

SHIKSHA BY SWATHIKA

An IAS Academy

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HINDU

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

NEWS AWARD FOR MERKEL

SEEKING FOOD FOR BOLIVIA

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AUGUST FULL MONTH CURRENT AFFAIRS 2021

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STATES

Silver coin at the Keeladi

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

Export of Raja Mircha

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

Pink Protection project

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

Devaranya scheme

- ✓ In order to promote AYUSH in Madhya Pradesh and to link it with employment, the government has made the 'Devaranya' scheme.
- ✓ The scheme has been made to provide employment to the people living in the tribal areas of the state.
- ✓ A complete value chain for the production of AYUSH medicines will be developed in the state through Devaranya Yojana.
- ✓ Self-help groups will also play an important role in this work.

Odisha plans DNA profiling for leopards

- ✓ Odisha's Forest and Environment Department has decided to do DNA profiling of the leopards in the state.
- ✓ The exercise will help ascertain and trace the origin in case of deaths of the leopards, after the skin and other organs from poachers and traders are seized.

- ✓ The system will strengthen the fight against wildlife crimes, especially poaching of leopards.

Bhubaneswar

- ✓ Odisha capital Bhubaneswar has become the first city in India to achieve 100% vaccination of its people against covid-19.
- ✓ Those vaccinated include about 9 lakh people 18 years of age and above. Puri in Odisha has also become the first city to supply 24/7 drinking water.

Tamil Nadu legislature turns 100

- ✓ The Assembly chambers at Fort St. George witnessed a historic event when President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the centenary celebrations of the State legislature.
- ✓ Mr. Kovind also unveiled the portrait of five-time Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi.
- ✓ This is the first time in four decades that a portrait of an eminent figure of the State is getting unveiled by the President.
- ✓ In August 1977, then President N. Sanjeeva Reddi had unveiled the portrait of former Chief Minister K. Kamaraj.

Krishikarna project

- ✓ The Mini polyhouse which is a kind of greenhouse will be built under the “Krishikarna” project.

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- ✓ It is launched in Kerala.
- ✓ It is a joint initiative of the National Society for Agricultural Horticulture, the Sustainability Foundation and Qore3 Innovations.

10.5% quota for Vanniyars

- ✓ Tamil Nadu government issued an order to implement the 10.5% internal reservation allocated for Vanniyar community.
- ✓ This reservation will be followed for government jobs and educational institutions from this academic year.

Twin road tunnel

- ✓ One side of Kerala's first twin road tunnel, the Kuthiran tunnel on the ThrissurPalakkad highway, was opened recently.
- ✓ This is the first road tunnel in the state.
- ✓ It will drastically improve connectivity to Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
- ✓ The 1.6 km long tunnel is designed through Peechi-Vazhani wildlife sanctuary.

Trichy Carbine

- ✓ The Ordnance Factory Tiruchirappalli (OFT) in Tamil Nadu launched a new high-tech and low sound weapon.
- ✓ It is called as TriCa (Trichy Carbine).
- ✓ It is a mini version of the Trichy Assault Rifle (TAR).

Excavation begins in Porpanaikottai

- ✓ The Tamilnadu Environment Minister Siva V Meyyanathan inaugurated archaeological excavation by Tamil Nadu Open University, at Porpanaikottai, Pudukkottai.
- ✓ There are reports of a fort having stood at Porpanaikottai several years ago.
- ✓ The Archaeologists said the evidence found in the area dates back 1,800 years.
- ✓ In 2013, the archaeology students found a culvert which is 1,800 years old.

Suicide due to unemployment

- ✓ Suicide cases registered due to unemployment have increased by 24% from 2016 to 2019, according to National crime records Bureau data.
- ✓ Karnataka registered the most number of suicide due to unemployment in 2019, followed by Maharashtra and Tamilnadu.

7.5% reservation for government school students

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government has decided to introduce 7.5% horizontal reservation for students of government schools in admissions to professional courses from the coming academic year.

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- ✓ The courses will include engineering, agriculture, veterinary and fisheries courses.
- ✓ A similar reservation policy is already being implemented in medical admissions since the 2020-21 academic year.

Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam

- ✓ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Aug 5th launched a healthcare scheme, "Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam", to provide healthcare services at the doorstep in Krishnagiri district's Hosur.
- ✓ The government plans to extend this service across the state by the year-end.
- ✓ The scheme was also simultaneously launched in Chennai by Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Minister PK Sekar Babu and Greater Chennai Corporation commissioner Gagan Singh Bedi.

Tamil archanai

- ✓ The Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments P.K. Sekar babu inaugurated the 'Annai Thamizhil Archanai' scheme at 47 major temples in the State.
- ✓ At the request of devotees, priests will chant the 'potri' (archanai) in Tamil.
- ✓ A set of 14 different 'potris' have already been prepared, and the booklets have been distributed to the identified priests.

Crime and criminal tracking network system

- ✓ Haryana has secured first position in crime and criminal tracking network system (CCTNS) with 100 per cent marks in the country.
- ✓ Gujarat has secured the second position.
- ✓ Himachal Pradesh is in third position.

NEP policy

- ✓ Karnataka has become the first state in the country to issue the order with regard to the implementation of the National Education Policy.
- ✓ The NEP 2020 is a comprehensive framework for elementary education to higher education as well as vocational training in both rural and urban India.
- ✓ The new policy replaces the previous National Policy on Education, 2019.

Animal DNA Laboratory

- ✓ Delhi's first "Animal DNA Laboratory" was set up at Forensic Science Laboratory in Rohini.
- ✓ Wildlife forensics is a new field of criminal investigation.

Coimbatore Railway Station - platinum rating

- ✓ The Coimbatore Railway Station has received the 'platinum' rating from the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).

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- ✓ It is the only railway station in Southern Railway and the sixth railway station in India to receive this level of green certification.
- ✓ Apart from Coimbatore, the five other railway stations in Indian Railways with IGBC's 'platinum' certification are Secunderabad, New Delhi, Jaipur, Visakhapatnam and Asansol.
- ✓ IGBC with the support of the Environment Directorate of Indian Railways developed the 'Green Railway Stations Rating System'.
- ✓ This is to facilitate adoption of 'green concepts' in railway stations.
- ✓ This helps in reducing the adverse environmental impacts due to station operation and maintenance.

First Van Dhan Annual Awards 2020-21

- ✓ Nagaland has been conferred with seven national awards on the first Van Dhan Annual Awards 2020-21.
- ✓ The awards were given during the celebration of the 34th foundation day of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED).

Faceless transport service

- ✓ The Chief Minister of Delhi Arvind Kejriwal launched the faceless transport services in the National Capital.

- ✓ Ooty, Tiruchengode and Chinnamanur were selected for the first, second and third prize respectively as the best Municipalities.
- ✓ Kallakudy in Trichy, Melpattampakkam in Cuddalore, and Kottaiyur in Sivagangai were selected for the first, second and third prize respectively as the best Town panchayats.

India's first water plus city

- ✓ India's cleanest city, Indore, has now been declared as India's first water plus city under the Swachh Survekshan 2021.
- ✓ Indore City received this certification from central government.
- ✓ This certification is provided for maintaining cleanliness in rivers and drains.
- ✓ Swachh Survekshan was launched under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

Color-coded system - Covid tackling

- ✓ The Government of Delhi imposed a Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in order to control any rise in fresh Coronavirus cases in the city.
- ✓ The Color-coded Graded Response Action Plan in Delhi will prevent the administrative delays in announcing the preventive measures.

- ✓ Restrictions by the government have been classified under Yellow, Amber, Orange, and Red alerts.
- ✓ Yellow is the lowest level of alert.
- ✓ Red will be the highest bringing the city under a complete lockdown.

e-budget - Tamil Nadu

- ✓ Finance Minister P.T.R. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan presented DMK government's first Budget after the election on August 13.
- ✓ It is the first time in the country that a state is presenting an e-budget.
- ✓ The revenue deficit for 2021-22 is expected to go up from the unrealistic interim budget estimates of ₹41,417.30 crore to ₹58,692.68 crore in the revised budget estimates.
- ✓ Mr. Rajan announced a Green Tamil Nadu Mission to increase the total areas under forest and tree cover to 33% of the land areas in the state.
- ✓ Mr. Rajan also unveiled the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission to focus on climate change adaptation and mitigation activities.
- ✓ The allocation for the mission is ₹500 crore.
- ✓ The State government also announced a waiver of loans to the tune of ₹2,756 crore due from self-help groups to the co-operative credit societies.

- ✓ Tamil Nadu has already borrowed ₹36,000 crore so far in 2021-22.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu is the top borrower among the States.

Assam Cattle Preservation Bill, 2021

- ✓ The Assam Cattle Preservation Bill, 2021 was passed in the Assam State Assembly recently.
- ✓ It seeks to regulate the slaughter, consumption and transportation of cattle.
- ✓ The law will prohibit a person from slaughtering cattle without obtaining the necessary certificate from a registered veterinary officer of a particular area.
- ✓ The term 'cattle' will apply to bulls, bullocks, cows, heifer, calves, male and female buffaloes and buffalo calves.

Tamil Nadu and freedom struggle

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government will compile and publish a document detailing the contribution made by Tamil Nadu to the Indian Freedom struggle.
- ✓ Mr. Stalin also inaugurated a pillar at the junction of Sivananda Salai and Kamarajar Salai in Chennai.
- ✓ The pillar was built to commemorate the 75th Independence Day.
- ✓ He also announced an increase in the pension for freedom fighters from ₹17,000 to ₹18,000 and the family pension from ₹8,500 to ₹9,000.

- ✓ The Chief Minister also said that the Gandhi Memorial Museum in Madurai would be renovated.

Agriculture Budget - Tamil Nadu

- ✓ The first exclusive budget for agriculture (34220 crores) was presented in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on 14th August 2021.
- ✓ A scheme for judicious use of water will be executed.
- ✓ It is proposed to install micro-irrigation structures in 1.5 lakh hectares.
- ✓ The government would implement a scheme called Kalaigharin Anaithu Grama Orunginaintha Velaan Valarchi Thittam in a span of five years.
- ✓ This scheme is to ensure overall agricultural development and self-sufficiency in all villages.
- ✓ The State government will implement the scheme to promote solar pumps to meet the increasing demand for electricity for well irrigation in Tamil Nadu.

Ancient Dagger Found in Tamil Nadu

- ✓ A rusted iron dagger preserved in a burial urn was discovered in Konthagai village, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Konthagai is considered as a burial site for the Keeladi civilization.
- ✓ Burial urns filled with bones, weapons and other objects were discovered there.

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- ✓ This type of weapon was used by warriors during the Sangam period (3rd century BCE - 3rd century CE).
- ✓ Based on the archaeological evidence, some researchers now say the Sangam period began earlier than previously thought, around 600 B.C.E.

First Drone Forensic Lab and Research Center

- ✓ India's first Drone Forensic Lab and Research Centre has come up in Kerala.
- ✓ Cyberdome is a technological research and development centre of the Kerala Police Department.
- ✓ The centre will help in keeping a watch over unauthorized drones and also for the production of drones for the use of the police force.
- ✓ This lab-cum-research centre will look into both utility and threat aspects of a drone.

TN Budget highlights

- ✓ The Maternity leave period extended to 12 months from 9 months.
- ✓ The New Siddha University is to come up in Palani.
- ✓ A Defence Industrial Park is to come up in Coimbatore.
- ✓ A Massive tree planting drive as part of 'Green Movement' initiative will be taken up in the next ten years.
- ✓ Anna Marumalarchi Scheme will be launched to provide basic amenities in hamlets.

- ✓ The New integrated bus stand and commercial complexes is proposed in Tiruchirappalli.
- ✓ The Construction of Financial Tech city in Nandambakkam in Chennai.

Patriots' Day - Manipur

- ✓ Manipur observed Patriots' Day on August 13 in memory of heroes who laid down their lives for the protection of Manipur's independence.
- ✓ Tikendrajit and Thangal, who were lodged in jail, were brought out on August 13, 1891, for being hanged in public at a spot near the polo ground.
- ✓ Manipur has been observing the day of the public hanging as Patriots' Day.

Agricultural budget important measures

- ✓ A separate wing for organic farming will be created under the Agriculture Department.
- ✓ Scheme of 'Rural Youth Agricultural Skill Development Mission' will be rolled out.
- ✓ To motivate the educated youth to take up agriculture to next level in their native places.
- ✓ An Integrated Farming System will be implemented.
- ✓ Agricultural Zonal Committees will be formed to protect the farmers from natural calamities.
- ✓ A separate museum for agriculture will be set up in Chennai.

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- ✓ Modern cold storages will be set up in Oddanchatram and Panruti.
- ✓ The government will set up an integrated rural agricultural market complex at Edapally village situated on the borders of Coonoor and Kotagiri.
- ✓ A 'Modern Agricultural Marketing Centre' will be set up at Kolathur in Chennai Corporation.
- ✓ A new horticulture college will be set up at Jeenur near Krishnagiri district.
- ✓ Turmeric Research Centre will be established at Bhavani Sagar near Erode.

First smog tower

- ✓ Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will inaugurate the country's first smog tower at Baba Kharak Singh Marg, Connaught Place.
- ✓ The smog tower will clean 1,000 cubic metres of air every second and reduce PM 2.5 and PM 10 levels in Delhi.

National award for teachers

- ✓ Asha Devi is one of the recipients of national award for teachers given away by the Union government.
- ✓ She is the headmistress of the Panchayat Union Middle School at Piratiyur, Trichy.
- ✓ Asha Devi is one among the 44 teachers selected across the country for the award, and among the only two teachers from Tamil Nadu.

- ✓ The second teacher from Tamil Nadu to receive the award was D Lalitha.
- ✓ She is the headmistress of Government Girls Higher Secondary School in Modakurichi.

Smart Health Cards – Odisha

- ✓ Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced Smart Health Cards for people in the state.
- ✓ The smart health cards have been announced under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana.
- ✓ The initiative aims to transform the health service delivery system of not only the state but also create history in the health sector of the Country.
- ✓ The smart health cards will enable each family to avail treatment up to Rs 5 lakh per annum.
- ✓ The women members of the family will be able to avail the benefit up to Rs 10 lakh every year.
- ✓ Odisha is the first state in the country to provide this kind of Smart Health Cards to the people.

Aligarh as Harigarh

- ✓ The Zila Panchayat Parishad of Aligarh passed a resolution seeking to rename Aligarh as Harigarh.
- ✓ The proposal was passed unanimously by the newly elected district panchayat in its first meeting.
- ✓ The proposal has now been sent to the Uttar Pradesh government, which will take the final decision.

Note

- ✓ The Uttar Pradesh government has already changed the name of several places.
- ✓ They include,
 - ✚ Faizabad to Ayodhya,
 - ✚ Allahabad to Prayagraj and
 - ✚ Mughalsarai to Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Nagar.

Third state to present separate Agri budget - TN

- ✓ Tamil Nadu became the third state to have a separate agricultural budget.
- ✓ That is after Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ The tradition of having an exclusive budget for agriculture was started by Karnataka in 2011-12.
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh followed in 2013-14.

Note

- ✓ Article 202 of the Constitution of India enables states to issue an estimated statement of receipts and expenditure for a financial year (commonly referred to as 'Budget' or 'Annual Financial Statement').

Life of a prisoner

- ✓ Belagavi's Hindalga Central Prison authorities (Karnataka) have come up with a novel initiative where

commoners will be allowed to live a prisoner's life for 24 hours.

- ✓ The tourism concept, 'A Day in the life of a prisoner'.
- ✓ The Prison authorities are now awaiting the government's nod to implement the initiative.

DGCA licensed Public Aerodrome

- ✓ Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has announced to rename the Hisar Airport as Maharaja Agrasen International Airport.
- ✓ The Hisar Airport is a domestic airport and the first DGCA licensed Public Aerodrome of the State.

Kalaingar Urban Development Scheme

- ✓ The Tamilnadu government will implement the Kalaingar Urban Development Scheme.
- ✓ The objective of the programme was to provide employment to urban poor, who had lost their jobs because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ A committee headed by former RBI Governor C Rangarajan had also recommended that the Tamil Nadu government start an employment scheme in urban areas in the wake of the pandemic.
- ✓ Through this, Infrastructure including community hall, markets, modern libraries will be created in municipalities and town panchayats.

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- ✓ This has been introduced for the first time by the government of Tamil Nadu to recognise transgenders and their contributions to the society.

7.5% quota for State govt. school students in professional courses

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly adopted a Bill to earmark 7.5% of seats on “preferential basis” for students from State government schools.
- ✓ This is for their admission of undergraduate courses in engineering, agriculture, veterinary, fisheries, law and other professional programmes offered in universities, private colleges, government-aided and government colleges.
- ✓ These students would have to have studied from Class 6 to 12 in the State government schools in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ This bill seeks to take affirmative action to bring about real equality between students who studied in government schools and in private schools.
- ✓ The existence of “de facto inequalities” between the government and private school students was evident from the report submitted by the Justice D. Murugesan Commission.

Singara Chennai 2.0

- ✓ Tamilnadu CM revives the ‘Singara Chennai’ project.

- ✓ After the DMK won in the 1996 Local Body elections, M K Stalin, who was then the mayor of the capital city, rolled out a slew of projects to keep the city clear of garbage and spruce it up with road infrastructure like flyovers under the ‘Singara Chennai’ umbrella.
- ✓ The 2.0 edition also aims to continue with clean and green, but the focus is also to take advantage of the city’s coastline, culture and lifestyle.
- ✓ The project plans include a Chennai that’s free from posters and litter.
- ✓ It also includes water tap and sewerage connection to every household and access to ‘quality toilets’.
- ✓ Cultural events such as ‘Chennai Day’ and ‘Chennai Sangamam’ will also be promoted.

Mission Vatsalya

- ✓ Maharashtra government launched a special mission called “Mission Vatsalya” in order to help women who lost their husbands to COVID-19.
- ✓ Mission Vatsalya will provide several services and some 18 benefits under one roof to those women.
- ✓ Under this mission, schemes like Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana and Gharkul Yojana will benefit those for women.
- ✓ This mission is being implemented by women and child development (WCD) Department.

Sub-category of creamy layer – Haryana

- ✓ Two notifications were issued by the Haryana government sub-classifying backward classes solely on economic basis while fixing the criteria for creamy layer.
- ✓ Supreme Court has quashed the Haryana government's notification.
- ✓ The apex court held that the Haryana's notifications have violated the law declared in the Indra Sawhney judgment by identifying creamy layer only on the basis of income.
- ✓ Apart from the economic criterion, social, educational and other factors must also be taken into account before defining a "creamy layer" among the backward classes.

NATIONAL

Rafale squadron at Hasimara

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

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- ✓ The squadron saw active participation in 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pak wars.
- ✓ The first Rafale squadron, the No.17 Golden Arrows, is based at Ambala.

Garima Grihas for transgender persons

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

Marine Aids to Navigation Bill 2021

- ✓ The Parliament passed the landmark ‘Marine Aids to Navigation Bill 2021’.
- ✓ This bill will repeal and replace the Lighthouse Act 1927.
- ✓ The Bill seeks to provide a framework for the development, maintenance, and management of aids to navigation in India.
- ✓ As per the bill, the central government will appoint Director General, Deputy Director Generals or Directors for districts.
- ✓ The Director General can advise the central government on matters related to aids to navigation, among others.

- ✓ The provisions of the bill will apply to the entire country including various maritime zones including territorial waters, continental shelf and exclusive economic zone.

Women unemployment rate - India

- ✓ Unemployment rate for women fell to 4.2% in 2019-20 from 5.1% in 2018-19.
- ✓ This is according to Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by National Statistical Office (NSO).
- ✓ The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for women has increased from 24.5% in 2018-19 to 30% in 2019-20.
- ✓ Out of total employment generated (in person days) under MGNREGS, women's share has increased to around 207 crore person days in 2020-21.

Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill

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

Higher Education in Regional Languages

- ✓ The All-India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) has announced that it is creating a database of resources so that colleges can offer more programmes in the regional languages of the country.
- ✓ This step has been taken so as to promote regional languages in the field of technical education.
- ✓ In eight states, 14 engineering colleges are going to start engineering studies in five Indian languages.
- ✓ They are Bengali, Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, and Marathi.

Reservation in medical and dental colleges

- ✓ The centre has announced 27% reservation for OBCs and a 10% quota for students from the economically weaker sections (EWS) for undergraduate and
- ✓ postgraduate medical and dental courses under the All-India Quota (AIQ) scheme.
- ✓ Under the AIQ scheme, 15% of seats at the UG level and 50% seats at the PG level are kept domicile free in government medical and dental colleges against which students from other states to are offered admission.
- ✓ While the rest of the seats are kept only for students from within the state.
- ✓ The AIQ scheme was introduced in 1986 under the direction of the Supreme Court.

India's 14 Tiger Reserves Recognized by Global CA/TS

- ✓ The 14 Tiger Reserves in India received the accreditation of the Global Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS).
- ✓ 14 tiger reserves - Manas, Kaziranga, Orang (Assam), Satpura, Kanha, Panna (MP), Pench (Maharashtra), Valmiki (Bihar), Dudhwa (UP), Sunderbans (West Bengal), Parambikulam (Kerala), Bandipur (Karnataka) and Mudumalai and Anamalai (Tamil Nadu).
- ✓ Officially launched in 2013, CA|TS has been agreed upon as accreditation tool by the global coalition of Tiger Range Countries (TRCs).
- ✓ It sets minimum standards for effective management of target species and encourages assessment of these standards in relevant conservation areas.

National serology survey – state wise

- ✓ Madhya Pradesh (79%) has the highest seroprevalence, or the presence of antibodies to the novel coronavirus.
- ✓ It is followed by Rajasthan (76%) and Bihar (75%).
- ✓ Kerala has the lowest among 21 States studied.
- ✓ After Kerala, the least antibody prevalence was in Assam (50%) and Maharashtra (58%).
- ✓ These are according to the Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR) fourth national serology survey.

