

# SHIKSHA BY SWATHIKA

## An IAS Academy

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2011

### HINDU

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

SPEAKS OBAMA

NEHRU AWARD FOR MERKEL

SEEKING FOOD FOR BOLIVIA

Supreme Court stays Allahabad High Court verdict on Ayodhya

CCS for spray cooling road

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# SEPTEMBER FULL MONTH CURRENT AFFAIRS 2021

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**STATES**

- ✓ The Uttar Pradesh government is planning to change the name of Lok Sabha MP Maneka Gandhi's constituency Sultanpur after the name of Lord Ram's son (Kush Bhavanpur).

**Fully vaccinated Adult Population state**

- ✓ Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in India to administer the first does of the Covid-19 vaccine to 100% of its adult population.

**Tamil Nadu announces park for future mobility and apparels**

- ✓ An integrated apparel park in Virudhunagar district, a future mobility park in Krishnagiri district and a SIPCOT Industrial Park in Tiruvallur district were among the major announcements made by the Tamil Nadu government in the Assembly.
- ✓ The Apparel Park to be opened at Kumara Linga Puram in Virudhunagar district would boost the economic development in the southern districts.
- ✓ SIPCOT's initiative to open the future mobility park at Shoolagiri in Krishnagiri district is said to be the first of its kind in the country.

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- ✓ The SIPCOT Industrial Park, proposed at Sengathakulam near Uthukottai in Tiruvallur, is expected to provide direct and indirect employment to about 3,000 persons.
- ✓ The government would set up a 'Ready Built Factory' at Nemili in Kancheepuram district.
- ✓ A state-of-the-art textile park would be opened in Karur district.

### **Valimai and Neidhal**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu Cements Corporation Limited (TANCEM) will introduce a cement brand, 'Valimai', in addition to its existing Arasu brand.
- ✓ TANCEM is a State public sector unit.
- ✓ Likewise, Tamil Nadu Salt Corporation (TNSC) would introduce iodised crystal salt, refined free-flow iodised salt and double iron and iodine fortified salt under the brand 'Neidhal'.

### **Dr. J. Jayalalitha University Act**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government introduced a Bill to repeal the Dr. J. Jayalalithaa University Act.
- ✓ It will be merged with Annamalai University.
- ✓ Another Bill to amend the Annamalai University Act 2013 to convert it from a unitary institution into an affiliating type university was introduced.

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- ✓ The Annamalai University is to be converted into affiliating type, by affiliating [arts and science] colleges in Villupuram, Cuddalore, Kallakurichi and Mayiladuthurai districts
- ✓ The government also tabled a Bill to amend the Bharathidasan University Act.
- ✓ Consequently, the Bharathidasan University would no longer be the affiliating university for arts and science colleges in Mayiladuthurai.

## **Save Water to Get Free Water scheme**

- ✓ From September 1, 2021, Goa became the first state in India to supply water free of cost to its citizens for consumption up to 16,000 litres.
- ✓ This was introduced under the ‘Save Water to Get Free Water’ scheme.

## **Arunachal Pradesh**

- ✓ Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Pema Khandu, launched two credit-linked schemes in the state to boost the agriculture and horticulture sectors and to ensure the doubling of farmer’s income.
- ✓ One scheme was launched in agriculture sector, called ‘Atmanirbhar Krishi Yojana’.
- ✓ Second scheme was launched in horticulture sector, called ‘Atmanirbhar Bagwani Yojana’.

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- ✓ Both the schemes are part of the Atmanirbhar programme that was announced by central government during the budget session of 2021.
- ✓ Rs 120 crores has been allocated to Atmanirbhar Krishi Yojana and Rs 60 crores allocated for Atmanirbhar Bagwani Yojana.

### **Youth Literary Project**

- ✓ The Youth Literature Project will be implemented to enhance children's creativity (speech, writing, painting, painting) and to teach moral education and to develop moral and social values.
- ✓ Under this project, the first phase of 100 children's literature books will be published by the Tamil Nadu Textbooks and Educational Works Corporation.

### **TNSCB renamed**

- ✓ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced that the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board (TNSCB) would now be called the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board.
- ✓ Mr. Stalin said the Slum Clearance Board was launched when M. Karunanidhi was the Chief Minister of the State in 1971.

### **Rajiv Gandhi Science City**

- ✓ Maharashtra Cabinet has decided to set up a Science city in Pune.

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- ✓ The complex will be known as 'Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi Science City' in Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation in Pune.
- ✓ The state government had also announced the IT awards in the name of Rajiv Gandhi earlier.

## **Airforce Heritage Centre**

- ✓ The Chandigarh Administration and Indian Air Force on Friday signed an Agreed in Principle (AIP) for setting up of "Airforce Heritage Centre" at Chandigarh.
- ✓ This is the first such Air force Heritage Centre in the country.
- ✓ The Air Force Heritage Centre will bring awareness in the region particularly among the students about the role and contribution of the Indian Air Force in national security and defence.

## **Himachal Pradesh**

- ✓ Himachal Pradesh has become the first state to administer the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine to 100% of its adult population.

