be emitted.

- The magnetic field is the other.
- Because the magnetic field heats the corona, winds are stronger when magnetic activity is high, and wind carries away the star's internal (rotational) angular momentum, slowing its rotation.
- Magnetic braking is the term for this.
- This mechanism causes the star's revolution to slow down as it ages, and this relationship is utilised in gyrochronology to estimate the star's age.

Impact

- This can cause significant fluctuations in their activity and rotation rates.
- The research also explains why the long-established relationship between rotation rate and age in middle-aged sunlike stars has broken down.
- The gyrochronology link, however, breaks down around midlife, because a star's rate of spin does not drop down as quickly with age as it did earlier.
- Another fascinating fact is that the Sun's activity level is substantially lower than that of other stars of comparable age.

NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : NASA-ISRO SAR

Mains level : Not Much

The NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar satellite, aimed at making global measurement of land surface changes using advanced radar imaging, is proposed to be launched in early 2023, informed Earth Sciences Minister.

Note the key features of the Mission. Every statement has a unique information.

NASA-ISRO SAR

- The NISAR project is a cooperative effort to develop a dual-frequency L and S-band SAR for terrestrial observation.
- On September 30, 2014, NASA and the ISRO, based in Bengaluru, announced a collaboration to develop and launch NISAR.
- The mission will take out from ISRO's Sriharikota spaceport in Andhra Pradesh's Nellore district, roughly 100 kilometres north of Chennai, in early 2022.
- It can create extraordinarily high-resolution photos for a NASA-led joint earth observation satellite programme.
- It will be the first satellite mission to assess changes in our planet's surface that are less than a centimetre wide using two different radar frequencies (L-band and S-band).

Objectives of the NISAR

- For a baseline three-year mission, NISAR will monitor Earth's land and ice-covered surfaces globally with 12-day regularity on ascending and descending passes, sampling Earth on average every six days.
- It will monitor Earth's changing ecosystems, dynamic surfaces, and ice masses, as well as provide data on biomass, natural hazards, sea-level rise, and groundwater, among other things.
- Natural risks such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, and landslides would also be recorded.

What are L and S Bands?

- Because L band waves can penetrate clouds, fog, rain, storms, and vegetation, they are

employed in GPS systems.

- Airport surveillance radar, weather radar, surface ship radar, and several communications satellites, including those used by NASA to connect with the Space Shuttle and the International Space Station, all use the S-band.
- To produce extraordinarily high-resolution images, NISAR employs a complex information-processing technique known as SAR.
- Because radar can see through clouds and darkness, NISAR can collect data at any time of day or night, in any weather.

mission.

- The mission's purpose is to make worldwide assessments of the causes and consequences of land surface changes using advanced radar imaging, and ISRO is providing the spacecraft bus, S-band radar, launch vehicle, and associated launch services.

Retractable Roof Polyhouse

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Retractable Roof Polyhouse

Mains level : Not Much



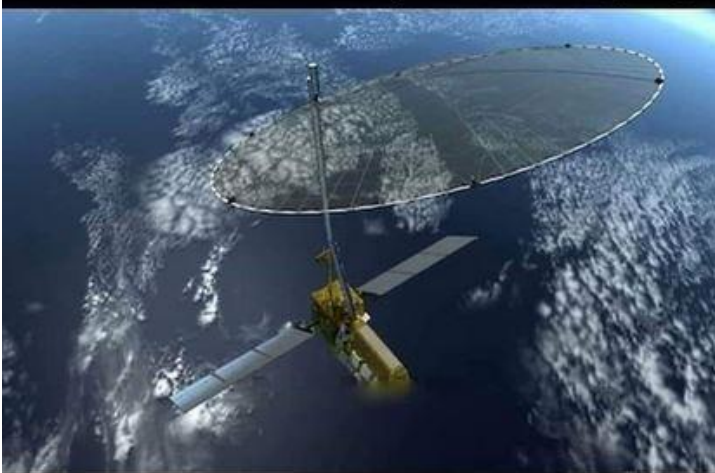
The CSIR-CMERI has recently inaugurated a “naturally ventilated polyhouse facility” and laid the foundation stone of “retractable roof polyhouse”.

