

# SHIKSHA BY SWATHIKA

## An IAS Academy

### JULY MONTH CURRENT AFFAIRS 2021

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**STATES**

**Kudankulam - 5th power unit**

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

**New CM of Uttarakhand**

- ✓ Pushkar Singh Dhami I was born as the 11th chief minister of Uttarakhand.
- ✓ He was also the state president of Bharatiya Yuva Morcha.

**Cloud-based Health Project - Delhi**

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

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- ✓ Special surveys will also be conducted to issue e-health cards for residents of Delhi.

## **New provisions**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu Electricity regulatory Commission has notified new provision in the community Electricity Distribution code.
- ✓ It is mandated the installation of the residual current device in all electricity connections in both single and three phase conditions of All Construction.
- ✓ The recipient of a concurrent not exceeding 30 milliamperes must be installed to avoid electrical shock.

## **Tiger Corridor**

- ✓ Rajasthan government has planned to develop a tiger corridor connecting Ranthambore tiger reserve, Ramgarh Vishdhari tiger reserve and Mukundra tiger reserve.
- ✓ This sanctuary will link Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in Northeast side and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve on southern side.

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

- ✓ Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and Forest College and Research Institute (FC&RI) has undertaken a project to identify native grasses & trees.

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

## **Tamil Nadu Athletes to Tokyo Olympics**

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

## **Legislative Council - West Bengal**

- ✓ The West Bengal Assembly has passed a resolution to set up a Legislative Council.
- ✓ Under Article 169 of the constitution, Parliament may by law create or abolish the second chamber in a state.
- ✓ For this the Legislative Assembly of that state passes a resolution to that effect by a special majority.



- ✓ As per article 171 of the Indian Constitution, the total number of members in the legislative council of a state shall not exceed one third of the total number of the members in the legislative Assembly of that state.
- ✓ Also, the total number of members in the legislative council of a state shall in no case be less than 40.

### **Green India Challenge sets world record**

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

### **Movable freshwater tunnel aquarium**

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



### **Bhumi Panduga**

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

### **Manipur enters India's railway map**

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

### **Population policy for 2021-2030 - Uttar Pradesh**

- ✓ The Uttar Pradesh government has proposed a population control bill titled The Uttar Pradesh Population (Control, Stabilization and Welfare) Bill, 2021.
- ✓ The Uttar Pradesh government announced a new population policy for 2021- 2030.

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

### **India's first Cryptogamic Garden**

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



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

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

**Terracotta container - Keezhadi**

- ✓ A terracotta container was unearthed at the archaeological site at Keeladi in Sivaganga during the seventh phase of excavation.
- ✓ It had an intricately designed band running along its outer surface.
- ✓ It is not known if this is a part of a ring well or grain storing unit, as it has many layers.
- ✓ It has depressions such as thumb impressions and another has a band which has been equally divided into small squares, with deep lines in between.

**Doorstep care to cut deaths due to diabetes & BP – TN**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government has decided to launch a programme that will take clinics to people's homes across

the state and offer home-based dialysis units to people with chronic renal failure.

- ✓ This is done with the aim to bring down by 50% nearly five lakh deaths caused ever year due to non-communicable diseases in the state.
- ✓ The state will launch a mass screening programme for 10 days as a precursor to the doorstep medical care programme and check for blood sugar and blood pressure
- ✓ Under ‘makalai thedi maruthuvam’ scheme, those diagnosed with diabetes or hypertension will undergo preliminary screening and consultation at the government primary health centre.

### **Grain ATM**

- ✓ Haryana government has set up India's first ever green ATM as a pilot project in Gurugram.
- ✓ The newly installed machines can dispense approximately 70 kg of grains in 5 to 7 minutes time.

### **Monk fruit**

- ✓ Cultivation of ‘monk fruit’ from China has started in Kullu, Himachal Pradesh.
- ✓ The fruit was introduced for field trials in Himachal Pradesh.
- ✓ It was introduced by CSIR-IHBT (Council of Scientific Research and Industrial Technology-Institute of Himalayan Bio-resource Technology).

- ✓ The Monk fruit is known for its properties as non-caloric natural sweetener.

### **Live stream of court proceedings**

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

### **Cultivation of agar**

- ✓ The government of Tripura has taken initiatives to promote commercial cultivation of Agar trees.
- ✓ Agar is an evergreen tree that grows in abundance in the state of Tripura.

### **Tamilnadu state legal services authority**

- ✓ The Madras High Court Judge Kirubakaran has been appointed into the Tamilnadu state legal services authority.
- ✓ Article 39-A of our Constitution enjoins the State to provide free legal aid to the citizen on account of poverty or other disabilities.

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- ✓ The Legal Services Act 1987 is basically aimed to provide free and competent legal Services to the weaker sections of the society.

### **Tamil Chair at University of Cologne in Germany**

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

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

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

### **Fairtrade certification – Indcoserve, Nilgiris**

- ✓ Indcoserve has become India's first cooperative to obtain the Fairtrade certification from FLOCERT in Germany.

- ✓ Indcoserve is the apex body of industrial cooperative tea factories in the Nilgiris.
- ✓ Indcoserve CEO Supriya Sahu received the certificate from chief minister M K Stalin.
- ✓ Fairtrade certification is an internationally acclaimed product certification system.
- ✓ Headquartered in Bonn, Germany, Fairtrade International operates in 72 countries.
- ✓ Indcoserve is India's largest tea cooperative federation.

### **Dam across the Markandeya River**

- ✓ The construction of the dam across the Markandeya River at Yargol in neighbouring Karnataka is likely to cast a shadow over the much-awaited Thenpennai-Palar river interlinking project.
- ✓ If the Karnataka government holds back water at the Yargol dam, it will lessen the flow into Pennaiyar.
- ✓ This will subsequently dim the prospects of the Krishnagiri dam receiving copious amount of water during the monsoon.
- ✓ This will have an adverse impact on the areas of northern Tamil Nadu downstream.

### **Note**

- ✓ Thenpennai-Palar interlinking project envisages bringing 3 tmc water from Thenpennai river to Palar at Vaniyambadi in Tirupathur district.



- ✓ The project would benefit Vellore, Tirupathur and Ranipet districts.

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

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

### **Kerala's first book village**

- ✓ Perumkulam, in Kollam district, has been bestowed with the title Kerala first 'Book Village'.
- ✓ Bapuji Smaraka Grandhasala', library in the village is at the forefront in this effort of making it the first book village of the state.

### **Targeted Public Distribution System**

- ✓ The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in India and the Rajasthan government have joined hands to improve the Targeted Public Distribution System (TDPS) in the state.

### **Harela**

- ✓ Harela is the festival commemorating the new harvest and start of monsoon in the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand.

### **Satellite by Government School**

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

### **Adarsh Smarak scheme**

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

### **Justice Murugesan commission**

- ✓ It submitted its report to the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu.



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- ✓ Korkai is an ancient site in Thoothukudi district.
- ✓ The diameter and the height of the pipes were both 27 cms.

### **Private Member Bill moved in RS to get TN exempted from NEET**

- ✓ To get Tamil Nadu exempted from the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), DMK's Rajya Sabha MP P Wilson has moved the Medical Education Laws (Amendment) Bill 2021.
- ✓ The Bill aims at amending certain enactments pertaining to medical education in India.

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

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

### **BS Yeddyurappa resigns**

- ✓ At a two-year celebration of his government, Karnataka Chief Minister, BS Yeddyurappa announced his resignation.
- ✓ He will remain as caretaker Chief Minister of the state while his party decides on his replacement.
- ✓ BS Yeddyurappa became the first Chief Minister in the south of the BJP.

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- ✓ He had served as the chief minister of Karnataka for four terms.
- ✓ He was the only chief minister to do so in Karnataka history.

### **Kavitha Maloth**

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

### **Government Jobs to Suba Venkatesh and Dhanalakshmi**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu Sports Minister Meyyanathan has said that the state government jobs will be awarded to the Tamil Nadu athletes Suba Venkatesan and Thanalakshmi who participated in the Olympics.
- ✓ He also said that Olympic academies would be set up in 4 places in Tamil Nadu to train Tamil Nadu athletes in international standards.

### **Sundaradevan committee**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government constituted a 13-member expert committee.



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- ✓ It will be headed by N Sundaradevan, former Industries secretary, Tamil Nadu government.
- ✓ The committee will look into the challenges faced by the MSME sector in Tamil Nadu and will suggest immediate, medium and long term measures required for the revival of the MSME sector.

### **City-wide safe drinking tap water**

- ✓ Naveen Patnaik led Odisha state government has declared Puri as the first city in the country to have city-wide safe drinking tap water.

### **Space exercise**

- ✓ Rakshaya and Vedasree from Ariyalur district have been selected to participate in a space exercise in Russia.
- ✓ They study the 11th grade in Thirumanaur Government High School.

### **1892 Agreement between Mysore and Madras**

- ✓ An Agreement was entered into between the then State of Mysore & Madras (presently State of Karnataka and State of Tamil Nadu) in 1892 with reference to taking up new irrigation works across the rivers
- ✓ According to this, when the Mysore Government desires to construct any "New irrigation Reservoir" or any new anicut, the full information regarding the proposed work shall be forwarded to the Madras Government and the

consent of that Government shall be obtained previous to the actual commencement of work.

- ✓ The Madras Government shall be bound not to refuse such consent except for the protection of prescriptive right.

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

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

### **District Green Champion**

- ✓ Chitkara University, Patiala, has been recognized as the 'District Green Champion' for the Patiala district for the academic year 2020-21.

- ✓ It has been recognized by the Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education (MGNCRE).
- ✓ This award is given to colleges that have actively participated in keeping their campuses clean and sanitized, and making progress towards a 'Swachh Bharat'.

### **NATIONAL**

#### **New Definition of Small and medium companies**

- ✓ The Ministry of corporate affairs has expanded the definition of small and medium sized companies (SMCs).
- ✓ As per expanded definition, Small & Medium Companies is an unlisted company, a bank, an insurance or a financial institution with sales up to Rs 250 crore and borrowings up to Rs 50 crore.
- ✓ Earlier limit for sales was Rs 50 crore and for borrowings was Rs 10 crore.
- ✓ Now, SMCs are permitted to avail number of exemptions under Company (Accounting Standards) Rules 2021.
- ✓ It will reduce complexity of regulatory filings for smaller firms.

#### **New Special Director of CBI**

- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Praveen Sinha as the Special Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation.

- ✓ The Special Director is the second senior-most position in the agency after the Director.
- ✓ The post was vacant since the last three years.
- ✓ It was earlier held by Rakesh Asthana.
- ✓ The committee is composed of the Prime Minister of India, who is the Chairman, and the Minister of Home Affairs.

### **Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan**

- ✓ The central government launched a website for its Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.
- ✓ It is a campaign against substance abuse, to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.
- ✓ The website was launched by Social Justice and Empowerment minister Thawarchand Gehlot.

### **Shibu Lal committee**

- ✓ The Former Infosys CEO S D Shibu Lal was appointed chairperson of a threemember task force.
- ✓ This task force is formed to help the government in bringing major bureaucratic reforms through its "Mission Karma yogi".
- ✓ Besides Lal, who is founder of Shiksha Lokam and founder and ex-CEO of Infosys Limited, Govind Iyer, and Pankaj Bansal will be part of the task force.

- ✓ The Centre has recently approved the 'National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building - Mission Karma yogi'.
- ✓ This is to make a transformational shift from rule based training to role-based capacity development of all civil services in the country.

### **Railways open freshwater tunnel aquarium**

- ✓ In a first, an aquatic Kingdom has been set up at a Bengaluru railway station.
- ✓ It is based on the Amazon River concept.
- ✓ The one of its kind aquatic Park has been developed by Indian railway stations Development Corporation Limited in collaboration with HNI aquatic Kingdom.

### **Mumbai Samachar enters 200th year**

- ✓ On July 1, India's oldest running newspaper, Mumbai Samachar, entered its 200th year.
- ✓ This Gujarati newspaper was first published in 1822.
- ✓ It was founded by a Parsi scholar Fardoonji Murazban.

### **NATRAX - Indore**

- ✓ The Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Prakash Javadekar has inaugurated NATRAX (National Automotive Test Tracks) the High-Speed Track in Indore.
- ✓ It is the longest High Speed Track in Asia.
- ✓ It is fifth-longest in the world



- ✓ It is an 11.3 km High-Speed Track.
- ✓ It is a one-stop solution for all sorts of high-speed performance tests, that is, from 2 wheelers to heavy tractor-trailers.

### **WAKO Federation gets government resignation**

- ✓ The ministry of youth affairs and sports have decided to grant recognition to WAKO India kickboxing Federation as National Sports Federation.
- ✓ It has been recognised for promotion and development of the kickboxing sport in India.

### **Indrajaal**

- ✓ Hyderabad-based technology R&D firm Grene Robotics has designed and developed India's first indigenous drone defence dome called "Indrajaal".
- ✓ The drone defence dome has the capability to autonomously protect an area of 1000-2000 sq km.
- ✓ It can give protection against the aerial threats by assessing and acting on aerial threats.
- ✓ The aerial threats include Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), loitering munitions and Low- Radar Cross Section (RCS) targets.

### **First voyage of Green Freight Corridor-2**

- ✓ Ministry of Shipping launched the maiden voyage under Green Freight Corridor-2.

- ✓ This newly launched service will connect Cochin with Beypore-Azhikkal in the initial phases while Kollam ports in Kerala in later phases.
- ✓ This will improve connectivity and synergies between major & non-major ports by promoting coastal trading.

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

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

### **Crop Insurance Awareness Campaign**

- ✓ The Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar, has launched the Crop Insurance Awareness Campaign for Fasal Bima Yojana.
- ✓ It was launched during Crop Insurance Week (1st July to 7th July).
- ✓ PMFBY was launched on February, 18, 2016.
- ✓ Fasal Bima Yojana was launched with the aim of providing security cover to each farmer.
- ✓ This scheme covers all Food & Oilseeds crops along with Annual Commercial or Horticultural Crops for which past yield data is available.