## **Vatan Prem Yohana**

- ✓ It is a repackaged version of Madar-e-Vatan scheme by the government of Gujarat.
- ✓ Madar-e-Vatan has been renamed due to association of the title with Persian language.

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- ✓ It is the biggest campaign for public participation in developmental works.
- ✓ Under the scheme, Non-Resident Gujaratis (NRGs) and NRIs can contribute 60 percent of the cost of a village-level project.

## **V.O. C's 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary**

- ✓ The 150th birth anniversary of V.O.C fell on 5th September, 2021.

## **Important announcements**

- ✓ A bust of V.O.C. would be unveiled at Gandhi Mandapam in Chennai.
- ✓ Mela Periya Cotton Salai, an arterial road in Thoothukudi city would be renamed V.O.C. Road.
- ✓ An annual Kappalottiya Thamizhan V.O.C. Award would be awarded to a Tamil, who has excelled in ship-building and related technology.
- ✓ V.O.C.'s death anniversary on November 18 would be observed as a 'Day of Sacrifice.'
- ✓ All government buildings to be constructed in Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli between September 5 this year and September 5 next year would be named after V.O.C.

## **Iyothee Thass Pandithar – Manimandapam**

- ✓ The State government would construct a manimandapam in north Chennai Iyothee Thass Pandithar.

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- ✓ This is to mark the 175th birth anniversary of the social reformer from the 19th century.
- ✓ Iyothee Thass Pandithar found the Dravida Mahajana Sabha in 1891.
- ✓ He founded Oru Paisa Thamizhan and later ran it as Thamizhan.

### **World Science Class City – Maharashtra**

- ✓ The Maharashtra Government has decided to set up a world-class science city at Pimpri-Chinchwad near Pune.
- ✓ This is to develop a scientific outlook among the students and prepare them to become students in future.
- ✓ This is to be named as 'Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi Science Innovation City'.

### **Pollen Calendar**

- ✓ Chandigarh gets its first pollen calendar.
- ✓ Pollen calendars are graphical representations of the time dynamics of airborne pollen taxa in a certain geographic area.
- ✓ Pollens are considered major outdoor airborne allergens responsible for allergic rhinitis, asthma and atopic dermatitis in humans.

### **Day of Social Justice**

- ✓ The birth anniversary of social reformer and Dravidar Kazhagam founder 'Periyar' E.V. Ramasamy's birthday

would be observed as 'Day of Social Justice' in Tamil Nadu on September 17 every year.

- ✓ The first amendment to the Indian Constitution came about because of Periyar, who never went to the Parliament.
- ✓ On that day there will be a pledge to follow the principles of self-respect, rationalism, brotherhood, equality, humanitarianism and social justice.

### **United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress**

- ✓ Recently, it was announced that the second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) will be held in Telangana, Hyderabad in 2022.
- ✓ The event would show a glimpse of India's evolving geospatial ecosystem.
- ✓ It is organised by United Nation Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM).
- ✓ It is conducted every four years.
- ✓ The first UNWGIC was organized by China in October 2018.
- ✓ Theme of Second UNWGIC is 'Geo-enabling the Global Village'.

## **Environment Minister launches first functional Smog Tower**

- ✓ Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, virtually inaugurated the first functional smog tower of India.
- ✓ Smog tower was launched at Anand Vihar in Delhi.
- ✓ A smog tower is a structure that are designed as a large or medium scale air purifier. It helps in reducing air pollution by forcing the air through filters.

## **New archaeological sites**

- ✓ The Tamilnadu State government will undertake archaeological excavations in three new places –
  - ✚ Vembakkottai in Virudhunagar district,
  - ✚ Thullukkarpatti in Tirunelveli district and
  - ✚ Perumpalai in Dharmapuri district.
- ✓ It would be undertaken in addition to the ones under way in Keeladi, Sivagalai, Mayiladumparai and Gangaikondacholapuram.
- ✓ The government would also undertake scientific site inspections to locate Neolithic sites and those along the banks of Tamiraparani during 2021-22.
- ✓ The Institute of Archaeology would be restructured and renamed Tamil Nadu Institute of Archaeology and Museology.

- ✓ Sites where ancient inscriptions are found in
  - ✚ Mudhalaikulam and Arittapatti in Madurai district,
  - ✚ Poolankurichi in Sivaganga district,
  - ✚ Thondur and Theganurpatti in Villupuram district would be declared protected monuments.
- ✓ Steps would be taken to bring back ‘Leiden plates’ from the Netherlands which throw light on the history of legendary Tamil king Rajaraja Chola and also Buddhist viharas in Nagapattinam district.
- ✓ The Efforts would be taken to locate the ‘Anbil plates’ which is featured in Epigraphia Indica, the official publication of Archaeological Survey of India.

### **Energy Island in Gulf of Mannar**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu and Denmark have planned to create an energy island in Gulf of Mannar.
- ✓ It will be India’s first offshore floating wind park.
- ✓ Gulf of Mannar lies between the west coast of Sri Lanka and south-eastern tip of India.

### **ADB in Jharkhand**

- ✓ Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India have signed a deal to develop water supply infrastructure in Jharkhand.