What is a Polyhouse?

- A polyhouse is a specially built structure, similar to a building, that uses a particular polythene sheet as a covering material to allow crops to be grown in partially or entirely controlled climatic conditions.
- It is encased in a translucent material that allows natural light to pass through. Polyhouses can also assist reduce hazards to crops, such as excessive heat and pest infestations.

NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR)

NISAR will be world's most expensive satellite with estimated cost of US \$1.5 billion. It will also become world's first radar satellite to operate on dual frequency.



NISAR is joint project between NASA and ISRO to observe the earth in never before resolution! It will observe earth's most complex processes like volcanoes, earthquakes, ecosystem disturbance and various hazards. NISAR is expected to launch in December, 2021 from Satish Dhawan Space Center, India.

What is collaboration?

- The L-band SAR, a high-rate communication subsystem for science data, GPS receivers, a solid-state recorder, and payload data subsystem are all provided by NASA for the

- This is especially essential for crops that are grown in open fields with little protection from the elements, affecting yield, quality, and crop maturity dates.

Retractable Roof Polyhouse

- The retractable roof system for greenhouses is a modular screen system that saves money and time while also offering stability, flexibility, and longevity to the greenhouse construction.
- The automatic retractable roof on such a polyhouse will be controlled by software based on weather conditions and crop requirements from a conditional database.

Advantages offered

- Ability to take advantage of the advantages of natural weather conditions
- The system and materials utilised have a long life expectancy. They are also simple to assemble and install.
- Maximum insulation and total pesticide resistance
- During operation, upkeep is simple and repairs are more simpler.

Why need such polyhouse?

- Crops are increasingly experiencing both dangers — excessive heat and pest attacks — at the same time as temperatures are fast rising due to rising greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere as a result of human activity.
- Crop losses due to insect pests in India are currently at 15%, and this figure is expected to rise as climate change weakens the plant's defensive system against insects and pests.
- A permanent roof is used in traditional greenhouses to decrease the impact of weather and pests.
- However, there are some drawbacks to roof

coverings, which might result in excessive heat and lack of light (early morning).

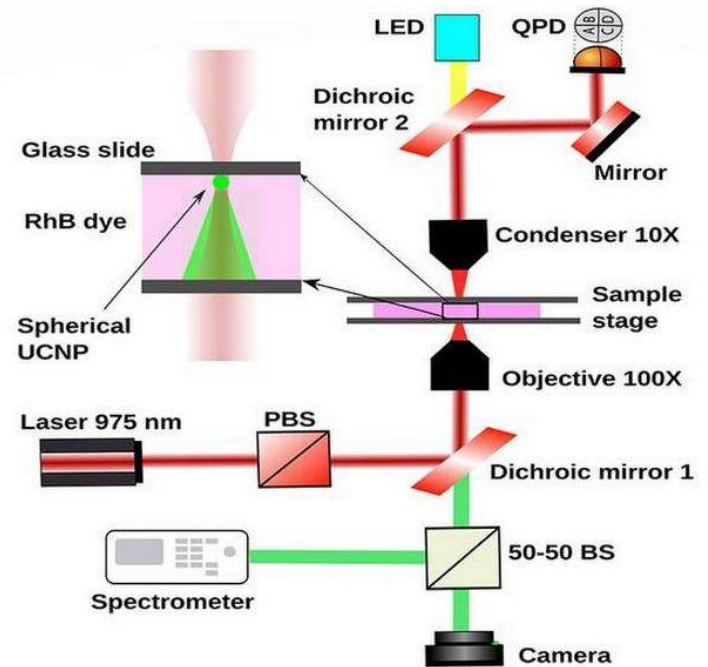
- They are also vulnerable to low levels of carbon dioxide, inadequate transpiration, and water stress.