Sambandar

- ✓ The National Gallery of Australia (NGA) has announced that it would return 14 works of art from its Asian art collection to India including Sambandar.
- ✓ Dancing child-saint Sambandar of 12th century belongs to Chola dynasty.
- ✓ Sambandar was one of the Nayanmars.
- ✓ Nayanmars is a group of sixty-three saints active in South India from the sixth to the ninth century.
- ✓ They were instrumental in popularizing the worship of Shiva through devotional poetry and song.

President of UNSC for August -India

- ✓ India will be the president of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for August month.
- ✓ The nation will host various events in the three major areas of fight against terrorism, maritime security and peacekeeping.
- ✓ S. Tirumurti India's permanent representative to the UN will hold a press conference on the Security Council's work plan for the month.
- ✓ On January 1, 2021 India's two-year term as a non-permanent member of the Security Council began.
- ✓ The August presidential term will be India's first chairmanship during its nonpermanent membership of the Security Council in 2021-22.

India's lightest Metro

- ✓ Titagarh Wagons Ltd's plant in Italy has rolled out the first train for Pune Metro coach, out of the 34 trains.
- ✓ These Metro coaches are lighter than the lightest coaches at present which are at Nagpur Metro.
- ✓ These coaches are to be manufactured with aluminium for the first time in India.

Divya Nayan

- ✓ 'Divya Nayan' a personal reading device for the visually impaired developed by the CSIR-Central Scientific Instruments Organization (CSIO), Chandigarh.
- ✓ Using this tool, any printed or digital document can be accessed via voice.

Lithium exploration projects

- ✓ The Geological Survey of India (GSI), under the government's energy security plans, has taken up seven lithium exploration projects in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Jammu & Kashmir.
- ✓ Lithium exploration in the states of Rajasthan and Karnataka has also been undertaken by Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMDER) which comes under the ambit of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).

Note

- ✓ India lacks lithium reserves for the manufacturing of lithium-ion batteries and other usages.
- ✓ Most lithium batteries are imported into the country.

Strategic petroleum reserves (SPR) programme

- ✓ Two more commercial-cum-strategic facilities at Chandikhol and Padur of 6.5 MM storage capacity to be established under phase-2 of SPR Programme.
- ✓ Under Phase I of strategic petroleum reserves (SPR) programme, Government of India has established petroleum storage facilities with total capacity of 5.33 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) at 3 locations.
- ✓ They were,
 - ✚ Vishakhapatnam
 - ✚ Mangaluru and
 - ✚ Padur.
- ✓ Strategic petroleum reserves are huge stockpiles of crude oil to deal with any crude oil-related crisis like the risk of supply disruption from natural disasters, war or other calamities.

Hotline for Sikkim sector

- ✓ The Indian and Chinese armies have established a hotline in the North Sikkim Sector.

- ✓ This is established in order to further boost the confidence along the Line of Actual Control in the region.
- ✓ The hotline has been established between the Indian Army in Kongra La, North Sikkim, and China's People's Liberation Army at Khamba Dzong in Tibetan Autonomous Region.
- ✓ This is the sixth such hotline between the ground commanders along the 3,488- km Line of Actual Control.
- ✓ Now, there are two hotlines each in eastern Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim.

e-RUPI Digital Payment Solution

- ✓ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched "e-RUPI Digital Payment Solution" on August 2, 2021.
- ✓ e-RUPI is an e-voucher-based payment solution.
- ✓ e-RUPI initiative was launched to limit touch points between government and beneficiary.
- ✓ This Platform will also ensure that benefits reach its intended beneficiaries in a targeted and leak-proof manner.
- ✓ e-RUPI is a one-time payment mechanism that will allow users to redeem voucher without using card, digital payments app or internet banking access.
- ✓ The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) developed e-RUPI platform on its UPI platform.

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- ✓ It was launched in collaboration with Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and National Health Authority.

Lightest metro train

- ✓ According to Titagarh Wagons Ltd, its plant in Italy has rolled out first train for Pune Metro coach.
- ✓ In total, 34 trains will be sent from Italy.
- ✓ Each train will comprise of three coaches.
- ✓ These metro coaches for Pune metro are manufactured with Aluminium for first time in India.
- ✓ Titagarh Wagons is a railway wagon manufacturer based in Titagarh, West Bengal.

Ashwagandha

- ✓ AYUSH Ministry is to conduct clinical trials of “Ashwagandha”.
- ✓ It is to be done in the collaboration with UK’s London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM).
- ✓ This Team will check its efficacy on COVID-19 infection.
- ✓ All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) and LSHTM signed a memorandum of understanding to conduct clinical trials of Ashwagandha, recently.
- ✓ Clinical trials would be conducted in three UK cities namely Leicester, Birmingham and London.

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- ✓ This is the first time Ministry of AYUSH has collaborated with foreign institution to check its efficacy on COVID-19 patients.

Note

- ✓ Ashwagandha is scientifically called as withania somnifera.
- ✓ It is commonly called as 'Indian winter cherry'.

National Research Foundation (NRF)

- ✓ Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education announced that the government of India is planning to set up a National Research Foundation (NRF).
- ✓ Its primary aim to strengthen the country's research ecosystem.
- ✓ The NRF will be functioning as a structure that will connect the industry, academia and the R&D of the country.

Secured Logistics Documents Exchange

- ✓ The government has launched the Secured Logistics Document Exchange.
- ✓ The initiative has been launched to reduce logistics cost, improve logistics efficiency and sustainability and promote multi-modality in a big way.
- ✓ A Calculator for Green House Gas Emissions has also been launched.

- ✓ It has been jointly authored by NITI Aayog, RMI and RMI India.

Operation Blue Freedom

- ✓ The government of India has accorded sanctions to Team CLAW to lead a team of people with disabilities to scale Siachen Glacier.
- ✓ It will be a new world record for the largest team of people with disabilities.
- ✓ This expedition is being undertaken as part of 'Operation Blue Freedom'.
- ✓ The Operation Blue Freedom was launched in 2019 by CLAW Global.
- ✓ CLAW Global is a team of former Special Forces Operatives of the Indian Army and the Indian Navy.

Centre de-licenses sugar industry

- ✓ The Union Government has de-licensed the sugar industry to encourage the setting up of new sugar mills in the country.
- ✓ This was informed by Consumer Affairs and Food and Public Distribution Minister Piyush Goyal.
- ✓ Government is encouraging sugar mills to divert excess sugarcane to ethanol blended with petrol a long-term measure to deal with the problem of excess sugar.
- ✓ This will not only serve as a green fuel but also save foreign exchange on account of crude oil import.

Samagra Shiksha Scheme for School Education

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of Samagra Shiksha Scheme for School Education for five years from April 1, 2021 till March 31, 2026.
- ✓ The Samagra Shiksha Scheme is an integrated scheme that aims to cover the whole school education from school to class XII.
- ✓ The scheme is in line with Sustainable Development Goal for Education (SDG4).
- ✓ It aims to ensure that all children have access to quality education.

Fortune Global 500 list - 2021

- ✓ Seven Indian companies have found a place in 2021 Fortune's Global 500 list.
- ✓ The Fortune Global 500 is an annual ranking of the top 500 enterprises globally, as measured by business revenues.
- ✓ Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd is the highest-ranked Indian company on the list in terms of revenue.
- ✓ It is placed at 155th spot globally.
- ✓ Globally, Walmart has topped the list in terms of revenue for the eighth consecutive year and the 16th time since 1995.

Pardoning Power of Governors - Supreme Court

- ✓ The Supreme Court of India held that, Governor of state can pardon prisoners, including in the death sentence cases.
- ✓ The Governor can pardon the prisoners even before they have completed minimum 14 years of prison sentence.
- ✓ The Bench also held that, Governor's power to pardon overrides a provision given under Section 433A of Code of Criminal Procedure.
- ✓ The Section 433A mandates that sentence of prisoner can be remitted only after 14 years of jail.
- ✓ The Court noted, sovereign power of Governor to pardon prisoner under Article 161 is exercised by the State government and not the Governor on his own, in reality.

Note

- ✓ Article 161 of the Indian constitution provides the Governor of a State with power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites or to remit punishment or to suspend, remit or commute sentence of any person convicted of any offence against laws.
- ✓ As of now, only President had the power to pardon in all cases including that in death sentence cases.
- ✓ However, this provision for Governor has been reversed by Supreme court recently.

Mangdechhu project

- ✓ Bhutan India assisted Mangdechhu Hydroelectric project was conferred with the Brunel Medal award by the London-based Institution of Civil Engineers.
- ✓ The award was given as a mark of excellence in civil engineering within the industry.

World's highest road in Ladakh

- ✓ The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed and black-topped the highest road in the world at Umlingla Pass in Eastern Ladakh.
- ✓ The highest motorable road in the world is situated at an altitude of 19,300 feet.
- ✓ The road is a 52-km long stretch.
- ✓ It passes through Umlingla Pass, connecting important towns in the Chumar sector of Eastern Ladakh.

Agro-Automatic Weather Stations

- ✓ The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has undertaken installation of Agro-Automatic Weather Stations (AWS).
- ✓ This is to provide exact weather forecast to people with special focus on farmers.
- ✓ Installation was done at District Agromet Units (DAMUs) located in Krishi Vigyan Kendras under Indian Council of Agriculture Research network.

- ✓ Agro-AWS is being installed at 200 DAMUs to provide block level Agromet Advisory Services (AAS) under the scheme called Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS).

Fast Track Special Courts

- ✓ Recently, the Union Government approved the continuation of more than 1023 Fast Track Special Court (FTSCs) as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for two years (April 2021-March 2023).
- ✓ It includes 389 exclusive POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Courts.
- ✓ The Central share will be provided from the Nirbhaya Fund.
- ✓ Fast track courts (FTCs) were first recommended by the Eleventh Finance Commission in 2000.

National Policy on Marine Fisheries, 2017

- ✓ The Government has notified National Policy on Marine Fisheries, 2017 (NPMF, 2017) to encourage marine fishing in the Indian waters.
- ✓ The NPMF provides guidance for promoting 'Blue Growth Initiative', which focuses on ushering 'Blue Revolution'.
- ✓ It aims to ensure the health and ecological integrity of marine living resources of India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) through sustainable harvests for the benefit of present and future generations of the nation.

- ✓ The Strategy of NPMF is based on 7 pillars.
- ✓ They are Sustainable development, socio-economic upliftment of fishers, principle of subsidiarity, partnership, inter-generational equity, gender justice and precautionary approach.

Government to conduct surveys of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

- ✓ India plans to conduct a boundary disservice to map the surface topography of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ✓ The mapping of the strategic aperture pelago is proposed to be done by Indian national Centre for Ocean information services (INCOIS) and national Remote Sensing centre.
- ✓ It will be done through a bone LiDAR Terrain Mapping (ALTM) of surface topography on the land side of the coast.

White fungus asbcess

- ✓ Hyderabad has reported and unusual incidence of white fungus or Aspergillus developing and abscess in the brain of covid recovered patient.

India nuclear power capacity by 2031

- ✓ India's nuclear power capacity is expected to reach 22,480 Mega Watts by 2031 from the current 6,780 Mega Watts.
- ✓ There are presently 22 reactors in India.

- ✓ One reactor, KAPP-3 (700 MW) has been connected to the Power grid in January 2021.
- ✓ Ten nuclear power reactors with 8000 MW capacity are under construction.
- ✓ That will include 500 MW PFBR being implemented by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited [BHAVINI].
- ✓ Additionally, ten indigenous Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) of 700 MW each are to be set up in fleet mode.

Bill to amend Scheduled Tribes list

- ✓ The Rajya Sabha has passed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2021.
- ✓ The Bill amends the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.
- ✓ The Bill removes the Abor tribe from the list of identified STs in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✓ It replaces certain STs with other tribes.
- ✓ This includes Tai Khamti, Mishmi-Kaman (Miju Mishmi), Idu (Mishmi) and Taraon (Digaru Mishmi).
- ✓ The Constitution empowers the President to specify the Scheduled Tribes (STs) in various states and union territories.
- ✓ Further, it permits Parliament to modify this list of notified STs.

34th foundation day of TRIFED

- ✓ Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India (TRIFED) has celebrated its 34th foundation day on 6th August.
- ✓ TRIFED was founded to drive tribal development through marketing support for tribal products, both, handicrafts and Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP).
- ✓ TRIFED was established on the 6th of August 1987.
- ✓ It was established as a National level Coop.

Self-repairing materials

- ✓ The Researchers from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Kolkata, in collaboration with IIT Kharagpur, have developed piezoelectric molecular crystals.
- ✓ These crystals can repair their own mechanical damages with electrical charges generated by the mechanical impact.
- ✓ The research supported by the Department of Science and Technology, Govt of India has been published in the journal 'Science'.
- ✓ The piezoelectric molecules developed by the researchers are called bipyrazole organic crystals.

COVAXIN receives Good Manufacturing Practice certificate

- ✓ COVAXIN, a COVID -19 vaccine manufactured by Bharat Biotech received a certificate of Good Manufacturing Practice compliance from the authorities of Hungary.
- ✓ This marks the 1st EUDRAGDMP compliance certificate received by Bharat Biotech from European regulatory.

National Farmers Database

- ✓ The government has been planning to create a federated National Farmers Database using digitized land records.
- ✓ It will help to offer proactive and personalized services to the farmers.
- ✓ The Ministry of Agriculture in consultation with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is in the process of bringing out a data policy for the agriculture sector.

Plastic-mixed Handmade Paper

- ✓ Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has secured Patent registration for its innovative Plastic-mixed Handmade Paper.
- ✓ The plastic-mixed handmade paper was developed under Project REPLAN (REducing PLastic from Nature).

- ✓ The project was launched in September 2018 as part of KVIC's commitment to Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan.
- ✓ This is the first of its kind project in India.
- ✓ Here the plastic waste is de-structured, degraded, diluted and used with paper pulp while making handmade paper.

India's first Heart Failure Biobank

- ✓ The first Heart Failure Biobank in the country has come up at the National Centre for Advanced Research and Excellence in HF (CARE-HF) at the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Kerala.
- ✓ The Biobank is open to study genetic, metabolomics and proteomic markers of health outcomes in heart-failure patients.

ITBP inducts two women officers in combat

- ✓ In a first, the India-China LAC guarding the Indo Tibetan Border Police Force, commissioned its first to women officers in combat after they completed their training in Mussourie.
- ✓ The two women officers Pakriti and diksha will be posted as company commanders in ITBP battalions.
- ✓ First ever history of ITBP book containing many unknown facts of ITBP was also released.

CPI-M to hoist the flag

- ✓ For the first time in its history, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M), in west Bengal, will host the national flag in its headquarters Alimuddin and all other party offices across the state on the 75th year of India's Independence.

Long-term dam safety program

- ✓ The Government of India, the Central Water Commission, the government representatives of 10 participating states and the World Bank signed a project for long-term dam safety program.
- ✓ Thos Project will help in improving the safety and performance of existing dams across different states in India.

Blinken's visit to India

- ✓ Blinken's first visit to India after assuming charge as the US secretary of state happened recently.
- ✓ Blinken called on Modi after holding wide-ranging talks with external affairs minister S Jaishankar.
- ✓ The talks covered a range of issues including the situation in Afghanistan, IndoPacific engagements and Covid-19 response mechanism among others.

- ✓ In the event, speakers from across the globe will present their technological achievements in multiple subjects related to Tests and Evaluation of defence systems.

N Line of cars - Hyundai

- ✓ Hyundai Motor India Ltd. announced its debut first N Line of cars for India in 2021.
- ✓ According to the South Korean carmaker, N Line models will offer customers motor sport-inspired styling cues.
- ✓ i30 was the first N-branded vehicle, which was launched in 2017.
- ✓ In India, N Line model will be launched through i20.

Kakori Train Action

- ✓ The Uttar Pradesh government has renamed the landmark freedom movement event “Kakori Train Conspiracy” as “Kakori Train Action”.
- ✓ This is done as a tribute to the revolutionaries who were hanged for robbing a train at Kakori to buy weapons in 1925.

Note

- ✓ The train robbery took place in Kakori, a village near Lucknow.
- ✓ The robbery was planned by Ram Prasad Bismil and Ashfaqullah Khan.

Minister through video conferencing at Mahoba district in Uttar Pradesh.

PM-DAKSH

- ✓ The union minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr Virendra Kumar has unveiled a portal and mobile application named 'PM-DAKSH'.
- ✓ It aims to make the skill development schemes accessible to the target groups.
- ✓ The 'PM-DAKSH' stands for Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana.

Water villas in Lakshadweep

- ✓ Maldives style water villas will soon be set up in Lakshadweep in a bid to attract tourists to scenic beauty in the Union Territory.
- ✓ This project is first of its kind in India.
- ✓ These villas would be set up in Minicoy, Suheli and Kadmat islands in Lakshadweep.
- ✓ Villas would be constructed under public-private partnership model.

Note

- ✓ Lakshadweep is an archipelago of 36 islands in Arabian sea.
- ✓ Kavaratti is the capital of Lakshadweep.
- ✓ It is having jurisdiction under the Kerala High Court.

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- ✓ To participate in the exercise, India's guided-missile destroyer INS Kochi reached Saudi Arabia.
- ✓ The joint naval exercise will showcase the reflection of growing defence and military cooperation between India and Saudi Arabia.
- ✓ INS Kochi reached to Saudi Arabia after conducting a naval exercise with the UAE Navy off the coast of Abu Dhabi.

INS Kochi

- ✓ It is the second ship of Kolkata-class stealth guided-missile destroyers.
- ✓ It was built for Indian Navy under the code name Project 15A.
- ✓ The ship was constructed by Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) in Mumbai.
- ✓ It was commissioned to Indian Navy service in September 2015.

First Internet Governance Forum

- ✓ According to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, India's first Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) will be held in October 2021.
- ✓ The IIGF 2021 will be held under the theme - "Inclusive Internet for Digital India".

127th Constitution Amendment Bill

- ✓ The Union Government introduced the 127th Constitution (amendment) bill, 2021 in Lok Sabha on August 9, 2021.
- ✓ It was introduced in the Parliament to clarify some provisions of the 102nd Constitutional Amendment Bill, restoring the power of states to identify backward classes.

Note

- ✓ Articles 15 (4), 15 (5), and 16 (4) of the Indian constitution confer power on the State Government to declare and identify a list of socially and educationally backward classes.
- ✓ The Central and state governments draw separate OBC lists as a practice.

Sarla Thukral

- ✓ Google paid tribute to Sarla Thukral-India's first female pilot, on her 107 birth anniversary (August 8, 2021).
- ✓ Google designed a Doodle on the occasion of Thukral's birth anniversary.
- ✓ Born in 1914, Thukral became the first woman to accomplish an 'A' grade license after 1,000 hours of flying.

Rail Madad

- ✓ The Indian Railways has launched an integrated one-stop solution called “Rail Madad”.
- ✓ It has merged a number of existing helplines that were used for various purposes into one.
- ✓ The Railway ministry toll-free number 139 can be used for all kinds of enquiries and making complaints.
- ✓ The helpline facility is available round-the-clock in 12 languages.

India’s 5-point agenda

- ✓ The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, has chaired the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) open debate.
- ✓ The UN Security Council then adopted India’s presidential statement on maritime security.
- ✓ PM Modi has become the first Prime Minister of India to chair a UNSC open debate.
- ✓ The theme of the high-level open debate was ‘Enhancing Maritime Security – A Case for International Cooperation’.
- ✓ Five-point agenda had been laid down by PM to increase the maritime cooperation.
- ✓ They are
 - ✚ Removal of barriers to legitimate maritime trade.
 - ✚ Resolution of maritime disputes peacefully in accordance with international law.

- ✚ Fight threats from natural disasters, non-state actors.
- ✚ Conservation of marine resources.
- ✚ Promoting responsible maritime connectivity.

National Mission on Edible Oil - Oil Palm

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced this new national initiative on palm oil production to help increase farm incomes.
- ✓ Aims and Objectives of the scheme are given below,
- ✓ Achieve self-reliance in edible oil.
- ✓ Harness domestic edible oil prices that are dictated by expensive palm oil imports.
- ✓ To raise the domestic production of palm oil by three times to 11 lakh MT by 2025-26.
- ✓ The special emphasis of the scheme will be in India's north-eastern states and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Note

- ✓ India is the largest consumer of vegetable oil in the world
- ✓ Palm oil is currently the world's most consumed vegetable oil.

India's elderly population

- ✓ India's elderly population (aged 60 and above) is projected to touch 194 million in 2031 from 138 million in 2021 (41 per cent increase).

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- ✓ This is according to the National Statistical Office (NSO)'s Elderly in India 2021 report.
- ✓ According to the report, Kerala currently has the highest elderly population.
- ✓ It is followed by Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Himachal Pradesh is in third place.
- ✓ Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Assam have the least proportion.

Theme of India's 75th Independence Day

- ✓ The theme of India's 75th Independence Day celebrations will be 'Nation First, Always First'.
- ✓ The country will celebrate its 75th year of Independence at Red Fort this year.

World's highest mobile Air Traffic Control towers

- ✓ The Indian Air Force (IAF) has constructed one of the world's highest mobile Air Traffic Control (ATC) towers at the Advanced Landing Ground in the Ladakh region.
- ✓ The Air Traffic Control (ATC) towers to aid in control operations of the fixedwing aircraft and helicopters operating in the eastern Ladakh region.
- ✓ IAF has also been deploying fighter aircraft including MiG-29s and Rafale in eastern Ladakh.

National Vehicle Scrappage Policy

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Vehicle Scrappage Policy recently.

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- ✓ The National Vehicle Scrappage Policy is also dubbed as “voluntary vehicle-fleet modernisation programme”.
- ✓ This programme aims to modernise India’s “vehicular population”.
- ✓ It also seeks to remove unfit vehicles from roads in an environment-friendly and scientific manner.
- ✓ It is in line with India’s goal for 21st century to achieve a clean, congestion-free and convenient mobility.
- ✓ Under the policy, vehicles will be scientifically tested through authorised and automated centres before it is finally scrapped.

Partition Horrors Remembrance Day

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared that, August 14 will be observed as ‘Partition Horrors Remembrance Day’.
- ✓ It is also called as ‘Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas’.
- ✓ This is observed in memory of people’s struggles and sacrifices during the partition of the country in 1947.