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- ✓ It provides a forum for discussion of regional maritime issues and promotes friendly relationships among member nations.
- ✓ IONS includes 24 nations that permanently hold territory within the Indian Ocean, and 8 observer nations.

## **First uncrewed mission - ISRO**

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

## **India and Hydropower projects by 2030**

- ✓ India is expected to add 26 GW (or 26,000 MW) of Hydropower projects by 2030.

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

### **Ambedkar Memorial and Cultural Centre**

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

### **Miyazaki mango**

- ✓ The fruit is primarily cultivated in the Japanese city of Miyazaki, which is a capital city on the Kyushu Island.
- ✓ It is considered as the **world’s costliest mangoes**.
- ✓ The Miyazaki mangoes can weigh up to 350 grams.
- ✓ It is enriched with nutrients like antioxidants, beta-carotene, and folic acid.



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- ✓ Recently, this fruit was found to be grown by the Jabalpur couple, Rani and Parihar.

## **NIPUN Bharat Initiative**

- ✓ The Union government launched a new scheme called “NIPUN Bharat Initiative” on July 5, 2021.
- ✓ NIPUN stands for “National Initiative for Proficiency in reading with Understanding and Numeracy”.
- ✓ This scheme would provide an enabling environment in a bid to ensure universal acquisition of foundational literacy and numeracy.
- ✓ It will ensure that every child achieves desired learning competencies in reading, writing, and numeracy by end of Grade 3, by the year 2026-27.
- ✓ This initiative will be a part of school education programme, Samagra Shiksha.
- ✓ It is a five-tier implementation mechanism.
- ✓ It will be set up at national, state, district, block, and school levels across all states and Union territories.
- ✓ This scheme is in line with new education policy.

## **End of Darbar move**

- ✓ The LG Manoj Sinha formally put an end to a 149-year-old biannual tradition of shifting offices between summer capital Srinagar and winter capital Jammu.

- ✓ The Administration cancelled the residential accommodation of “darbar move” employees in Jammu and Srinagar.
- ✓ This implies that the employees will remain stationed in either Jammu or Kashmir.
- ✓ Dogra monarch Maharaja Gulab Singh is believed to have started the tradition of shifting the capital in 1872.
- ✓ The tradition was continued after 1947 by J&K’s political class.

### **Coal production - India**

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

### **CoWin Global Conclave**

- ✓ The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi inaugurated and addressed the CoWin Global Conclave.
- ✓ The global meet was participated by representatives from 142 countries.
- ✓ The Conclave was jointly organized by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of External Affairs and National Health Authority.

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- ✓ India has offered its indigenously developed cloud-based CoWIN platform to be made open-source so that it is available to any and all countries.

## **New Governors**

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

## **Project BOLD**

- ✓ The project was launched by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) recently from the tribal village Nichla Mandwa in Udaipur, Rajasthan.
- ✓ 5000 saplings of special bamboo species have been planted in vacant arid Gram Panchayat land.
- ✓ These special species Bambusa Tulda and Bambusa Polymorpha were brought from Assam.
- ✓ KVIC has thus created a world record of planting the highest number of bamboo saplings on a single day at one location.
- ✓ BOLD stands for Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought.
- ✓ It is launched by KVIC.





### **Government creates Ministry of Co-operation**

- ✓ The union government has created a separate Ministry of cooperation for realising the vision of 'Shakar se Samridhi'.
- ✓ Ministry will provide a separate administrative, legal, and policy Framework for strengthening Cooperative movement in the country.

### **Khadi Prakritk Paint**

- ✓ The Union Minister, Nitin Gadkari, virtually inaugurated India's first and only paint made from cow dung named 'Khadi Prakritk Paint'.
- ✓ The minister also declared himself as the "Brand Ambassador" of paint, to promote it across the country.

### **mRNA vaccine technology**

- ✓ A team of Indian researchers who have been working on developing mRNA vaccine technology have been awarded a grant by Ignite Life Science Foundation.
- ✓ The mRNA vaccines have reportedly been highly effective against COVID-19 infection, especially against severe cases
- ✓ Both Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine use mRNA technology to offer protection against SARS-CoV-2.



### **New penalty slabs for fraud messages**

- ✓ The Department of Telecom (DoT) has proposed to fine Rs 10,000 for fraud messages in order to tighten noose on pesky callers.
- ✓ New penalties are,
  - ✚ Rs 1,000 per violation for 0-10 breaches,
  - ✚ Rs 5,000 each for 10-50 violations and
  - ✚ Rs 10,000 each for more than 50 violations.

### **Mango diplomacy**

- ✓ The Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, has gifted 2,600 kg of Haribhanga variety of mangoes to Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.
- ✓ Truck carrying mangoes crossed Bangladesh-India border through Benapole port in Jessore.
- ✓ Mangoes are a “memento of friendship” between both the countries.
- ✓ The Mangoes are of “Haribhanga variety” which are grown in Rangpur region of Bangladesh.

### **INS Tabar**

- ✓ The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tabar recently participated in military exercises with frontline frigate of Italian Navy.
- ✓ INS Tabar joined Italian Navy and entered Port of Naples as part of ongoing deployment in Mediterranean.

- ✓ While returning, Tabar also undertook a Maritime Partnership Exercise with ITS Antonio Marceglio in Tyrrhenian Sea.

### **GUAREX and SOYDEX**

- ✓ The National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) launched India's 1st sectoral indices in agricultural-commodities space.
- ✓ NCDEX is India's agricultural commodity exchange.
- ✓ The indices are GUAREX and SOYDEX.
- ✓ These indices will represent the performance of Guar complex and Soy complex.
- ✓ GUAREX – It is the return based index.
- ✓ It tracks the change in the price of the futures contracts of Guar Seed and Guar Gum Refined Splits on a real-time basis.
- ✓ SOYDEX – It will also trace the price changes in futures contracts of Soybean and Refined Soy Oil.
- ✓ Both the indices will be useful for hedgers to identify low-cost products.
- ✓ It will also offer trading strategies and risk management exercises.
- ✓ Futures Contract is a standardized legal agreement to buy or sell something at a predetermined price at a specified time in the future.

- ✓ A hedger is any individual or firm that buys or sells the actual physical commodity.

### **Bryum Bharatiensis**

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

### **National Dolphin Research Centre**

- ✓ Much-awaited National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC) will soon come up in Patna. Process to set up the research centre has started.
- ✓ The research centre will be a big step towards conservation of endangered Gangetic River dolphin.
- ✓ Project Dolphin was started on the lines of Project Tiger, which has helped in increasing tiger population.
- ✓ This initiative got in-principle approval in December 2019 at first meeting of National Ganga Council (NGC), headed by the Prime Minister.

- ✓ This is a “Special Conservation program” taken up to save the Gangetic Dolphin.
- ✓ This project will be implemented by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

### **India's first cryptogamic Garden opens**

- ✓ India's first cryptogamic Garden housing nearly 50 species of lichens, ferns and fungi was inaugurated in Uttarakhand Dehradun district.
- ✓ Cryptogamic means “hidden reproduction” referring to the fact that no seed, no flowers are produced.
- ✓ They represent the non-seeding bearing plants.
- ✓ Algae, bryophytes, lichens, ferns and fungi are the best - known groups of cryptogams.

### **Zika Virus**

- ✓ The Cases of Zika virus were recently found in Kerala and Karnataka.
- ✓ The Zika virus is predominantly transmitted by infected mosquitoes from the Aedes genus, mainly Aedes aegypti.
- ✓ The Aedes mosquitoes also spread dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever.
- ✓ They usually bite during the daytime, mostly during the early morning or later afternoon.
- ✓ An infected person can also spread the virus.
- ✓ The virus was first identified in Uganda in 1947 in monkeys.



- ✓ The new Ganga Expressway will run across the breadth of the state of UP and will connect some major cities in the state.

### **Second annual Lightning Report**

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

### **First green Hydrogen Mobility project**

- ✓ The NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd (NTPC REL) will set up the country's first green Hydrogen Mobility project in Ladakh.
- ✓ NTPC REL is a 100 per cent subsidiary of NTPC.
- ✓ Hydrogen when produced by electrolysis using renewable energy is known as Green Hydrogen.
- ✓ It has no carbon footprint.
- ✓ Green hydrogen energy is vital for India to meet its Nationally Determined Contribution Targets.
- ✓ It also ensures regional and national energy security, access and availability.



### **Bangabandhu Chair**

- ✓ The Delhi University will have a 'Bangabandhu Chair' to foster a better understanding of developments in Bangladesh.
- ✓ A MoU was signed between the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Delhi University in Dhaka to set up this Chair.
- ✓ The Chair will focus on the common heritage of the two countries.
- ✓ The chair will honour Bangladesh's founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- ✓ And also to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the country's Liberation War as well as India's diplomatic ties with Dhaka.

### **External Affairs Minister Jaishankar at Georgia**

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

**Note**

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

**National Dolphin Research Centre**

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

**India's largest solar park - NTPC**

- ✓ NTPC Ltd is set to construct the country's single-largest solar photovoltaic project at Rann of Kutch region in Khavada, Gujarat.
- ✓ The solar power park will have a capacity of 4.75 Gigawatt (Gw)/4750 MW.
- ✓ The project will be constructed through NTPC's renewable energy arm, NTPC Renewable Energy (NTPC-REL).

### **First Pod taxi service**

- ✓ India will see its first pod taxi running between Noida Airport and Noida Film City.
- ✓ Pod taxis have been a popular mode of commute in several Western countries and can accommodate 426 passengers per car.

### **India's first 5-star Hotel atop Railway Track**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurates the newly-built five-star hotel on the top of redeveloped Gandhinagar railway station.
- ✓ This project was started by Indian Railway Stations Redevelopment Corporation in January 2017.
- ✓ The hotel will be used to host national and international guests attending seminars and conferences at Mahatma Mandir.
- ✓ The Mahatma Mandir is a convention centre located opposite to the property.

### **National AYUSH Mission extended**

- ✓ The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved continuation of National AYUSH Mission.
- ✓ National AYUSH mission has been extended from 01-04-2021 to 31-03-2026.



### **10th P-8I aircraft from Boeing**

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

### **Adani Group**

- ✓ The Adani Group led by Gautam Adani has completed the takeover of 'Mumbai International Airport' from GVK group.
- ✓ With this takeover, Adani group has become the top company in terms of airport infrastructure companies in India.

### **Tokyo Olympics cheer song**

- ✓ Singer Ananya Birla has teamed up with music maestro AR Rahman to launch a cheer song for Indian sports personalities as they gear up for Tokyo Olympics.
- ✓ Titled "Hindustani Way", the song has been sung by Ananya and composed by Rahman.

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- ✓ The Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Thakur also present in the launch of the song.

## **UV-C technology**

- ✓ Ultraviolet-C or UV-C Disinfection Technology will soon be installed in the Parliament of India.
- ✓ This is for the “mitigation of airborne transmission of SARS-COV-2”.
- ✓ UV-C air duct disinfection system is developed by CSIR-CSIO (Central Scientific Instruments Organisation).

## **Insurance to Himalayan yaks**

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

## **Pink Production Project**

- ✓ Kerala police has launched a new initiative called the pink protection project for the protection of women in public private and digital spaces.



### **India - Nepal friendship rail project**

- ✓ On July 18, 2021, the successful trial of movement of train was undertaken between Jaynagar in India and Kurtha in Nepal.
- ✓ The length of the rail section is 34.50 km.
- ✓ This is the first section of the rail line links between the two countries.
- ✓ It connects Kurtha in the Mahottari district of Nepal to Jaynagar in the Madhubani district of Bihar.
- ✓ IRCON has set up the Jayanagar - Kurtha Railway under the India – Nepal friendship rail project.
- ✓ This is financed by the Indian government.
- ✓ The second section which is 17 km long will link Kurtha and Bhangaha.
- ✓ The 17 km long third phase will extend from Bhangaha to Bardibas.

### **Kisan Sarathi**

- ✓ The Digital platform called ‘Kisan Sarathi’ was launched recently.
- ✓ This will facilitate farmers to get ‘right information at right time’ in their desired language.
- ✓ This initiative of Kisan Sarathi empowers farmers with technological interventions to reach farmers in remote areas.

### **New Google Cloud Region**

- ✓ Google Cloud has announced the launch of its new Cloud Region in Delhi NCR.
- ✓ This new Google Cloud region is the second such in India after Mumbai.
- ✓ Also, it is the 10th in Asia-Pacific.
- ✓ Totally, 26 Google Cloud regions are present across the world.

### **Gwalior selected for UNESCO's project**

- ✓ In Madhya Pradesh, Gwalior and Orchha cities have been selected by UNESCO under the historic urban landscape project.
- ✓ The project was started in the year 2011, for the inclusive and well planned the development of fast-growing historical cities while preserving the culture and heritage.
- ✓ 6 cities of South Asia, including Ajmal and Varanasi in India, are already involved in this project.

### **National Logistics Excellence Awards**

- ✓ The Government of India announced the launch of a new category of awards.
- ✓ The first category includes service providers and logistics infrastructure and second category will be awarded for the various user industries.

### **Blockchain Technology – Certificates**

- ✓ Maharashtra will be the first state in the country to issue educational documents using the blockchain technology.
- ✓ Thus, India becomes the Fourth Country in the World in this regard.
- ✓ Bahrain, Malta, and Singapore are the only countries currently using blockchain for educational documents.
- ✓ A blockchain is a distributed digital transaction ledger.
- ✓ It allows maintenance of identical copies of data or records on multiple computer systems.
- ✓ Forgery of documents is a serious concern for various educational and other institutions.

### **Indian Institute of Heritage**

- ✓ It will be set up by the Union government under the Ministry of Culture at Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ This would be a standalone Institution of its type in the country.
- ✓ It will be a world-class University that would focus on the conservation and research in India's rich tangible heritage.