Absorption Spectroscopy

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Absorption Spectroscopy

Mains level : Not Much



Researchers from IIT Madras and IISER Kolkata have developed a method to detect minute quantities of chemicals in solution using Absorption Spectroscopy.

Note: These days there has been a rise in questions from biology (rather cell biology in particular).

Absorption Spectroscopy

- Absorption spectroscopy is a technique for detecting components in a medium.
- The sample is illuminated with light, which is

then studied with a spectroscope after it passes through.

- Dark lines can be visible in the spectrum of light passing through the substance, which correspond to the wavelengths of light absorbed by the intervening substance and are indicative of the components present.
- This experiment requires around a cubic centimetre of sample in standard procedures.
- Minimal amounts of dissolved chemicals can be easily detected using the method outlined here.
- When light scatters off any object, its wavelike nature causes diffraction patterns, or dark and bright fringes. This is the mechanism employed in absorption spectroscopy.

Studying small objects

- The Abbe criterion, a related notion, establishes a natural limit on the size of the thing being researched.
- The size of the observed item must be on the order of the wavelength of the light being shone on it, according to this requirement.
- The wavelengths [of these colours] are roughly 400 nm, 500 nm, and 600 nm, respectively, for absorption spectroscopy employing visible light, namely blue, green, and red.

What has Indian researchers achieved?

- The researchers used tiny, nano-sized particles that can absorb light and re-emit red, blue, and green light in their process.
- The particles produce electric fields that are similar to the magnetic lines of force produced by a tiny magnet - this is known as a dipole, and the particle is similar to a miniature mobile phone's antenna.
- The quantum characteristics of the erbium dopants in the glass cause this dipole to

generate an electromagnetic field.

- The absorption causes a gap in the reflected light, which can be seen and utilised to determine the absorbing material's nature.

Applications of this technology

- There are numerous applications that could be used.
- Small molecules with a diameter of less than ten millionth of a mm can be identified as they pass through the glass particle's emission zone.
- Individual molecules will be measured in the future, and absorption spectroscopy of a single DNA or protein molecule will be possible.

Q. Which of the following statements are correct regarding the general difference between plant and animal cells?

1. *Plant cells have cellulose cell walls whilst animal cells do not.*
2. *Plant cells do not have plasma membranes unlike animal cells which do.*
3. *Mature plant cell has one large vacuole whilst an animal cell has many small vacuoles.*

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

CHAPEA Mission by NASA

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : CHAPEA Mission

Mains level : Not Much

NASA is seeking applications for its new mission called the Crew Health and Performance Exploration Analog (CHAPEA), which is related to Mars.

CHAPEA

- The expedition is scheduled to launch in 2022, and four selected applicants will get the opportunity to live and work in the Mars Dune Alpha, a 1,700 square-foot module built using a 3D printer.
- A kitchen, medical, recreation, exercise, work, crop growing, a technical work area, and two bathrooms are included in the replicated quarters.
- This habitat will mimic the experience of carrying out missions on Mars, including resource constraints, equipment malfunction, communication delays, and any other environmental stressors.
- The crew will be expected to execute simulated spacewalks, conduct scientific research, and communicate using virtual reality and robotic controls.

What is the purpose of this mission?

- The crew will be housed in a habitat that is as close to Mars as possible.
- The outcomes of this analogue mission will give scientific data that will aid in the validation of technology that will be used for actual Mars missions as well as the addressing of difficulties in spaceflight research.
- There are other analogue missions than CHAPEA, such as Aquarius/NEEMO, Concordia, Desert RATS, and HESTIA.
- Because resources and money are limited, not all experiments can be carried out in space. This necessitates analogue missions.