APEDA exports apples to Bahrain

- ✓ The APEDA in collaboration with Himachal Pradesh Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Ltd (HPMC) exported first consignment comprising of five unique varieties of apples.
- ✓ This is to promote agricultural and processed food products exports to newer destinations.

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- ✓ Five varieties of apples including Dark Baron Gala, Royal Delicious, Scarlet Spur, Red Velox and Golden Delicious were exported to Bahrain.
- ✓ First consignment was exported by APEDA registered DM Enterprises.
- ✓ Apples will be showcased at the apple promotion programme organized by leading retailer called Al Jazira group.
- ✓ The apple promotion programme started from 15th August, 2021 on the occasion of commencement of 75th year of India's independence celebration.

Common survey to count elephants and tigers

- ✓ India is planning to adopt the new population estimation protocol in the all India elephant and tiger population survey in 2022.
- ✓ As per the new protocol, India will move to a system that will count tigers and elephants as part of a common survey.
- ✓ Currently, the tiger survey is usually held once in four years and elephants are counted once in five years.
- ✓ According to the most recent 2018-19 survey, there were 2,997 tigers in India.
- ✓ According to the last count in 2017, there were 29,964 elephants in India.

**Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation
(Amendment) Bill, 2021**

- ✓ The Parliament had passed this bill recently.
- ✓ The bill seeks to amend the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961.
- ✓ The Bill seeks to provide depositors time-bound access to their insured deposit amount, in case they are restricted from accessing their bank deposits.
- ✓ It provides that the Corporation will be liable to pay the insured deposit amount to depositors on an interim basis.
- ✓ The Bill mandates the Corporation to pay the insured amount to the depositors within 90 days of the date such liability arises.
- ✓ Speaking on the Bill, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that insurance cover limit has been raised from one lakh to five lakh.

Fit India Freedom Run 2.0

- ✓ Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Thakur, launched a nationwide programme of Fit India Freedom Run 2.0 on August 13, 2021.
- ✓ This is to celebrate the Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav.
- ✓ The programme has been launched at 75 'iconic' locations.
- ✓ The Fit India Freedom Run 2.0 will conclude on October 2, 2021.

- ✓ During this period, people from each district and each village will participate in the freedom run movement.
- ✓ Fit India Freedom Run 2.0 was flagged off from Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi.
- ✓ Government has planned to reach out to every household with the mantra of 'Fitness ki dose 'aadha ghanta roz' in order to keep Indians fit.
- ✓ First edition of the 'Fit India Freedom Run' was organized from August 15 to October 2, 2020.

Periodic Labour Force Survey (2019 - 2020)

- ✓ It is India's first computer-based survey launched by the National Statistical Office (NSO) in 2017.
- ✓ The findings of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2019-2020 was released recently.
- ✓ It offers a credulity-stretching picture of a decline in the unemployment rate between 2017-18 and 2019-2020, together with an increase in the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR).
- ✓ PLFS reports a reduction in the usual - status unemployment rate from 6.1% in 2017-18 to 5.8% in 2018-19 and further to 4.8% in 2019-20.
- ✓ It also shows a corresponding increase in the proportion of people participating in the country's labour force from 36.9% to 37.5% and then further to 40.1% in 2019-20.

- ✓ These positive trends have occurred amid a decline in the economy's real growth rate from 7% to 4.2% over that period.
- ✓ Thus, from a paradox of jobless growth in the past, India seems to have come full circle with 'growthless employment'.

Doctor - population ratio

- ✓ India is well on the path to achieving the World Health Organisation recommended ratio of one doctor per thousand population by 2024.
- ✓ India is also increasing the number of hospital beds from 11 lakh to 22 lakh.
- ✓ In the last 75 years, India has made significant progress in the health sector.
- ✓ At the time of independence, the average life was just 28 years and it has now reached close to 70 years.

Satellite phone facility

- ✓ Kaziranga National Park (KZP) in Assam has become the first National Park in India to be equipped with satellite phones.
- ✓ In a first-of-its-kind move to provide assistance to prevent poaching and ensure coordinated functioning.
- ✓ BSNL will be the service provider and the park authorities will bear the monthly expenses.

Quality of Life for Elderly Index 2021

- ✓ Dr Bibek Debroy, Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) released the Quality of Life for Elderly Index 2021.
- ✓ It measures the quality of life led by the elderly in India.
- ✓ It has been created by the Institute for Competitiveness.
- ✓ The report identifies the regional patterns of ageing across Indian States and assesses the overall well-being of the ageing population in India.
- ✓ The index analysed 45 different indicators across four key domains viz. Financial Well-being, Social Well-being, Health System, and Income Security.
- ✓ Among the 4 domains, the domain of Health System observed the highest national average of 66.97, followed by 62.34 in Social Well-being, 44.7 in Financial Well-being, and 33.03 in Income Security.
- ✓ The index also provided 'Quality of Life for Elderly Scores' in 4 categories viz. Aged states, Relatively Aged States, Union Territory (UT), and North-East States.
- ✓ Rajasthan has topped the ranking of Aged states.
- ✓ Himachal Pradesh is top-scorer in Relatively Aged States.
- ✓ The Aged States refer to States with an elderly population of more than 5 million.
- ✓ Relatively Aged States refer to States with an Elderly population of less than 5 million.

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- ✓ Chandigarh and Mizoram are top-scoring regions in Union Territory (UT) and North-East States category, respectively.
- ✓ Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) scored the lowest among UTs.
- ✓ Arunachal Pradesh, among the north eastern states, scored the lowest score.
- ✓ In the aged states, Telangana scored the lowest.
- ✓ In relatively aged states categories Gujarat ranked last.

Academic Ranking of World Universities 2021

- ✓ Calcutta University secured second rankings in the Academic Ranking of World Universities 2021.
- ✓ Among all the Universities and Institutes in the country, the University of Calcutta is second only to the prestigious Indian Institute of Science.

Honour FIRST

- ✓ The Indian Navy has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC).
- ✓ This is the first Bank to initiate 'Honour FIRST'.
- ✓ 'Honour FIRST' is a premium banking solution for serving personnel and veterans of the Indian Navy.

GM Soybean

- ✓ The Union government has decided to allow the import of crushed genetically modified (GM) soybean.

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- ✓ It is a major ingredient of poultry feed.
- ✓ A GM or transgenic crop is a plant that has a novel combination of genetic material obtained through the use of modern biotechnology.

Note

- ✓ The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is the apex body that allows for commercial release of GM crops.
- ✓ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is the authorised body to regulate the imported crops in India.

Operation Blue Freedom

- ✓ Union Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar flagged off 'Operation Blue Freedom'.
- ✓ It is an expedition by the people with disabilities battlefield-Siachen Glacier.
- ✓ Selected people with disabilities will undertake an expedition to Kumar Post to create a new world record to scale the world's highest battlefield.

IBSA Tourism Ministers Meeting

- ✓ India organized the IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa) Tourism Ministers meeting through the virtual platform.
- ✓ The Union Minister of Tourism of India G. Kishan Reddy chaired the meeting.

- ✓ The meeting provided a platform to promote tourism cooperation among the member states.

Nasal vaccine - BBV154

- ✓ India's first nasal vaccine against COVID-19 has received the nod to conduct phase 2 and 3 clinical trials by the Department of Biotechnology.
- ✓ Nasal Covid Vaccine has been developed by Bharat Biotech.
- ✓ The nasal vaccine is the first of its kind COVID-19 vaccine that is undergoing human clinical trials in India.

Note

- ✓ Bharat Biotech has developed the first ever nasal vaccine called BBV154.
- ✓ It is a novel adenovirus vectored.
- ✓ This intranasal vaccine was developed to build immunity against COVID-19.

Vande Bharat trains

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that 75 'Vande Bharat' trains will connect different parts of the country in 75 weeks.
- ✓ This is to mark the ongoing 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- ✓ 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' is the central government's initiative to mark 75 years of Independence from British rule.

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- ✓ Vande Bharat is an indigenous semi-high speed train set.

Diesel - door delivery

- ✓ Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) launched door-to-door delivery of 'High Speed Diesel'.

BPCL

- ✓ It is an Indian government-owned oil and gas corporation, operating under the parent head of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- ✓ It is headquartered in Mumbai.
- ✓ Company operates two large refineries in Kochi and Mumbai.
- ✓ It is considered as second-largest downstream oil company of India.

Sainik Schools for female students

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that Sainik Schools across India will now be open for female students as well.
- ✓ Girls were first allowed in Sainik schools of Mizoram about 2.5 years ago.
- ✓ Sainik Schools are system of schools that was established and managed by Sainik Schools Society.
- ✓ It comes under the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

- ✓ Establishment of Sainik schools was led by V. K. Krishna Menon in 1961, who was the then Defence Minister of India.
- ✓ As of now, there were 33 Sainik Schools.

Energy independent - 2047

- ✓ India targets to become ‘energy independent’ by 2047.
- ✓ That is when India celebrates its 100th year of Independence.
- ✓ PM has announced a ‘Mission Circular Economy’ that will replace petroleum with other forms of energy to make India achieve self-reliance in energy production by 2047.
- ✓ The Roadmap for India to become energy independent include,
 - ✚ Increasing usage of natural gas in the economy,
 - ✚ Setting up a network of CNG and piped natural gas network throughout India and
 - ✚ Blending 20 per cent ethanol in petrol and electric mobility.

SonChiraiya

- ✓ The ‘SonChiraiya’ brand and logo was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for marketing urban Self-Help Group (SHG) products.
- ✓ This initiative will prove as a step in the right direction towards increased visibility and global access for the products made by urban SHG women.

Rice under all schemes to be fortified

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced to provide fortified rice to poor under various schemes by 2024.
- ✓ This decision was taken in the view that, malnutrition and lack of essential nutrients among poor women and poor children is a major hurdle in their development.
- ✓ Government distributes rice under schemes covered under National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.

National Hydrogen Mission

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched National Hydrogen Mission on August 15, 2021 from Lal Quila.
- ✓ The mission seeks to make India a global hub for green hydrogen production and exports.

AIMS-New Delhi

- ✓ The All-India Institute of Medical Science, New Delhi has become the first hospital of India to house a fire station inside the hospital premises.
- ✓ For this, AIIMS has collaborated with Delhi Fire Service.

Design resource center - Chennai

- ✓ The Union Ministry of Textiles is setting up a design resource centre at the weaver's service centre in Chennai.
- ✓ The aim is to build and create design-oriented excellence in the handloom sector.

- ✓ Also, it is to facilitate weavers, exporters, manufacturers and designers access design repositories to improve samples/products.
- ✓ The Ministry has roped in NIFT (National Institute of Fashion Technology) in this initiative.
- ✓ Similar resource centres were set up in seven centres earlier.
- ✓ And one was inaugurated at Kancheepuram recently.

Data on hydro meteorological calamities

- ✓ Nearly 6,800 people lost their lives in the country over the past three years due to hydro meteorological calamities.
- ✓ Hydro meteorological calamities include flash floods, landslides and cyclones.
- ✓ West Bengal has recorded the highest deaths among all States (964 deaths).
- ✓ This amounts to 14% of deaths due to hydro meteorological calamities.
- ✓ Other than West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh recorded 833 deaths, followed by Kerala 708.
- ✓ In both the States, the spike in the casualties has been caused by floods.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has recorded 201 casualties.

Bharat Net programme

- ✓ Six lakh villages in India will get internet connectivity by 2024 under the Bharat Net programme.

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- ✓ Government is working towards its aim to provide internet facility for each household and to provide access to internet with a low-cost device for every member in a family.

Bharat Net initiative

- ✓ It is a flagship mission that is being implemented by Bharat Broadband Network Ltd. (BBNL).
- ✓ This Special Purpose Vehicle was set up Government of India under Companies Act, 1956.

Hindustan-228

- ✓ Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has successfully carried ground tests for making a civilian aircraft named 'Hindustan-228'.
- ✓ Hindustan-228 aircraft has been built with the aim of supporting the regional connectivity scheme-UDAN.
- ✓ It will be utilised by civil operators and state Governments for their intra and inter-state connectivity.
- ✓ HAL is a state-owned aerospace and defence company.
- ✓ It is headquartered in Bangalore.

Vriksharopan Abhiyan - 2021

- ✓ Vriksharopan Abhiyan - 2021 of Coal Ministry is launched on August 19, 2021.
- ✓ It is a key event under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations in coal sector.

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- ✓ It will bring environment sustainability in mining operations.
- ✓ In this year, coal PSUs of the Ministry of Coal is to launch “Go Greening” drive.
- ✓ Areas will be covered under bio-reclamation or plantation.
- ✓ Go Greening drive will be provided the right boost by launching Vriksharopan Abhiyan 2021.
- ✓ This Mission will be launched by Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary affairs, Prahalad Joshi.

UNITE AWARE

- ✓ The External Affairs Minister (EAM), S Jaishankar, announced the rollout of “UNITE AWARE” tech to help protect UN peacekeepers.
- ✓ He made this announcement at the UN headquarters in New York while he was chairing UN security council open debate on “Technology and Peacekeeping”.
- ✓ UNITE AWARE is a mobile tech platform developed by India to provide terrainrelated information to the UN peacekeepers.
- ✓ This is to ensure their safety.
- ✓ It is developed in partnership with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Operational Support.

Women to appear for NDA exam

- ✓ The Supreme Court has allowed the women to appear for National Defence Academy (NDA) exam.
- ✓ Kush Kalra filed petition, seeking permission for women to sit in the NDA entrance exam.
- ✓ This Petition highlighted the issue of violation of Articles 14, 15, 16 and 19 of the Constitution.
- ✓ NDA
- ✓ NDA is the joint defence service training institute of Indian Armed Forces.
- ✓ It is located in Khadakwasla in Pune, Maharashtra.
- ✓ This academy is world's first tri-service academy.

Student Entrepreneurship Program 3.0

- ✓ Third series of Student Entrepreneurship Program 3.0 (SEP 3.0) was launched for the young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL).
- ✓ This program was launched by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog in collaboration with La Foundation Dassault Systems.
- ✓ Theme of SEP 3.0 is 'Made in 3D – Seed the Future Entrepreneurs Program'.
- ✓ Under this program, a team from each school comprising of 6 students and a teacher will be allocated seed funding in order to create their own start-up and design.

Exercise Konkan 2021

- ✓ The Indian Naval Ship Tabar arrived at Portsmouth in England, to undertake the annual bilateral drill 'Exercise Konkan 2021' between the Indian Navy and Britain's Royal Navy.
- ✓ The bilateral naval exercise Konkan is being held every year since 2004.
- ✓ It is held to enhance the interoperability, synergy and cooperation between both navies.
- ✓ HMS Westminster of the Royal Navy took part from Britain's side.

Jorhat jail

- ✓ Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sharma announced that Jorhat Central Jail would be preserved as the Heritage site.
- ✓ During the freedom struggle, prominent freedom fighters such as former President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad, Gopinath Bardoli, and Kamakhya Tripathi were imprisoned in this jail.

President approves constitution at 2021

- ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind has given his assent to the constitution (105th Amendment) Act 2021.
- ✓ The act restores the power of state government to identify and specify a socially and economically backward class.

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- ✓ The constitution (One hundredth and twenty-seventh amendment) bill 2021 was passed by the Parliament on 11th August 2021.

Amrit Mahotsav Shri Shakti Challenge-2021

- ✓ The union minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnav launched the 'Amrit Mahotsav Shri Shakti Challenge-2021'.
- ✓ This to encourage technology solutions developed by Women Entrepreneurs that facilitate Women's Safety and Empowerment.
- ✓ The aim is to empower women to help them achieve their full potential.

Bilateral maritime exercise - India and Vietnam

- ✓ The Indian Navy and Vietnam People's Navy (VPN) undertook a bilateral maritime exercise in the South China Sea.
- ✓ This is to strengthen the defence ties among the two navies.
- ✓ From India, INS Ranvijay and INS Kora took part in the exercise.
- ✓ From the Vietnam People's Navy, frigate VPNS Ly Thai To (HQ-012) participated in the drill.
- ✓ The bilateral interaction aims to consolidate the strong bond shared by the two navies and would be another step towards strengthening India-Vietnam defence relations.

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- ✓ This visit also holds special importance as Indian Naval ships celebrated the country's 75th Independence Day in Vietnam.

National Mission on Edible Oils

- ✓ The Cabinet approved the 'National Mission on Edible Oils — Oil Palm (NMEOOP)'.
- ✓ This approval was given in order to promote the domestic cultivation of oil palm in next five years.
- ✓ It will help in reducing India's dependence on imports.
- ✓ The decision was taken after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced this new Central scheme on August 15.

About the scheme

- ✓ The National Mission on Edible Oils is a centrally sponsored scheme.
- ✓ This scheme will subsume the 'National Food Security Mission-Oil Palm programme.
- ✓ It was launched in line with the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat scheme.
- ✓ The National Mission on Edible Oil was launched with the aim of covering oil palm in an additional area of 6.5 lakh hectare by 2025-26.
- ✓ It seeks to reach the target of 10 lakh hectare.

All-women team of three armed forces at Mt Manirang

- ✓ An 'All Women Tri-Services Mountaineering Team' successfully scaled Mt Manirang on August 15, 2021.
- ✓ Mt Manirang (21,625 ft) is in Himachal Pradesh.
- ✓ They unfurled the national flag as a part of commemorative activities for 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav'.
- ✓ The team was led by Wing Commander Bhavana Mehra of the Indian Air Force.

AK-103 rifles

- ✓ India and Russia have signed a deal to immediately procure AK-103 Rifles.
- ✓ This deal was inked as a part of mega infantry modernisation programme.
- ✓ This rifle will be manufactured under the joint venture Indo-Russia Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL).
- ✓ IRRPL is a rifle-manufacturing facility in Korwa village of Amethi district in Uttar Pradesh.

Ubharte Sitaare Fund

- ✓ The Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is set to launch an ambitious 'Ubharte Sitaare Fund'.
- ✓ It will be launched for export-oriented firms and startups.
- ✓ Ubharte Sitaare fund has been set up jointly by Exim Bank and SIDBI.

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- ✓ It will be launched in Lucknow.
- ✓ The finance minister will also launch India Exim Bank's study on 'Exports from Uttar Pradesh: Trends, Opportunities and Policy Perspective'.
- ✓ Ubharte Sitaare Programme (USP) will identify Indian companies that have the capability to be future champions in domestic arena while meeting the global demands.
- ✓ This fund is a mix of structured support, debt and technical assistance to the Indian companies.

Advanced chaff technology

- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed an advanced chaff technology.
- ✓ The objective is to safeguard the Indian Air Force Fighter Jets from enemy missiles.
- ✓ Chaff is an electronic counter-measure technology which is used by militaries across the world.
- ✓ It is used to protect high-value targets like fighter jets or naval ships from radars as well as radio frequency (RF) guiding mechanisms of the enemy missiles.

India could get first woman CJI

- ✓ The Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) N V Ramana has recommended nine names, including three women judges for appointment as judges in the top court.

- ✓ The three women judges recommended by the SC Collegium are Justice B V Nagarathna of Karnataka HC, Justice Hima Kohli of Telangana HC, and Justice Bela M Trivedi of Gujarat HC.
- ✓ Of the three women judges, Justice B V Nagarathna of Karnataka HC could become the first woman Chief Justice of India (CJI) in 2027 if SC Collegium's recommendations of names are considered by the Union Government.

First EV-friendly highway in India

- ✓ With a network of solar-based electric vehicle charging stations, Delhi Chandigarh Highway has become the country's first EV-friendly highway in the country.
- ✓ The network of stations was set up by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL).
- ✓ It was setup under the FAME-1 (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) & Electric Vehicles) scheme of the Ministry of Heavy Industries.

KNP equipped with satellite phones

- ✓ Assam's Kaziranga National Park (KNP) became the first national park in India to be equipped with satellite phones.
- ✓ The satellite phones would be used in the park's six ranges with no wireless or poor mobile connectivity.

India's highest herbal park

- ✓ India's highest herbal park (height of 11,000 feet) was inaugurated near IndoChina border at Mana village in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand.
- ✓ This park was inaugurated with the aim of conserving various medicinally and culturally important alpine species.
- ✓ It also aims to conduct research on propagation and habitat ecology of these species.

Arogya Dhara 2.0

- ✓ Arogya Dhara 2.0 was launched by the Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on August 18, 2021.
- ✓ This is in order to increase the reach of Ayushman Bharat – Jan Arogya Yojana.
- ✓ Arogya Dhara 2.0 also seeks to create more awareness regarding the Ayushman Bharat Scheme.
- ✓ On the occasion, the minister launched three initiatives namely
 - ✚ Adhikar Patra,
 - ✚ Ayushman Mitra and
 - ✚ Abhinandan Patra.
- ✓ Adhikar Patra will be issued to the beneficiaries when they will be hospitalised for treatment under the PM-JAY scheme.

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- ✓ This Patra will make beneficiaries aware of their rights in a way that they can claim free and cashless health care services.
- ✓ Abhinandan Patra is a 'thank you note'.
- ✓ It will be issued to the beneficiaries when beneficiaries will be discharged after their treatment under PM-JAY.
- ✓ Ayushman Mitra is an initiative launched to encourage citizens to participate in motivating eligible beneficiaries to get verified under PM-JAY scheme.
- ✓ It also seeks to help beneficiaries to get the Ayushman Cards issued.

Institute of Economic Growth Society - New president

- ✓ The Chairman of 15th Finance Commission, NK Singh, has been elected as the new president of Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) Society.
- ✓ He succeeded former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh who was the President of IEG since 1992.

Institute of Economic Growth

- ✓ It is an autonomous, multidisciplinary centre that is used for advanced research and training.
- ✓ It was founded by VKRV Rao in 1952, but became operational in 1958.
- ✓ It is located at University Enclave of University of Delhi, New Delhi.

- ✓ This MoU involves Cooperation in the field of Disaster Management, Resilience and Mitigation.