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- ✓ It also aims to strengthen the capacities of urban local bodies (ULBs) for improved service delivery in four towns in the state of Jharkhand.
- ✓ This is the first project of ADB in the state of Jharkhand.

### **Sultan Ahmed Ismail committee**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government has constituted a seven-member committee to study the exploration of hydrocarbon projects.
- ✓ It will be headed by Sultan Ahmed Ismail, part-time member, State Development Policy Council.

### **Chair to workers in Tamil Nadu**

- ✓ It is mandatory for shops and showrooms across the State to provide seating facilities to employees who works standing.
- ✓ This is a direct intervention of the State in the affairs of private sector.
- ✓ The Bill was introduced by the Labour Welfare and Skill Development Minister CV Ganesan to amend the Tamil Nadu Shops and Establishments Act, 1947.
- ✓ It was started with Kerala.
- ✓ A State labour advisory board meeting unanimously approved the need to provide seating facilities for employees on September 4, 2019.

### **Pulamai Pithan**

- ✓ The Lyricist and poet Pulamai pithan breathed his last at Chennai.
- ✓ He was born in Coimbatore in 1935
- ✓ Pulamai Pithan served as the Deputy Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council.

### **Mumbai**

- ✓ Mumbai is the first South Asian city to work on climate action plan.
- ✓ This has been done following Mumbai's commitment to C40 Cities climate leadership group.

### **Education Ministry's announcements**

- ✓ The School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozi said the Tamil Nādu state government is planning to introduce spoken English classes for Standards VI to XII after their regular school hours.
- ✓ Renowned Tamil works will be translated into other Dravidian languages and vice versa (Ponniyin Selvan and Vaikom Struggle: Tamil to English; commentary for Tirukkural by former Chief Minister M Karunanidhi (Tamil to Telugu); T Janakiraman short stories (Tamil to Kannada).

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- ✓ Training will be given to students on traditional arts - Karakattam, Kummi, Silambattam, Oyilattam, Kavadiyattam, folk songs, wrestling etc.
- ✓ The Connemara public library in Chennai will be modernised.
- ✓ Child Abuse Prevention Week should be observed in all schools every year between November 15 and 22.
- ✓ In order to achieve universal Foundational Literacy and Numeracy by 2025, the 'Ennum Ezhuthum' mission will be launched when the schools reopen completely.
- ✓ Four more regional centres will be set up for the Tamil Nadu Open University at Salem, Tiruvannamalai, Mayiladuthurai and Sivagangai.
- ✓ PhD programmes would be offered in the arts and science colleges and diploma courses in civil and mechanical engineering would be launched in Tamil next year.

## **New judges to Madras High Court**

- ✓ The Madras high court is set to get four new judges.
- ✓ It will take the sitting strength to 60 against the sanctioned strength of 75.
- ✓ With the induction of S Srimathi, the number of women judges in the court will go up to a record 14, highest in the country.

- ✓ D Bharatha Chakravarthy, R Vijayakumar and Mohammed Shaffiq are the other three advocates recommended for elevation by the Supreme Court collegium.

### **Karunanidhi's statue on Anna Salai**

- ✓ The Chief Minister Stalin said Karunanidhi's statue would be installed on Anna Salai, Chennai.
- ✓ A statue of Karunanidhi, installed on Anna Salai was damaged following the demise of M G Ramachandran on December 24, 1987.

### **Mahakavi Day**

- ✓ The death anniversary of firebrand poet and freedom fighter Subramanya Bharathiar would be commemorated as 'Mahakavi' Day on September 11.
- ✓ The Chief Minister MK Stalin announced this on the occasion of 100th death anniversary of Bharathi.
- ✓ A compilation of Bharati's poems and essays would be brought out in a book titled "Manathil Urithi Vendum" (Firmness in Mind).
- ✓ Events with the theme 'parengum Bharati' (Bharati everywhere), in collaboration with the World Tamil Associations would be organised.
- ✓ A separate wing 'Bharathiyal' would be set up to compile the books of Bharathiar.

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- ✓ The Women Livelihood Mission, implemented by the rural development department, will be named by Bharatiyar.
- ✓ “Bharati young poet Award” will be presented through a state-level poetry competition for school and college students.
- ✓ Financial assistance will be given to maintain the house at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh where Bharathi lived a century ago.
- ✓ PM Modi has announced that the Benares Hindu University in Varanasi would have a chair of Tamil Studies in memory of Bharathi.
- ✓ Modi also said, "India is proud to be home to the world's oldest language, Tamil."

### **About Bharathi**

- ✓ Bharathi was also the first Asian poet to sing the glory of the 1917 Russian Revolution or Bolshevik revolution.
- ✓ Subramanya Bharati had to flee to Puducherry (a French colony then) in 1908 to avoid arrest by the British government.
- ✓ He worked as the assistant editor in Swadesa mitran newspaper.
- ✓ Bharathi passed away on September 11th in 1921 at Chennai.

- ✓ He delivered his last speech at Karungalpalayam Library in Erode.
- ✓ The last years of his life were spent in a house in Triplicane, Chennai.
- ✓ The Former CM CN Annadurai was the first to call Bharathiyar ‘Makkal Kavi’ (poet of the people).
- ✓ Va. Ra wrote a classic Tamil biography on the greatest poet of all time, “Mahakavi Bharatiyar”.