Nuclear Fusion and the recent breakthrough

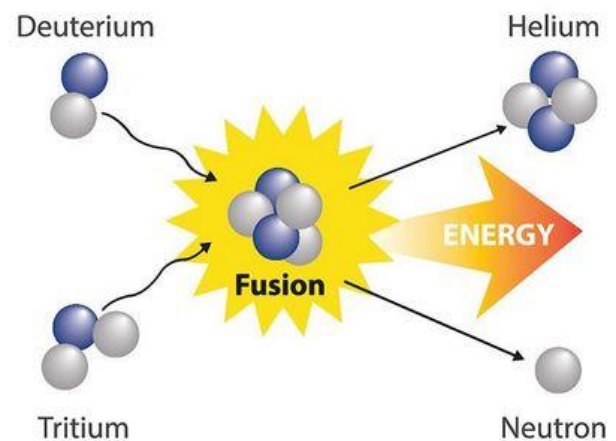
From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Nuclear Fusion Reaction

Mains level : Cleaner energy resources

California based researchers have announced that their experiment has made a breakthrough in nuclear fusion research.

What exactly is Nuclear Fusion?



- Nuclear fusion is defined as the fusion of multiple tiny nuclei into a single giant nucleus, releasing massive quantities of energy in the process.
- The release or absorption of energy is caused by the mass differential between the reactants and products.
- Our sun is powered by nuclear fusion, and harnessing this energy might provide an endless supply of renewable energy.
- The process of four hydrogens combining to generate helium is an example of nuclear fusion.

What was the experiment?

- Lasers were utilised to heat a small target or fuel pellets in the experiment.
- These deuterium and tritium pellets fused and produced more energy.
- The team was able to generate more than 1.3 megajoules of heat energy, according to the researchers.
- In terms of fusion, the megajoule of energy released in the experiment is quite impressive.

How was the new breakthrough achieved?

- New diagnostics were employed, laser precision was enhanced, and the design was altered.
- They used laser radiation to heat and pressurise fuel pellets to create conditions comparable to those found at the Sun's core. The fusion reactions were induced as a result of this.
- These processes produced positively charged particles known as alpha particles, which heated the plasma around them.
- At very high temperatures, electrons are ripped from the nuclei of atoms, resulting in a plasma or ionised state of matter. The fourth state of matter is also known as plasma.
- The heated plasma also ejected alpha particles, resulting in a self-sustaining reaction known as ignition.

Future prospects: Benefits

- Fusion has the potential to meet humanity's energy demands for millions of years.
- Fusion fuel is abundant and simple to obtain: deuterium can be harvested cheaply from seawater, while tritium can be made from readily available lithium.
- Future fusion reactors will not produce high-activity, long-lasting nuclear waste, and fusion reactor meltdown is very inconceivable.

- Nuclear fusion, unlike nuclear fission, does not generate carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, and hence potentially play a role in future climate change mitigation as a low carbon energy source alongside nuclear fission.

Colourful molecules of turmeric

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Turmeric

Mains level : NA

Researchers have come forward with some interesting findings on Turmeric.

Turmeric

- Curcumin, a polyphenol diketone, makes up around 3% of the active component molecule in turmeric (and not a steroid).
- Researchers point out that turmeric contains another molecule called piperine, an alkaloid that is responsible for the pungency of pepper, which we use every day in our cookery.
- Piperine aids in the absorption of curcumin in the body. Turmeric's multifaceted therapeutic and protecting properties are due to it.

Benefits of turmeric consumption

- Turmeric has been utilised as a vital element of our everyday meal - what the colonials called curry powder – for over 4,000 years across the Indian subcontinent, West Asia, Burma, Indonesia, and China.
- It has also long been used as a medicine, with antibacterial, antioxidant, and anti-inflammatory qualities.
- Turmeric has been utilised by herbal medicine professionals to treat the painful symptoms of

arthritis, joint stiffness, and joint pain.

- Turmeric is also said to aid in the recovery of acute renal damage. Controlled trials are needed to verify some of these claims.