Malabar rebellion of 1921

- ✓ The Mapilla rebellion or Malabar rebellion is also termed as Moplah Rebellion (Moplah Riots).
- ✓ The Malabar rebellion of 1921 was the culmination of a series of riots by Moplahs (Muslims of Malabar) in the 19th and early 20th centuries against the British and the Hindu landlords in Malabar (Northern Kerala).
- ✓ The uprising, which began as part of the Khilafat Movement, took place in regions which are under the Malappuram district, Kerala.
- ✓ It was an armed revolt led by Variyam kunnath Kunjahammed Haji.
- ✓ The year 2021 will mark the 100th year anniversary of the uprising.
- ✓ This Rebellion will be removed from the dictionary of Martyrs of India's Freedom Struggle.

Small Business Loans Initiative

- ✓ Facebook India has launched a new initiative called the "Small Business Loans Initiative".
- ✓ This initiative was launched in partnership with online lending platform, Indifi.

- ✓ It will extend help to small and medium businesses who advertise on Facebook in order to get quick access to credit with the help of independent lending partners.
- ✓ India is the first country where Facebook rolled out this initiative.

INSACOG study

- ✓ INSACOG Highlights that, Continuing COVID-19 outbreaks in India are the result of
 - ✚ Delta variant,
 - ✚ susceptible population and
 - ✚ reduced vaccine effectiveness in breaking the transmission.
- ✓ INSACOG is a genome sequencing government consortium of Laboratories in India.

Hurun Global 500 Most Valuable Companies list 2021

- ✓ Apple is the world's most valuable company, according to the Hurun Global 500 Most Valuable Companies list 2021.
- ✓ The world's top six valuable companies remained unchanged as Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, Alphabet, Facebook and Tencent.
- ✓ Globally, the US topped the list in 243 companies.
- ✓ India ranked 9th in this list with 12 companies.

ARMY-2021

- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) of India is participating in the International Military-Technical Forum 'ARMY-2021' at Kubinka, Moscow.
- ✓ At the forum ARMY-2021, DRDO will showcase its indigenously built fighter aircraft LCA Tejas, Arjun Main Battle Tank (MK1A), Anti-Tank Guided Missiles among other products at the India Pavilion.
- ✓ Note
- ✓ The International Military-Technical Forum 'ARMY-2021' is organized by the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation that offers the opportunity for exhibition and demonstration of military equipment.
- ✓ ARMY-2021 is the 7th International Military-Technical Forum.

Zair-Al-Bahr Exercise

- ✓ The 2nd edition of Bilateral Maritime Exercise Zair-Al-Bahr (Roar of the Sea) 2021 was conducted in the Persian Gulf.
- ✓ The exercise is between the Indian Navy and Qatar Emiri Naval Force.
- ✓ Indian Navy Guided Missile Stealth Frigate INS (Indian Naval Ship) Trikand arrived at Qatar's capital city, Doha for participation in the sea phase.

- ✓ The exercise focuses on the fight against terrorism, maritime piracy, and maritime security.

Global Manufacturing Risk Index

- ✓ India has emerged as a global manufacturing hub.
- ✓ It has effectively surpassed the United States to become the world's second most desired manufacturing destination.
- ✓ This indicates the growing interest in India by manufacturers as a preferred manufacturing hub over other countries.
- ✓ The top position is retained by China.
- ✓ India's ranking was reflected in Cushman & Wakefield's 2021 Global Manufacturing Risk Index.
- ✓ The index ranks 47 countries across Europe, the Americas, and the Asia Pacific.

Narayan Rane Arrest

- ✓ The Union minister Narayan Rane was arrested after his statement against Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.
- ✓ A union minister or a Member of Parliament enjoys certain privileges but most of them are available when Parliament is in session.
- ✓ If Parliament is not in session, police or other law enforcement agencies may arrest a Union cabinet minister in a criminal case.

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- ✓ But, under Section 222A of the Rules of Procedures and Conduct of Business of the Rajya Sabha, the police or a judge issuing an arrest order is required to intimate the Rajya Sabha Chairman about the reason for and place of arrest.
- ✓ The Chairman gets it published in Rajya Sabha.

Note

- ✓ A union minister or an MP enjoys protection from arrest 40 days before the start of a Parliament session, during its sittings and 40 days after its conclusion.
- ✓ So, under Section 135 of the Code of Civil Procedure, Narayan Rane has the protection from arrest in a civil case as Parliament's Monsoon Session ended earlier this month.
- ✓ However, his arrest came in a criminal case.
- ✓ And, the protection from arrest does not cover criminal offences or preventive detention.

Forum for Decarbonizing Transport

- ✓ NITI Aayog and World Resources Institute (WRI), India, jointly launched the 'Forum for Decarbonizing Transport' in India.
- ✓ NITI Aayog is the implementing partner for India.
- ✓ The aim of the project is to bring down the peak level of GHG emissions (transport sector) in Asia.

- ✓ The Forum has been launched under the NDC-Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA) project.
- ✓ The NDC Transport Initiative for Asia (TIA 2020-2023) is a joint programme of seven organizations that will engage China, India, and Vietnam in promoting a comprehensive approach to decarbonizing transport in their respective countries.

E-Shram Portal

- ✓ The Ministry of Labour and Employment launched the E-Shram portal.
- ✓ E-Shram Portal will be the National Database of Unorganised workers (Shram Yogis).
- ✓ The portal will do the targeted identification of the unorganized workers.
- ✓ It will help take social security schemes to their doorstep.
- ✓ Registered workers will be provided with an e-SHRAM card that will have a 12 digit unique number.
- ✓ This move will integrate the Centre's social security schemes.

Iconic Week celebrations

- ✓ The union minister for information and broadcasting Anurag Thakur has kicked off a series of activities to celebrate the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- ✓ The activities organised by the ministry will aim to 'showcase the convergence of the values and glories of the

freedom struggle of the past with the aspirations and dreams of a young, new and iconic India’.

- ✓ Thakur kicks off the ‘Iconic Week’ which attract participation from across the country under the overall spirit of ‘Jan Bhagidari and Jan Andolan’.

N. S. Vishwanathan Panel on Urban Co-operative Banks

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India had appointed committee headed by N. S. Vishwanathan to make suggestions on structure for the urban cooperative banks (UCBs).
- ✓ This Panel was set up to suggest structure on the basis of deposits, prescribed different capital adequacy as well as regulatory norms for them with respect to their sizes. Recommendations by panel
- ✓ As per this committee, UCBs can be split into four categories.
- ✓ They are,
- ✓ Tier-1- with deposits up to Rs 100 crore;
- ✓ Tier-2 with deposits between Rs 100-Rs 1000 crore,
- ✓ Tier-3 with deposits between Rs 1000 crore to Rs 10000 and
- ✓ Tier-4 with deposits more than Rs 10000 crore.
- ✓ It suggests that, minimum Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) for these tiers can vary between 9 per cent to 15 per cent.

- ✓ While, for Tier-4 UCBs the Basel III prescribed norms can be followed.
- ✓ It suggests separate ceilings for loan against gold ornaments, home loans and unsecured loans for different categories of UCBs.
- ✓ The Supervisory Action Framework (SAF) should follow a twin-indicator approach.
- ✓ It can consider only asset quality and capital measured through NNPA and CRAR, rather than going with triple indicators approach at present.

Yuktdhara portal

- ✓ The government launched a new geospatial planning portal called 'Yuktdhara' under Bhuvan.
- ✓ This new portal will help in facilitating new MGNREGA assets with the help of remote sensing as well as geographic information system-based data.
- ✓ This Portal will also serve as a repository of geotags that have been created under several national rural development programmes.
- ✓ The portal has been jointly developed by ISRO and the Ministry of Rural Development.
- ✓ The Geoportal Bhuvan is a rich information base of ISRO.
- ✓ It provides satellite images and analytical capabilities.

Indigenous motorized wheelchair ‘NeoBolt’

- ✓ IIT Madras has developed India’s first indigenous motorized wheelchair vehicle named ‘NeoBolt’.
- ✓ This can be used not only on roads but even on uneven terrains.
- ✓ It has a maximum speed of 25 kmph.
- ✓ It is powered by a Lithium-Ion Battery.

Five women officers to Colonel rank

- ✓ The Indian Army’s Selection Board for the first time promoted five women officers to Colonel rank.
- ✓ The five women officers have already completed 26 years of service.
- ✓ The women officers promoted to Colonel Time Scale rank are
- ✓ Lt Col Navneet Duggal and Lt Col Sonia Anand from the Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME),
- ✓ Lt Col Sangeeta Sardana from Corps of Signals, Lt Col Richa Sagar and Lt Col Reenu Khanna from the Corps of Engineers.
- ✓ Earlier, only women officers serving in the Army Education Corps, Judge Advocate General, and the Army Medical Corps were applicable for promotion to the Colonel Time Scale rank.

Advanced Oxidation Technology

- ✓ The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi, has developed a technology called “Advanced Oxidation Technology” or TADOX.
- ✓ It uses UV-Photocatalysis and can treat municipal sewage and highly polluting industrial wastewater streams.
- ✓ It reduces less dependence and load on biological and tertiary treatment systems and can help achieve Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD).

First woman Chief Justice of India

- ✓ All nine names recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium were cleared by the Centre.
- ✓ This paved the way for India to see its first woman Chief Justice of India in 2027.
- ✓ The nine names include those of three women judges Justice Hima Kohli, Justice BV Nagarathna, Justice Bela Trivedi.
- ✓ According to the order of seniority, Justice Nagratna may be appointed CJI in 2027.

GUAREX

- ✓ India’s first sectoral index in the Agri commodities basket i.e. GUAREX was launched by the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX).

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- ✓ First mRNA-based covid-19 vaccine is as called HGCO19.
- ✓ It is being developed by a Pune-based biotechnology company, Genova Biopharmaceuticals Ltd. in collaboration with HDT Biotech Corporation of USA.

SUJALAM

- ✓ Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched a '100 days campaign' named SUJALAM.
- ✓ This is to create more and more Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus villages by undertaking wastewater management at the village level.

Jallianwala Bagh Samarak

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the renovated complex of Jallianwala Bagh Samarak to the nation.
- ✓ He also inaugurated museums galleries developed method Samarak.

The Malabar Exercise

- ✓ Navies of the four member nations of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, or the Quad (India, the United States, Japan, and Australia) are participating in the 25th edition of the Malabar Exercise.
- ✓ This began off the coast of Guam in the Pacific Ocean.
- ✓ Malabar began as a bilateral naval exercise between India and the U.S. in 1992.

- ✓ It was expanded into a trilateral format with the inclusion of Japan in 2015.

Naval exercise - India and Philippines

- ✓ India and the Philippines conducted a naval exercise in the South China Sea recently.
- ✓ Indian Navy had deployed its guided missile destroyer INS Ranvijay and guided missile corvette INS Kora.
- ✓ The Philippine Navy has deployed its frigate BRP Antonio Luna, in the exercise.
- ✓ Note
- ✓ The South China Sea region has been witnessing growing Chinese military expansionism.

Hydrogen electrolyzer giga factory

- ✓ Ohmium launches India's first green hydrogen electrolyzer giga factory
- ✓ US-based Ohmium International has started India's first green hydrogen electrolyzer manufacturing unit at Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ✓ The factory will manufacture India-made Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) hydrogen electrolyzers.
- ✓ The PEM hydrogen electrolyzer is the main equipment for the production of green hydrogen.
- ✓ It uses power generated from renewable resources to break water into hydrogen and oxygen.

- ✓ Green hydrogen is made from non-fossil sources against blue hydrogen that is made from fossil sources.

Greater Male Connectivity Project

- ✓ Maldives government has officially signed an agreement with Mumbai-based company AFCONS, for the construction of the Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP).
- ✓ This infrastructure project is the largest-ever by India in the Maldives.
- ✓ It involves the construction of a 6.74-km-long bridge and causeway link that will connect the Maldives capital Malé with the neighbouring islands of Villingli, Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi.
- ✓ This project was funded by India in a grant of \$100 million, with a line of credit of \$400 million.
- ✓ The Line of Credit is not a grant but a ‘soft loan’ provided on concessional interest rates to developing countries, which has to be repaid by the borrowing government.

WEP Nxt

- ✓ NITI Aayog in partnership with Cisco has launched the next phase of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) titled “WEP Nxt”.
- ✓ This is to foster women entrepreneurship in India.
- ✓ WEP was launched by NITI Aayog in 2017.

- ✓ WEP is a unified portal that brings together women from diverse backgrounds and offers them access to a multitude of resources, support, and learning.
- ✓ WEP Nxt Platform is the next phase of this WEP.

EASE 4.0

- ✓ Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman has unveiled the fourth edition of the Public Sector Bank (PSB) Reforms Agenda 'EASE 4.0' for 2021-22.
- ✓ It is a simplified, tech-enabled and collaborative banking.
- ✓ The major theme for EASE 4.0 is "Technology-enabled, simplified, and collaborative banking."
- ✓ EASE stands for Enhanced Access & Service Excellence (EASE).

NERDSD Goal Index Report & Dashboard

- ✓ The first edition of the North Eastern Region District Sustainable Development (NERDSD) Goal Index Report and Dashboard 2021-22 was launched recently.
- ✓ This will be first of its kind region-wide district SDG index in India.
- ✓ This index has been prepared by collaborative efforts of NITI Aayog and DoNER Ministry.
- ✓ It will measure the performance of the districts across eight States.

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- ✓ East Sikkim District has topped in terms of meeting the sustainable development goals in this Index.
- ✓ Nagaland's Kiphire district has featured at the bottom of this index.

Ananda mobile app

- ✓ Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) launched a mobile app called “Ananda mobile app” for its agents and intermediaries in order to onboard the prospective customers.
- ✓ ANANDA stands for Atma Nirbhar Agents New Business Digital App.

Hisar airport renamed

- ✓ Haryana Chief Minister announced that the states first civil airport at Hisar would be renamed as Maharaja Agrasen International Airport.
- ✓ The Hisar Airport is the first DGCA licenced public aerodrome of the Haryana state.

SAMRIDH Scheme

- ✓ Start-up Accelerators of MeitY for pRодукt Innovation, Development and growth (SAMRIDH) programme was launched by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY).
- ✓ SAMRIDH will create a conducive platform to growing Indian Software Product start-ups that are ready for

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acceleration stage to enhance their products and secure investments for scaling their business.

- ✓ It will provide them with funding support, mentorship and other supports that are required by start-ups at this stage.

INDIAsize

- ✓ Ministry of Textile and National Institute of Fashion Technology launched an India size survey, in order to do away with the confusion of size.
- ✓ It has been titled as INDIAsize.
- ✓ This initiative was launched with the aim of introducing a new standardised size chart in ready-to-wear clothing sector in India.
- ✓ At present, only 18 countries have their own sizing charts.

Most surveilled cities

- ✓ Data for the world's most surveilled cities shows that India's capital city New Delhi ranks first with 1,826.6 cameras per square mile.
- ✓ Chennai ranks third in this.
- ✓ Further, London is second and Mumbai is at 18 in this.

India's first Green Hydrogen Plant

- ✓ Indian Oil will build India's first Green Hydrogen Plant at Mathura refinery.

- ✓ Indian Oil - India's largest fuel refiner and crude oil importer- in not only developing hydrogen fuel but also plans to expand biofuel manufacturing.

Deepar Beel Wildlife Sanctuary

- ✓ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the ecosensitive zone of the Deepar Beel Wildlife Sanctuary on the south-western edge of Guwahati.
- ✓ Deepar Beel is one of the largest freshwater lakes in Assam.
- ✓ It is the State's only Ramsar site besides being an Important Bird Area.

Note

- ✓ The Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) or Ecologically Fragile Areas (EFAs) are areas notified by the MoEFCC around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- ✓ The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 does not mention the word "EcoSensitive Zones".

Gandiv exercise

- ✓ The third edition of the week-long annual exercise called 'Gandiv' was launched by the NSG.
- ✓ The synchronised commando drills as part of a national mock exercise were carried out by the counter-terrorism force National Security Guard (NSG).

- ✓ This is to check its response time and reaction to hostage and hijack-like situations.
- ✓ Gandiv was the name of Arjuna's bow in Mahabharata.
- ✓ The NSG was raised as a federal counter-terrorism force in 1984 to undertake surgical commando operations in order to neutralise terrorist and hijack threats.

INTERNATIONAL

Youngest mountaineer to scale K2

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

Serendipity Sapphire

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

UNESCO adds 7 sites to World Heritage List

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

UNESCO's list of World Heritage sites

- ✓ The Sitio Burle Marx site, a landscape garden in Brazilian city Rio de Janeiro has been added to UNESCO's list of World Heritage sites.
- ✓ The site has been named after Burle Marx, a Brazilian landscape architect.

Triangular Cooperation for Global Development

- ✓ India and the US renewed for five years a global development partnership agreement to work together in African and Asian countries.
- ✓ They will work on key issues such as regional connectivity, clean energy and disaster risk reduction.
- ✓ The two countries signed the second amendment to the Statement of Guiding Principles on Triangular Cooperation for Global Development.
- ✓ The SGP agreement, originally inked in November 2014, provides a framework for development cooperation in third countries, especially in Asia and Africa.
- ✓ The second amendment to the SGP agreement extends the validity of the pact till September 2026.

The Factoring Regulation (Amendment) Bill

- ✓ The Bill that seeks to open up factoring business to non-bank lenders was passed in the parliament.
- ✓ The Bill will provide relief to micro, small and medium enterprises and help them, ensuring a smoother capital cycle and healthier cash flow.
- ✓ The current law on factoring business was enacted in 2011.
- ✓ It gave the Reserve Bank of India authority to allow non-bank finance companies to remain in factoring business only if it was their principal business.

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- ✓ That is, more than half of assets were to be deployed and income earned from factoring business.
- ✓ The Bill removes this threshold.

ISA agreement

- ✓ Germany has become the 5th country to sign the international solar Alliance Framework agreement.

New Pointman

- ✓ Pakistan appointed a new pointman Khalid Mansoor for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to expedite the implementation of various projects.
- ✓ The epec is the flagship project of China's ambitious multi-billion dollar belt and Road initiative.
- ✓ India has protested to China over the CPEC as it is being laid through Pakistan occupied Kashmir.

Permanent Forum of People of African Descent

- ✓ UN General Assembly has approved a resolution to establish a Permanent Forum of People of African Descent.
- ✓ This permanent forum of people will provide expert advice in addressing the challenges of racism, xenophobia, racial discrimination and intolerance.
- ✓ Resolution was adopted by consensus by the 193-member world body.
- ✓ New forum will comprise of 10 members.

- ✓ Five will be elected by General Assembly from all regions.
- ✓ Five will be appointed by Human Rights Council in consultations with regional groups as well as organizations of people of African descent.

BRICS Counter-Terrorism Action Plan

- ✓ The BRICS Counter-Terrorism Action Plan has been finalized to strengthen BRICS counter-terrorism cooperation.
- ✓ This discussion took place at the sixth meeting of the BRICS Anti-Terrorism Working Group.

Thailand bans Coral-Damaging Sunscreens

- ✓ Thailand has banned sunscreens comprising of chemicals that damage coral from all of its marine national parks.
- ✓ According to Thai Department of Conservation, four ingredients found in sun creams were destroying coral larvae, obstruct coral reproduction and cause reef bleaching.
- ✓ Banned lotions comprises of oxybenzone, octinoxate, 4-methylbenzylidene camphor or butylparaben.
- ✓ Similar bans have been put by Pacific Island of Palau and the US state of Hawaii.

International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement - Germany

- ✓ Germany became the 5th country to sign the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement.
- ✓ This was made possible after amendments entered into force, opening the Membership of international solar alliance to all Member States of the United Nations. Note
- ✓ The Membership to the ISA was earlier limited to 121 countries.
- ✓ The countries were partially or entirely located within the tropics.
- ✓ This didn't allow major solar energy economies such as Germany to join the alliance.

Ebrahim Raisi

- ✓ Ebrahim Raisi was officially sworn in as the new president of Iran.
- ✓ He won the 2021 Iranian presidential election in June, with 62 per cent of the vote.
- ✓ The 60-year-old Raisi succeeds Hassan Rouhani.
- ✓ He is also been the Chief Justice of Iran since March 2019.

Forbes real-time billionaires list

- ✓ Louis Vuitton chairman Bernard Arnault has surpassed Amazon founder Jeff Bezos to become the world's richest person.

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- ✓ This is according to Forbes real-time billionaires list.
- ✓ Tesla and SpaceX Chief Elon Musk is placed third.

Russia lays optic cable

- ✓ Russia has started laying its first under sea fibre of the Communications cable Through the Arctic as part of a state-run project to bring high-speed internet to remote hydrocarbon-rich north.
- ✓ Dubbed the "Polar Express", the cable link due to be completed in 2026, would pass 12,650km over Russia's long north coast from the Barents Sea to the far Eastern port of Vladivostok.

DBS bank

- ✓ DBS has been honoured as the global winner for Most Innovative in Digital Banking by Financial Times publication, The Banker.
- ✓ The bank was also recognised as the Asia-Pacific winner and won in the Cyber Security category for its Secure Access and Remote Working Solution.
- ✓ DBS is named Asia's Best Bank & Asia's Best Digital Bank in the Euromoney Regional Awards.

First G20 Culture Ministers Meeting

- ✓ The first G20 Culture Ministers Meeting was held in Rome, Italy.

- ✓ The Colosseum and Palazzo Barberini hosted the G20 Summit in Rome.

Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

- ✓ Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) has been joined in by 25 countries and seven international organisations as member till date.
- ✓ Canada and Bangladesh are the new entrant to CDRI.
- ✓ Prime minister launched the CDRI on September 23, 2019 during his speech at the UN Climate Action Summit.
- ✓ Its primary objective is to promote research and knowledge sharing in fields of infrastructure risk management, financing, standards and recovery mechanisms.

Gilgit-Baltistan

- ✓ Pakistani authorities have finalised a law to award provisional provincial status to strategically located Gilgit-Baltistan.
- ✓ Gilgit-Baltistan is one of the disputed territories of India.
- ✓ It is a chunk of high-altitude territory located on the north western corner of the Union Territory of Ladakh.
- ✓ It is located strategically as it borders Pakistan, Afghanistan and China.
- ✓ The region is claimed by India as part of the erstwhile princely state of Jammu & Kashmir as it existed in 1947 at its accession to India.