### **Translation of Manimekalai**

- ✓ Manimekalai, one of the five great epics of Tamil literature, has been translated into 18 eastern languages.
- ✓ It will be translated into Thai, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Burmese, Malay, Vietnamese, Singhalese, Cambodian, Indonesian and Mongolian.
- ✓ Manimekalai is written by Seethalai Sattanar 1,500 years ago.
- ✓ The Central Institute of Classical Tamil has undertaken responsibility to translate it.
- ✓ It also embodies ideologies of Buddhism and Jainism.

### **Porunai Excavation**

- ✓ The Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced the setting up of a museum, the Porunai Museum in Tirunelveli at a cost of ₹15 crore.

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- ✓ The rice with soil was found in a burial urn in Sivakalai in Tirunelveli district.
- ✓ The carbon dating analysis has yielded the date of 1155 BCE.
- ✓ The Beta Analytic Testing Laboratory in Miami, in the United States released the test report in this regard.
- ✓ The finding has established that the Porunai River (Ancient name of Thamirabarani) civilization dates back to 3,200 years.
- ✓ This is the oldest time period established from findings in the excavations carried out in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ It is much older than the Vaigai River civilization, which is believed to be 2,600 years old.
- ✓ The excavation in Keeladi had also established that an urban civilization existed on the banks of River Vaigai that was contemporary to the Gangetic plain civilization.
- ✓ The latest finding has once again narrowed the gap between civilizations in the south of Vindhyas and the Indus Valley Civilization (IVC).
- ✓ Earlier it was believed that there was no city civilization in south India.
- ✓ The first urbanization in the sub-continent happened in the IVC.

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- ✓ The second urbanisation happened on the banks of the Ganga at the end of the Mauryan period.
- ✓ Now it is found that even before the Mauryan period, there were silver coins found in Adichanallur.
- ✓ Adichanallur, Korkai and Sivakalai are all sites on the banks of the ancient Porunai (Thamirabarani river) presently in the Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Stalin said archaeological excavations would be carried out in other States and countries in search of Tamil roots there.
- ✓ In the first phase, studies would be undertaken at the ancient port of Musiri, now known as Pattanam in Kerala.
- ✓ Similar studies will be held at Vengi in Andhra Pradesh, Thalaikadu in Karnataka and Palur in Orissa.
- ✓ The State Archaeology Department would conduct research in Quseir al-Qadim and Pernica Anekke in Egypt.
- ✓ It was once part of the Roman empire as well as in Khor Rori in Oman.
- ✓ It is to establish Tamils' trade relations with these countries.
- ✓ Studies would also be conducted in South-East Asian countries such as Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam, where the Chola King Rajendra had established supremacy.

**Resolution against CAA, 2019**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Assembly has adopted a resolution urging the Centre to repeal the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019.
- ✓ With this, Tamil Nadu has joined states like Kerala and West Bengal in passing resolutions against CAA.
- ✓ The objective of the CAA, 2019 is to grant Indian citizenship to persecuted minorities — Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi and Christian — from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.
- ✓ The Act does not apply to tribal areas of Tripura, Mizoram, Assam and Meghalaya because of being included in the 6th Schedule of the Constitution.
- ✓ Also, areas that fall under the Inner Line Permit notified under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873, will also be outside the Act's purview.

**Bhupendra Patel: New CM of Gujarat**

- ✓ Bhupendra Patel sworn in as the Chief Minister of Gujarat on September 13, 2021.
- ✓ He was sworn in by Governor Acharya Devvrat at the Raj Bhavan, Gandhinagar.
- ✓ He took oath a day after he was elected as Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legislature party leader.

- ✓ Cabinet members will be sworn in later after party will decide the names.
- ✓ In the Cabinet, it is likely that larger representation will be given to the legislators from Saurashtra and north Gujarat where BJP expects to improve its prospects in the Assembly election of the state.

### **Food processing Unit inaugurated in Madhya Pradesh**

- ✓ The Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries, Prahlad Singh Patel, inaugurated a Food Processing Unit of M/s Sahara Frozen Foods in Morena, Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ Food Processing Unit was inaugurated under a central sector cold chain scheme called Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana.
- ✓ It was launched on the last day of Food Processing Week.

### **HRCE Announcements**

- ✓ The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) will start 10 more colleges at a cost of ₹150 crore at Kolathur, Kilpauk, Vilathikulam, Thoppampatti, Anaikattu, Kalasapakkam, Thirukattupalli, Lalgudi, Kadayam and Thiruchengode.
- ✓ Old-age home at a cost of ₹5 crore will be set up in Chennai, Palani and Tirunelveli.