Against COVID-19

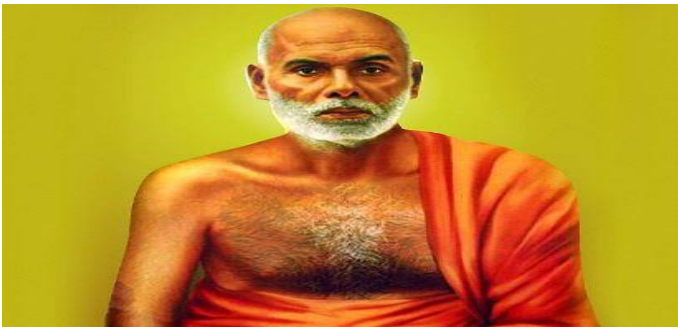
- Most recently, a group in Mumbai published an intriguing study showing that turmeric aids in the treatment of COVID-19 patients.
- Turmeric was found to significantly lower morbidity and mortality in a trial of roughly 40 COVID-19 patients, according to the researchers.

Sree Narayana Guru

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Sree Narayana Guru

Mains level : SNDP Movement



The Prime Minister has paid tributes to Sree Narayana Guru on his Jayanti.

Sree Narayana Guru (1856-1928)

- Narayana Guru was a philosopher, spiritual leader and social reformer in India.
- He led a reform movement against the injustice in the caste-ridden society of Kerala in order to promote spiritual enlightenment and social equality.

His legacy:

Temple Entry

- He was in the vanguard of the struggle for universal temple admission and against societal problems such as untouchable social prejudice.
- He popularised the phrase "One Caste, One Religion, One God for All."
- In 1888, he built a temple in Aruvippuram devoted to Lord Shiva, defying the caste-based norms of the time.
- He used mirrors instead of idols in one of the temples he built in Kalavancode. This was a symbol for his teaching that the divine dwelled within everyone of us.

Untouchability

- The Vaikom Satyagraha (1924-25) was a social protest by Travancore's lower castes against untouchability in Hindu culture.
- He preached equality, but he believed that inequalities should not be exploited to carry out conversions and therefore cause social turmoil.

Philosophy

- Sree Narayana Guru became one of the greatest proponents and re-evaluators of Advaita Vedanta, the principle of non-duality put forward by Adi Shankara.

Q. Which one of the following pairs does not form part of the six systems of Indian Philosophy?

(a) Mimamsa and Vedanta

(b) Nyaya and Vaisheshika

(c) Lokayata and Kapalika

(d) Sankhya and Yoga

Saroop of the Sikh Holy Book

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Sri Guru Granth Sahib

Mains level : Not Much

A union minister has received one of the Saroops of the holy Guru Granth Sahib flown in from Afghanistan.

What is Saroop?

- Saroop, also known as Bir in Punjabi, is a tangible replica of Sri Guru Granth Sahib.
- There are 1,430 pages in each Bir, which are known to as Ang. Every page contains the same verses.
- The Saroop of Guru Granth Sahib is regarded as a living guru by Sikhs, who treat it with reverence.
- They believe that the Guru Granth Sahib is their eternal physical and spiritual form, and that all ten Gurus were the same spirit in different bodies.

Compilation of Sri Guru Granth Sahib

- Guru Arjan Dev, the fifth Sikh teacher, composed the first Bir of the Guru Granth Sahib in 1604, and put it at Amritsar's Golden Temple.
- Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh teacher, later added verses written by his father, Guru Tegh Bahadur, and assembled the Bir for the second and last time.
- Guru Gobind Singh declared the Guru Granth Sahib to be the living Guru of the Sikhs in 1708.
- Six Sikh gurus, 15 saints, including Bhagat Kabir, Bhagat Ravidas, Sheikh Farid, and Bhagat Namdev, 11 Bhattas (balladeers), and four Sikhs wrote hymns for Guru Granth Sahib.

- The verses are written in 31 different ragas.

What does the act of carrying the saroop on one's head signify?