- ✓ However, it has been under Pakistan's control since 4th November, 1947, following the invasion of Kashmir by tribal militias and the Pakistan army.
- ✓ Gilgit-Baltistan is an autonomous region now and after the bill is passed, it will become the 5th province of the country.
- ✓ Currently, Pakistan has four provinces namely Baluchistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, and Sindh.

South Africa Grand patent to an AI system

- ✓ In a world first, South Africa has granted a patent relating to a food container based on fractal geometry.
- ✓ The innovation is an artificial intelligence system called DABUS.
- ✓ DABUS (which stands for device for the autonomic bootstrapping of unified sentience) the system simulates human brainstorming and create new inventions.

Carbon-neutral

- ✓ Industrialization in China occurred at breathtaking pace which lifted people out of poverty and transformed India into the world's factory.
- ✓ However, this also made China the biggest emitter of carbon dioxide.
- ✓ As a result, China has set the goal of becoming carbon-neutral by 2060.

- ✓ Carbon neutral means cutting carbon dioxide emissions as large as possible and offsetting what cannot be eliminated.
- ✓ This can be done by switching to renewable energy sources like using solar power instead of coal.
- ✓ By 2030, China will be committing to bring down carbon neutrality by 2060.
- ✓ If China gets success in it, it will be the fastest decline from peak emissions.

Guniea confirm first case of Marburg disease

- ✓ Guniea has confirmed a case of Marburg disease.
- ✓ It was first recorded in West Africa and related to Ebola.

SCO Meeting of Ministers of Justice

- ✓ The three days meeting was hosted by Tajikistan.
- ✓ It was chaired by Tajikistan's Justice Minister, MK Ashuriyon.
- ✓ The Ministers of (Law and) Justice and senior officials and experts from the Ministries of Law & Justice of 'India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan' participated in the meeting.
- ✓ The Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju has virtually attended the meeting.
- ✓ The Minister of State for Law & Justice, Prof SP Singh Baghel also attended the meeting.

- ✓ Mohammad Mokhber has for years headed the foundation known as Setad.

28th ASEAN Regional Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting

- ✓ The Minister of State for External Affairs, Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh led India's delegation to the 28th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Foreign Ministers Meeting.
- ✓ The Meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Brunei Darussalam.
- ✓ The ARF Ministers adopted a Joint Statement on Promoting the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Agenda.

Ghaznavi

- ✓ Pakistan carried a successful training launch of surface-to-surface nuclearcapable ballistic missile called Ghaznavi.
- ✓ This training launch was aimed to ensure operational readiness of Army Strategic Forces Command (ASFC).

Periodic Labour Force Survey (2019 - 2020)

- ✓ It is India's first computer-based survey launched by the National Statistical Office (NSO) in 2017.
- ✓ The findings of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2019-2020 was released recently.
- ✓ It offers a credulity-stretching picture of a decline in the unemployment rate between 2017-18 and 2019-2020, together with an increase in the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR).

- ✓ PLFS reports a reduction in the usual - status unemployment rate from 6.1% in 2017-18 to 5.8% in 2018-19 and further to 4.8% in 2019-20.
- ✓ It also shows a corresponding increase in the proportion of people participating in the country's labour force from 36.9% to 37.5% and then further to 40.1% in 2019-20.
- ✓ These positive trends have occurred amid a decline in the economy's real growth rate from 7% to 4.2% over that period.
- ✓ Thus, from a paradox of jobless growth in the past, India seems to have come full circle with 'growthless employment'.

Doctor - population ratio

- ✓ India is well on the path to achieving the World Health Organisation recommended ratio of one doctor per thousand population by 2024.
- ✓ India is also increasing the number of hospital beds from 11 lakh to 22 lakh.
- ✓ In the last 75 years, India has made significant progress in the health sector.
- ✓ At the time of independence, the average life was just 28 years and it has now reached close to 70 years.

Academic Ranking of World Universities 2021

- ✓ Calcutta University secured second rankings in the Academic Ranking of World Universities 2021.

by 62.34 in Social Well-being, 44.7 in Financial Well-being, and 33.03 in Income Security.

- ✓ The index also provided 'Quality of Life for Elderly Scores' in 4 categories viz. Aged states, Relatively Aged States, Union Territory (UT), and North-East States.
- ✓ Rajasthan has topped the ranking of Aged states.
- ✓ Himachal Pradesh is top-scorer in Relatively Aged States.
- ✓ The Aged States refer to States with an elderly population of more than 5 million.
- ✓ Relatively Aged States refer to States with an Elderly population of less than 5 million.
- ✓ Chandigarh and Mizoram are top-scoring regions in Union Territory (UT) and North-East States category, respectively.
- ✓ Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) scored the lowest among UTs.
- ✓ Arunachal Pradesh, among the north eastern states, scored the lowest score.
- ✓ In the aged states, Telangana scored the lowest.
- ✓ In relatively aged states categories Gujarat ranked last.

Honour FIRST

- ✓ The Indian Navy has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC).
- ✓ This is the first Bank to initiate 'Honour FIRST'.

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- ✓ 'Honour FIRST' is a premium banking solution for serving personnel and veterans of the Indian Navy.

GM Soybean

- ✓ The Union government has decided to allow the import of crushed genetically modified (GM) soybean.
- ✓ It is a major ingredient of poultry feed.
- ✓ A GM or transgenic crop is a plant that has a novel combination of genetic material obtained through the use of modern biotechnology.

Note

- ✓ The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is the apex body that allows for commercial release of GM crops.
- ✓ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is the authorised body to regulate the imported crops in India.

Operation Blue Freedom

- ✓ Union Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar flagged off 'Operation Blue Freedom'.
- ✓ It is an expedition by the people with disabilities battlefield-Siachen Glacier.
- ✓ Selected people with disabilities will undertake an expedition to Kumar Post to create a new world record to scale the world's highest battlefield.

IBSA Tourism Ministers Meeting

- ✓ India organized the IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa) Tourism Ministers meeting through the virtual platform.
- ✓ The Union Minister of Tourism of India G. Kishan Reddy chaired the meeting.
- ✓ The meeting provided a platform to promote tourism cooperation among the member states.

Nasal vaccine - BBV154

- ✓ India's first nasal vaccine against COVID-19 has received the nod to conduct phase 2 and 3 clinical trials by the Department of Biotechnology.
- ✓ Nasal Covid Vaccine has been developed by Bharat Biotech.
- ✓ The nasal vaccine is the first of its kind COVID-19 vaccine that is undergoing human clinical trials in India.

Note

- ✓ Bharat Biotech has developed the first ever nasal vaccine called BBV154.
- ✓ It is a novel adenovirus vectored.
- ✓ This intranasal vaccine was developed to build immunity against COVID-19.

Energy independent - 2047

- ✓ India targets to become 'energy independent' by 2047.

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- ✓ That is when India celebrates its 100th year of Independence.
- ✓ PM has announced a 'Mission Circular Economy' that will replace petroleum with other forms of energy to make India achieve self-reliance in energy production by 2047.
- ✓ The Roadmap for India to become energy independent include,
 - ✚ Increasing usage of natural gas in the economy,
 - ✚ Setting up a network of CNG and piped natural gas network throughout India and
 - ✚ Blending 20 per cent ethanol in petrol and electric mobility.

Vande Bharat trains

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that 75 'Vande Bharat' trains will connect different parts of the country in 75 weeks.
- ✓ This is to mark the ongoing 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- ✓ 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' is the central government's initiative to mark 75 years of Independence from British rule.
- ✓ Vande Bharat is an indigenous semi-high speed train set.

Sainik Schools for female students

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that Sainik Schools across India will now be open for female students as well.

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- ✓ Girls were first allowed in Sainik schools of Mizoram about 2.5 years ago.
- ✓ Sainik Schools are system of schools that was established and managed by Sainik Schools Society.
- ✓ It comes under the Ministry of Defence (MoD).
- ✓ Establishment of Sainik schools was led by V. K. Krishna Menon in 1961, who was the then Defence Minister of India.
- ✓ As of now, there were 33 Sainik Schools.

National Hydrogen Mission

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched National Hydrogen Mission on August 15, 2021 from Lal Quila.
- ✓ The mission seeks to make India a global hub for green hydrogen production and exports.

Diesel - door delivery

- ✓ Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) launched door-to-door delivery of 'High Speed Diesel'.

BPCL

- ✓ It is an Indian government-owned oil and gas corporation, operating under the parent head of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- ✓ It is headquartered in Mumbai.
- ✓ Company operates two large refineries in Kochi and Mumbai.

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- ✓ It is considered as second-largest downstream oil company of India.

SonChiraiya

- ✓ The 'SonChiraiya' brand and logo was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for marketing urban Self-Help Group (SHG) products.
- ✓ This initiative will prove as a step in the right direction towards increased visibility and global access for the products made by urban SHG women.

Rice under all schemes to be fortified

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced to provide fortified rice to poor under various schemes by 2024.
- ✓ This decision was taken in the view that, malnutrition and lack of essential nutrients among poor women and poor children is a major hurdle in their development.
- ✓ Government distributes rice under schemes covered under National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.

AIMS-New Delhi

- ✓ The All-India Institute of Medical Science, New Delhi has become the first hospital of India to house a fire station inside the hospital premises.
- ✓ For this, AIIMS has collaborated with Delhi Fire Service.

Design resource center - Chennai

- ✓ The Union Ministry of Textiles is setting up a design resource centre at the weaver's service centre in Chennai.
- ✓ The aim is to build and create design-oriented excellence in the handloom sector.
- ✓ Also, it is to facilitate weavers, exporters, manufacturers and designers access design repositories to improve samples/products.
- ✓ The Ministry has roped in NIFT (National Institute of Fashion Technology) in this initiative.
- ✓ Similar resource centres were set up in seven centres earlier.
- ✓ And one was inaugurated at Kancheepuram recently.

Data on hydro meteorological calamities

- ✓ Nearly 6,800 people lost their lives in the country over the past three years due to hydro meteorological calamities.
- ✓ Hydro meteorological calamities include flash floods, landslides and cyclones.
- ✓ West Bengal has recorded the highest deaths among all States (964 deaths).
- ✓ This amounts to 14% of deaths due to hydro meteorological calamities.
- ✓ Other than West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh recorded 833 deaths, followed by Kerala 708.

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- ✓ In both the States, the spike in the casualties has been caused by floods.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has recorded 201 casualties.

Hindustan-228

- ✓ Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has successfully carried ground tests for making a civilian aircraft named 'Hindustan-228'.
- ✓ Hindustan-228 aircraft has been built with the aim of supporting the regional connectivity scheme-UDAN.
- ✓ It will be utilised by civil operators and state Governments for their intra and inter-state connectivity.
- ✓ HAL is a state-owned aerospace and defence company.
- ✓ It is headquartered in Bangalore.

Bharat Net programme

- ✓ Six lakh villages in India will get internet connectivity by 2024 under the Bharat Net programme.
- ✓ Government is working towards its aim to provide internet facility for each household and to provide access to internet with a low-cost device for every member in a family.

Bharat Net initiative

- ✓ It is a flagship mission that is being implemented by Bharat Broadband Network Ltd. (BBNL).

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- ✓ This Special Purpose Vehicle was set up Government of India under Companies Act, 1956.

Vriksharopan Abhiyan - 2021

- ✓ Vriksharopan Abhiyan - 2021 of Coal Ministry is launched on August 19, 2021.
- ✓ It is a key event under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations in coal sector.
- ✓ It will bring environment sustainability in mining operations.
- ✓ In this year, coal PSUs of the Ministry of Coal is to launch “Go Greening” drive.
- ✓ Areas will be covered under bio-reclamation or plantation.
- ✓ Go Greening drive will be provided the right boost by launching Vriksharopan Abhiyan 2021.
- ✓ This Mission will be launched by Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary affairs, Prahalad Joshi.

UNITE AWARE

- ✓ The External Affairs Minister (EAM), S Jaishankar, announced the rollout of “UNITE AWARE” tech to help protect UN peacekeepers.
- ✓ He made this announcement at the UN headquarters in New York while he was chairing UN security council open debate on “Technology and Peacekeeping”.

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- ✓ UNITE AWARE is a mobile tech platform developed by India to provide terrainrelated information to the UN peacekeepers.
- ✓ This is to ensure their safety.
- ✓ It is developed in partnership with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Operational Support.

Women to appear for NDA exam

- ✓ The Supreme Court has allowed the women to appear for National Defence Academy (NDA) exam.
- ✓ Kush Kalra filed petition, seeking permission for women to sit in the NDA entrance exam.
- ✓ This Petition highlighted the issue of violation of Articles 14, 15, 16 and 19 of the Constitution.
- ✓ NDA
- ✓ NDA is the joint defence service training institute of Indian Armed Forces.
- ✓ It is located in Khadakwasla in Pune, Maharashtra.
- ✓ This academy is world's first tri-service academy.

Student Entrepreneurship Program 3.0

- ✓ Third series of Student Entrepreneurship Program 3.0 (SEP 3.0) was launched for the young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL).

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- ✓ This program was launched by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog in collaboration with La Foundation Dassault Systems.
- ✓ Theme of SEP 3.0 is ‘Made in 3D – Seed the Future Entrepreneurs Program’.
- ✓ Under this program, a team from each school comprising of 6 students and a teacher will be allocated seed funding in order to create their own start-up and design.

Exercise Konkan 2021

- ✓ The Indian Naval Ship Tabar arrived at Portsmouth in England, to undertake the annual bilateral drill ‘Exercise Konkan 2021’ between the Indian Navy and Britain’s Royal Navy.
- ✓ The bilateral naval exercise Konkan is being held every year since 2004.
- ✓ It is held to enhance the interoperability, synergy and cooperation between both navies.
- ✓ HMS Westminster of the Royal Navy took part from Britain’s side.

Jorhat jail

- ✓ Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sharma announced that Jorhat Central Jail would be preserved as the Heritage site.
- ✓ During the freedom struggle, prominent freedom fighters such as former President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad, gopinath

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- ✓ This is to strengthen the defence ties among the two navies.
- ✓ From India, INS Ranvijay and INS Kora took part in the exercise.
- ✓ From the Vietnam People's Navy, frigate VPNS Ly Thai To (HQ-012) participated in the drill.
- ✓ The bilateral interaction aims to consolidate the strong bond shared by the two navies and would be another step towards strengthening India-Vietnam defence relations.
- ✓ This visit also holds special importance as Indian Naval ships celebrated the country's 75th Independence Day in Vietnam.

National Mission on Edible Oils

- ✓ The Cabinet approved the 'National Mission on Edible Oils — Oil Palm (NMEOOP)'.
✓ This approval was given in order to promote the domestic cultivation of oil palm in next five years.
✓ It will help in reducing India's dependence on imports.
✓ The decision was taken after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced this new Central scheme on August 15.

About the scheme

- ✓ The National Mission on Edible Oils is a centrally sponsored scheme.
- ✓ This scheme will subsume the "National Food Security Mission-Oil Palm programme.

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- ✓ It was launched in line with the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat scheme.
- ✓ The National Mission on Edible Oil was launched with the aim of covering oil palm in an additional area of 6.5 lakh hectare by 2025-26.
- ✓ It seeks to reach the target of 10 lakh hectare.

All-women team of three armed forces at Mt Manirang

- ✓ An 'All Women Tri-Services Mountaineering Team' successfully scaled Mt Manirang on August 15, 2021.
- ✓ Mt Manirang (21,625 ft) is in Himachal Pradesh.
- ✓ They unfurled the national flag as a part of commemorative activities for 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav'.
- ✓ The team was led by Wing Commander Bhavana Mehra of the Indian Air Force.

AK-103 rifles

- ✓ India and Russia have signed a deal to immediately procure AK-103 Rifles.
- ✓ This deal was inked as a part of mega infantry modernisation programme.
- ✓ This rifle will be manufactured under the joint venture Indo-Russia Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL).
- ✓ IRRPL is a rifle-manufacturing facility in Korwa village of Amethi district in Uttar Pradesh.

Ubharte Sitaare Fund

- ✓ The Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is set to launch an ambitious ‘Ubharte Sitaare Fund’.
- ✓ It will be launched for export-oriented firms and startups.
- ✓ Ubharte Sitaare fund has been set up jointly by Exim Bank and SIDBI.
- ✓ It will be launched in Lucknow.
- ✓ The finance minister will also launch India Exim Bank’s study on ‘Exports from Uttar Pradesh: Trends, Opportunities and Policy Perspective’.
- ✓ Ubharte Sitaare Programme (USP) will identify Indian companies that have the capability to be future champions in domestic arena while meeting the global demands.
- ✓ This fund is a mix of structured support, debt and technical assistance to the Indian companies.

Advanced chaff technology

- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed an advanced chaff technology.
- ✓ The objective is to safeguard the Indian Air Force Fighter Jets from enemy missiles.
- ✓ Chaff is an electronic counter-measure technology which is used by militaries across the world.
- ✓ It is used to protect high-value targets like fighter jets or naval ships from radars as well as radio frequency (RF) guiding mechanisms of the enemy missiles.

India could get first woman CJI

- ✓ The Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) N V Ramana has recommended nine names, including three women judges for appointment as judges in the top court.
- ✓ The three women judges recommended by the SC Collegium are Justice B V Nagarathna of Karnataka HC, Justice Hima Kohli of Telangana HC, and Justice Bela M Trivedi of Gujarat HC.
- ✓ Of the three women judges, Justice B V Nagarathna of Karnataka HC could become the first woman Chief Justice of India (CJI) in 2027 if SC Collegium's recommendations of names are considered by the Union Government.

First EV-friendly highway in India

- ✓ With a network of solar-based electric vehicle charging stations, Delhi Chandigarh Highway has become the country's first EV-friendly highway in the country.
- ✓ The network of stations was set up by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL).
- ✓ It was setup under the FAME-1 (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) & Electric Vehicles) scheme of the Ministry of Heavy Industries.

equipped with satellite phones

- ✓ Assam's Kaziranga National Park (KNP) became the first national park in India to be equipped with satellite phones.
- ✓ The satellite phones would be used in the park's six ranges with no wireless or poor mobile connectivity.

India's highest herbal park

- ✓ India's highest herbal park (height of 11,000 feet) was inaugurated near IndoChina border at Mana village in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand.
- ✓ This park was inaugurated with the aim of conserving various medicinally and culturally important alpine species.
- ✓ It also aims to conduct research on propagation and habitat ecology of these species.

Arogya Dhara 2.0

- ✓ Arogya Dhara 2.0 was launched by the Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on August 18, 2021.
- ✓ This is in order to increase the reach of Ayushman Bharat – Jan Arogya Yojana.
- ✓ Arogya Dhara 2.0 also seeks to create more awareness regarding the Ayushman Bharat Scheme.
- ✓ On the occasion, the minister launched three initiatives namely

✚ Adhikar Patra,

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✚ Ayushman Mitra and

✚ Abhinandan Patra.

- ✓ Adhikar Patra will be issued to the beneficiaries when they will be hospitalised for treatment under the PM-JAY scheme.
- ✓ This Patra will make beneficiaries aware of their rights in a way that they can claim free and cashless health care services.
- ✓ Abhinandan Patra is a 'thank you note'.
- ✓ It will be issued to the beneficiaries when beneficiaries will be discharged after their treatment under PM-JAY.
- ✓ Ayushman Mitra is an initiative launched to encourage citizens to participate in motivating eligible beneficiaries to get verified under PM-JAY scheme.
- ✓ It also seeks to help beneficiaries to get the Ayushman Cards issued.

Institute of Economic Growth Society - New president

- ✓ The Chairman of 15th Finance Commission, NK Singh, has been elected as the new president of Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) Society.
- ✓ He succeeded former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh who was the President of IEG since 1992.

Institute of Economic Growth

- ✓ It is an autonomous, multidisciplinary centre that is used for advanced research and training.

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- ✓ It was founded by VKRV Rao in 1952, but became operational in 1958.
- ✓ It is located at University Enclave of University of Delhi, New Delhi.

Defence India Start-up Challenge - 5th edition

- ✓ The Defence Minister of India, Rajnath Singh, launched the 5th edition of the Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC).
- ✓ The DISC was launched under Innovations for Defence Excellence – Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO).
- ✓ This challenge is meant to achieve self-reliance and foster innovation and technology development across the defence and aerospace sectors.
- ✓ This challenge was launched by the Ministry in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission.
- ✓ It was launched with the aim of providing support to Startups, MSMEs and Innovators to create prototypes or commercialize products and solutions in the fields of National Defence and Security.

Disaster Management - India and Bangladesh

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Disaster Management between India and Bangladesh that was signed in March, 2021.

- ✓ A MoU was signed between National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Ministry of Home Affairs of India and Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief of Bangladesh.
- ✓ This MoU involves Cooperation in the field of Disaster Management, Resilience and Mitigation.

Malabar rebellion of 1921

- ✓ The Mapilla rebellion or Malabar rebellion is also termed as Moplah Rebellion (Moplah Riots).
- ✓ The Malabar rebellion of 1921 was the culmination of a series of riots by Moplahs (Muslims of Malabar) in the 19th and early 20th centuries against the British and the Hindu landlords in Malabar (Northern Kerala).
- ✓ The uprising, which began as part of the Khilafat Movement, took place in regions which are under the Malappuram district, Kerala.
- ✓ It was an armed revolt led by Variyam kunnath Kunjahammed Haji.
- ✓ The year 2021 will mark the 100th year anniversary of the uprising.
- ✓ This Rebellion will be removed from the dictionary of Martyrs of India's Freedom Struggle.

Hunger in Afghanistan

- ✓ According to World Food Programme (WFP), people in Afghanistan are facing severe hunger.

- ✓ This is the second drought in three years that country is facing.
- ✓ This year, drought is combined with fighting.
- ✓ WFP is the food-assistance branch of United Nations.
- ✓ It is the world's largest humanitarian organization.
- ✓ It was founded in 1961 with its headquarter in Rome.