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- ✓ If the marriage is conducted in the marriage hall temple, they need to pay just maintenance charge.
- ✓ Tonsuring heads too would be free and the amount will be paid by the temple administration.
- ✓ Temple priests and workers will get new clothes for Pongal.
- ✓ It will soon introduce whole day 'annadhanam' at the famous Arulmigu Mariamman Temple in Samayapuram near Tiruchi.
- ✓ It will become the second major shrine in Tiruchi district to provide annadhanam for the whole day to devotees after Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple in Srirangam.
- ✓ Besides Samayapuram temple, the scheme is to be implemented at the Sri Subramanya Swamy temples at Tiruthani and Tiruchendur.
- ✓ Annadhanam was started at the Samayapuram Sri Mariamman temple in 2002.
- ✓ The Minister announced ₹150 crore for renovating Tiruchendur temple and ₹125 crore for improving infrastructure in Bhavani Amman temple in Periya palayam.
- ✓ Temples in Palani, Samayapuram, Tiruvannamalai, Tiruthani and Rameswaram will get ₹250 crore for creating amenities.

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- ✓ The state government will melt into gold bars the tiny bits of jewellery offered by devotees at temples run by the Hindu religious and charitable endowments department and deposit them in banks to raise funds for development projects and welfare schemes at the temples.
- ✓ Big temples such as Tiruthani, Palani, Samayapuram and Tiruchendur would top in the stock of gold jewellery
- ✓ 2,000 kg of gold jewellery could get converted to gold bars.
- ✓ The department had been doing this exercise from 1978 till 2010.

### **IREDA and TANGEDCO**

- ✓ The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has entered into a pact with Tamil Nadu Generation & Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO).
- ✓ It is for providing technical expertise in developing of renewable energy projects and raising of funds.
- ✓ The Tangedco has planned to augment its renewable energy sources by 25,000 MW in the next 10 years.
- ✓ This includes 20000 MW solar energy, 3000 MW of hydro power and 2000 MW electricity generated by gas turbines.
- ✓ Its own generation from thermal power stations is only 4320 MW as against the average demand of 15,000 MW.

**Information and Publicity announcements**

- ✓ The Minister for Information and Publicity M P Saminathan announced these measures in the Tamilnadu State Legislative Assembly.
- ✓ He announced setting up of a Journalists' Welfare Board.
- ✓ Kalaignar Ezhudhukol Award will be awarded to journalists who contribute to the upliftment of the downtrodden
- ✓ Statues of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore and former President A P J Abdul Kalam will come up at the prestigious Queen Mary's College and Anna University in Chennai respectively.
- ✓ It is significant as Abdul kalam mentored students at the institute by staying in a hostel room before his ascension to Rashtrapati Bhavan in 2002.
- ✓ Statues of freedom fighters Veerapandia Kattabomban, and Marudhu Brothers will be installed in Gandhi Mandapam, Guindy at Chennai.
- ✓ The bust of Anjalai Ammal and Keezhapaluvur Chinnasamy will come up at Cuddalore and Ariyalur respectively.
- ✓ A statue will be erected at the Government Guest House in Chepauk in memory of Dravidian stalwart V R Nedunchezhan, who had served in the cabinets of C N

Annadurai, M Karunanidhi, M G Ramachandran, and J Jayalalithaa.

- ✓ The Statues in memory of Dr Muthulakshmi Reddy, Moovalur Ramamirthan, and Dr Mu Varadarasanar will come up at Pudukkottai, Mayiladuthurai, and Ranipet districts.

### **Most Linguistically Diverse**

- ✓ Bengaluru is the top district in India where the greatest number of languages are spoken.
- ✓ With 107 languages, Bengaluru has a diverse set of languages spoken in the district including 22 scheduled and 84 non-scheduled languages.
- ✓ In Bengaluru, 44.5 per cent of people speak Kannada, 15 per cent Tamil, 14 per cent Telugu, 12 per cent Urdu, 6 per cent Hindi and 3 per cent Malayalam.
- ✓ The other districts where more than 100 languages are spoken is Dimapur in Nagaland with 103 languages and Sonitpur in Assam with 101 languages.
- ✓ The least diverse districts included Yanam in Puducherry, Kaimur in Bihar, Kaushambi and Kanpur Dehat in Uttar Pradesh and Ariyalur in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ In these districts, less than 20 languages were spoken.
- ✓ The data did not include dialects, but only scheduled and non-scheduled languages.

### **Online Game in Karnataka**

- ✓ The Karnataka Cabinet decided to ban online gambling or betting in the state by amending the Karnataka Police Act, 1963.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Kerala have already banned online rummy game.
- ✓ But the Madras High Court in august 2021 struck down a recent amendment (2020) made to the Tamil Nadu Gaming Act of 1930.

### **Chhattisgarh domicile certificate**

- ✓ Chhattisgarh has decided to issue the domicile certificate.
- ✓ It is an official document issued by the State Government of Chhattisgarh.
- ✓ It serves as proof of a person residing in a particular state.
- ✓ It will be issued to the students studying outside the state.

### **Air purification tower**

- ✓ India's tallest air purification tower has been inaugurated in the Union Territory of Chandigarh.
- ✓ This is the highest air purifier tower of the country.

### **Keeladi – Silver coin**

- ✓ A silver punch marked coin was recently excavated from Keezhadi.
- ✓ It bore the symbols of the sun, the moon, the taurine and other geometrical patterns.