### **Kala Vishwa**

- ✓ The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has launched a new campaign called 'Kala Vishwa'.

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- ✓ It aims to reach out to traditional folk artists, local artists/artisans coming from rural areas.
- ✓ The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) is an autonomous body under the administrative control of the Ministry of External Affairs.

## **Safe digital transmission of bail order**

- ✓ The Supreme Court of India announced to implement a system for safe digital transmission of its bail orders to jails across India.
- ✓ Now the authorities will not be required to wait for authentic orders to release prisoners.
- ✓ Senior Advocate Dushyant Dave has been appointed as amicus curiae to aid implementation of scheme.
- ✓ One who is not a party to case but assists court by offering information, expertise, or insight with bearing on issues in any case are known as “Amicus Curiae”.
- ✓ Amicus Curiae is a Latin phrase that literally means ‘friend of the court’.

## **Stand Up India Scheme**

- ✓ The Government of India has extended the duration of the ‘Stand Up India Scheme’ up to the year 2025.
- ✓ The scheme was launched by the Prime Minister in April 2016 to facilitate loans to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and women borrowers, to promote entrepreneurship among them.

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- ✓ The scheme offers bank loans to encourage them in setting up a greenfield enterprise.
- ✓ It must be outside of the farm sector, that is in the manufacturing, services or trading sector.

### **Speedy trial**

- ✓ In the Bhima Koregaon caste violence case, the Supreme Court has said that “speedy trial is a fundamental right”.
- ✓ In India, it is covered under Article 21 which declares that “no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to the procedure laid by law.”

### **SMILE scheme**

- ✓ The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has framed the SMILE scheme (Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise scheme).
- ✓ This Scheme includes a sub scheme - ‘Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging’.
- ✓ This Scheme covers several comprehensive measures including welfare measures for persons who are engaged in the act of begging.

### **Historic Urban Landscape Project**

- ✓ Madhya Pradesh has launched UNESCO’s ‘Historic Urban Landscape’ project for Gwalior and Orchha cities of State.

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- ✓ These places will now be jointly developed by UNESCO, Government of India and Madhya Pradesh by focusing on their historical and cultural improvement.
- ✓ Gwalior and Orchha in Madhya Pradesh were included in the list of UNESCOs world heritage cities under its urban landscape city programme in December 2020.

### **H5N1 avian influenza**

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

### **WHO-GMP/COPP Certification**

- ✓ The Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd. (IMPCL) has applied for WHO-GMP/COPP certification for 18 Ayurvedic products.
- ✓ GMP is a short form of Good Manufacturing Practice.
- ✓ The WHO GMP certificate is mandatory in most global markets for pharmaceutical companies to be able to sell medicines.





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- ✓ It places the JNCASR in the 23rd position globally among universities and institutions as part of its '50 Rising Institutions' list.
- ✓ The centre is also the only Indian institute on the list.
- ✓ The list includes 18 institutes from China, 12 from the United States and two from the United Kingdom.

### **SKOCH Award**

- ✓ The Cachar Deputy Commissioner, Keerthi Jalli received the National Silver SKOCH Award
- ✓ It is given for 'Pushti Nirbhor' (nutrition-dependent) a convergence project on transformation and development entailing setting up Nutri-gardens at houses in Dinnathpur Bagicha village.
- ✓ The village is near the India-Bangladesh border in the Katigorah circle of the Cachar district.
- ✓ Instituted in 2003, SKOCH Award salutes people, projects and institutions that go the extra mile to make India a better nation.

### **The World Universities Summit**

- ✓ The Summit was organized by O.P. Jindal Global University, located at Sonipat, Haryana.
- ✓ The theme of the summit was "Universities of the Future: Building Institutional Resilience, Social Responsibility and Community Impact".

- ✓ The Vice President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated and addressed this Summit as Chief Guest.

### **Solutions for anti-drone technologies - IIT Kanpur**

- ✓ The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K) launched technology innovation hub to find cyber security solutions for intrusion detection system, anti-drones technologies, cyber physical system and block-chain.
- ✓ IIT Kanpur's C3i hub will focus on safeguarding cyberspace including critical infrastructure.
- ✓ The government is promoting Make-in India cybersecurity solutions to counter rising threats from neighbouring countries, particularly China.

### **'Renewables Integration in India' report**

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



### **India in top 10 list of Agri produce exporters**

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

### **Clean air catalyst program**

- ✓ Indore has become the only Indian city to be selected for the clean air catalyst programme, an initiative by the US Agency for International development.
- ✓ Indore is also known as the cleanest city in India.





- ✓ First, notification of 1875 that differentiated Lushai Hills from the plains of Cachar.
- ✓ Second, notification of 1933 that demarcates a boundary between Lushai Hills and Manipur.
- ✓ Mizoram claims that the land is theirs is based on an 1875 notification, which came from the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act of 1873.
- ✓ Assam for its part, claims that the land is theirs.
- ✓ It goes by a 1933 notification by the state government that demarcated the Lushai Hills, which Mizoram was formerly known as, from the province of Manipur.
- ✓ During colonial times, Mizoram was known as Lushai Hills, a district of Assam.

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

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

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

- ✓ 11 cities across the country have been awarded with the prestigious title of being Top 11 Cycling Pioneers of India.

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- ✓ This was announced by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- ✓ They are Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Kohima, Nagpur, New Town Kolkata, Pimpri Chinchwad, Rajkot, Surat, Vadodara and Warangal.
- ✓ Four cities (Aurangabad, Gurugram, Jabalpur and Silvassa), received a special mention by the jury for the efforts put in by them in testing the pilot initiatives of the challenge.

### **Gujarat's Kandla becomes first Green SEZ**

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

### **Secrecy of Vote**

- ✓ The Supreme Court held that in any election, be it to Parliament or State legislature, the maintenance of secrecy of voting is “a must”.
- ✓ It reiterated judgement in People's Union for Civil Liberties case (2013).

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- ✓ It stated that Secrecy is a part of the fundamental right of freedom of expression.
- ✓ It also stated that Democracy and free elections were a part of the Basic Structure of the Constitution.
- ✓ [The 'basic structure' doctrine was framed in the judgment in Kesavananda Bharati vs State of Kerala case (1973).]
- ✓ The Court also said that any attempt at booth-capturing or bogus voting were crimes against democracy.

### **Project Bold**

- ✓ Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in collaboration with the Border Security Force has launched Project Bold (Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought).
- ✓ Its primary aim is to develop green cover in the Indian deserts of Rajasthan.
- ✓ KVIC along with the BSF planted 1000 bamboo saplings under Project Bold.
- ✓ The saplings were planted in Tanot village in Jaisalmer.

### **INTERNATIONAL**

#### **Report on Racial Justice and Equality**

- ✓ The United Nations published its report on Racial Justice & Equality.
- ✓ It called to immediately dismantle systemic racism against black people worldwide to avoid repeating outrages such as killing of George Floyd.

- ✓ The UN report was triggered by death of Floyd.
- ✓ He was murdered by US police officer, Derek Chauvin.

### **Mobile World Congress**

- ✓ The Mobile World Congress is world's biggest mobile event of the 2021.
- ✓ It started on June 28 in Barcelona of Spain.
- ✓ The Mobile World Congress is an annual event focused on innovations in telecom industry.
- ✓ It is being hosted by Global System for Mobile Association.
- ✓ This event is attended by major telecom operators, component manufacturers, smartphone companies, trade insiders, media, and representatives from telecom ministries across the world.

### **UK bans World's Largest Crypto Exchange**

- ✓ The Financial Conduct Authority of Britain has banned world's largest cryptocurrency exchanges, Binance.
- ✓ Binance is a cryptocurrency exchange from Cayman Islands.
- ✓ It provides a platform to trade several cryptocurrencies.
- ✓ It was founded in 2017.
- ✓ This cryptocurrency exchange was founded by Changpeng Zhao.
- ✓ It was initially based in China.

- ✓ But due to increased regulation of cryptocurrency in China, it moved headquarters out of China.

### **European Union's Green Pass list**

- ✓ Travellers vaccinated with Covishield may not be eligible for the European Union's 'Green Pass' that will be available for use from July 1.
- ✓ At present, four vaccines have been approved by the European Medicines Agency.
- ✓ They are,
  - ✚ Comirnaty (Pfizer/BioNTech),
  - ✚ Moderna,
  - ✚ Vaxzervria (AstraZeneca),
  - ✚ Janssen (Johnson & Johnson)

### **New Chair of ILO**

- ✓ India's term as chair of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) was ended recently.
- ✓ Apurva Chandra, Secretary (Labour & Employment) completed his tenure as Chair of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation (October 2020 - June 2021)
- ✓ India had assumed the chairmanship of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation after a gap of 35 years.





- ✓ This index is released by Start-up Blink.
- ✓ India currently has 43 of its cities listed in the top 1000 globally.
- ✓ Bengaluru (10th), New Delhi (14th) and Mumbai (16th) are in the top 20.
- ✓ The US, the UK, Israel, Canada and Germany are in the top five spots this year too.

### **Starlink - Global internet coverage**

- ✓ Elon Musk's Starlink is on track to provide global internet coverage.
- ✓ Starlink has users across 12 countries, presently.
- ✓ The Starlink is a satellite internet constellation.
- ✓ It is constructed by SpaceX to provide satellite Internet access across the world.

### **Turkey quits Istanbul Convention**

- ✓ Turkey quits Istanbul Convention on Violence Against Women.
- ✓ Turkey says that the convention demeans traditional family structure, promotes divorces and encourages acceptance of LGBTQ in the society.
- ✓ Besides, it also says that it has enough local laws to protect women's rights.
- ✓ Istanbul Convention is the world's first binding instrument to prevent and tackle violence against women.

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- ✓ The convention was adopted by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers in 2011.

### **Note**

- ✓ In 2011, Turkey became the first country to ratify the Istanbul convention.
- ✓ On March 8, 2012, it incorporated the Istanbul Convention into domestic law.

### **Child Soldiers Prevention Act**

- ✓ US adds Pakistan, along with 14 other countries, to the list of the Child Soldiers Prevention Act.
- ✓ The list identifies foreign governments with government-supported armed groups that recruit or use child soldiers and subjects them to certain restrictions.
- ✓ The term child soldier means any person less than 18 years of age who takes a direct part in hostilities or who has been compulsorily recruited into governmental armed forces, police, or other security forces.

### **World's tallest sandcastle**

- ✓ World's tallest sandcastle was built in Denmark.
- ✓ It has established new Guinness World Record of 21.16 metres.
- ✓ Denmark's new sandcastle is 3.5 meter taller than earlier record of 17.66-meter set by Germany in 2019.



- ✓ Two third of the 155 million people face hunger because their country is in military conflict.

### **Antarctic Meltwater Lakes**

- ✓ The American Space Agency, NASA's ICESat-2 discovered Antarctic Meltwater Lakes recently.
- ✓ The Glaciologist Helen Amanda Fricker had made an astonishing discovery in 2007 and found that, a whole hidden network of interconnected lake is found beneath thick Antarctic ice-shelves.
- ✓ She had used data from NASA's ICESat.
- ✓ ICESat-2 is the successor of ICESat.
- ✓ It was launched by NASA in 2018.
- ✓ Using the data from ICESat 2, Fricker has now discovered two new subglacial meltwater lakes under glacial ice of Antarctica.

### **Virgin Galactic rocket plane - Richard Branson**

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

### **Nepal Prime Minister**

- ✓ The Supreme Court of Nepal has passed an order to appoint Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba as the Prime Minister Nepal.

### **World's largest emissions- trading program**

- ✓ China is set to launch its long planned National initial training program.
- ✓ It is a system that could create the world's largest carbon market and double the share of global emissions covered under such programs.
- ✓ The carbon market will help the country lower Greenhouse gas emissions and achieve its goal of reaching peak emission before 2030.
- ✓ China is the world's largest carbon emitter.

### **World's first conjugate Covid-19 vaccine**

- ✓ Cuba has developed world's first conjugate Covid-19 vaccine Soberana 2 (Sovereign 2).
- ✓ Soberana 2 vaccine is administered in three dose regimens.
- ✓ It comprises of two shots of Soberana 2 and one shot of Soberana Plus.
- ✓ When the Soberana 2 vaccine is delivered with booster shot of Soberana Plus, it is 91 percent effective against symptomatic Covid-19 cases.

- ✓ If this vaccine is approved, Cuba will become first Latin American country to manufacture and produce vaccine against Covid-19.
- ✓ Soberana 2 was developed by Finlay Institute in collaboration with Centre for Molecular Immunology and National Biopreparations Centre.
- ✓ A conjugate vaccine is a type of vaccine that combines weak antigen with strong antigen as a carrier.
- ✓ By doing that an immune system strongly response to a weak antigen.

### **US approves Blue Origin for Human Space Travel**

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



- ✓ Virgin Galactic, Blue Origin, SpaceX firm are working to usher in new era of routine commercial civilian space travel.
- ✓ Space travel has been popularized as “billionaire space race.”

### **Deep Dive Dubai**

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

### **G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meet**

- ✓ The G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBGs) gathered in Venice in Italy for their third official meeting.
- ✓ The meeting was held under the Italian G20 Presidency.
- ✓ This was the first in-person Finance Track meeting since February 2020.
- ✓ G20 members continued their discussions on issues
  - ✚ related to, global economy and health, and o on the efforts to promote economic recovery and
  - ✚ the transition towards greener and more sustainable economies and societies.

### **World's smallest cow**

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

### **Lower Arun Hydropower project**

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

### **BP's latest report**

- ✓ The United States became the fourth-largest supplier of crude oil to India in 2020, according to BP's latest report.
- ✓ The US is behind Iraq, Saudi Arabia and UAE.
- ✓ US started exporting oil to India in 2017.
- ✓ It also turned out to be the fourth-largest natural gas supplier to India.