World's largest and tallest observation wheel

- ✓ World's largest and tallest observation wheel, called Ain Dubai, will be opened in the UAE.
- ✓ This observation wheel will be the latest addition to the long list of record-breaking attractions in Dubai.
- ✓ Ain Dubai is about 42.5m taller than the London Eye. It will take visitors to the height of 250 metres in order for them to enjoy the majestic view of Dubai's picturesque skyline.
- ✓ It is located at Bluewaters Island, near Dubai Marina.
- ✓ It can carry up to 1,400 passengers in its 48 capsules, providing views of Dubai Marina, Burj Al Arab, Palm Jumeirah, and Burj Khalifa.
- ✓ Its base will act as an entertainment zone.
- ✓ It will also comprise of an 80-metre LED screen to create an electronic platform to broadcast, advertise and other information.

WEF'S Sustainable Development Impact Summit 2021

- ✓ The World Economic Forum's annual Sustainable Development Impact Summit will take place on September 20-23, 2021 in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly convenes the summit under the theme "Shaping an Equitable, Inclusive and Sustainable Recovery".

India, Russia to form a channel

- ✓ India and Russia have decided to form a permanent bilateral channel for consultations on Afghanistan and Afghan-based terror.
- ✓ This was decided when PM Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin held a detailed dialogue on the situation in the land-locked country following the Taliban takeover.

Pakistan test indigenous rocket system

- ✓ Pakistan on 24 August 2021 successfully test-launched an indigenously developed guided multi-launch rocket system, Fatah-1.
- ✓ It is capable of precisely delivering conventional warheads deep into "enemy territory".
- ✓ This was the second flight of Fatah-1, after its first launched in January 2021.

- ✓ The Fatah-1 weapon system can hit targets up to a range of 140 km.

Havana Syndrome

- ✓ Recently the mystery illness which is referred to as Havana Syndrome was found in Hanoi in Vietnam.
- ✓ Havana Syndrome was first reported in US diplomats who were stationed in Cuba in 2016.
- ✓ The US diplomats and other employees who stationed in Havana reported feeling ill after hearing strange sounds and experiencing odd physical sensations.
- ✓ Recently a report by the National Academies of Sciences (NAS) has found “directed” microwave radiation to be its “plausible” cause.

Covid-19 to Become Endemic

- ✓ The World Health Organization Chief Scientist, Dr. Soumya Swaminathan said that Covid-19 may be entering a stage where it will become endemic.
- ✓ This announcement means that some people will get infected but the levels at which it will circulate will be low to moderate, depending upon
 - ✚ Natural immunity,
 - ✚ Vaccine-induced immunity and
 - ✚ Geographical area’s population
- ✓ A modelling study said that in a few years, SARS-CoV-2 may be no more virulent than the common cold.

Note

- ✓ Endemic refers to the constant presence and/or usual prevalence of a disease or infectious agent in a population within a geographic area.

World's tallest observation wheel

- ✓ The world's largest and tallest observation wheel is set to be unveiled in Dubai, UAE.
- ✓ The observation wheel called as 'Ain Dubai', is 250 m (820 ft) in height, located at Bluewaters Island.
- ✓ The record-breaking wheel is taller than the current world's tallest observation wheel, High Roller, in Las Vegas.

MEDICINE

ZyCoV-D vaccine

- ✓ The Drug Controller General of India has approved ZyCoV-D vaccine by Zydus Cadila for Emergency Use Authorization.
- ✓ ZyCoV-D vaccine is the world's first and India's indigenously developed DNAbased vaccine for COVID-19.
- ✓ It will be administered to humans including children and adults aged 12 years and more.

- ✓ Zydus Cadila developed this vaccine in partnership with the Department of Biotechnology under Mission COVID Suraksha.
- ✓ It will be implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).
- ✓ It is a three-dose vaccine.
- ✓ Zydus Cadila is also known as Cadila Healthcare Limited.
- ✓ It is headquartered in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Greater Male Connectivity Project

- ✓ India and Maldives have signed pact with Maldives on one of the major connectivity initiatives called “Greater Male Connectivity Project”.
- ✓ Under the agreement, India will start the largest-ever infrastructure project called Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP) in the Maldives.
- ✓ GMCP is the flagship project of President Solih’s presidency and will be an enduring symbol of India-Maldives partnership.
- ✓ This project will be started to connect business, people and industry.
- ✓ GMCP will comprise of the construction of a 6.74 km long bridge and causeway link. Both will connect the capital city Male with adjoining islands of Thilagushi, Villingli and Gulhifalhu.

- ✓ It is aimed at making global measurement of land surface changes using advanced radar imaging.
- ✓ NISAR is a joint Earth observation mission between the ISRO and NASA for Earth-Global Observations over all land masses including the Solar Cryosphere and the Indian Ocean region.

Short gamma-ray bursts

- ✓ A group of astronomers, including from India, has detected a very short, powerful burst of high-energy radiation.
- ✓ It lasted for about a second.
- ✓ It had been racing towards the earth for nearly half the present age of the universe.
- ✓ The burst detected by NASA's Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope turned out to be the shortest gamma-ray burst (GRB) caused by the death of a massive star.

World's first reprogrammable commercial satellite

- ✓ The European Space Agency is all set to launch the world's first commercial fully re-programmable satellite.
- ✓ It is called the Eutelsat Quantum.
- ✓ The Quantum will be launched from the Guiana Space Centre in Latin America as a part of the payload for an Ariane 5 rocket.

- ✓ The Eutelsat Quantum has been developed under an ESA Partnership Project with satellite operator Eutelsat and manufacturer Airbus.
- ✓ The Quantum will offer coverage for a large geographical area ranging from Asia to West Africa for 15 years.

Uttarakhand Bhookamp alert

- ✓ The Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee has launched the 'Uttarakhand Bhookamp alert' app.
- ✓ It is India's first Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) mobile app.

New hydrogen manufacture route

- ✓ Indian researchers have come up with a new hydrogen manufacture route.
- ✓ It involves electrolysis of water to produce hydrogen (H₂) in the presence of an external magnetic field i.e. magneto-electrocatalysis.

Scientist develop a paper made of carbon

- ✓ Indian scientists have developed a composite paper made of carbon (graphene oxide) loaded with preservatives that can be used as wrappers to help extend the shelf line of fruits.
- ✓ A team of researchers from the institute of nanoscience and Technology, Mohali have developed it.

- ✓ The wrapper releases the preservative only when needed and the wrapper can be reused.

Water molecules discovered on Moon surface

- ✓ ISRO's Chandrayaan-2 orbiter has detected water molecules on the Moon surface.
- ✓ There was widespread lunar hydration and unambiguous detection of OH and H₂O signatures on the Moon between 29 degrees north and 62 degrees north latitude.
- ✓ The formation of hydroxyl or water molecules occur due to a process called space weathering.

Wolly mammoth's lifetime mileage found

- ✓ Scientists have discovered a 17,000-year-old wolly mammoth's massive lifetime mileage through its tusks.
- ✓ The huge beast was a long-distance wanderer, walking the equivalent of twice around the world during a life lasting 28 years.
- ✓ The mammoth they studied probably walked around 70,000 kilometres (43,500 miles).

New method to identify proteins in the living brain

- ✓ Researchers, for the first time, have come up with a new and successful approach to identify the proteins inside different types of neurons in the brain of a living animal.
- ✓ The new study was led by North western University and the University of Pittsburgh.

Note

- ✓ Researchers in the new study designed a virus to send an enzyme to a precise location in the brain of a living mouse.
- ✓ The enzyme, derived from soybeans, genetically tagged its neighbouring proteins in a predetermined location.
- ✓ This technique took a snapshot of the entire set of proteins inside the living neurons, which can then be analysed post-mortem with mass spectroscopy.

Origin of asteroid that killed dinosaurs

- ✓ The asteroid that was responsible to wipe out the dinosaurs from the face of the Earth had hit near Mexico.
- ✓ The large rocky object is dubbed as Chicxulub impactor.
- ✓ The mass extinction of dinosaurs and several other species took place 66 million years ago.
- ✓ It has come to be widely accepted as the end of the Mesozoic era.

First ever Covid antibody treatment

- ✓ A UK medicines regulator, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), has approved the use of artificial antibodies to prevent COVID-19.
- ✓ Ronapreve might be able to prevent people from coronavirus infections and may be also be able to treat the patients who are suffering from acute symptoms of coronavirus.

Intersection of COVID-19 & Tuberculosis pandemics - study

- ✓ The Ministry of Science and Technology, India informed that a consortium of researchers and doctors from Brazil, Russia, India, and South Africa have partnered to conduct a study on the epidemiological impact and intersection of Tuberculosis and COVID pandemic in these countries.
- ✓ Brazil, India, Russia, and South Africa currently rank 2nd to 5th in the number of cases of Coronavirus.
- ✓ These countries also belong to 24 nations that are recognized by the World Health Organisation with the highest burden of Tuberculosis in the world.
- ✓ Moreover, BRICS countries have the largest number of cases of drug-resistant tuberculosis.

Asteroid 2016 AJ193

- ✓ A huge asteroid fled past Earth very closely on August 21, 2021.
- ✓ The asteroid, named 2016 AJ193, is reportedly is rushing inward towards the sun in its 5.91-year orbit.
- ✓ The asteroid was classified as a Potentially Hazardous Asteroid by NASA/JPL but there is no risk of impact.

Merger of three black holes spotted

- ✓ A rare merging of three supermassive black holes has been spotted by a team of astrophysicists in India.

- ✓ All three merging black holes were part of galaxies in the Toucan constellation.
- ✓ The discovery was made using data from the
- ✓ Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (UVIT) onboard the first Indian space observatory ASTROSAT,
- ✓ European integral field optical telescope called MUSE mounted on the Very Large Telescope (VLT) in Chile and
- ✓ Infrared images from the optical telescope (IRSF) in South Africa.

Quantum Computer Simulator Toolkit

- ✓ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has launched the India's first 'Quantum Computer Simulator (QSim) Toolkit'.
- ✓ QSim is the first-of-its-kind toolkit, indigenously developed in India.
- ✓ It meant to be a vital tool of learning and understanding the practical aspects of programming with the help of Quantum Computers.
- ✓ This toolkit has been developed jointly by scientists of IIT Roorkee, C-DAC and IISc Bangalore.
- ✓ It was developed with the support and funding of MeitY.

JAXA's Aim to Bring Mars Samples Soon

- ✓ Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) has planned to bring soil samples from the Mars ahead of the US and China.

- ✓ JAXA plans to launch an explorer in 2024 to land on Phobos.
- ✓ This is to collect 10 grams of soil and bring it back to Earth in 2029.
- ✓ Phobos is a Martian moon.
- ✓ By studying Phobos soil samples including material from Mars, scientists hope to learn about the evolution of the Martian biosphere.

Solar-Driven Change traced on moon

- ✓ A study led by scientists at Northern Arizona University has highlighted clues to help in understanding the active lunar surface.
- ✓ In the study, tiny iron-nanoparticles were found naturally on the Earth and have been found everywhere on the moon.
- ✓ The Researchers have found that solar radiation is the more significant source of lunar iron nanoparticles than it was earlier thought.

Note

- ✓ Asteroids as well as solar radiation break down the lunar rocks and soil, which form iron nanoparticles.
- ✓ These nanoparticles are detectable from the instruments on satellites orbiting around the moon.

Historic Nuclear Fusion

- ✓ Physicists in California, using lasers the size of three football fields, have generated a huge amount of energy from fusion.
- ✓ This offers hope for the development of a new clean energy source.
- ✓ In this experiment, scientists used two isotopes of hydrogen, giving rise to helium.

ECONOMY

Foreign exchange reserves

- ✓ India has overtaken Russia to become the fourth largest country with foreign exchange reserves.
- ✓ Currently, China has the largest reserves followed by Japan and Switzerland.

List of public sector banks

- ✓ The State Bank of India has topped the list of public sector banks that have written off loans in fiscal 2021.
- ✓ Union Bank of India and Punjab National Bank are in second and third place respectively.

India's first Crypto Unicorn

- ✓ Cryptocurrency exchange CoinDCX became India first cricketer Unicorn for valuation of \$1.1 billion, after closing \$90 million in a Series C funding round.

- ✓ CoinDCX ranks among the top four Crypto exchanges in India, the others being WazirX, CoinSwitch Kuber, Zebpay.

RBI started public awareness campaign

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has started a public awareness campaign to warn people against digital banking frauds.
- ✓ For this new campaign, the RBI has roped in Olympic Gold medallist Neeraj Chopra.

White report - Tamilnadu Economy

- ✓ Tamil Nadu Minister for Finance and Human Resources Management P. T. R. Palanivel Thiagarajan published White Paper on the state's finances at the Secretariat in Chennai.
- ✓ The white paper highlighted the fiscal mismanagement during the past 10 years in Tamilnadu.
- ✓ According to the white paper, the average annual growth rate of GSDP in TN has reduced from 10.15 per cent in 2006-11 to 7.22 per cent in between 2016- 20.
- ✓ Revenue deficit of TN has been deteriorating for the last eight years.
- ✓ Revenue deficit is 3.16 as percentage of GSDP for FY 2020-21.
- ✓ Fiscal deficit of the state has been primarily increasing due to increase in govt borrowing.

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- ✓ Fiscal deficit is 4.43 as percentage of GSDP.
- ✓ The public debt is Rs 2,63,976 per family in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Public debt as percentage of GSDP is 26.69 per cent.
- ✓ State's Own Tax Revenue registered a significant decline.
- ✓ Subsidies has increased to 27.06 per cent of Revenue Expenditure and 3.21 per cent of GSDP in 2020-21.
- ✓ Power subsidy is the highest at 1.10 per cent of GSDP.
- ✓ Food subsidy is at 0.49 per cent of GSDP.
- ✓ Transport subsidy is at 0.19 per cent of GSDP.

Wealthiest village

- ✓ The residents of Madhapar village in Gujarat have a cumulative deposit of ₹ 5,000 crores in over 17 banks.
- ✓ With this Madhapar village in Gujarat is reportedly the wealthiest village globally.
- ✓ Madhapar is located in the Kutch district of Gujarat.

m-cap - TCS

- ✓ Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) company has become the second Indian company to cross the market value of Rs 13 lakh crore.
- ✓ TCS has become the second company after Reliance.
- ✓ TCS is headquartered in Mumbai.

Financial inclusion index – RBI

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the formation of a composite Financial Inclusion Index (FI-

Index) to capture the extent of financial inclusion across the country.

- ✓ The FI-Index for the period ended March 2021 stood at 53.9 compared with 43.4 for the period ended March 2017. About the index
- ✓ The annual FI-Index will be published in July every year.
- ✓ The index incorporates details of banking, investments, insurance, postal as well as the pension sector in consultation with the government and respective sectoral regulators.
- ✓ The index captures information on various aspects of financial inclusion in a single value ranging between 0 and 100.
- ✓ Here 0 represents complete financial exclusion.
- ✓ 100 indicates full financial inclusion.
- ✓ It has been constructed without any 'base year'.

Radhakishan Damani in Bloomberg Billionaires Index

- ✓ Billionaire promoter of the DMart chain of supermarkets, Radhakishan Damani has made it to the top 100 of the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.
- ✓ The Index ranks the world's top billionaires based on net worth.
- ✓ Damani ranks 98th on the list.

ICICI, StanChart and HSBC enter ‘swaption’ deals

- ✓ ICICI Bank cut India’s first set of ‘swaption’ deals with HSBC and Standard Chartered Bank.
- ✓ It leads to a new era of risk management in the country’s interest-rate derivatives market that needs to introduce world-class solutions to draw more overseas funds into local debt assets.
- ✓ The ‘swaption’ interest-rate derivative product should help both local borrowers and investors to rein in funding costs in a rising rate scenario and retain investment returns in a falling rate scenario.
- ✓ In June, 2019, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued guidelines for ‘swaption’ deals.

2021 Global Crypto Adoption Index

- ✓ India has ranked second in terms of crypto adoption worldwide behind Vietnam.
- ✓ This is according to the 2021 Global Crypto Adoption Index by blockchain data platform Chainalysis.
- ✓ Bitcoin is the most popular coin in India, followed by Ripple, Ethereum and Bitcoin Cash, according to the report.

Cybersecurity Multi-Donor Trust Fund

- ✓ The World Bank announced the launch of a new Cybersecurity Multi-Donor Trust Fund under the broader

Digital Development Partnership (DDP) umbrella program.

- ✓ The new fund aims to better define and systematically roll out the cybersecurity development agenda.
- ✓ This helps to ensure a more substantial reflection of cybersecurity considerations across World Bank programs and financing.
- ✓ The launch of the Trust Fund is made possible with donor contributions from Estonia, Germany, Japan, and the Netherlands.

National Monetization pipeline

- ✓ The Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the National Monetisation pipeline.
- ✓ It efforts to list out the government's infrastructure assets to be sold over the next four-years.
- ✓ The NMP comprises a four-year pipeline of the government's brownfield infrastructure assets.
- ✓ In the Union Budget 2021-22, the government laid a lot of emphasis on asset monetisation as a means to raise innovative and alternative financing for infrastructure, and included a number of key announcements.

ENVIRONMENT

Earth Overshoot Day, 2021

- ✓ Earth Overshoot Day 2021 happened on July 29, almost a month earlier than the year before.
- ✓ It was pushed forward because emissions are on the rise and biodiversity loss is speeding up.
- ✓ The date is announced annually by the Global Footprint Network.
- ✓ Each year, Earth Overshoot Day marks the date when we have used all the biological resources that the Earth can renew during the entire year.
- ✓ The concept of Earth Overshoot Day was first conceived by Andrew Simms.

E-waste Generation

- ✓ In the year 2020, India's e waste generated is 31.6% more when compared to the previous year.
- ✓ Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Environment, Forests and Climate Change relayed this information in the Rajya Sabha.
- ✓ The Environment Ministry of India has notified 21 types of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) which are to be considered as e-waste.

Status of Leopards, Co-predators and Megaherbivores – 2018

- ✓ Union Environment Ministry has released a new report titled-Status of Leopards, Co-predators and Megaherbivores-2018.
- ✓ The report was released on July 29, 2021 - World Tiger Day.
- ✓ As per the report
 - ✚ India's official leopard count has increased 63 per cent from 2014-2018.
 - ✚ The largest number of leopards have been estimated in Madhya Pradesh followed by Karnataka and Maharashtra.

About

- ✓ Scientific Name- Panthera pardus.
- ✓ Listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ✓ Included in Appendix I of CITES.
- ✓ Listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.
- ✓ Nine subspecies of the leopard have been recognized.
- ✓ They are distributed across Africa and Asia.

Minervarya Pentali

- ✓ The newly discovered species is endemic to the southern Western Ghats (Kerala and Tamil Nadu).

- ✓ This species is also among the smallest known Minervaryan frogs.
- ✓ It belongs to the family Dicroglossidae.
- ✓ The species is named after Prof. Deepak Pental in appreciation of his tremendous support and encouragement for setting up of Systematics Lab at University of Delhi.

Amazon forest destroyed

- ✓ Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon rainforest reached your record levels for the twelve months through July 2021.
- ✓ A total of 8,712 square kilometers (3,364 square miles) of forest cover -- an area nearly the size of Puerto Rico -- was destroyed.
- ✓ The information was given by satellite data from Brazilian space agency INPE's DETER monitoring program.

Oxfam's Report

- ✓ Oxfam has recently released a new report titled "Tightening the Net".
- ✓ It said that 'net-zero' carbon targets announced by many countries may be a dangerous distraction from the priority of cutting carbon emissions.
- ✓ It says that about 1.6 billion hectares of new forests would be required to remove the world's excess carbon emissions by 2050.

- ✓ It is the best-preserved ice age animal ever found. Named Sparta, she was found alongside another male cub (named Boris) who was just 50 feet away, in 2018.
- ✓ The species of cave lions are actually close to the African lions of the modern-day.

Largest island called Evia

- ✓ A massive wildfire continues to burn on the northern tip of Greece's second largest island called Evia, which is close to the mainland.
- ✓ Wildfires or forest fires (or bushfires in Australia) are unplanned fires that burn through natural areas such as forests, grasslands or prairies.

Climate Change 2021 Report

- ✓ A new report was released by the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate (IPCC) recently.
- ✓ It has pressed the red alert on global climate change and the impact it will have on communities across the world.
- ✓ The report, called the Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis, is the sixth such assessment report published by the IPCC since its inception in 1988.
- ✓ The most stark finding of the report is the fact that global temperatures are expected to rise by 1.5-2 degree Celsius from the pre-industrial age in less than 20 years.
- ✓ The report is the first IPCC report to predict regional effects of climate change.

- ✓ For India "extreme heatwaves" are the first challenge.
- ✓ Floods caused by extreme rainfall are also set to increase across South Asia and India.

New Wetlands in Ramsar list

- ✓ Four more wetlands from India have been added to the Ramsar list.
- ✓ They have been recognized as wetlands of global importance in accordance with the Ramsar Convention.
- ✓ The four sites that have been included are,
 - ✚ Thol from Gujarat
 - ✚ Wadhvana from Gujarat,
 - ✚ Sultanpur from Haryana and
 - ✚ Bhindawas from Haryana.
- ✓ The number of Ramsar sites in India have now reached to 46.

World's second-largest refurbished gene bank

- ✓ Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the world's second-largest refurbished National Gene Bank.
- ✓ It was inaugurated at the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), Pusa, New Delhi.
- ✓ The National Gene Bank was established in the year 1996 to preserve the seeds of Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) for future generations.

- ✓ Despite being one of the main architects of the Kigali Amendment, India was the last major country to announce its decision to ratify it.
- ✓ Kigali Amendment, negotiated in Rwanda (2016), to the Montreal Protocol is for phasing out hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).
- ✓ Under this amendment, countries agreed to include HFCs in the list of controlled substances under Montreal Protocol.
- ✓ Under the Kigali Amendment, current HFC use has to be curtailed by 85% before 2050.
- ✓ India has to achieve this target by 2047.
- ✓ The developed countries have to do it by 2036.
- ✓ China has a target of 2045.

Animal Discoveries 2020

- ✓ It is a document published recently by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).
- ✓ It reveals that 557 new species have been added to India's fauna in 2020.
- ✓ It includes 407 new species and 150 new records.
- ✓ The number of faunal species in India has climbed to 1,02,718 species.