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- ✓ Studies on this found the coin to date back to the 4th century BC.
- ✓ It is before the time of the ancient Maurya empire.
- ✓ Keezhadi excavations show that there was extensive literacy in Tamil Nadu by at least 600 BCE.
- ✓ So, it is found that even 2,600 years ago common folk could read in Tamil Nadu.

### **First generation graduate**

- ✓ The condition that one should be a 'first graduate' to avail oneself of the special scholarship granted to students of the Backward Classes, the Most Backward Classes and the Denotified Communities would be amended as the 'first generation graduate'
- ✓ By doing this many from the same family could benefit from the scheme.
- ✓ The Minister for Backward Classes Welfare S.S. Sivasankar announced this.
- ✓ The Minister also announced the setting up of 'Semmozhi Noolagam'.

### **Ford exits India**

- ✓ The US car firm Ford is to stop making cars in India.
- ✓ It is to shut down both of its plants in Gujarat (Sanad) and Tamil Nadu (Maraimalai Nagar).

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- ✓ In 2017, General Motors (GM) stopped making cars for the Indian market.
- ✓ In 2020, The USA bike firm Harley-Davidson stopped its manufacturing in India.

## **Medical Exam – NEET**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Assembly today passed the Tamil Nadu Admission to Undergraduate Medical Degree Courses Bill.
- ✓ It seeks to stop medical admissions on the basis of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for students of the state.
- ✓ The Bill challenges a central law passed in the Concurrent list.
- ✓ It is to receive the Presidential assent.

## **Welfare for Scheduled Castes**

- ✓ The Chief Minister Stalin said that ₹10 lakh reward as an incentive to panchayats following the practice of common crematoriums or graveyards.
- ✓ He announced setting up four new special courts in Salem, Krishnagiri, Madurai and Tirunelveli, since these places have more pending cases.
- ✓ He also said that schools run by the Adi Dravidar Welfare Department will be brought to the mainstream under the guidance of the School Education Department.

**Tamil Nadu State Commission for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs)**

- ✓ The Chief Minister Stalin tabled a bill (called The Tamil Nadu State Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act, 2021) to set up panel for SC/ST members.
- ✓ It will have the powers of a civil court trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.
- ✓ It will have a chairperson, a vice-chairperson and five other members.
- ✓ Three of them will be from SCs, two from STs and a woman member.
- ✓ The commission will inquire, Suo moto or on a petition presented to it by a victim or any person on his/her behalf.
- ✓ It will enquire the complaints of violation of any right provided under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.
- ✓ The National Commission for the SCs and STs will prevail over the yet to be set up state commission.
- ✓ The commission can recommend action against public servants who are negligent in preventing such violations.
- ✓ The commission is expected to investigate and monitor safeguards present in various legislations, in the interest of SC/STs and promote awareness of the same.

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

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- ✓ The state government will consult the commission on policy matters related to the community.
- ✓ The commission will also carry out research work to avoid discrimination.

## **Jewel loan waiver**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin announced that jewel loans availed by economically backward people from cooperative institutions would be waived up to five sovereigns of gold jewellery.
- ✓ The state government would allocate Rs 6,000 crore for this purpose.

## **Local Body elections in Tamilnadu**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu State Election Commissioner V Palanikumar notified the dates for the rural local body polls in the nine newly constituted districts in the state.
- ✓ Elections are being held in Kanchipuram, Chengalpattu, Villupuram, Kallakurichi, Vellore, Ranipet, Tirupathur, Tirunelveli and Tenkasi districts.
- ✓ The polls will be held in two phases on October 6 and October 9 and the counting will take place on October 12.
- ✓ Indirect elections to posts like district panchayat and panchayat union chairpersons and vice-chairpersons will be held on October 22.

### **Announcement in Police Departments**

- ✓ The Chief Minister Stalin announced the release of 700 life convicts to mark the birth anniversary of former Chief Minister C N Annadurai on September 15.
- ✓ He also announced that Avadi and Tambaram will be upgraded as police Commissionerate.
- ✓ He announced the setting up of State Cyber Crime Investigation Centre to provide training and crack cybercrimes.
- ✓ A total of 1,000 youths from fishing communities would be appointed to work along with the Coastal Security Group (CSG).
- ✓ The Boys and Girls Clubs would be set up to ensure that children from socially and economically backward situations do not get involved in anti-social and illegal activities.
- ✓ A weekly off would be granted to police personnel from Constable Grade II to Head Constable.
- ✓ The receptionists would be appointed in each of the police stations.

### **Ordinance for OBC quota**

- ✓ The Maharashtra government has decided to bring an ordinance to grant OBC quota in upcoming by-election to a set of local governing bodies without crossing the supreme court mandated 50% cap on reservation.

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

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- ✓ The reservation will be based on (OBC) population in the constituency Where bypolls are scheduled.
- ✓ OBC get 27% reservation in electoral wards of municipal bodies and Zilla Parishads.

### **Medical Exam – NEET**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Assembly today passed the Tamil Nadu Admission to Undergraduate Medical Degree Courses Bill.
- ✓ It seeks to stop medical admissions on the basis of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for students of the state.
- ✓ The Bill challenges a central law passed in the Concurrent list.
- ✓ It is to receive the Presidential assent.