### **'Fit for 55' legislation**

- ✓ The European Union's executive branch released a new legislation.
- ✓ It is to meet its pledge of cutting emissions of gases causing global warming by 55% this decade.
- ✓ EU's 'fit for 55' legislation includes a controversial plan to tax foreign companies for pollution caused by them.
- ✓ This Legislation also provides for de-facto phasing out of gasoline and diesel cars by 2035.

### **Data on Child Vaccination**

- ✓ WHO & UNICEF recently released its data on Child Vaccination.
- ✓ As per the report, India registered the largest decrease in routine childhood immunization coverage in 2020
- ✓ India is followed by Pakistan and Indonesia.

- ✓ India's DTP-3 coverage (Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis vaccine coverage) has fell down from 91% to 85%.

### **Monkeypox**

- ✓ The First case of rare human monkeypox was detected in Texas of USA.
- ✓ The Monkeypox was detected in a U.S. resident, who recently travelled from Nigeria to US.
- ✓ This is according to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention of the USA.
- ✓ Monkey pox virus is a double-stranded DNA & a zoonotic virus.
- ✓ It belongs to genus Orthopox virus in family Poxviridae.

### **Monkey B virus**

- ✓ China has reported the first human infection and death from a new virus called monkey B virus.
- ✓ The first person to be infected was a veterinary surgeon.

### **Quadrilateral diplomatic platform**

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

### **Liverpool removed from World Heritage status**

- ✓ Liverpool was removed from the list of UNESCO World Heritage sites after being granted the title in 2004.
- ✓ Liverpool gained its World Heritage status in 2004, in recognition of its maritime history.
- ✓ In the 18th and 19th centuries, it was one of the world's major trading centres.
- ✓ Previously, only two sites have lost their heritage status: The Arabian Oryx Sanctuary in Oman in the year 2007, and the Dresden Elbe Valley in Germany in the year 2009.
- ✓ Sites are removed if they do not preserve and maintain the sites properly.

### **Smartphone maker**

- ✓ Xiaomi of China overtakes Apple (third spot) to become the world's second biggest smartphone maker for the first time.
- ✓ Xiomi is only behind Samsung of South Korea.
- ✓ Other Chinese smartphone companies - Oppo and Vivo follows the next slots.

### **3D-printed steel footbridge**

- ✓ The World's first 3D-printed steel footbridge was recently unveiled in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

### **World's first carbon border Tax**

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

### **EAGLE Act - USA**

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



### **China first green sheep-farming city**

- ✓ Xilingol League has become China's first green sheep-farming city thanks to its efforts in grassland ecological protection and green sheep farming.

### **Loss of UNESCO World Heritage sites**

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

### **MAKS 2021 Air Show**

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

### **Golden Rice**

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

### **Using the name of Taiwan**

- ✓ Using the name “Taiwan,” the Taiwan’s government will set up its first office in Europe, in the Baltic nation of Lithuania.
- ✓ This decision has drawn a rebuke from China while it was praised by the USA.
- ✓ The other diplomatic outposts of Taiwan on the continent are named “Taipei.”
- ✓ Taiwan is a country in East Asia.
- ✓ Its capital is Taipei.
- ✓ China has also urged Lithuania to adhere to China’s one-China principle.



- ✓ It works only when there are enough pre-existing clouds in the atmosphere.
- ✓ These ‘seeds’ of rain can be the iodides of silver or potassium, dry ice (solid carbon dioxide), or liquid propane.

### **Jogajog**

- ✓ The Bangladesh government is working to develop a social media platform named ‘Jogajog’ as an alternative to Facebook.
- ✓ The platform will help the local entrepreneurs to create their own marketplace for sharing information and data without depending on any foreign platform.
- ✓ The government is also working to develop a communication app ‘Alapan’ as an alternative to Whatsapp.
- ✓ The seeds can be delivered by plane or simply by spraying from the ground.

### **Ancient viruses at Tibetan glaciers**

- ✓ The Scientists have found ancient viruses that have been frozen for almost 15,000 years in the Tibetan glaciers.
- ✓ The viruses were found in two ice samples that were taken from the Guliya ice cap Tibetan Plateau in China.
- ✓ Most of these viruses are unlike any viruses that have been catalogued to date, as they have been remained frozen for thousands of years.

### **Largest floating solar plant**

- ✓ Sunseap Group plans to build the world's largest floating solar farm near the city of Batam in Indonesia.
- ✓ The floating photovoltaic system is expected to have a capacity of 2.2 gigawatts.

### **UN adopts first resolution on vision**

- ✓ The UN General Assembly has approved its first-ever resolution on vision.
- ✓ The 'Vision for Everyone' resolution is sponsored by Bangladesh, Antigua, and Ireland, and co-sponsored by over 100 countries.

### **Report on Drowning Prevention**

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

### **World's first clean Nuclear Reactor**

- ✓ The Scientists of the Chinese government has unveiled plans for an experimental nuclear reactor that does not require water for cooling.
- ✓ This reactor will run on liquid thorium instead of uranium.
- ✓ It is expected to be safer than the traditional reactors.
- ✓ As water is not required by this type of reactor, it will be able to operate in desert regions.
- ✓ A team at the Shanghai Institute of Applied Physics have developed this prototype.

### **BIMSTEC Summit**

- ✓ Sri Lanka has proposed holding the BIMSTEC summit in early December 2021.
- ✓ This will be fifth such Summit of the grouping. Sri Lanka as the chair of the grouping and had earlier proposed holding the summit in August 2021.
- ✓ BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) has 7 members - India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand and Sri Lanka.

### **e-naira**

- ✓ Nigeria plans to launch its own cryptocurrency, "e-naira", in October 2021.

- ✓ Nigeria barred its bank and Financial Institutions from dealing in or facilitating transactions in cryptocurrencies in February 2021.

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

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

### **UNESCO World Heritage**

- ✓ The 2300 year old archaeological ruin Chankillo, which is the oldest solar observatory in the Americas, has been awarded UNESCO World Heritage status.
- ✓ Chankillo, which lies in a desert Valley in Northern Peru, what one of the 13 new global sites added to the list of cultural monuments.

### **Intrinsic**

- ✓ Alphabet, the parent company of Google, has announced of the launch of a new company called Intrinsic.



- ✓ It will be solely focused on software developing for robots.
- ✓ Wendy Tan White has been appointed as the CEO of Intrinsic.

## **GEOGRAPHY**

### **Storm Elsa**

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

### **World's highest temperature in Jacobabad**

- ✓ Jacobabad city in Pakistan's Sindh province records the world's highest temperature.
- ✓ The highest recorded temperature in Jacobabad is 52.8 °C (127.0 °F).
- ✓ The city is located on the Tropic of Cancer.

### **Chinese astronauts First Spacewalk**

- ✓ The Chinese astronauts have successfully performed China's first tandem spacewalk at the Tiangong station.



- ✓ A solar flare is described as an intense burst of radiation coming from the release of magnetic energy associated with sunspots.
- ✓ Solar flares are the largest explosive events of our solar systems.

### **Heaviest rainfall**

- ✓ China's central Henan province witnesses the heaviest rainfall in 1,000 years.
- ✓ Zhengzhou City recorded 617.1 mm rainfall in three days.

### **MEDICINE**

#### **Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine**

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

#### **Report on International Migrant Workers**

- ✓ International Labour Organisation published its report on International Migrant Workers.

- ✓ As per ILO report, number of international migrant workers has increased to 169 million globally.
- ✓ It has increased by 3% since 2017.
- ✓ Share of youth migrant workers (aged 15-24) has also increased by almost 2% since 2017.
- ✓ Europe, Central Asia and America host 63.3 per cent of all migrant workers.

### **Report on Indigenous Peoples' food systems**

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

### **Note**

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

### **US and Bagram air base**

- ✓ United States military has left Afghanistan's Bagram airfield after nearly two decades.
- ✓ Bagram airfield has now been handed over to Afghan National Security and Défense Force.

- ✓ This airbase has been the site of US military's war against Taliban and al-Qaida terrorist outfits.

### **Indus Treaty**

- ✓ As per Jal Shakti Minister, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, India is working on its rights to stop excess water flowing to Pakistan under Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 to irrigate its own lands.
- ✓ Indus water treat was signed between India and Pakistan in 1960.
- ✓ Under the treaty, all waters of three eastern rivers viz., Ravi, Sutlej and Beas were allocated to India to use exclusively.
- ✓ On the other hand, waters of Western rivers viz., Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab were allocated to Pakistan.
- ✓ However, India was given exception to use waters of western rivers for specified domestic, non-consumptive and agricultural use.
- ✓ India has also been given right to generate hydroelectricity under run of the river projects on Western Rivers.
- ✓ It is subject to specific criteria for design and unrestricted operation.

### **International Cooperation and Convention Centre**

- ✓ This centre, named Rudraksh, is built in Varanasi.
- ✓ It has been constructed with assistance of Japan International Cooperation Agency.

- ✓ The objective of the project is to provide opportunities for social and cultural interactions between people.

### **Mynvax's Covid vaccine**

- ✓ Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru has developed a heat-tolerant COVID-19 vaccine formulation.
- ✓ While studying on animals, it was found to be effective against all current SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern.
- ✓ This Research was published in ACS Infectious Diseases journal.
- ✓ This vaccine was formulated by IISc-incubated biotech start-up Mynvax.
- ✓ This Vaccine also remained stable for up to a month at 37 degrees Celsius.
- ✓ At 100 degrees Celsius it remained stable for up to 90 minutes.

### **World's First Affordable New Drug for Hepatitis c**

- ✓ World's first affordable as well as effective new drug for hepatitis C has been registered by Malaysia.
- ✓ This new drug offers hope for accessible treatment to the millions of people around the world who are suffering from this disease.
- ✓ Hepatitis C has very few early symptoms, hence, making it very hard to diagnose and is said to be a silent killer.

- ✓ The drug which has been named ravidasvir has been approved for use along with an existing drug named sofosbuvir.
- ✓ Hepatitis C has no vaccine.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **World's tiniest Technology**

- ✓ Israeli researchers have engineered the world's tiniest Technology, with a thickness of only two atoms.
- ✓ The new technology enables the storage of information in the tiniest unit known to science in one of the most stable and inert materials in nature.
- ✓ It is expected to improve future electronic devices in terms of density, speed, energy consumption and efficiency.

### **Surabhi e-Tag**

- ✓ Dvara E-Dairy Solutions Pvt Ltd in partnership with IFFCO-Tokio General Insurance Co. Ltd. launched an artificial intelligence (AI) powered digital identity (ID) tag.
- ✓ It is named as 'Surabhi e-Tag'
- ✓ It is to identify cattle based on muzzle identity.
- ✓ Muzzle is the projecting part of an animal's face (including the nose and mouth).



### **Black carbon**

- ✓ Black carbon has a significant adverse effect on human health and leads to premature mortality, according to a new study.
- ✓ The Indo-Gangetic Plain is exposed to black carbon with serious implications on regional climate and human health.

### **Highest energy afterglow detected**

- ✓ The highest energy afterglow detected in space so far seems to be a Rebel.
- ✓ The emission from the most notable Gamma ray burst explosion so far traced-- the afterglow from a Galaxy 4.5 billion light years away, was found to be Complex in nature.

### **Sea Breaker AI missile**

- ✓ Israeli defence electronics company Rafael Advanced Défense Systems has unveiled the Sea Breaker AI missile.
- ✓ It is a 5th generation long-range, autonomous, precision-guided missile system.
- ✓ It can precisely target sea and land targets up to a range of 300 kilometres.
- ✓ Sea Breaker features an advanced imaging infra-red seeker.

- ✓ This can engage stationary or moving targets in a diverse range of land and marine environments.

### **Covid detecting face mask**

- ✓ Researchers at the Harvard University and MIT have developed a novel face mask.
- ✓ This mask can detect if the wearer has COVID-19 within about 90 minutes.
- ✓ The face mask has been designed by engineers at the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering at the Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

### **NASA receives first Sample of Asteroid Ryugu**

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

### **New Source of Gravitational waves**

- ✓ Scientists have detected gravitational waves produced by collision of neutron star and black hole for the first time.

- ✓ Gravitational waves ripples were detected in fabric of space-time.
- ✓ This finding shows that there are neutron star-black hole systems.
- ✓ This system will help in answering several questions regarding cosmos ranging from star formation to expansion rate of universe.
- ✓ Gravitational waves are produced when celestial objects collide. After collision, ensuing energy creates ripples in fabric of space-time which carry to detectors on Earth.
- ✓ Detection of gravitational waves confirm that there are populations of binary systems comprising of a neutron star and a black hole.

### **Actual Shape of the Universe**

- ✓ Japanese astronomers have developed an artificial intelligence (AI) technique which will help in removing noise in astronomical data because of random variations in galaxy shapes.
- ✓ Technique was developed after extensive training and testing on large mock data that was created by supercomputer simulations.
- ✓ Scientists then applied this new technique to actual data from Japan's Subaru Telescope.

### **Harit Dhara**

- ✓ It is an anti-methanogenic feed supplement.



- ✓ It is likely to disrupt satellite signals and communication networks, as well as interfere with GPS navigation, mobile phone signal and satellite TV.
- ✓ It could also interfere with power transmission.
- ✓ Solar storms are huge bursts of charged particles, ejected from the Sun's atmosphere into space.
- ✓ The most powerful geomagnetic storm ever recorded resulted in the 1859 Carrington Event.

### **Planetary conjunction**

- ✓ The Mars, Venus and Moon aligned each other on July 12-13
- ✓ Mars and Venus were close to each other on July 13, 2021.
- ✓ Such a celestial event is known as planetary conjunction.
- ✓ The Planetary conjunction was visible with naked eyes.
- ✓ Moon also came close to both planets on July 12, 2021.

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

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

Sampurnanand Telescope-1.04m and Himalayan Chandra Telescope-2.0m.