- A rigorous rule of conduct known as rehat maryada governs the installation and transit of Guru Granth Sahib.
- The Guru Granth Sahib's Bir is worn on the head as a sign of reverence, and the person goes barefoot.
- A pious woman removes her shoes and bows whenever she sees the Bir of Guru Granth Sahib passing by.
- On the move or while reading from the Guru Granth Sahib, a ceremonial whisk is waved high over it.
- The Guru sleeps at night in a separate resting spot for the Saroop called the 'Sukh Asan Sthan' or 'Sachkhand' in Gurdwaras.
- This occurs when the sacred book is ceremoniously closed and rested at the end of the day. The saroop is reinstalled in the morning in a ceremony known as 'prakash.'
- Many visitors come to see the Guru Granth Sahib's prakash and sukha asan ritual at the Golden Temple.

Where are copies of the Guru Granth Sahib published?

- Punjabis, both Sikhs and Hindus, had a custom of copying the Guru Granth Sahib by hand and producing many copies.
- Until the British introduced the printing press, the Udasi and Nirmla groups were also involved in manufacturing handwritten copies of the Birs.
- The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) now has sole authority to publish the Guru Granth Sahib's Birs, which is done in Amritsar.

BCG vaccine: 100 years and counting

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : BCG, TB and other respiratory diseases

Mains level : Not Much

The first use of BCG (Bacillus Calmette-Guerin), the vaccine against tuberculosis (TB) in humans has been completed for 100 years.

What is TB?

- Tuberculosis is a very old disease that has been documented as far back as 3000 BC in Egypt.
- It is caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis, a bacterium that belongs to the Mycobacteriaceae family, which has roughly 200 members.
- Some of them cause human diseases such as tuberculosis and leprosy.

Yet not eliminated

- Other historically feared diseases, such as smallpox, leprosy, plague, and cholera, have been mostly eradicated or controlled thanks to scientific and technological advancements.
- TB, on the other hand, continues to be a major global public health issue.

BCG Vaccine for TB

- BCG was created by two Frenchmen, Albert Calmette and Camille Guerin, who modified a strain of Mycobacterium bovis (the bacteria that causes tuberculosis in cattle) until it lost its ability to cause disease while still stimulating the immune system.
- In 1921, it was utilised for the first time in humans.
- BCG is now the only authorised vaccine for

tuberculosis prevention.

- It is the most extensively used vaccination in the world, with around 120 million doses administered each year, and it has a good safety record.

BCG in India

- BCG was first used on a small basis in India in 1948, and it became part of the National Tuberculosis Control Program in 1962.
- By 2025, India intends to eradicate tuberculosis as a public health issue.

Effectiveness of BCG

- One fascinating feature about BCG is that it works well in certain places but not so well in others.
- In general, the higher the efficacy, the further a country is from the equator.
- BCG gives excellent protection against severe forms of tuberculosis in children.

What is the importance of using pneumococcal conjugate vaccines in India? (CSP 2020)

1. These vaccines are effective against pneumonia as well as meningitis and sepsis.
2. Dependence on antibiotics that are not effective against drug-resistant bacteria can be reduced.
3. These vaccines have no side effects and cause no allergic reactions

Select the correct answer using the given code below:

- (a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and

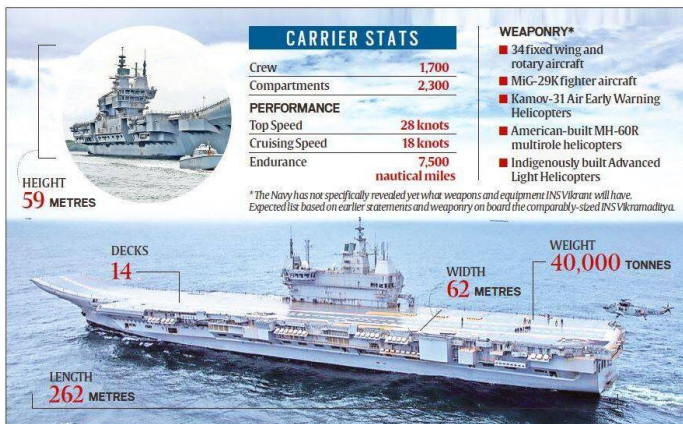
Security Issues

Indigenous Aircraft Carrier 1 (INS Vikrant)

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : INS Vikrant

Mains level : Indigenization of defense production



The much-awaited sea trials of India’s maiden indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC-1), built by the public sector Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL) have begun.