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### **Tamil Nadu's first Genetic Analysis Laboratory**

- ✓ The Chief Minister M K Stalin inaugurated the Genetic Analysis Laboratory at DMS campus in Chennai.
- ✓ For the first time, a State has set up its own genetic laboratory in India.

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

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- ✓ The lab will help authorities look for variants of SARS-CoV-2.
- ✓ The COVID-19 samples were sent to the Union Government-run genetic analysis laboratories in Karnataka and Telangana.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has sent all samples to the Bengaluru-based Instem as per recommendations from the Centre.
- ✓ Instem is part of INSACOG (a consortium of 10 labs that track the presence of variants in Covid samples).

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### **Telangana Language Day**

- ✓ Telangana has declared September 9 as “Telangana Language Day” on Kaloji Narayana Rao’s 100th birth anniversary.

### **Petrified wood**

- ✓ A 100-million-year-old Petrified wood has been found at Pudukkottai.
- ✓ The wood dates back to the Cretaceous period, which is about 100 million years ago.

- ✓ That is, it belongs to the genus Gymnosperm, which precedes the existing flowering plants, such as angiosperm.
- ✓ It is considered a rare archaeological object.
- ✓ A 1300-year-old Pallava period painting has been found on the Sanjeevi hills near the village of Pakkam near Gingee in Villupuram district.

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### **New statues**

- ✓ Two crore and sixty lakh rupees has been allocated for setting up of a statue of freedom fighter Tali Palayakkar

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

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Malayandi Venkidu Pathi Ethalappa Nayakkar in Tirupur district.

- ✓ A full-length statue of former Chief Minister of Chennai Province Dr. P. Subba Rayan will have a statue built in Chennai and a stadium in Namakkal.
- ✓ A statue of Uttama Tyagi Eeswaran, who was instrumental in the formation of the Lower Bhavani Irrigation Project, will be built in Erode district.
- ✓ A stadium with a statue of the late Minister Govindasamy will be set up in Villupuram district.

### **Human Resource Management department announcements**

- ✓ The Government of Tamil Nadu has announced that the quota for women in the public employment through direct recruitment will be increased from 30% to 40%.
- ✓ Tamil language will be made compulsory in the qualifying examination in all competitive examinations.
- ✓ It has been announced that the age limit for direct appointment will be relaxed by 2 years due to delays in competitive exams for government jobs conducted by the Recruitment agencies such as TNPSC due to the Corona pandemic.

### **Tamilnadu Mercantile Bank**

- ✓ The Tamilnadu Mercantile Bank (TMB) celebrated its 100th year anniversary.

- ✓ It was started as a Nadar bank in 1921 at Thoothukudi but changed its name to Tamilnadu Mercantile Bank in 1962.

### **Land grabbing a non-bailable offence**

- ✓ Tamilnadu has made the encroachment of properties of religious institutions a cognisable and non-bailable offence.
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Assembly passed a Bill in this regard.
- ✓ It seeks to amend the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959.
- ✓ It empowers anyone, who is having interest in the affairs of religious institution matters, to file a complaint against encroachers and temple land encroachment.
- ✓ It considered that criminal complaint may be filed by any person who are interested in the affairs of the religious institution.
- ✓ Till the bill was passed, only the Commissioner of the Hindu religious and charitable endowments department were empowered to file complaint against encroachment of temple land.

### **Music bus**

- ✓ Delhi government has launched a music which will provide training to students in audio production, film production, and graphic designing.
- ✓ It is India's first 'Mobile music classroom and recording studio'.

## **Tamilnadu Legislations**

- ✓ The State Assembly of Tamilnadu passed a Bill (Tamil Nadu Payment of Salaries Act, 1951).
- ✓ It was to give effect to the announcements made by the erstwhile AIADMK regime last year.
- ✓ The Bill was introduced by Minister Duraimurugan (holding legislature portfolio) in the House
- ✓ On March 24 last year, the then Chief Minister Edappadi Palani Samy announced that the lump sum allowance payable to the family of an MLA would be enhanced from ₹2 lakh to ₹5 lakh.
- ✓ He announced that the pension payable to former MLAs and former MLCs would be enhanced from ₹20,000 to ₹25,000.
- ✓ The family pension payable to the legal heir of the deceased MLAs and MLCs would be enhanced from ₹10,000 to ₹12,500
- ✓ A Bill to repeal a law on contract farming enacted during the previous AIADMK regime was also introduced.
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Repeal Bill was introduced.
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu's contract farming and services legislation of 2019 was based on a model Bill then mooted by the Centre.

### **Tamilnadu Assembly Session**

- ✓ The Tamilnadu Assembly's Budget session began on August 13.
- ✓ The House was later adjourned sine die on September 13th by the Speaker Appavu.
- ✓ This is also the first time since independence that the State Legislative Assembly would not have a nominated MLA from the Anglo-Indian community.
- ✓ A 104th Constitutional amendment in 2019 discontinued representation for Anglo-Indians both in the Lok Sabha as well as in all Legislative Assemblies across the country.