### **NASA's VIPER Mission**

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

### **Objectives of the mission**

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

### **Linglong One**

- ✓ China has officially begun the construction of the world's first commercial modular small reactor 'Linglong One'.
- ✓ It is to be constructed at the Changjiang Nuclear Power Plant in the country's Hainan Province.

- ✓ The project is based on China National Nuclear Corporation's (CNNC's Linglong One ACP100) technology.

### **Phantom**

- ✓ Group of Indian scientists have developed a novel and cheap 3D robotic motion Phantom.
- ✓ It can reproduce the human lung motions during greeting which will help to deliver focused radiation in Cancer patients.

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

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

### **Project 75-India**

- ✓ The Government has issued a tender of Rs 50,000 crores to build six conventional diesel-electric submarines under this project.
- ✓ The tender has been issued to Larsen and Toubro and Mazagon Dockyards Limited.



- ✓ These submarines will be bigger than the Scorpène-class submarines.
- ✓ Scorpène are being built at the Mazagon Dockyards Limited, Mumbai.
- ✓ Project 75-India is one of the largest Make in India project.
- ✓ It is being undertaken to protect the Indo-Pacific region.

### **S-500 air defence missile systems**

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

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

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

### **Maglev train - China**

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

### **Vikas Engine**

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

### **Space Journey**

- ✓ The Billionaire Jeff Bezos blasted into space aboard the New Shepard rocket ship in the first crewed flight of his rocket.
- ✓ The journey lasted for just over 10 minutes.

- ✓ It took the crew up to the Karman line, which is at a height of 100 kms from the ground.
- ✓ It represented the world's first unpiloted flight to space with an all-civilian crew, as there will be no trained astronauts navigating the spacecraft.
- ✓ New Shepard Rocketship, built by Jeff Bezos's company Blue Origin, is designed to serve the burgeoning market of space tourism.

### **AMLEX device**

- ✓ IIT-Ropar develops this oxygen rationing device, the first of its kind in India.
- ✓ It can reduce oxygen wastage by regulating the oxygen flow from the cylinder by a patient.
- ✓ Automated Auditory Brainstem Response (AABR) system.
- ✓ This device will increase the lifespan of an oxygen cylinder thus saving a lot of money for patients as well as hospitals.
- ✓ To manage the hearing loss in new born and young children Punjab Government launched this system.
- ✓ It is the first state in the country to introduce such system.

### **Piezoelectric crystals**

- ✓ Indian scientists have developed piezoelectric molecular crystals that repair their own mechanical damage without the need for any external intervention.

- ✓ Piezoelectric crystals are a class of materials that generate electricity when it undergoes a mechanical impact.

### **MIG-29 fighter jets**

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

### **Anti-tank guided missile**

- ✓ A guided missile named “Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) has been indigenously developed by India’s Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)
- ✓ This man-portable missile is launched using a tripod that has been designed 2.5 km maximum range with a launch weight below 15 Kg.
- ✓ The missile has been fitted with state-of-the-art Infrared Imaging Seeker plus advanced avionics.

### **Near-Earth Asteroid Scout (NEA Scout)**

- ✓ NASA has announced its next new spacecraft.
- ✓ It is a small spacecraft which is not bigger than a big shoebox.

## **SHIKSHA BY SWATHIKA-AN IAS ACADEMY**

*Govt. Job is Not Anymore A Dream!*

- ✓ It is also known as Cubesat.
- ✓ Its primary mission is to collect data from a near-Earth asteroid.
- ✓ It is among one of several payloads that will hitch a ride on Artemis I.
- ✓ This will be America's first interplanetary mission that will be using special solar sail propulsion.
- ✓ This spacecraft will take around two years to reach the targeted asteroid and
- ✓ It will fly nearly 93 million miles away from the Earth to reach that asteroid.
- ✓ Artemis I is a crew-less test flight of the SLS rocket and Orion spacecraft.
- ✓ Under this programme, the NASA space agency has aimed to land the first woman on the Moon in the year 2024.

### **2008 GO20 Asteroid**

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

### **Sensor developed to detect arsenic in food**

- ✓ Dr Vanish Kumar, an inspire faculty fellow, has developed an ultra-sensitive, easy-to-use sensor for

detecting arsenic contamination in water and food samples in 15 minutes.

- ✓ It can detect a wide range of arsenic- from 0.05ppb to 1000ppm.

### **World's biggest floating solar farm**

- ✓ Singapore's Sunseap Group, is planning to build the world's largest floating solar farm and energy storage system in neighbouring Indonesian city named Batam.
- ✓ The floating photovoltaic system is expected to have a capacity of 2.2 gigawatts (peak).
- ✓ It will cover 1600 hectares (4000 acres) of the Duriangkang Reservoir on Batam Island.

### **First evidence of water vapor - Ganymede**

- ✓ Scientists have discovered the first evidence of water vapour in the atmosphere of Jupiter's icy moon Ganymede with the help of the Hubble Space Telescope.
- ✓ The results were published in the Nature Astronomy journal.
- ✓ Jupiter's moon Ganymede is the largest moon and the ninth-largest celestial body in our Solar System.

### **Moon-forming Region**

- ✓ For the first time, scientists have spotted a moon-forming region around one of the two exoplanets (PDS 70c)

orbiting an orange-coloured young star called PDS 70, which is located 370 light years from Earth.

- ✓ Exoplanets are planets found outside our solar system.
- ✓ ALMA observatory, Chile detected the disc of swirling material accumulating around one of two exoplanets seen orbiting a star.
- ✓ It is called a circumplanetary disc from which moons are born.

### **Chicken slaughter waste for biodiesel production**

- ✓ John Abraham of Kerala has received the patent rights for inventing biodiesel from the waste of slaughtered chicken.
- ✓ This biodiesel offers mileage of around 38 km a litre.
- ✓ This biodiesel costs around 40% of the current diesel price and cuts down on pollution by half.
- ✓ The invention is an outcome of inventor John Abraham's research at Namakkal Veterinary College under the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University.

## **ECONOMY**

### **RBI Report**

- ✓ India has reported a current account surplus of 0.9 per cent of GDP in the Financial Year 2021 (FY21).
- ✓ This is as per the data released by Reserve Bank of India (RBI).



- ✓ In 2020, it has reported current account deficit of 0.9 per cent in FY20.
- ✓ Net FDI was USD 2.7 billion during March quarter of 2021 as compared to USD 12 billion in 2020.
- ✓ The Net foreign portfolio investment (FPI) increased by USD 7.3 billion.

### **New norms for Interest on Unclaimed Matured Deposit**

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India has notified new norms for interest on the amount left unclaimed with bank after a term deposit matures.
- ✓ Presently, if a term deposit matures and proceeds are unpaid, amount left unclaimed with bank attracts rate of interest as it is applicable to savings deposits.
- ✓ New norms are applicable on deposits across all commercial banks, small finance banks, local area banks, and cooperative banks.

### **Indian Overseas Bank - second most-valued public lender**

- ✓ Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has become the second most-valued listed public sector bank (PSB).
- ✓ It had acquired a market capitalisation of over Rs 50,000 crore.
- ✓ IOB pushed PNB and BOB to third and fourth position respectively.
- ✓ SBI tops the list.

## **Financial Stability Report**

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

## **RBI to launch Central Bank Digital Currency**

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India is planning to launch Central Bank Digital Currency in the near future.
- ✓ It is currently working towards a phased implementation strategy and examining use cases that could be implemented with little or no disruption.
- ✓ The high-Level Inter-Ministerial Committee constituted by the Ministry of Finance in November 2017 had recommended the introduction of CBDC.

**ENVIRONMENT**

**Species of extinct Mouse rediscovered**

- ✓ A mouse, whose species was believed to have been extinct more than 150 years ago, has been rediscovered in Island of Western Australia.
- ✓ Gould's mouse, also known as *Pseudomys gouldii*, was commonly found in Eastern inland Australia years ago but quickly disappeared after the 1840s.

**LowCarbon.Earth**

- ✓ The United Nations Environment Programme in collaboration with Massive Earth Foundation has announced the launch of LowCarbon.Earth.
- ✓ It was launched in a bid to boost the start-up ecosystem and promoting the transition to a Low Carbon Lifestyle in the Asia Pacific.
- ✓ The program will provide a platform for start-ups to interact with established corporates, leading technology companies and industry mentors.
- ✓ This will help to build collective capabilities for the industry in the cutting-edge areas of advanced sustainable technologies.

**Last Ice Area**

- ✓ A new study has found that the "Last Ice Area," may be more vulnerable to climate change than suspected.

- ✓ The Last Ice Area, an Arctic region known for its thick ice cover which spans more than 2,000 kms.
- ✓ During the summer of 2020, the Wandel Sea in the eastern part of the Last Ice Area lost 50% of its overlying ice.
- ✓ The decline in ice may result in adverse situation to the ice-dependent species in future.

### **Black-bellied Coral snakes - Uttarakhand**

- ✓ The Researchers have discovered Black-bellied Coral snakes in the forests of Uttarakhand for the first time in history.
- ✓ The snake is related to the Elapidae family and Sinomicrurus genus.
- ✓ Its scientific name is *S. nigriventer*.
- ✓ It was found in the Bhadraj Block of Benog Wildlife Sanctuary in the Mussoorie Forest Division.

### **Medals from e-waste**

- ✓ Organizers of the event says that all medals at next summer's Olympics and Paralympics in Tokyo will be made from recycled electronic waste.
- ✓ Gold, silver and bronze to be extracted from obsolete gadgets.
- ✓ Waste collected includes smartphones, cameras and laptops.



removed giant pandas the list of endangered species in 2016.

### **Stoliczka vanhnuailianai**

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

### **Black Leopard**

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

### **Human-wildlife coexistence report**

- ✓ A report titled, 'A future for all - the need for human-wildlife coexistence', was recently released.
- ✓ It is released by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).
- ✓ Globally, conflict-related killing affects more than 75 per cent of the world's wild cat species.
- ✓ Global wildlife populations have fallen to an average of 68 per cent since 1970.
- ✓ Over 500 elephants were killed in India, between 2014-2015 and 2018-2019, mostly due to human-elephant conflict.
- ✓ During the same period, 2,361 people were killed as a result of conflict with elephants.

### **Bionychiurus tamilensis**

- ✓ Researchers from the molecular biodiversity laboratory in the department of Zoology and Wildlife Biology in the Government Arts College in Ooty have discovered a new wingless insect in the Nilgiris.
- ✓ The 1mm-long flightless insect has been named Bionychiurus tamilensis as it was recorded in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ There are only six species under this genus reported so far across the world.
- ✓ Those species are reported only from cold high-altitude regions of Switzerland, China and Korea.



### **Vaquita porpoise**

- ✓ Vaquita porpoise, the world's rarest and the smallest marine mammal, is on the edge of extinction.
- ✓ It is also known as "the panda of the sea" for the distinctive black circles around its eyes.
- ✓ This porpoise was discovered in 1958.
- ✓ It is unique among the porpoises as it is the only species of that family found in warm waters.
- ✓ It is found only in the northern Gulf of California (Sea of Cortez) in Mexico.
- ✓ IUCN Status is noted as Critically Endangered.

### **Digital Land Use**

- ✓ Africa has become the first continent in the world to complete the collection of accurate, comprehensive and harmonised digital land use and land use change data under the Africa Open DEAL initiative.
- ✓ DEAL stands for Data for the Environment, Agriculture and Land Initiative.
- ✓ The data collection and analysis initiative are led by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the African Union Commission (AUC).

### **Carbon Market**

- ✓ China has officially launched its national carbon emissions trading market.

- ✓ China's Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) has replaced the European Union's as the world's largest emissions trading system.
- ✓ A carbon market is where greenhouse gas emitters can buy and sell greenhouse gas emissions permits or allowances.
- ✓ In the first phase, the system only covers the power sector.
- ✓ Seven more high energy-intensive industries, including iron and steel and construction materials, will be covered by the carbon market in the future.
- ✓ Now, for the first time, the responsibility for controlling greenhouse gas emissions at the national level is left to the enterprises.

### **Third ASEAN Conference on Biodiversity**

- ✓ It was the fifth and the final session of this conference.
- ✓ It was held on the theme 'Towards 2050: Living in Harmony with Nature'.
- ✓ It is co-organized by the Government of Malaysia.
- ✓ It highlighted the progress made by the ASEAN Member States (AMS) in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
- ✓ ASEAN contains three of the world's 17 mega-diverse countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines).

### **Salt-secreting Mangrove Species - *Avicennia marina***

- ✓ For the first time a reference-grade whole genome sequence of a highly salttolerant and salt-secreting true-mangrove species was reported.



## **SHIKSHA BY SWATHIKA-AN IAS ACADEMY**

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- ✓ But its eco-sensitive zone spread over 220 sq km covers most of present-day core GIB habitat.
- ✓ The Great Indian Bustards are the largest among the four bustard species in India.
- ✓ The other three being MacQueen's bustard, lesser florican and the Bengal florican.
- ✓ Overhead power transmission lines are the biggest threat to the GIBs.

### **Note**

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

### **Siberian wildfires**

- ✓ Russia's coldest city Yakutsk, most of Europe, and several parts of the US are engulfed by uncontrollable wildfires causing heatwaves in the countries.
- ✓ More than 6.5 million acres of land in Yakutia has been charred.
- ✓ Climate change and poor land management are the possible causes stated by experts.

### **Green Sohra Afforestation Campaign**

- ✓ The Campaign at Sohra (Cherrapunji) was launched by Home Minister Amit Shah.
- ✓ “Evergreen Northeast” was the slogan given for this campaign highlighting the importance of tree plantation and afforestation.
- ✓ This campaign will be run by the Assam Rifles and the Meghalaya.
- ✓ He also inaugurated Greater Sohra Water Supply Scheme

### **NAVY**

#### **VT-4 battle Tanks**

- ✓ The Pakistan army has formally inducted the first batch of China made VT-4 battle Tanks into its armory.
- ✓ Pakistan is the third country to have got these tanks from China after Thailand and Nigeria.