Indigenous Aircraft Carrier 1

- The Indian Aircraft Carrier (IAC) is the country's first aircraft carrier.
- It is being built at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), a public sector shipyard under the Ministry of Shipping, and was designed by the Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design (DND).
- The IAC-1 is the world's largest battleship, with a length of 263 metres and a width of 63 metres.
- It can transport 30 different aircraft, including combat planes and helicopters.
- It can reach a top speed of 30 knots thanks to four gas turbines (about 55 kmph).

- A complement of 1,500 people will be on board the ship.

Significance of IAC 1

- An aircraft carrier is one of a nation's most powerful naval assets, enhancing a Navy's capacity to conduct air dominance operations far from its home beaches.
- Many analysts believe that having an aircraft carrier is required to be called a "blue water" navy, or one that can reflect a country's strength and power beyond the oceans.
- A carrier strike/battle group's capital ship is usually an aircraft carrier.
- The carrier is frequently accompanied in the group by destroyers, missile cruisers, frigates, submarines, and supply ships because it is a valuable and sometimes vulnerable target.

Why does it matter that this is a Made-in-India warship?

- Only five or six countries now have the potential to build an aircraft carrier; India has now joined this exclusive club.
- The Navy claims that over 76 percent of the hardware and equipment on board IAC-1 is made in the United States.
- Previously, either the British or the Russians built India's aircraft carriers.
- The INS Vikramaditya, which was commissioned in 2013 as the Soviet-Russian Admiral Gorshkov, is the Navy's lone aircraft carrier.
- INS Vikrant and INS Viraat, the country's first two carriers, were formerly the British-built HMS Hercules and HMS Hermes, respectively, before being commissioned into the Navy in 1961 and 1987.

Why will this warship be named INS Vikrant?

- The name of India's much-loved first aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant, a Majestic-class 19,500-tonne warship, was a source of tremendous national pride throughout several decades of service before it was decommissioned in 1997.
- In 1961, India purchased the Vikrant from the United Kingdom, and the carrier went on to play a key part in the 1971 war with Pakistan, which resulted in the formation of Bangladesh.

Now that India has the capability, will it build more carriers?

- Since 2015, India's Navy has been pursuing authorisation to build a third aircraft carrier, which would be the country's second indigenous aircraft carrier if allowed (IAC-2).
- The projected carrier, INS Vishal, will be a massive 65,000-tonne vessel, significantly larger than IAC-1 and the INS Vikramaditya.
- The Navy has been seeking to persuade the government that having a third carrier is a "operational necessity."

Exercise Al-Mohed Al-Hindi

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Exercise Al-Mohed Al-Hindi

Mains level : NA

The maiden bilateral naval exercise between India and Saudi Arabia named 'AL-Mohed AL-Hindi' has got underway.

Ex Al-Mohed Al-Hindi 2021

- This is the first time India and Saudi Arabia have held a bilateral naval drill.
- It consists of a number of land and sea drills between the two navies..
- The Indian warship participating in the exercise is the INS Kochi.
- The drill comes amid rising tensions in the Persian Gulf following a drone attack on the tanker MV Mercer Street off the coast of Oman

Trivia**Person in news: Abanindranath Tagore**

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Abanindranath Tagore

Mains level : Not Much

Year-long celebrations marking 150 years of Abanindranath Tagore have been kicked off in Kolkata.