Some added species

- ✓ *Trimeresurus salazar*, a new species of green pit viper discovered from Arunachal Pradesh,

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- ✓ Lycodon deccanensis, the Deccan wolf snake discovered from Karnataka,
- ✓ Sphaerotheca Bengaluru, a new species of burrowing frog named after the city of Bengaluru,
- ✓ Xyrias anjaalai, a new deep water species of snake eel from Kerala,
- ✓ Glyptothorax giudikyensis, a new species of catfish from Manipur,
- ✓ Clyster galateansis, a new species of scarab beetles from the Great Nicobar Biosphere,
- ✓ Myotis cf. frater, a bat species has been reported for the first time from Uttarakhand in India,
- ✓ Zoothera citrina gibsonhilli, an orange-headed thrush was reported for the first time from the Narcondam Island in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

NAVY

INS Khanjar

- ✓ INS Khanjar has become the first Indian Navy ship to call at the Heritage Hotel port of Gopalpur in Odisha.

INS Vikrant

- ✓ India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant, conducted its maiden sea trials.
- ✓ This encourages making of military equipment within India.

Subsonic cruise missile Nirbhay

- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully test-fired medium-range subsonic cruise missile Nirbhay.
- ✓ It was test fired from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, off Odisha coast.
- ✓ Nirbhay is India's first Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM).
- ✓ ITCM Nirbhay was successfully test-launched with a Made-in-India Manik turbofan engine.
- ✓ This was the first successful test-firing of the missile with the indigenous booster engine.

“Shared Destiny 2021” - Defence Exercise

- ✓ Militaries of China, Mongolia, Thailand and Pakistan are set to take part in a multinational peacekeeping exercise called “Shared Destiny-2021”.
- ✓ It will be organised by the China's People's Liberation Army at the combinedarms tactical training base in central Henan province of China.
- ✓ This is the first multinational peacekeeping live exercise, involving four nations.
- ✓ Henan is a landlocked province of China and often referred as Zhongyuan or Zhongzhou.

India - Germany Joint Exercise

- ✓ The Navies of India and Germany conducted a joint exercise in Gulf of Aden.
- ✓ The joint exercise included helicopter landings as well as search & seizure operations.
- ✓ The Frigate 'Trikanth' from the Indian Navy exercised with the German frigate called 'Bayern'.
- ✓ INS Trikanth is deployed for anti-piracy patrol in Gulf of Aden region.
- ✓ The exercise enhanced the interoperability and facilitated exchange of best practices between them in the maritime domain.
- ✓ The Navies of India and Germany conducted the first ever joint exercises in 2008 after both the nations signed an 'anti-piracy co-operation agreement' in 2006.

SPORTS

Online Chess Title

- ✓ Delhi youngster Vantika Agarwal has won the National women online chess title.
- ✓ Arpita Mukherjee of West Bengal took the second spot.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu's Sreeja Seshadri took the third spot.
- ✓ Maharashtra's Soumya Swaminathan and Tamil Nadu's R Vaishali finished fourth and fifth respectively.

- ✓ In Junior Open section, Tamil Nadu's VS Raahul won the first position.

Hatrick Score

- ✓ Vandana Katariya, an Indian field hockey player, has become the country's first female to score a hat-trick at Olympics.
- ✓ She had won the player of the tournament award in the Asian Champion Trophy, 2018 wherein India won a silver medal.
- ✓ She was also the part of 2016 Rio Olympics.

PV Sindhu's achievement

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

Theme song for Tokyo paralympics

- ✓ The theme song for Tokyo paralympics what launched in New Delhi.
- ✓ The song "Kar De Kammal Tu" is composed and sung by a Divyang cricket player Sanjeev Singh.

Lovlina Borgohain

- ✓ Lovlina won the third Olympic medal for India.
- ✓ She won bronze medal after against Busenaz Surmeneli from Turkey in 69kg welterweight semi-finals.
- ✓ Lovlina Borgohain has also become the second Indian female boxer, after MC Mary Kom, to win an Olympic bronze.
- ✓ Lovlina has become first-ever Assamese woman to win the Olympic medal.
- ✓ Lovlina Borgohain is the third Indian boxer to win Olympic bronze following legendary boxers Mary Kom and Vijender Singh.
- ✓ Mary Kom and Vijender Singh had won bronze medal respectively in 2012 London Olympics and 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced that Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award will be renamed as Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.

- ✓ Dhyan Chand's birthday is celebrated as National Sports Day.
- ✓ He has won three Olympic golds for the country in Hockey.
- ✓ Note
- ✓ The award was inaugurated in 1991-92.
- ✓ The first recipient of the Khel Ratna was chess legend, Viswanathan Anand.

Ravi Kumar Dahiya wins silver

- ✓ Indian wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya bagged the silver medal after losing in the final of men's 57kg freestyle category to Russian Olympic Committee's (ROC) Zaur Uguev.
- ✓ This is India's fifth medal at the Tokyo Olympics.
- ✓ This is also the second silver of this campaign.
- ✓ Ravi Kumar is the fifth Indian wrestler after KD Jadhav, Sushil Kumar, Yogeshwar Dutt, and Sakshi Malik to finish on the Olympic podium.

Indian Men's Hockey - Bronze medal

- ✓ In a historic, men's hockey bronze-medal match, India beat the German team 5-4.
- ✓ This is the Indian hockey team's first podium finish in 41 years since 1980 Moscow Games, when India won its 8th gold medal in the Olympic Games.

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- ✓ It is India's third hockey bronze medal in the history of the Olympics.

Beach volleyball

- ✓ Us women April Ross and Alix Klineman won a gold medal in beach volleyball at Tokyo Olympics.

Sjoerd Marijne

- ✓ The Indian women's hockey team chief coach Sjoerd Marijne stepped down from his position.
- ✓ He revealed that India's bronze medal match against Great Britain at the Tokyo Olympics was his last assignment with the Indian side.

CA Bhavani Devi

- ✓ CA Bhavani Devi became the first Indian fencer to represent the nation for the Olympics.
- ✓ Bhavani was born in Chennai.

Flame of hope

- ✓ Japanese capital passed the Flame of hope or the flag to Paris with the message of moving forward.
- ✓ It also remembered those who lost their lives to Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ Flame of Hope was memorialized by Chicago Park District in 2018.
- ✓ Flame of Hope is the symbol of Special Olympics Games.

- ✓ Special Olympics is world's largest sports organization for children and adults with disabilities.

Third highest wicket-taker in Test cricket

- ✓ James Anderson overtook Anil Kumble's tally of 619 Test wickets to become the third-highest wicket-taker in Test cricket.
- ✓ His current wickets tally stands at 621 from 163 Tests.
- ✓ Anderson is currently the highest wicket-taker among the fast bowlers and is the only pacer in the 600 club.
- ✓ He achieved the milestone on the 3rd day of the Nottingham Test against India.

Bharat Kesari Wrestling Dangal 2021

- ✓ Indian Wrestler Labhanshu Sharma won the Bharat Kesari Wrestling Dangal 2021 organised in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ 20 years since the formation of Uttarakhand, Labhanshu has broken the drought and won the title of Bharat Kesari for the state.

Bajrang Punia - Bronze medal

- ✓ Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia has won the Olympic wrestling bronze medal in the men's freestyle 65kg category.
- ✓ He won the medal after the 8-0 win over Daulet Niyazbekov of Kazakhstan.

- ✓ Punia became the sixth Indian wrestler to finish on the Olympic podium.
- ✓ Others were KD Jadhav, Sushil Kumar, Yogeshwar Dutt, Sakshi Malik and Ravi Kumar Dahiya.
- ✓ This became the second instance after the 2012 London Olympics when two Indian wrestlers won medals in the same Games.

Neeraj Chopra - Gold medal

- ✓ Neeraj Chopra has won a gold medal for India in the javelin throw event at Tokyo Olympics.
- ✓ The 87.58m throw got the Gold medal for him.
- ✓ This was also India's first gold medal since shooter Abhinav Bindra's won the 10m air rifle gold in 2008.
- ✓ Neeraj Chopra won the independent India's first-ever athletics medal.
- ✓ He is from Panipat, Haryana.
- ✓ With Neeraj's gold, India ended its campaign at the XXXII Olympiad with seven medals.
- ✓ This is the country's best performance at the Summer Olympic Games.

Tokyo Olympics 2020 and India

- ✓ The international multi-sport event was held from July 23 to August 08, 2021, in Tokyo, Japan.
- ✓ This was for the fourth time that Japan hosted the Olympic Games, after previously hosting the Tokyo 1964

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(Summer), Sapporo 1972 (Winter), and Nagano 1998 (Winter) games.

- ✓ Apart from this, Tokyo is the first Asian city to hold the Summer Games twice.
- ✓ The United States has topped the overall medal table with 113 medals.
- ✓ Indian Contingent managed to win 7 medals comprising 1 Gold, 2 Silver and 4 Bronze Medals.
- ✓ The country stood at the 48th position in the medal table out of 86 countries.
- ✓ It is the highest ranking in over four decades.
- ✓ Bronze-medallist Bajrang Punia was the flag-bearer at the closing ceremony of the event.

Note

- ✓ The Indian Women's Hockey team made history by reaching their first-ever semi-final at the Olympic Games.
- ✓ Aditi Ashok's finished fourth in Golf.
- ✓ Rowers Arjun Lal Jat and Arvind Singh became the first Indian double sculls pair to reach the semi-finals at the Olympics.
- ✓ Bhavani Devi became the first Indian fencer to qualify for the Olympic Games.

International Army Games

- ✓ The Indian Army is to take part in the International Army Games 2021 to be held in Russia.

Harshit Raja

- ✓ Harshit Raja turned GM after he drew his game against Dennis Wagner at the Biel Masters Open 2021.
- ✓ Raja is India's 69th Grandmaster (GM).
- ✓ He is from Pune.

World Archery Youth Championship

- ✓ Komalika Bari became the new under-21 recurve world champion at the World Archery Youth Championship in Wroclaw.
- ✓ She became the second Indian woman after Deepika Kumari to claim both the U-21 World Championship and the U-18 title.

Odisha's sponsor - Indian Hockey teams

- ✓ The Odisha government will sponsor the Indian Hockey teams for 10 more years.
- ✓ The current sponsorship ends in 2023.
- ✓ The state government started sponsoring the national hockey teams in 2018.

Under-21 recurve world champion

- ✓ Komalika Bari became the new under-21 recurve world champion at the Youth World Championships in Wroclaw of Poland.

- ✓ She became the second Indian woman after Deepika Kumari to claim both the U-21 World Championship and the U-18 title.

Lionel Messi

- ✓ Lionel Messi joined Paris St Germain Football club after leaving Barcelona after 21 years.
- ✓ Barcelona is the club where he had begun his professional career.

Princepal Singh

- ✓ Princepal Singh is now the first Indian to be part of an NBA title-winning team when Sacramento Kings clinched the 2021 NBA Summer League Crown.

Tim David

- ✓ Tim David is set to become the first Singapore international cricketer to play in IPL.

Tokyo 2020 Summer Paralympic Games

- ✓ It is held from 24th August - 5th September, 2021.
- ✓ The official Mascot is 'Someity'.
- ✓ For the 1st time, Badminton & Taekwondo will be introduced by replacing Sailing and 7-a-side football.
- ✓ India will field their largest contingent ever in the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics
- ✓ A total of 54 Athletes will compete in 9 Sporting events.

- ✓ Only 19 Indian Athletes competed in the 2016 Rio Paralympics.
- ✓ Javelin thrower Devendra Jhajharia (won Gold at Rio Paralympics) and high jump ace Mariyappan Thangavelu are the two Paralympic champions in the current Indian contingent.
- ✓ Prachi Yadav is set to become India's 1st paracanoe at the Tokyo Para Games.
- ✓ Avani Lekhera will be the 1st Indian woman para shooter to compete at the Paralympics.
- ✓ Harvinder Singh and Vivek Chikara are the 1st Men Archers from the country to qualify for the Games.
- ✓ Anurag Thakur and Nisith Pramanik launched Theme Song 'Kar De Kamaal Tu' for Paralympics.
- ✓ The song is composed & sung by Sanjeev Singh, Divyang Cricket Player.

Silver medal in women's long jump - Shaili Singh

- ✓ Jhansi-born Shaili Singh won the silver medal in women's long jump at the World Athletics U20 Championships in Nairobi with a best attempt of 6.59m.
- ✓ She came very close to the gold medal, falling short by just 0.01mm.
- ✓ Sweden's Maja Askag won the gold medal (6.60m).

Paralympic Games flag-bearer

- ✓ Mariyappan Thangavelu, 2016 Rio Paralympic Games gold medallist will be replaced by Asian Games gold medallist Tekchand as the new flag-bearer of India at the opening ceremony.
- ✓ The Paralympic Committee of India reported, "On his flight to Tokyo, Mariyappan came in close contact with a Covid positive foreign passenger."

Bhavina Patel - Silver medal

- ✓ Bhavina Patel of Gujarat created history by becoming the first Indian Table tennis player to win silver medal at Paralympics.
- ✓ She won silver in the women's singles class 4 at Tokyo Paralympics 2020.
- ✓ She lost to China's Zhou Ying.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Novelist Kunal Basu comes up with new book

- ✓ Renowned novelist kunal Basu's new work of fiction, 'In An Ideal World'.
- ✓ The book is scheduled to release and penguin random house India 'Viking' imprint.

- ✓ It is a "powerful and fast paced literary novel" exploring a variety of themes relevant to the current times - college, politics, family, crime investigation, and fanaticism.

Diplomat Pavan K Varma's book

- ✓ The book 'The Great Hindu civilization: Achievement, neglect, Bias and the Way Forward', written by author-former diplomat Pavan K Varma, was released.
- ✓ The book is to answer the questions about Hindu Civilization and more in contact of changing Empires and leadership through Colonization and conquest.
- ✓ Pavan K Varma is also a former Rajya Sabha MP.

Sudha Murthy's new book

- ✓ Popular children's author Sudha Murthy have come out with a beginners guide on the extraordinary stories about the earth.
- ✓ The book "How the Earth got its Beauty" also has illustrations by Priyanka Pachpande.

Jaideep Hardikar's book

- ✓ Journalist Jaideep Hardikar has authored a new book "Ramrao: The Story of India's Farm Crisis".
- ✓ It aims to offer a peek into India's "unending farm crisis" through the biography of a farmer from Maharashtra's in famous Vidarbha region.

New Book offer Insights into 2019 Air Strikes

- ✓ A new book revisits the chain of real-life events surrounding the February 2019 Pulwama suicide bombing attack, and India's strong hit-back in the form of Balakot airstrikes twelve days later.
- ✓ The book titled "Balakot Air Strike: How India Avenged Pulwama", has been published by Garuda Prakashan.
- ✓ It was written by Navy veteran Manan Bhatt.

HarperCollins announces New book

- ✓ HarperCollins has announced the publication of Tanushree Podder's upcoming book 'An Invitation to Die: A Colonel Acharya Mystery'.

Late Dr. Ashok Panagariya's book

- ✓ Late Dr. Ashok Panagariya's book 'Monk in a Merc' was posthumously launched in a virtual event.

Biography of Kapil Sharma

- ✓ Ajitabha Bose has written a biography on the life journey of Kapil Sharma.
- ✓ The book's name is The Kapil Sharma Story.
- ✓ The foreword of the book has been written by Dharmendra.
- ✓ Ajitabha is also known as the 'king of pocket books'.

Vishram Bedekar

- ✓ A book titled 'Battlefield' has been authored by Vishram Bedekar.
- ✓ It is the translated version of the Marathi original Ranaangan by Jerry Pinto.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

UN Best Small Business Winners from India

- ✓ Three enterprises based in India are among the winners of 'Best Small Businesses' global competition as announced by the United Nations.
- ✓ This competition was organized in concomitance with the UN Food Systems Summit.
- ✓ The winners from India are Oorja Development Solutions India, Edible Routes Private Limited and Taru Naturals.

Miss India USA 2021

- ✓ Vaidehi Dongre, a 25-year-old girl from Michigan, has been crowned Miss India USA 2021 at the beauty pageant.
- ✓ She won the 'Miss Talented' title in the pageant for giving a flawless performance of Indian classical dance form Kathak.

Eisner award

- ✓ Graphic artist Anand Radhakrishnan has won the prestigious Will Eisner Comic Industry Award.

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- ✓ It is considered as the Oscars equivalent of the comics world.
- ✓ The Eisner Awards are given out annually.
- ✓ The award won by Radhakrishnan “Best Painter/Multimedia Artist (interior art)” recognises the creator of a graphic novel’s art and images.
- ✓ Radhakrishnan shares the award with UK-based colourist John Pearson.
- ✓ They won for their work on UK-based author Ram V’s 145-page graphic novel ‘Blue In Green’.
- ✓ It was published by Image Comics.

NatWest Group Earth Heroes award

- ✓ The Satpura Tiger Reserve of the state has been awarded the NatWest Group Earth Heroes award in the Earth Guardian category for best management.
- ✓ The Satpura Tiger Reserve in the Hoshangabad district.
- ✓ It is the oldest forest wealth in the country.
- ✓ The Satpura Tiger Reserve is said to be the soul of the ecosystem of the central region of India.

IYCSAA 2020

- ✓ Khushi Arun Kumar, chennai student from Stella Maris College has won the ' Best Poster' price in the 2020 'Together Against Corruption', International Youth Contest for Social-Anti Corruption Advertising (IYCSAA).

- ✓ The award is given for outstanding performance in the Information and Technology (IT) sector.
- ✓ The Rajiv Gandhi Award in Maharashtra will be given to institutes doing remarkable work in the field of information technology.

Order of British Columbia award

- ✓ The Leading Indian-origin entrepreneur Ajay Dilwari has been honoured with Canada's prestigious Order of British Columbia award.
- ✓ Mr Dilwari is the owner of Canada's largest automotive group (Dilawri Group).
- ✓ He is now among 16 "exceptional people" to be appointed to the Order of British Columbia.

Mr. India competition

- ✓ Kaushik Ram, a final year student of Chennai Law College, won the title of 'Mr. India' and 'Mr. Tamil Nadu' in the Mr. India competition held in Delhi.
- ✓ The 'Indian Male - 2021' competition was held in Agra, Delhi by the organization 'Star' Life.

AI Gamechanger Award

- ✓ The Telangana government has bagged the AI Gamechanger Award in the Xperience-AI Summit organised by NASSCOM.

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- ✓ 'Crowd Monitoring using AI' of the government was selected for this award.
- ✓ A start-up Awiros was the technology partner for this project.

NSF I-Corps Teams Award

- ✓ The Indian Team SoftWorthy has been conferred the prestigious National Science Foundation Innovation-Corps (NSF I-Corps) Teams Award in the United States.
- ✓ SoftWorthy's award-winning project focuses on the growth of novel technological applications like driverless vehicles and energy-efficient smart buildings.

Independence Day awards - Tamil Nadu

- ✓ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin presented the Kalpana Chawla Award for Courage and Daring Enterprise to P. Shanmuga Priya, posthumously.
- ✓ The late Dr. Shanmuga Priya was a medical officer at the Annuppanadi Primary Health Centre in Madurai.
- ✓ The Chief Minister presented the Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam award to Dr. M. Lakshmanan, Professor of Eminence, Bharathidasan University.
- ✓ He also presented the first Thagaisal Thamizhar Award to Veteran Communist leader and centenarian, N. Sankaraiah.

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- ✓ K. Narayanasamy, Director, Government Corona Hospital, Guindy was conferred the Chief Minister's Best Practices Award.
- ✓ Presidency College was also conferred the award for facilitating independent learning of differently abled students.
- ✓ The Avvaiyar Award was conferred on Santhi Duraisamy.
- ✓ Best Third Gender award was conferred on Grace Banu, Thoothukudi.

Gallantry awards

- ✓ The President Ram Nath Kovind, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, has approved 144 Gallantry awards for armed forces, police and paramilitary personnel.
- ✓ Ashok Chakra was awarded to Babu Ram (posthumously), ASI, Jammu and Kashmir Police.
- ✓ Kirti Chakra was awarded to Altaf Hussain Bhat (posthumously), Constable, J&K Police.
- ✓ The other awards include Shaurya Chakra, Bar to Sena Medal, Vayu Sena Medal and Sena Medal.

Congressional Gold Medal

- ✓ Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney from New York has reintroduced legislation in the US House of Representatives to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal to Mahatma Gandhi.

- ✓ He has been awarded for his contributions made through his methods of non-violence.
- ✓ Gandhi would become the first Indian to receive the Congressional Gold Medal, which is the highest civilian award in the US.

Spilimbergo Open chess tournament

- ✓ A 15-year-old young Indian Grandmaster Raunak Sadhwani has won the 19th Spilimbergo Open chess tournament in Italy.
- ✓ Raunak Sadhwani hails from Nagpur.

National Youth Award

- ✓ Mohammad Azam from Karimnagar district in Telangana has been awarded the National Youth Award recently.
- ✓ He is awarded for displaying exemplary leadership qualities.
- ✓ He has conducted several awareness programmes related to blood donation, organ donation and plantation programmes under the Haritha Haram project.

Indian Film Festival of Melbourne Awards 2021

- ✓ The Family Man 2 actors Manoj Bajpayee and Samantha Akkineni were among the winners of the latest edition of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne Awards.
- ✓ The Best Feature Film award was given to Soorarai Pottru.

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- ✓ The Best Performance Male (Feature) actor goes to Suriya Sivakumar (Soorarai Pottru).
- ✓ The Best Director Award was given to Anurag Basu (Ludo).

Sri Basava International Award

- ✓ Karnataka government has selected Sri Basavalinga Pattaddevaru for the prestigious Sri Basava International Award.
- ✓ He is the senior seer of Bhalki Hiremath.
- ✓ Minister for Kannada and Culture V. Sunil Kumar will present the award at Ravindra Kalakshetra in Bengaluru.
- ✓ The septuagenarian seer has spent over five decades in the Lingayat religious institution in the Bidar district.