#### **Shield**

- ✓ A time Nation tabletop anti narcotics and Maritime Search and rescue exercise, 'Exercise Shield', what has between Indian and Srilankan navy and Maldives National Defence Force.

#### **MH-60R Multi Role Helicopters**

- ✓ The United States Navy has handed over first two MH-60R Multi Role Helicopters to Indian Navy.

## **SHIKSHA BY SWATHIKA-AN IAS ACADEMY**

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- ✓ The Indian Navy is procuring 24 of MH-60R helicopters manufactured by Lockheed Martin.
- ✓ These helicopters are considered as world's most advanced maritime helicopter.

### **TTX-2021**

- ✓ Top defence officials from India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives participated in a virtual trilateral tabletop exercise "TTX-2021".
- ✓ The exercise focused on maritime crimes like curbing narcotics and assistance in maritime search and rescue in the region.
- ✓ The two-day exercise was coordinated by the Maritime Warfare Centre, Mumbai.

### **Exercise Cutlass Express 2021**

- ✓ Indian Naval ship Talwar is participating in exercise cutlass Express 2021, along the east coast of Africa.

### **Exercise Cutlass Express 2021**

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

### **Naval exercise with United Kingdom**

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

### **INDRA 2021**

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

### **Operation Sagar Aaraksha II**

- ✓ The Indian Coast Guard (ICG), in coordination with Sri Lankan authorities, has been engaged in fighting a major fire in the container vessel MV X-Press Pearl anchored off Colombo.



## **SHIKSHA BY SWATHIKA-AN IAS ACADEMY**

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- ✓ The ICG being an active member of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) remains committed to its responsibility of safeguarding of the ocean environment in the region.

### **BOOKS AND AUTHORS**

#### **Kaushik Basu Book**

- ✓ Kaushik Basu is an Indian economist who was the Chief Economist of the World Bank from 2012 to 2016.
- ✓ A book titled “Policymaker’s Journal: From New Delhi to Washington, DC” authored by Kaushik Basu released soon.

#### **Pan Macmillan**

- ✓ "Nathuram Godse: The true story of Gandhi's assassin" by journalist Dhawal Kulkarni will be published by Pan Macmillan India in 2022.

#### **Book by Kavitha Rao**

- ✓ A book titled “Lady Doctors: The Untold Stories of India’s First Women in Medicine” has authored by Kavitha Rao.
- ✓ This book recovers the stories of India’s first women doctors, often ignored by history.

- ✓ In this excerpt from Kavitha Rao's 'Lady Doctors: The Untold Stories of India's First Women in Medicine, the story of Rukhmabai Raut'.
- ✓ Rukhmabai was an Indian physician and feminist.
- ✓ She is best known for being one of the first practising women doctors in colonial India.
- ✓ She also involved in a landmark legal case involving her marriage as a child bride between 1884 and 1888.

### **Venu Madhav book**

- ✓ A book titled 'The fourth lion: Essays for Gopalkrishna Gandhi' has been released.
- ✓ It has been authored by Venu Madhav Govindu and srinath Raghavan.
- ✓ The book consists of 26 essays contributed by individuals drawn from various walks of life and from across the globe.

### **Operation Khukri**

- ✓ 'Operation Khukri: The untold story of Indian Army bravest peacekeeping mission abroad', a book by major general Rajpal Punia will be released.
- ✓ It is the story of the Indian Army successful rescue mission of over 200 Indian peacekeepers Kuwait friend to Sierra Leone in year 2000 by UN to help the government there.

- ✓ 13th July 2021 marks the 21st anniversary of the operation.

### **Baljit Kaur Tulsi**

- ✓ PM Modi received the first copy of the book 'The Ramayan of Shri guru Gobind Singh Ji' penned by late Baljeet Kaur Tulsi.
- ✓ Guru Gobind Singh was the 10th and last Sikh guru in human form.

### **Terrace garden: Middle Thota**

- ✓ Vice president M Venkaiah Naidu received the first copy of the English translation of Thummeti Raghothama Reddy's book- Terrace Garden: Middle Thota. The book was translated by Koduru Sitarama Prasad.

### **Kareena Kapoor introduces a new book**

- ✓ Actress Kareena Kapoor has introduced her new book titles, Kareena Kapoor Khan's pregnancy Bible.
- ✓ The pregnancy Bible is vetted and approved by the Federation of Obstetric and Gynecological Societies of India, India's official body of gynecologists and obstetricians.

### **The Light of Asia book**

- ✓ A new book titled "The Light of Asia" is authored by Jairam Ramesh.

- ✓ It is a biography of an epic bio-poem on the Buddha.
- ✓ He brings out the fascinating story behind the epic 1879 poem, “The Light of Asia” by Sir Edwin Arnold.

### **Vice president Venkaiah Naidu receives a book**

- ✓ Vice president in India Naidu received the book 'Urdu poets and writers- gems of Deccan' authored by Senior journalist, shri J.S. Ifthekhar.
- ✓ 'Gems of Deccan' is an anthology of prose and poetry that encapsulates the life and work of 51 outstanding poets and writers of the Deccan region.

### **The Great Big Lion**

- ✓ A book titled “The Great Big Lion” was drawn and written by child prodigy Chryseis Knight.
- ✓ This book is a story about a lion and two children.
- ✓ The book was published by Penguin Random House India’s “Puffin” imprint.

### **Book on Kamala Harris**

- ✓ A group of influential Indian-Americans, scholar, diplomats, and entrepreneurs have come together to write an anthology to document the historic election of Kamala Harris as the vice president of United States.
- ✓ The book is titled 'Kamala Harris and the rise of Indian Americans'.
- ✓ Compiled and edited by Indian editor Tarun Basu.

### **The India Story book**

- ✓ Former RBI governor Bimal Jalan writes a new book titled 'The India Story'.
- ✓ The book focuses on India's economic history and aims to provide lessons for the future of India's political economy.
- ✓ He also authored the books 'India Then and Now', 'India Ahead'.

### **Bimal Jalan**

- ✓ Former RBI Governor Bimal Jalan has come up with his new book 'The India Story'.
- ✓ It focuses on India's economic history and aims to provide lessons for the feature of India's political economy.

### **Rakeysh Omprakash announces autobiography**

- ✓ Filmmaker Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra is coming up with his autobiography, The Stranger In The Mirror.

### **C.K. Gariyali's book**

- ✓ 'Bank with a Soul: Equitas', a book by retired IAS officer C.K. Gariyali was released by Duvvuri Subbarao, former Reserve Bank of India Governor, recently.
- ✓ In the book, she writes about, how as a founder trustee, she has seen Equitas go beyond banking and play a role in empowering over 30 lakh women.

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- ✓ Dr. Gariyali is a founder trustee of EDIT(Equitas Development Initiative Trust).

### **Amitabh Kant releases a book**

- ✓ NITI Aayog Chief Executive Officer Amitabh Kant has released a book 'Shifting Orbits: Decoding the Trajectory of the Indian Start-up Ecosystem'.

### **Ashok Lavasa's book**

- ✓ Ashok Lavasa has come up with a new book titled 'An Ordinary Life: Portrait on an Indian Generation'.
- ✓ Ashok Lavasa, who resigned as election commissioner in 2020 to become vice-president of the Asian Development Bank.

## **SPORTS**

### **Aditi Ashok**

- ✓ Aditi Ashok has become the first female Indian golfer to qualify for Tokyo Olympics.
- ✓ She qualified in 45th place and will now play in the second Olympics.

### **Youngest-ever Chess Grandmaster**

- ✓ Indian-origin American Abhimanyu Mishra has become the youngest-ever chess Grandmaster in the world.

- ✓ At 12 years, four months and 25 days, he obliterated the record held by Sergey Karjakin.
- ✓ Sergey Karjakin was 12 years and seven months old when he attained the title.

### **Maana Patel**

- ✓ Maana Patel became the first Indian female swimmer to qualify for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics through the 'Universality quota'.
- ✓ The Universality quota allows one male and one female competitive from my country to participate in the Olympics, provided no other swimmer from the same gender qualified for the Games.

### **Mariyappan Thangavelu - flag bearer**

- ✓ Top para high-jumper Mariyappan Thangavelu was named the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent in the Tokyo Paralympics.
- ✓ The event begins on August 24.
- ✓ The 25-year-old Thangavelu was conferred with the Khel Ratna.
- ✓ Thangavelu hails from Salem district in Tamil Nadu.

### **India's flag bearer at Olympic**

- ✓ Boxer in C Mary Kom and men's hockey team Skipper Manpreet Singh will be flap barrier at the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Olympics.



- ✓ Wrestler Bajrang Punia will be the flag bearer at the closing ceremony.
- ✓ For the first time, India's having two flag bearers, one male and one female at the upcoming Tokyo Olympics to ensure "Gender Parity".

### **New World record - 400m hurdles**

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

### **Asian Football Confederation**

- ✓ The Asian Football Confederation women's Asian Cup 2022 will be held in Mumbai and Pune.

### **Udayan Mane**

- ✓ Indian golfer, Udayan Mane, has qualified for the Tokyo Olympics 2020 which is scheduled to be organised in July & August 2021.
- ✓ He joined Anirban Lahiri in 60-player field in men's golf event.

- ✓ Lahiri will be appearing at his second consecutive Olympic Games.
- ✓ He had also represented India at Rio 2016 Olympics along with SSP Chawrasia.

### **Pawan Singh**

- ✓ Pawan Singh, the Joint Secretary General of the National Rifle Association of India, has been selected as the first ever Indian juror for the upcoming Tokyo Olympic games.

### **400m hurdles - MP Jabir**

- ✓ MP Jabir qualified for the Tokyo Olympics in 400m hurdles.
- ✓ Jabir qualified through the World ranking quota where there are 14 spots available.
- ✓ Jabir is currently ranked 34th in World Athletics' Road to Olympics rankings.
- ✓ Jabir would be the first Indian male athlete to participate in the 400m hurdles in Olympics.
- ✓ PT Usha, the legendary athlete from Kerala, competed in the 400-metre hurdles at the Los Angeles Olympics.

### **Indian golfers**

- ✓ The Indian golfers Udayan Mane, has qualified for the Tokyo Olympics 2020.
- ✓ Udayan Mane has become 2nd Indian golfer to qualify for Tokyo Olympics.

- ✓ He joined Anirban Lahiri in 60-player field in men's golf event.
- ✓ Lahiri will be appearing at his second consecutive Olympic Games.
- ✓ He had also represented India at Rio 2016 Olympics along with SSP Chourasia.

### **Hockey legend Keshav Datt**

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

### **Copa America 2021**

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



### **Badminton World Federation**

- ✓ The Badminton World Federation has confirmed that India has been awarded the hosting rights of the BWF world championships in 2026.

### **Wimbledon Singles title - Ashleigh Barty**

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

### **Serbia Open Chess Championship**

- ✓ Young Indian Grandmaster Nihal Sarin emerged champion in the Masters' section of the Serbia Open Chess Championship.
- ✓ This took place in Belgrade.
- ✓ This is the second consecutive tournament victory for sixteen-year old Sarin after he claimed the title in Silver Lake Open.
- ✓ He is from Thrissur, Kerala.

### **14,000 T20 Runs - Chris Gayle**

- ✓ Chris Gayle of West Indies is the highest run-scorer in T20 cricket.
- ✓ Gayle is 1st batsman to have scored 14,000 T20 runs.
- ✓ He breached the 14,000-run mark during the third T20I against Australia in St Lucia.

### **Croatia Grand Chess Tour**

- ✓ Former world champion Viswanathan Anand finished second in the Croatia Grand Chess Tour.
- ✓ Anand put on a brilliant performance and defeated his rival Garry Kasparov.
- ✓ Frenchman Maxime Vachier-Lagrave was the winner of the 2021 Grand Chess Tour.

### **India to host 2026 World Badminton Championships**

- ✓ The Badminton World Federation has allotted the BWF World Championships to India for 2026.
- ✓ This will be the second time that India will host the premier tournament, which is held every year except for the Olympic year.
- ✓ India had hosted the BWF World Championships in Hyderabad in 2009.

### **2032 olympics**

- ✓ Brisbane has been formally awarded hosting rights for the 2032 Olympic Games.

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- ✓ The Olympic Games will be held in Australia for a third time, before this Melbourne held the games in 1956 and Sydney hosted than in 2000.
- ✓ Paris will host the event in 2024 and Los Angles will host the tournament in 2028.

### **New Motto of the Olympics**

- ✓ On 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2021, “Faster, Higher, Stronger,” the Olympic motto was updated to “Faster, Higher, Stronger – Together”.
- ✓ This updating was done to show solidarity around the globe at the time of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ Since 1894, the Olympic motto has been “Citius, Altius, Fortius” in Latin or “Faster, Higher, Stronger,” when it was adopted at the suggestion of Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the International Olympic Committee.
- ✓ “Citius, Altius, Fortius, Communiter” is the latin version of the new motto.

### **Olympic Motto**

- ✓ International Olympic Committee, headquartered in Lausanne of Switzerland changed its motto to ‘Faster, Higher, Stronger – Together’.
- ✓ Since 1894, the Olympic motto was ‘Faster, Higher, Stronger’.



### **First 5-time woman lifter in Olympics**

- ✓ Papua New Guinea's Toua became the first 5-time woman Olympian lifter.

### **2032 Summer Olympics**

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

### **Rubina Francis**

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

### **Mirabai Chanu bags silver**

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

### **Sumit Nagal - Third Indian to win Tennis singles at Olympic**

- ✓ Sumit Nagal became only the third Indian tennis player to win a singles men's match at the Olympic Games.
- ✓ He became the first to win for India in 25 years.
- ✓ He edged past Denis Istomin in this match.
- ✓ At the 1996 Atlanta Games, Zeeshan Ali became the first Indian to win a singles match by beating Fernando Meligeni of Brazil.
- ✓ Leander Paes was the second Indian to have gone past the first round.