Abanindranath Tagore (1871-1951)

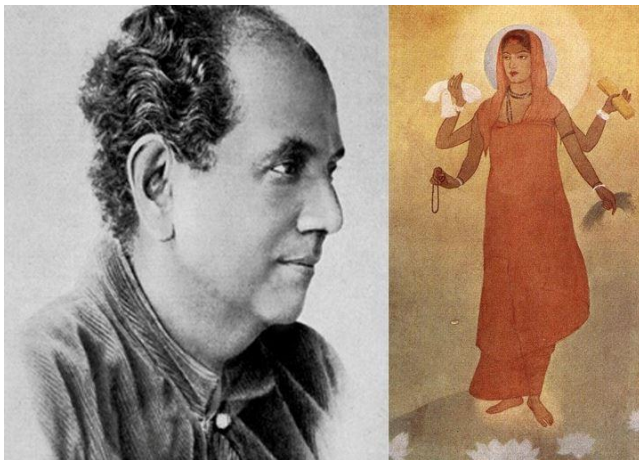
- The "Indian Society of Oriental Art" was

founded by Tagore CIE, who was also its major artist.

- He helped define modern Indian art and was the author of the classic 'Bharat Mata' picture. He was Rabindranath Tagore's nephew and a decade younger than the poet.
- He was also the first prominent proponent of Swadeshi principles in Indian art, resulting in the formation of the influential Bengal school of art, which paved the way for modern Indian painting.
- He was also a well-known author, especially for

children's books.

- Tagore aimed to modernise Mughal and Rajput styles in order to offset the impact of Western art models taught at British Raj art institutions.
- Tagore, along with other Bengal school artists, argued for a nationalistic Indian art based on Indian art history and drew influence from the Ajanta Caves.



Q. Which among the following event happened earliest? (CSP 2018)

- (a) Swami Dayanand established Arya Samaj.
- (b) Dinabandhu Mitra wrote Neeldarpan.
- (c) Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay wrote Anandmath.
- (d) Satyendranath Tagore became the first India to succeed in the Indian Civil Services Examination.

Making of the Modern City of Kolkata

From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Kolkata City

Mains level : Urban development of colonial period

A 2003 judgment by the Calcutta High Court generates discussion of the city's age, its date of founding, and Job Charnock, whom many credits for having "found" the

city of Calcutta.

Calcutta: Who founded the city?

Nobody.

- Due to the presence of the Kali temple in the nearby town of Kalighat, a site called Kalikatah was a significant religious centre at the time.
- Bipradas Pipilai's epic opus Manasa Mangala, written in 1495, is the first literary mention to the place.
- The location is also mentioned in Abul Fazl's Ain-I-Akbari, which was written in 1596.
- Emperor Jehangir bestowed the Jagirdari of Kalikatah on the Sabarna Roy Choudhury family in 1608.

Who was Job Charnock?

- Job Charnock (1630–1693) worked for the East India Company as an administrator.
- He was originally credited with being the city's founder (formerly Calcutta).
- This notion has been contested, and the Calcutta High Court ruled in 2003 that he should not be considered the founder.
- In 1659, Charnock was tasked with obtaining the Company's saltpetre and assigned to the heart of the trade, Patna, Bihar.

Beginning of Urbanization

- Other significant events in the city's history include the establishment of the Government House in 1767 and the Lottery Commission in 1817, both of which helped to shape the city's urban layout.
- This commission was solely in charge of laying out the city's roadways, streets, and lanes.
- Planned roadways, water supply, and transportation are all indicators of urban

settlements.

- Calcutta became the big city it is today thanks to the foundation of these institutions in the early nineteenth century.

Significance of Kolkata

One of the most significant developments that gave the city a semblance of urban formation occurred in 1756 when the Nawab of Bengal Siraj ud-Daulah lay siege to Calcutta.

- In revenge for the British East India Company's unauthorised development of the edifice that is now known as Fort William, this was done.
- After being beaten in a decisive battle, the East India Company realised the fort's weakness.

- The fort was rebuilt and fortified with additional security after 1757, and the construction was very skillfully done.
- The invasion on Fort William, a stronghold of the British and other Europeans who lived there, changed the map of Calcutta forever.
- The Europeans who used to live principally inside the fort—European merchants, bureaucrats, and so on—began to leave.
- They understood there was infrastructure in place to save them in the event of an assault. That was European Calcutta, or 'White Town,' as we call it.



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