Sahitya Akademi 2020 Odia awards

- ✓ The Sahitya Akademi named authors Yashodhara Mishra and Omcherry N.N.Pillai as the winners of the 2020 awards for their works in Odia and Malayalam, respectively.

EASE Reforms Index Award 2021

- ✓ Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman has announced the EASE 3.0 Awards.
- ✓ State Bank of India is the Overall winner of the EASE Reforms Index Award 2021 (EASE 3.0 Awards).

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- ✓ Bank of Baroda is second and Union Bank of India is third.
- ✓ Indian Bank won the award for the best improvement from the baseline performance.

Barcelona Open chess tournament title

- ✓ Indian Grandmaster S.P. Sethuraman won the Barcelona Open chess tournament title.
- ✓ Karthikeyan Murali from India finished third.

PERSONALITIES

Tamil scholar R.Ilangumaranar passed away

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

Second Transgender Sub Inspector of Police - Tamil Nadu

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

Thagaisal Thamizhar - N. Sankaraiah

- ✓ Veteran Marxist Communist Leader N. Sankaraiah will receive the first Thagaisal Thamizhar Award.
- ✓ The award was instituted by the DMK government this year to honour a distinguished Tamil personality.
- ✓ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin will hand over the award to Mr. Sankaraiah during the Independence Day celebrations in Chennai.
- ✓ The Thagaisal Thamizhar Award carries a cash prize of ₹10 lakh and a citation.

Rekha Sharma

- ✓ Rekha Sharma has got a three-year extension as the Chairperson of the National Commission for Women.
- ✓ Rekha Sharma was the pioneer in setting up a special 'Happy to Help' task force during the coronavirus pandemic to help the elderly stuck at homes alone.

- ✓ She has also been credited for starting a WhatsApp number for women to lodge complaints during the pandemic.

Chief pontiff of Madurai Adheenam

- ✓ Arunagirinatha Gnanasambantha Desika Paramacharya, one of the oldest Saivite mutts, passed away at the age of 77.
- ✓ He was the 292nd pontiff of Madurai Adheenam.
- ✓ The monastery, said to have been established nearly 1,300 years ago.
- ✓ It was revived by Saivite saint Thirugnanasambandar.

Kathy Hochul

- ✓ Kathy Hochul has become the first female governor of New York.
- ✓ For the first time, a majority of the powerful figures in New York state government will be women.

Gail Omvedt

- ✓ Noted researcher and co-founder of the Shramik Mukti Dal Dr Gail Omvedt died in Maharashtra's Sangli district.
- ✓ During her doctoral research, she wrote her thesis on 'Non-Brahmin Movement in Western India'.
- ✓ The activist-researcher penned more than 25 books including "Seeking Begumpura", "Buddhism in India", "Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar", to name a few.

Diksha Shinde

- ✓ Diksha Shinde was selected as a panellist on Minority Serving Institution (MSI) Fellowships Virtual Panel of American Space Agency, NASA.
- ✓ She is a 14-year-old girl in Aurangabad.
- ✓ She wrote a theory on black holes.
- ✓ Her research paper on ‘We Live in Black Hole?’ was accepted by International Journal of Scientific and Engineering Research

Vandana Katariya

- ✓ The Indian women’s hockey team player Vandana Katariya will be the brand ambassador of the state’s (Uttarakhand) Department of Women Empowerment and Child Development.

Maki Kaji

- ✓ Maki Kaji, the creator of puzzle Sudoku passed away recently.
- ✓ He was known as the father of Sudoku.
- ✓ He was from Japan.

Dr. Gail Omvedt passed away

- ✓ Renowned US-born researcher, writer on Ambedkarism and Dalit movement Dr. Gail Omvedt passed away at Kasegaon, Maharashtra.

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- ✓ Born in Minneapolis in the US state of Minnesota, Dr. Omvedt came to India after completing her higher studies.
- ✓ She plunged herself into the various social movements for the Dalits, poor and downtrodden, farmers, women and other public causes.

APPOINTMENTS

Controller General of Accounts

- ✓ Deepak Das took charge as the new controller general of accounts.
- ✓ He is the 25th officer to hold the position of CGA.

New Vice Chief of Naval Staff

- ✓ Vice Admiral SN Ghormade has assumed charge as the Vice Chief of Naval Staff.
- ✓ He succeeds Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar.
- ✓ SN Ghormade is an awardee of the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) and Nausena Medal.

Dhriti Banerjee

- ✓ Dhriti Banerjee has become the first woman to be appointed as director of the 105-year-old Zoological Survey of India.

La. Ganesan

- ✓ Senior BJP leader from Tamil Nadu La. Ganesan was appointed as the new governor of Manipur.

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- ✓ The post of the governor had fallen vacant after the retirement of Najma Hebdulla.

Archakas of all castes get appointed

- ✓ DMK government appointed 24 trained 'archakas' of various communities as priests in shrines.
- ✓ The State already has two non-Brahmin archakas in temples run by the Department of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments.
- ✓ The first priest, Marisamy, was appointed in 2018 to an Ayyappan temple in Madurai.
- ✓ Second, Thyagarajan, to a Ganesha temple in Madurai in 2020.
- ✓ Now, Suhanjana Gopinath has been appointed as 'Odhavar' at the Dhenupureswarar temple in Chennai.
- ✓ She became the first woman Othavar in Tamil Nadu.

President of the Science, Music, and Drama Council

- ✓ Actor and former MLA Vagai Chandrasekhar has been appointed as the new chairman of the Tamil Nadu Science, Music and Drama Council.
- ✓ It has been said that Chandrasekara has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Science, Music and Drama Council to implement the objectives of the Union Government's organization named Sangeetha Nataka Academy at state level, to preserve and develop the Tamil arts, to benefit the artists through the projects of the

Government of Tamil Nadu and to implement various art works and projects.

- ✓ He is the recipient of the Kalaimamani Award in 1991 and the National Award for Best Actor in 2003.

New BSF Director-General

- ✓ Pankaj Kumar Singh was appointed as Director-General of the Border Security Force (BSF).
- ✓ Singh is presently serving as the Special Director General of the BSF.

Banwarilal Purohit

- ✓ President Ram Nath kovind has given additional charge of governor of Punjab to Governor Banwarilal Purohit.
- ✓ Purohit has also been appointed as the administrator of of the union territory of Chandigarh.

MISCELLENOUS

Museum of the Future

- ✓ The National Geographic has listed Dubai's 'Museum of the Future' as one of the 14 most beautiful museums in the world.
- ✓ This recognition is for its astounding architecture and sophisticated technological innovations.

WhatsApp banking channel

- ✓ Axis Bank has crossed the milestone of over one million customers on its WhatsApp banking channel.
- ✓ Axis Bank had launched banking services on WhatsApp in January 2021.

News Broadcasters Association renamed

- ✓ The News Broadcasters Association has decided to change its name to News Broadcasters & Digital Association.
- ✓ The News Broadcasters Association is a private association of different current affairs and news television broadcasters in India.
- ✓ Rajat Sharma is its current President.

New Covid Test using Pencil Lead

- ✓ Researchers from University of Pennsylvania in US have developed a new cheaper, faster and more accurate Covid diagnostic test that uses electrodes made from graphite to test the SARS CoV-2 Virus.
- ✓ It is the material found in pencil lead.

Millets can reduce risk of heart disease

- ✓ The consumption of millets could reduce total cholesterol, triacylglycerols, and BMI, hence reducing the risk of developing cardiovascular diseases.

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- ✓ UN has declared 2023 as the International year of millets.

Stadium named after Neeraj Chopra

- ✓ Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh unveiled the army sports Institute Stadium named after Neeraj Chopra.
- ✓ The Indian Army's "Mission Olympics" program was launched in 2001 with an intent to deliver medal winning performances in the Olympics and other international events.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Friendship Day 2021 - August 01

- ✓ Friendship Day is celebrated in India on the first Sunday of August.
- ✓ On this day, we honour the bonds of friendship we form through the course of our lives that enrich us and make us happier.
- ✓ This day was first proposed in Paraguay in 1958 as International Friendship Day.
- ✓ However, it is believed that it first originated from Hallmark cards in the 1930s, whose founder was Joyce Hall.

National Mountain Climbing Day - August 01

- ✓ The day was established in order to honour Bobby Matthews and his friend Josh Madigan, for successfully

climbing the 46th peak of New York State's Adirondack Mountains.

- ✓ In 1965, Avatar Singh Cheema became the first Indian to climb Mount Everest.
- ✓ The first Indian woman to climb Everest was Bachendri Pal who did so in 1984, at the age of 30.

World Breastfeeding Week - August 1 to 7

- ✓ This week is marked every year to raise awareness on the importance of breastfeeding for mothers and infants.
- ✓ The theme of the World Breastfeeding Week 2021 is "Protect Breastfeeding: A Shared Responsibility".
- ✓ The annual week is organized by WABA, WHO and UNICEF since 1991.

Muslim Women Rights Day - August 01

- ✓ The Muslim Women Rights Day celebrated across the nation to celebrate the enactment of the law against Triple Talaq.
- ✓ The first Muslim Women's Rights Day was observed in 2020.
- ✓ The Government of India enacted the law against Triple Talaq on August 01, 2019.
- ✓ The law is formally called the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019.
- ✓ This law prohibits the practice of instant divorce by Muslim men.

Hiroshima day - August 06

- ✓ The day marks the anniversary of the atomic bombing in Hiroshima during World War II.
- ✓ The horrific incident took place on August 6, 1945, when the United States dropped an atomic bomb named “Little Boy”, on the town of Hiroshima in Japan.
- ✓ This bomb attack was done with the motive to end the Second World War in 1945.
- ✓ This day is remembered to promote peace and spread awareness about the danger of nuclear energy and nuclear weapons.

National Handloom Day - August 07

- ✓ India has marked the 7th National Handloom Day to showcase the legacy of the Indian handloom industry.
- ✓ 'Handloom, an Indian legacy' is the theme of this year.
- ✓ The day is to commemorate the Swadeshi Movement and to celebrate our country's rich fabrics and colourful weaves.
- ✓ The whole nation will mark the day to showcase the legacy of the Indian handloom industry and to honour the weavers across the country.
- ✓ It was first observed in 2015 by the Government of India.

International Cat Day - August 08

- ✓ The day was started by the International Fund for Animal Welfare in 2002.

- ✓ The animal rights organisation uses the day to promote the needs and wants of cats and encourages cat owners to find new ways to improve their bond with their pets.
- ✓ The theme of the day, this year is “Be Cat Curious - Training for Cats and their Humans”.

Quit India Day - August 08

- ✓ The 79th anniversary of the August Kranti Din or Quit India Movement is being observed this year.
- ✓ On 8 Aug 1942, Mahatma Gandhi gave a clarion call to end British rule and launched the Quit India Movement at the session of the All-India Congress Committee in Mumbai.
- ✓ After the failure of Cripps Mission, Gandhiji gave the call to “Do or Die” in his Quit India speech delivered at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Mumbai.

International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples - August 09

- ✓ The day is being observed to protect the rights of the world’s indigenous population.
- ✓ It is also observed to recognize the achievements and contributions that indigenous people make to improve world issues such as environmental protection.
- ✓ The theme for 2021 is “Leaving no one behind: Indigenous peoples and the call for a new social contract.”

- ✓ The day was recognised by the General Assembly of the United Nations in December 1994.

Nagasaki day - August 09

- ✓ Japan commemorates the 9th of August every year as Nagasaki day.
- ✓ On August 9, 1945, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Nagasaki, Japan.
- ✓ It was code-named "Fat Man".

World Lion Day - August 10

- ✓ The Day is marked to raise awareness about the king of beasts and the efforts undertaken for their conservation.
- ✓ "Slow elimination of the African lion" is the theme for the year 2021.
- ✓ It was launched in 2013.
- ✓ The big cat is listed as an endangered species in the IUCN Red List.
- ✓ The majestic animal is the second-largest member of the Felidae (cat family), after the tiger.

World Biofuel Day - August 10

- ✓ The day is celebrated to raise awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels.
- ✓ It also highlights the various efforts made by Government in the biofuel sector.

- ✓ The theme of 2021 is the "promotion of biofuels for a better environment".
- ✓ Since 2015, World Biofuel Day is celebrated by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- ✓ The day honours the research experiments by Sir Rudolf Diesel.
- ✓ In 1893, he ran an engine with peanut oil.

Javelin Throw Day

- ✓ The athletics Federation of India has decided to name August 7 as 'Javelin Throw Day' in India to honor Neeraj Chopra's first historic Olympic gold.
- ✓ Neeraj bagged the gold medal in men's javelin throw at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics on August 7, 2021.
- ✓ He is India's second individual Olympic gold medalist after Abhinav Bindra.
- ✓ This is India's first ever gold medal in athletics.

International Youth Day - August 12

- ✓ The day is observed annually to draw the attention of governments and others towards youth issues worldwide.
- ✓ This day is celebrated to recognize the efforts put in by the youth for the betterment of society.
- ✓ The theme of International Youth Day 2021, "Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health"
- ✓ This day is the first time observed on August 12, 2000.

National Librarian's Day - August 12

- ✓ Every year Padma Shri Dr SR Ranganathan's birthday is celebrated as the National Librarian's Day.
- ✓ He spearheaded library development in India.
- ✓ This is his 129th birth anniversary.
- ✓ He is called as the Father of Library Science, Information Science and Documentation.

World Organ Donation Day - August 13

- ✓ The World Organ Donation Day is celebrated every year on August 13.
- ✓ The day is celebrated to raise awareness about the importance of organ donation and motivate people to donate organs after death.

International Left-Handers Day - August 13

- ✓ The day is observed every year to celebrate the uniqueness and differences of the left-handers and raise awareness of the advantages and disadvantages of being left-handed in a predominantly right-handed world.
- ✓ Left-handers are likely to have better verbal skills than their right-handed counterparts, according to a 2019 study by Oxford University.
- ✓ The day was first observed in 1976 by Dean R Campbell, the founder of Lefthanders International Inc.

World Prediabetes Day - August 14

- ✓ The World Prediabetes Day will be annually observed across the globe on 14th August starting from 2021.
- ✓ The day aims to create awareness about Prediabetes and to reduce the increasing rate of diabetes.
- ✓ 14th August 2021 marks the first World Prediabetes Day.
- ✓ World Prediabetes Day has been strategically chosen 90 days before World Diabetes day (14 November).
- ✓ This is because it scientifically takes 90 days to change the lifestyle to reverse Prediabetes and prevent progression to diabetes.
- ✓ Prediabetes is a health condition where blood sugar levels are higher than normal, but not high enough to be diagnosed as type 2 (lifestyle induced) diabetes.

National Day of mourning (Bangladesh) - August 15

- ✓ Bangladesh is observing the 46th martyrdom day of the founding President of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- ✓ Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated along by some military men on the night of 15 August 1975.

Navroz Mubarak Day - August 16

- ✓ The Parsi New year is popularly known as Navroz.
- ✓ Navroz means a new day.

- ✓ World Humanitarian Day was commemorated for the first time on 19 August 2009.

World Photography Day - August 19

- ✓ World Photography Day is celebrated every year to promote photography as a hobby and also inspire photographers around the globe to share a single photo with the rest of the world.
- ✓ The first official World Photo Day was observed on August 19, 2010.
- ✓ The origin of World Photo Day comes from the invention of the Daguerreotype.
- ✓ It is a photographic process developed by Frenchmen Louis Daguerre and Joseph Nicéphore Niépce in 1837.

Sanskrit Week - August 19 to 25

- ✓ Sanskrit Week is being celebrated from August 19 to August 25, 2021.
- ✓ Sanskrit Week is celebrated to promote and popularise this ancient language.
- ✓ This day is also known as Vishva-samskrita-dinam.

Akshay Urja Diwas - August 20

- ✓ Akshay Urja Diwas (Renewable Energy Day) is observed every year to raise awareness about the developments and adoption of renewable energy in India.

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- ✓ The Akshay Urja Day was initiated by the Indian Ministry for New & Renewable Energy Sources in 2004.
- ✓ This day marks the birthday anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India.

Sadbhavana Diwas - August 20

- ✓ Every year India observes this day to commemorate the birth anniversary of late erstwhile Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- ✓ This year we celebrate the 77th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- ✓ The Indian National Congress instituted Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award in 1992, a year after his death.
- ✓ Late Rajiv Gandhi was the youngest Prime Minister of India at the age of 40 years.

World Mosquito Day - August 20

- ✓ The day is observed annually to raise awareness about the causes of malaria and how it can be prevented.
- ✓ It is observed to highlight the efforts of healthcare officials, NGOs, and others in fighting diseases caused by malaria.
- ✓ The theme of World Mosquito Day 2021 is “Reaching the zero-malaria target”.
- ✓ The day also commemorates the discovery made by British doctor Sir Ronald Ross in 1897 that female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans.

National Honey Bee Day 2021 - August 21

- ✓ National Honey Bee Day is celebrated on the third Saturday of August every year in the United States.
- ✓ Therefore, this year it fell on August 21, Saturday.
- ✓ The original day of observation was August 22, 2009.

World Entrepreneurs Day - August 21

- ✓ The day is annually observed across the globe to create awareness about entrepreneurship, innovation and leadership among the stakeholders.
- ✓ The day also recognises and celebrates the efforts of individuals who start a business venture.
- ✓ The Alliance of International Business Associations leads the observance and invites people across the globe to promote World Entrepreneurs Day.
- ✓ Some of the initiatives of Government of India to support Entrepreneurship are Start-Up India Scheme and Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana.

Madras Day - August 22

- ✓ Chennai celebrated its 382nd birthday on August 22.
- ✓ It was on August 22, 1639, that the village of Madrasapatnam was purchased by the East India Company from the Vijayanagar Empire.
- ✓ The concept of celebrating Madras Day was conceptualized in 2004.

Sanskrit Day - August 22

- ✓ In 2021, Sanskrit Day will be celebrated on August 22, 2021.
- ✓ The day is celebrated on the full moon day of the month of Shravan.
- ✓ It also marks the occasion of Raksha Bandhan each year.
- ✓ The World Sanskrit Day was first declared in 1969, by the Indian Government on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief - August 22

- ✓ The day emphasizes the significance of aiding victims of religious persecution as part of the UN's efforts to promote Human Rights related to religious or belief freedom.
- ✓ The resolution was introduced by Poland's Foreign Minister, Jacek Czaputowicz.

European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Stalinism and Nazism - August 23

- ✓ The day is also known as Black Ribbon Day in some countries.
- ✓ It is an International day of remembrance for victims of totalitarian regimes, specifically Stalinism, Communism, Nazism and Fascism.

- ✓ It symbolizes the rejection of “extremism, intolerance and oppression”.
- ✓ It has been observed annually by the bodies of the European Union since 2009.
- ✓ 23 August was chosen to coincide with the date of the signing of the Molotov– Ribbentrop Pact.
- ✓ Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact is a 1939 non-aggression pact between the USSR and Nazi Germany.

International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition - August 23

- ✓ The United Nations observes this Day to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade in the memory of all peoples.
- ✓ It is a day to honour the memory of the men and women who, in Saint Domingue in 1791, revolted and paved the way for the end of slavery and dehumanization.

International Dog Day - August 26

- ✓ The day is observed every year to raise awareness about dog adoption and the importance of providing rescue dogs with a safe and loving environment.
- ✓ The day was started as National Dog Day in the US in 2004 by Colleen Paige.

World Water Week - August 23 to 27

- ✓ The World Water Week is an annual event organized by Stockholm International Water Institute since 1991.

- ✓ This is to address the global water issues and related concerns of international development.
- ✓ The theme for World Water Week 2021 is ‘Building Resilience Faster’.

International Day against Nuclear Tests - August 29

- ✓ United Nations General Assembly declared 29 August the International Day against Nuclear Tests.
- ✓ The resolution calls for increasing awareness and education “about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and the need for their cessation as one of the means of achieving the goal of a nuclearweapon-free world.”
- ✓ The resolution was initiated by the Republic of Kazakhstan.
- ✓ 2010 marked the inaugural commemoration of the International Day against Nuclear Tests.

National Sports Day - August 29

- ✓ It is observed every year to commemorate the birthday of Indian hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand.
- ✓ He was born on 29 August 1905 in present-day Prayagraj, UP.
- ✓ Major Dhyan Chand was the captain of the Gold medal-winning Indian hockey team at the Berlin Olympics in 1936.

Note

- ✓ Like how, PT Usha is known as Udanpari, Sachin Tendulkar as Master Blaster, and Major Dhyan Chand is known as 'Hockey Wizard'.

Telugu Language Day - August 29

- ✓ Day of the Telugu Language is observed on 29 August every year.
- ✓ This date was chosen to coincide with the birthday of the Telugu poet Gidugu Venkata Ramamurthy.
- ✓ Telugu is referred to as 'The Italian of the East'.

International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances - August 30

- ✓ The International Day of the Disappearances is a day created to draw attention to the fate of individuals imprisoned at places and under poor conditions unknown to their relatives and/or legal representatives.
- ✓ It is observed on August 30 of each year.
- ✓ The day was established by the UN General Assembly on December 21, 2010.
- ✓ The day also allows states to consider the fulfilment of their obligations under the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

Small Industry Day - August 30

- ✓ The National Small Industry Day is observed on 30th August every year in India.
- ✓ This day aims to promote small Industries for their overall growth potential and opportunities obtained for their development in the year.
- ✓ Small Industry day also is a medium that purposes to offer balanced growth to existing small, medium and large scale enterprises.
- ✓ It also gives assistance for installing new industries to promote the state's financial health.

International Whale Shark Day - August 30

- ✓ The day has been designed to celebrate and increase awareness about these amazing sea-dwelling creature.
- ✓ We need to protect and conserve the whale shark, as their numbers are declining.
- ✓ In 2016, the whale shark was reclassified from a vulnerable species to an endangered one.

International Overdose Awareness Day - August 31

- ✓ The day was initiated in 2001 by Sally J Finn at The Salvation Army in St Kilda, Melbourne.
- ✓ Since 2012, International Overdose Awareness Day has been coordinated by the not-for-profit Australian public health organisation Penington Institute.