### **World Cadet Wrestling Championship**

- ✓ Indian wrestler Priya Malik won a gold medal at the ongoing World Cadet Wrestling Championship in Budapest, Hungary.
- ✓ Malik beat her Belarus opponent Kseniya Patapovich 5-0 to clinch the gold in the 73kg category.
- ✓ Priya Malik has become the first Indian wrestler to win a gold medal in the World Cadet Wrestling Championship.

### **Tokyo Summer Olympic Games**

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

### **Japan's youngest gold medallist**

- ✓ 13 years old Japanese skateboarder Momiji Nishiya won the gold medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.
- ✓ She became one of the youngest gold medallists ever at the Olympic Games.

- ✓ Nishiya won the gold in the women's street competition which debuted for the first time in Tokyo 2020 Olympics.
- ✓ Yuto Horigome of Japan won the men's competition.
- ✓ This makes Japan the gold medal holder in both the categories.

**Note**

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

**Differently Aabled Sportsman of the Year 2019 - Pramod Bhagat**

- ✓ World No. 1 para shuttler Pramod Bhagat was named Differently Aabled Sportsman of the Year at Indian Sports Honour for 2019.
- ✓ The Indian Sports Honours are awards given annually by the RPSG Group in association with the Virat Kohli Foundation to outstanding sports personalities of India.
- ✓ The awards were founded in 2017.

**First ever Olympic gold medal in skateboarding**

- ✓ Japan's Yuto Horigome has won the first-ever skateboarding competition at the Olympic Games.

- ✓ He won the gold medal in men's street event at the Ariake Urban Sport in Tokyo.
- ✓ Kelvin Hoefler of Brazil won silver in the men's street skating competition.
- ✓ Jagger Eaton of the United States clinched the bronze.

### **AWARDS AND HONOURS**

#### **Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award**

- ✓ Japan Society of Civil Engineers (JSCE) has awarded the Delhi Metro's Phase I, II, and III projects with the prestigious 'Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award' for the year 2020.
- ✓ The Delhi Metro project was dubbed a "High-Quality Infrastructure Development Project" by the JSCE.
- ✓ This award is given to highly selective projects showcasing the advancement of civil engineering technology across the world.

#### **2021 airline of the Year**

- ✓ Korean Air has been selected as the "2021 airline of the Year", called the Oscar in the aviation industry by AP Transport world.

#### **Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar**

- ✓ The Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar has been awarded to renowned Odia poet Dr. Rajendra Kishore Panda for the year 2020.

## **SHIKSHA BY SWATHIKA-AN IAS ACADEMY**

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- ✓ It is a national award instituted in memory of late poet laureate Kuvempu.
- ✓ Dr. Rajendra Kishore Panda was awarded the Gangadhar National Award in 2010 and the Sahitya Academy Award in 1985.

### **Diana Award 2021 - D. Kavin Vendhan**

- ✓ A 17-year-old student from Chennai, D. Kavin Vendhan is one among several recipients recognized with the Diana Award 2021.
- ✓ He has been recognised for his social efforts.
- ✓ Kavin received a citation from the Charity for his non-profit youth initiative, 'S.M.I.L.E.Y INDIA' (Society for Motivation Innovative Leadership and Empowerment of Youth).
- ✓ The award recognised 300 inspirational children and young people between the ages of 9 years to 25 years from across the world for their social action or humanitarian efforts.

### **Humboldt research award**

- ✓ Indian economist Kaushik Basu has been awarded the Humboldt Research Award for economics.
- ✓ You have served as the Government of India's chief economic advisor from 2009 to 2012.

### **Scripps National Spelling Bee competition**

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

### **Commonwealth Points of Light award**

- ✓ Syed Osman Azhar Maqsusi won Commonwealth Points of Light award.
- ✓ He has been feeding thousands of people every day as part of his food drive 'Hunger Has No Religion'
- ✓ The award is given for those 'outstanding individuals who are making a change in their community.'

### **2020 Golden Boot**

- ✓ The Portugal football captain Cristiano Ronaldo won the Euro 2020 Golden Boot after finishing as the top-scorer in the tournament.

### **2020 Millennium Technology Prize**

- ✓ The 2020 Millennium Technology Prize, announced in May, has been awarded to Shankar Balasubramanian and David Klenerman.
- ✓ It is awarded for their development of revolutionary DNA sequencing techniques.



# **SHIKSHA BY SWATHIKA-AN IAS ACADEMY**

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- ✓ The award is given by the Republic of Finland, along with top Finnish academic institutions and industries.
- ✓ Shankar Balasubramanian was born in Chennai.

## **Mohun Bagan Ratna**

- ✓ Former India goalkeeper Shibaji Banerjee will be conferred with Mohun Bagan ratna posthumously.

## **Equator Prize 2021 - Indian organisations**

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

## **Footballer of the Year**

- ✓ Sandesh Jhingan has been named the AIFF men's Footballer of the Year.

# **SHIKSHA BY SWATHIKA-AN IAS ACADEMY**

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- ✓ Suresh Singh Wangjam was picked as the Emerging Player for the 2020-21 season.

## **Cadet World Championship**

- ✓ Young Indian Wrestler Tannu won the 43kg title without conceding a single point at the Cadet World Championship.
- ✓ Tannu is the third Indian to emerge world champion at this event.

## **Sparkassen trophy**

- ✓ Viswanathan Anand won the Sparkassen Trophy at Dortmund.

## **Cadet World Wrestling Championship 2021**

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

## **AIFF Player of the Year award**

- ✓ Senior defender of Indian Football, Sandesh Jhingan was named the AIFF men's Footballer of the Year 2020-21 season.
- ✓ It is the first time that the towering central defender of India has received the AIFF Player of the Year award.
- ✓ The Indian Women's National Football Team Forward, Ngangom Bala Devi has been named as the All-India

Football Federation Women's Footballer of the Year 2020-21.

- ✓ Bala currently plays for Rangers Women's FC in Scotland.

### **Alexander Dalrymple award**

- ✓ The Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar, the Chief Hydrographer to the Govt. of India has received the Alexander Dalrymple award from the British High Commissioner.
- ✓ He was rewarded in recognition of his leadership in the disciplines of hydrography and nautical cartography.
- ✓ The Alexander Dalrymple award has been named after the first hydrographer of the Admiralty and was instituted in 2006.
- ✓ Recipients are selected for their efforts in raising the standards of hydrography, cartography and navigation around the world.

### **ICAR Norman Borlaug Award 2020**

- ✓ Kajal Chakraborty, has been honoured with the ICAR Norman Borlaug Award 2020.
- ✓ It is the National Award For Excellence In Agricultural Research
- ✓ Kajal Chakraborty is the Principal Scientist Marine Biotechnology Division of Indian Council of Agricultural

# **SHIKSHA BY SWATHIKA-AN IAS ACADEMY**

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Research (ICAR)- Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi.

## **Lokmanya Tilak Award 2021**

- ✓ Cyrus Poonawalla has been named the winner of the prestigious National Lokmanya Tilak Award 2021.
- ✓ He is the founder of the Serum Institute of India (SII) in Pune.
- ✓ He will be commended for his work during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ This award was first presented in the year 1983.

## **Maharashtra Bhushan award 2021**

- ✓ The Maharashtra Bhushan Selection Committee chaired by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has unanimously selected legendary playback singer Asha Bhosle for the prestigious award.
- ✓ Asha Bhosle is best known for her playback singing in Hindi cinema.
- ✓ Asha Bhosle was officially acknowledged by the Guinness Book of World Records as the most recorded artist in music history.
- ✓ The Government of India honoured her with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2000 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2008.
- ✓ Bhosle is the sister of playback singer Lata Mangeshkar.

### **Natwest Heroes Award**

- ✓ The Satpura Tiger Reserve of MP has received the Natwest Group Earth Heroes Award in the Earth Guardian category for best management.
- ✓ The reserve has also been included in the potential list of World Heritage.
- ✓ Satpura Tiger Reserve in Hoshangabad district is spread over an area of 2130 square km.
- ✓ It is a part of Deccan Bio-Geographic Region.
- ✓ It is the oldest forest wealth in the country.

### **APPOINTMENTS**

#### **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet**

- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved extension in the term of re-employment of Umesh Sinha as Deputy Election Commissioner.
- ✓ This is on a contract basis for a period of one year.

#### **S.Peter Alphonse**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has reconstituted the State Minorities Commission.
- ✓ He named the former Congress legislator S. Peter Alphonse as its chairperson.
- ✓ Mr. Alphonse had been elected to the State Legislative Assembly from Tenkasi constituency in 1989 and 1991.

## **SHIKSHA BY SWATHIKA-AN IAS ACADEMY**

***Govt. Job is Not Anymore A Dream!***

- ✓ The State Minorities Commission was constituted to safeguard the rights and interests of both religious and linguistic minorities.
- ✓ The constitution of the State Minorities Commission was ordered through a G.O. in 1989.
- ✓ It was done under the DMK government headed by Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi.
- ✓ An Act was passed to make it a statutory body in 2010.

### **Shalina D Kumar**

- ✓ US President Joe Biden has nominated Indian American circuit Court Chief Judge Shalina D Kumar as a federal judge for the Eastern district of Michigan.

### **Chief Compliance Officer**

- ✓ Twitter India has appointed an interim chief compliance officer and will soon designate two other executives for the time being to comply with the country's new IT rules.

### **President of the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission**

- ✓ The Former High Court Judge R Subbiah has assumed charge as president of the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Chennai.
- ✓ Justice Subbiah retired in June after serving at the Madras High Court.

**Chairman of the National Highways Authority of India**

- ✓ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) Secretary, Aramane Giridhar (IAS) has been given additional charge of the Chairman of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

**Member of the UN tax committee**

- ✓ Rasmi Ranjan Das, a Joint Secretary of Ministry of Finance, has been appointed as a member of the UN tax committee for 2021-25 term among 25 global tax experts across the world.

**Piyush Goyal**

- ✓ Union Minister Piyush Goyal was appointed as the leader of the house in Rajya Sabha.
- ✓ Goyal replaces Thawar Chand Gehlot, who moved to Karnataka as the governor of the state.

**Seema Nanda**

- ✓ United States connect has confirmed Indian American Seema Nanda as the solicitor for the department of labour.

**Head of Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation**

- ✓ Dindigul I Leoni has been appointed head of the Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation.



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

**PERSONALITIES**

**Decoding Shankar documentary**

- ✓ “Decoding Shankar” recently won the Best Film Award in the Documentary section (Best Biographical) at the Toronto International Women Film Festival, 2021.
- ✓ This is a film by Deepti Pillay Sivan.
- ✓ It is about the life and career of the celebrated musician Shankar Mahadevan.

**K.V. Sampath Kumar passes away**

- ✓ He was the editor of ‘Sudharma’ Sanskrit Daily.
- ✓ He, along with his wife, was selected for the Padma Shri honour from the Government of India in 2020 for his contribution to the field of Literature & Education.
- ✓ He has also received several awards like the Siddharudha award, the Shivaratri Deshikendra Media award, the Abdul Kalam award and others.

- ✓ Sampath Kumar's father Pandit Varadaraja Iyengar had launched 'Sudharma' in 1970.
- ✓ Sudharma is the only Sanskrit Daily in the world, printed and published from Mysuru.

### **Icius Tukarami named after Tukaram Omble**

- ✓ Two new species of jumping spiders have been discovered from the ThaneKalyan region of Maharashtra.
- ✓ One of the spider species was named after the brave police constable Tukaram Omble.
- ✓ He lost his life in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack.
- ✓ The species is called as 'Icius Tukarami'.

### **Gita Gopinath**

- ✓ International Monetary Fund chief economist Gita Gopinath and NASA scientist Kamlesh Lulla are among the 34 immigrants honoured by Carnegie corporation of New York, an NGO.
- ✓ In 2019, Gita Gopinath was also awarded the pravasi Bharatiya Samman, the highest honour of the Indian government is given to oversee Indians and persons of Indian Origin.

### **Mithali Raj**

- ✓ Indian captain Mithali Raj has been the highest run getter in women's cricket across format, overtaking Charlotte Edwards.

**A teacher-student duo discovers three asteroids**

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

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

- ✓ Sirisha Bandla will be flying to space with Richard Branson on July 11.
- ✓ Richard Branson is the founder of the Virgin Galactic company
- ✓ Bandla will be taking care of the researcher's experience on the Unity22 mission.
- ✓ She will be one of the six space travellers aboard 'VSS Unity' of Virgin Galactic.

- ✓ Sirisha Bandla hailing from Andhra's Guntur district was brought up in Houston.

### **Richard Donner**

- ✓ Richard Donner, filmmaker who directed the first Superman movie, The Goonies and other blockbuster hits, passed away.
- ✓ His other credits include the Omen, Scrooged, and his final movie in 2006, 16 Blocks.

### **Actor Dilip Kumar passes away**

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



### **Kanchan Ugursandi**

- ✓ Mountain biker Kanchan Ugursandi finished in New Delhi the world's first solo motorcycle expedition covering 18 treacherous passes of northern Himalayan mountain ranges.
- ✓ Ugursandi has become the first solo woman biker to scale the Umlingla Pass.
- ✓ She became the first woman to cover the 18 passes.
- ✓ She is also the first woman to traverse a distance of 3,187 kilometre from New Delhi-Manali-Leh-Umlingla-Delhi in one go.

### **Manu Sawhney**

- ✓ ICC CEO Manu Sawhney will leave the organisation with immediate effect.
- ✓ Geoff Allardice will remain the Acting CEO of the organisation.
- ✓ India's Manu Sawhney had taken charge as the new Chief Executive of the International Cricket Council on April 1, 2019.

### **Aruna Asaf Ali birth anniversary**

- ✓ July 16th 2021, marked the 111th birth anniversary of freedom fighter Aruna Asaf Ali.
- ✓ She is widely remembered for hosting the national flag at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Bombay during Quit India Movement in 1942.





### **Bhageerathi Amma passed away**

- ✓ Bhageerathi Amma, the oldest woman in India to take the equivalency exams, has passed away recently.
- ✓ She was 107-years-old.
- ✓ Amma, who hailed from the Kollam district of Kerala, decided to continue her education at the age of 105.
- ✓ Amma had quit formal education in class three, when she was 9 years old.
- ✓ The centenarian was felicitated with the prestigious Nari Shakti Puraskar for her exceptional contribution towards women's empowerment.

### **Violinist Sikkil R Bhaskaran**

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

### **Basavaraj S Bommai**

- ✓ The BJP legislature party has unanimously elected Lingayat MLA Basavaraj S Bommai as the new Chief Minister of Karnataka.

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- ✓ He will succeed BS Yediyurappa.
- ✓ He will be sworn in as the 23rd Chief Minister of Karnataka.

## **MISCELLENOUS**

### **Global cybersecurity index**

- ✓ India has been ranked at 10th position in the Global cybersecurity index.
- ✓ This is according to the United Nation's ITU (International Telecommunication Union) Global Cybersecurity Index.
- ✓ India has improved its ranking from 47 to 10.
- ✓ United States has been ranked first.
- ✓ The United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia is tied on the second position.

### **Salute Doctors – ICICI**

- ✓ ICICI Bank has launched India's most comprehensive banking solutions for medical doctors.
- ✓ It is titled as 'Salute Doctors'.
- ✓ It offers customized banking as well as value-added services for every doctor, beginning from a medical student to a senior medical consultant.
- ✓ The initiative is powered by ICICI STACK.

### **SalaamDilSey – HDFC**

- ✓ HDFC Bank launched an initiative called SalaamDilSey.
- ✓ This initiative encourages one and all to take a moment to acknowledge and celebrate the contribution of doctors.
- ✓ As part of this initiative, the bank has created a web platform [www.salaamdilsey.com](http://www.salaamdilsey.com).
- ✓ The general public can share the thank you message for doctors here.

### **Jacob Zuma - jail sentence**

- ✓ South Africa's highest court sentenced former President Jacob Zuma to 15 months in jail for failing to appear at a corruption inquiry recently.
- ✓ After this, Jacob Zuma asked the court to annul his 15-month jail sentence, saying it was excessive, unjust and might kill him if he catches COVID-19 in prison.
- ✓ He have now won a reprieve from imminent imprisonment after the country's most senior judges agreed to hear his challenge to a 15-month jail sentence awarded.

### **Panchmuli Lake and Crocodiles**

- ✓ 194 crocodiles have been relocated from Panchmuli Lake near Statue of Unity in Narmada district, Gujarat.
- ✓ Crocodiles were relocated for the safety of tourists do boat rides in the Panchmuli Lake.

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- ✓ This lake is situated near 182-metre-tall statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Kevadia.
- ✓ This lake is also known as ‘Dyke-3’ of Sardar Sarovar Dam.
- ✓ It was developed for tourists visiting the Statue of Unity.

## **Trafficking in Persons report 2021**

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

## **NewsOnAir Radio Live-stream Global Rankings released**

- ✓ It ranked countries where All India Radio (AIR) live-streams on NewsOnAir app are most popular.
- ✓ United States still maintains its ranking at 1.

# **SHIKSHA BY SWATHIKA-AN IAS ACADEMY**

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- ✓ All India Radio's Telugu and Tamil live-stream services are popular in United States.
- ✓ AIR Punjabi service is popular in United Kingdom.
- ✓ In global rankings of top AIR streams (excluding India), AIR News 24\*7 has moved one position up from 7 to 6.
- ✓ On the other hand, AIR Tamil has slipped from spot 6 to 10.
- ✓ AIR officially known as Akash Vani since 1957.

## **Pegasus spyware**

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

## **First SHG**

- ✓ The women of a remote village along the Bangladesh border in Cachar district of Assam have formed their first self-help group named 'Pally Unnayan SHG'.



**IMPORTANT DAYS**

**National Chartered Accountants Day - July 01**

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

**National Doctors' Day - July 01**

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

**National Postal Worker Day - July 01**

- ✓ The day is celebrated every year across the globe.
- ✓ It was first commemorated by a Seattle-area postal carrier.



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- ✓ It is dedicated to express gratitude towards postal workers for ensuring uninterrupted services.

## **State Bank Day - July 01**

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

## **GST Day - July 01**

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

## **World UFO Day - July 02**

- ✓ It is observed by the World UFO Organization.
- ✓ The day aims to raise awareness about the existence of Unidentified flying objects.

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- ✓ It also encourages people to think about the possibility of us not being alone in the Universe.

### **World Sports Journalists Day - July 02**

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

### **International Day of Cooperatives - July 03**

- ✓ The United Nations celebrates the International Day of Cooperatives every year on the first Saturday of July (July 3rd in 2021).
- ✓ It is created to increase awareness of cooperatives.
- ✓ In the year 2021, the International Day of Cooperatives is celebrated with a focus on the contribution of cooperatives to combating climate change.
- ✓ This July 3rd, the International Day of Cooperatives (#CoopsDay) will be celebrated as “Rebuild better together”.

### **International Plastic Bag Free Day - July 03**

- ✓ The day was started by Zero Waste Europe.

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

### **American Independence Day - July 04**

- ✓ The American Independence Day is observed on July 4.
- ✓ It is also called the Fourth of July.
- ✓ The date marks the annual celebration of nationhood in the United States.
- ✓ This year marks the 245th anniversary of the freedom of the thirteen American colonies from British colonial rule.

### **World Zoonoses Day - July 06**

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

### **Global Forgiveness Day - July 07**

- ✓ The day is observed every year to encourage the art of forgiving.

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- ✓ It aims to spread awareness about the healing power of forgiveness and its importance for a peaceful life.
- ✓ Studies have proved that people who choose to forgive are healthier and happier.

### **Van Mahotsav 2021 - July 01 to 07**

- ✓ Van Mahotsav 2021 is a week-long celebration across India.
- ✓ The Van Mahotsav is celebrated every year in the first week of July.
- ✓ It is to raise awareness of tree plantation and forest conservation.
- ✓ Van Mahotsav is celebrated in India by planting tens and thousands of saplings.

### **International Mango festival - July 9 to 10**

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

### **National Fish Farmers' Day - July 10**

- ✓ The day is celebrated every year by the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and

Dairying in association with the National Fisheries Development Board.

- ✓ The event aims to draw attention to changing the way the country manages fisheries resources to ensure sustainable stocks and healthy ecosystems.
- ✓ The day is commemorated annually in remembrance of scientists Dr K H Alikunhi and Dr H.L. Chaudhury.
- ✓ They invented induced breeding technology of Indian major carps on 10 July 1957.
- ✓ 2021 will mark 21st National Fish Farmers' Day.

### **World Population Day - July 11**

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

**NABARD day - July 12**

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

**World Malala Day - July 12**

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

**Note**

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

**Bastille Day - July 14**

- ✓ Bastille Day is commonly known as the national day of France.





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- ✓ The announcement was made in a statement released by the Association of Plastic Surgeons in India (APSI).
- ✓ The concept of National Plastic Surgery Day was first introduced by Dr S Raja Sabapathy in the year 2011.

### **International Justice Day - July 17**

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

### **Dr. Kadambini Ganguly**

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

**Nelson Mandela Day – July 18**

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

**Bank Nationalization Day – July 19**

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

**50th anniversary of Vijay Diwas**

- ✓ Chinar Corps observed the 50th anniversary of Vijay Diwas on 16 July 2021.
- ✓ The year 2021 has been named as "Swarnim Vijay Varsh" by the government of India.

### **Science Exploration Day – July 20**

- ✓ It was on this day in 1969 that Neil Armstrong and Edwin ‘Buzz’ Aldrin, both were from USA, became the first humans to land on the Moon’s surface.
- ✓ Neil Armstrong was the first man to set foot on the moon’s surface.
- ✓ The Armstrong-Aldrin duo spent 21.5 hours on the surface of the moon.
- ✓ Out of which they spent 2.5 hours outside of their capsules.
- ✓ The day was declared a holiday in 1984 by the then President of the United States, Ronald Reagan.

### **International Chess Day – July 20**

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

### **Pi Day – July 22**

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

### **National Mango Day - July 22**

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

### **National Broadcasting Day – July 23**

- ✓ On this day in 1927, the first-ever radio broadcast in the country went on the air from the Bombay Station under the Indian Broadcasting Company.
- ✓ In India, radio broadcasting began during the British rule in 1923 under the imitative of the Radio Club of Bombay.
- ✓ Later it was changed to All India Radio (AIR) in 1936 and Akashwani in 1957.
- ✓ It is owned by Prasar Bharati, India’s largest public broadcasting agency.

### **Chandra Shekhar Azad’s birth anniversary**

- ✓ 23 July 2021 marks the 114<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of freedom fighter Chandra Shekhar Azad.
- ✓ He was one of the most notable Indian revolutionaries who took part in India’s freedom struggle at a very young age.
- ✓ He was the chief strategies of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association.

## **SHIKSHA BY SWATHIKA-AN IAS ACADEMY**

***Govt. Job is Not Anymore A Dream!***

- ✓ He was most famous for the Kakori Rail Dacoity in 1925 and the assassination Jogn Poyantz Saunders in 1928.

### **Bal Gangadhar Tilak's birth anniversary**

- ✓ Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, whose real name was Keshav Gangadhar Tilak, was born 165 years ago on July 23.
- ✓ He was a freedom warrior, social thinker, philosopher, and educator who was instrumental in India's Independence effort.
- ✓ He was popularly known as the 'Father of Swaraj'.
- ✓ He established the Deccan Education Society in 1884 to impart nationalist principles to young people.

### **World Brain Day - July 22**

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

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### **National Thermal Engineer Day - July 24**

- ✓ It is celebrated on to appreciate the contribution of thermal engineers in everyday life.
- ✓ Since it is one of the hottest days of the year, celebrate the contributions of thermal engineers.
- ✓ In July of 2014, Advanced Thermal Solutions (ATS) of the USA founded this day.

### **Income Tax Day - July 24**

- ✓ On July 24, 1860, the income tax was introduced in India by Sir James Wilson.
- ✓ It was to compensate the British government for the losses incurred during the First War of Independence in 1857.
- ✓ It has been celebrated as the Income Tax Day in India since 2010.
- ✓ It is observed by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

### **World Drowning Prevention Day – July 25**

- ✓ It was declared through the April 2021 UN General Assembly Resolution “Global drowning prevention”.

- ✓ The resolution was an initiative of both Ireland and Bangladesh.
- ✓ The drowning death rates are the highest in the WHO Western Pacific Region.
- ✓ Over half of the world's drowning occurs in the WHO Western Pacific Region and WHO South-East Asia Region.

**National Parents' Day 2021 - July 25**

- ✓ It is observed on the fourth Sunday of July.
- ✓ This year it will be celebrated on 25 July.
- ✓ The day honours parents and their important role in our lives.
- ✓ President Bill Clinton in 1994 signed a law and a resolution was adopted by the US Congress to establish the fourth Sunday of every July as Parents' Day.

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

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



**Kargil Vijay Diwas - July 26**

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

**In Vitro Fertilisation Day - July 25**

- ✓ On July 25 the world celebrates World In Vitro Fertilisation Day.
- ✓ The day is celebrated to mark the greatest innovation in the field of reproductive medicine.
- ✓ The biggest breakthrough was the birth of Louise Brown on July 25, 1978, in England.
- ✓ In India, Dr Subhash Mukherjee was also working on IVF.
- ✓ And in less than three months of the birth of Louise Brown, Kanupriya Agarwal was born on October 3, 1978.
- ✓ Dr Subhash Mukhopadhyay named India's first IVF child as 'Durga' later on her parents renamed her Kanupriya.
- ✓ She became India's first and the world's second IVF baby.

**CRPF Raising Day - July 27**

- ✓ The Central Reserve Police Force, observed its 83rd Raising Day on 27 July 2021.

- ✓ CRPF is India's largest Central Armed Police Force, under the authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ✓ Its headquarters is located in New Delhi.
- ✓ It came into existence as the Crown Representative's Police on 27 July 1939.
- ✓ After Indian Independence, it became the Central Reserve Police Force on the enactment of the CRPF Act on 28 December 1949.

### **World Hepatitis Day - July 28**

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

### **World Nature Conservation Day - July 28**

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

### **International Tiger Day - July 29**

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

### **World Day against Trafficking in Persons - July 30**

- ✓ In 2013, the General Assembly designated July 30 as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons.
- ✓ This day was created to raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights.
- ✓ The 2021 theme for World Day against Trafficking in Persons is “Victims’ Voices Lead the Way”.

**World Ranger Day - July 31** World Ranger Day is being celebrated every year to acknowledge the critical work of rangers on the front-line of conservation across the globe.

- ✓ It Objectives is to honour Rangers killed or injured during duty and to safeguard the earth's natural treasures and cultural heritage.
- ✓ It was initiated by International Ranger Federation (Estd - 1992) and it is being Celebrated Since – 2007.

### **Martyrdom Day of Shaheed Udham Singh**

- ✓ Shaheed Udham Singh was martyred on 31 July 1940 and since then the day is observed as Martyrdom Day of Shaheed Udham Singh.
- ✓ He is best known for the assassination of Michael O' Dwyer as retaliation to the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre.
- ✓ He became a revolutionary at an early stage of life and toured several countries to serve the purpose of his life.

### **HISTORY TO BE REMEMBERED**

#### **215th anniversary of Sepoy Clash commemorated**

- ✓ The 215th anniversary of the Sepoy Clash was commarated at Vellore Fort on 10 July 2021.
- ✓ In the year 1806, on the 10th of July, Indian sepoy protected against the British Raj and clashed with them.
- ✓ This was the first instance that gave rise to the Sepoy mutiny in India.