### **University Syndicate**

- ✓ The Speaker has nominated several MLAs to syndicate members in various universities.
- ✓ All the MLAs will hold the post for three years.
- ✓ If they cease to be a member of the Assembly during this period, their tenure in the Syndicate will also come to an end.

### **75% quota in private sector jobs**

- ✓ Jharkhand assembly has passed in that provides for 75% reservation to local residents in private sector jobs with the monthly salary upto Rs.40000.

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- ✓ Once this bill is enacted, Jharkhand will become the third state at the Andhra Pradesh and Haryana- having a law providing the reservation in private sector jobs.

## **Social Justice**

- ✓ The New Subject “Social Justice” will be introduced in the Madras University from the next academic year.

## **Annavin Tamiliyam**

- ✓ A new short-term course “Annavin Tamiliyam” was introduced in the Tamilnadu Open University.

## **State fish**

- ✓ The Sikkim government has declared 'Copper Mahseer' locally named 'Katley' as the state fish.
- ✓ In Sikkim, Katley is found in varied attitudes covering the entire state predominantly confined in Teesta and Rangit river and their tributaries.
- ✓ In the year 1992, ICAR had categorized Katley fish as endangered species.

## **Palmyra Development Mission**

- ✓ Chief minister Stalin launched this Mission.
- ✓ The Speaker Appavu donated one lakh palm seeds for promoting this.
- ✓ Palmyra is the state tree of Tamilnadu.

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- ✓ Under the scheme, 76 lakh palm seeds and one lakh palm saplings would be distributed to farmers with cent per cent subsidy by the Agriculture Department
- ✓ It will be planted on the bunds of lakes and ponds.
- ✓ As part of the mission, research on palm trees will be undertaken in govt agriculture college in Killukulam in Thoothukudi district.

#### **Communal G.O – 1921**

- ✓ It was issued 100 years ago on this day (September 16th) by the Justice Party government.
- ✓ It sought “to increase the proportion of posts held by non-Brahmins,” which also encompassed Indian Christians, Muslims and Adi-Dravidar, in the Provincial Services.
- ✓ It aims to empower non-Brahmins and securing the space due to them in administration and politics.
- ✓ B.R. Ambedkar had sought Political reservation for Dalits before the Southborough Committee in 1919.
- ✓ In 1928, Muthiah Mudaliar, the then Education Minister under the Subba Rayan Government, introduced the Communal G. O. to implement the 1921 order.

#### **Model Tenancy Act**

- ✓ Assam has become the first state to adopt this Act.
- ✓ With this Assam Urban Areas Rent Control Act, 1972 gets repealed.

### **Hathei chilli and Tamenglong mandarin orange**

- ✓ Two famous products of Manipur, Hathei chilli, which is found in Manipur's Ukhrul district and is known for its unique flavour, and Tamenglong mandarin orange have been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ✓ The Hathei chilly works as a good anti-oxidant and possesses high calcium and Vitamin C levels.
- ✓ It has an extremely high American Spice Trade Association (ASTA) colour value of 164.
- ✓ The extractable colour of chilli is usually expressed using ASTA values.
- ✓ The Tamenglong mandarin orange is bigger in size.
- ✓ It is a unique sweet and sour flavour.
- ✓ It has high juice content (around 45 per cent) and is rich in ascorbic acid (48.12 mg/100ml).

### **Silambam in 'Khelo India'**

- ✓ Silambam has been recognised under the 'Promotion of inclusiveness through sports' initiative of the 'Khelo India' programme of the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- ✓ Silambam an Indian martial art developed by Tamils.

### **Automated drug vending machine**

- ✓ India's first automated drug vending machine was opened in Coimbatore.

### **Kanchirangal panchayat**

- ✓ Prime Minister Modi lauded the Kanchirangal panchayat in Sivagangai district for producing and using electricity from vegetable waste.

### **Keezhadi excavation**

- ✓ The Excavations in the Keezhadi in Sivagangai district have uncovered dice made of ivory.
- ✓ This dice weighs 4 grams and has 5 cm cube with 1 point, (i.e) with 6 points marked on six sides.
- ✓ An ivory comb was found during the first excavation that had already taken place.
- ✓ Later, with the discovery of a 6th century silver coin, a gold earring was recently discovered during an excavation in the Agaram near the Keezhadi.
- ✓ The Pottery parts containing 13 letters (Tamil) have been found.
- ✓ The pot may have been written with thorns.
- ✓ Earlier, parts of pot with the names Aadan and Uthiran were found.
- ✓ With a maximum of parts of pottery containing 7 alphabetical letters found earlier, now this one with 13 letters is considered to be a testament to the fact that educated people lived here.
- ✓ Also at the bottom is a red grain container.

- ✓ Also, five more pots have been found in the pit where this pot was found.

### **Alternative Speakers of the legislature**

- ✓ The Speaker Appavu has announced that when there is no Speaker in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, there will be four alternative speakers to hold the Assembly.
- ✓ Anbazhagan, SR Raja, Udayasooriyan and DRP Raja will be the alternate leaders.

### **Thirukkural Translation**

- ✓ According to the Central Institute of Classical Tamil Studies, Thirukkural translations will be published in ten languages, including the Vakripoli language spoken by the Narikkurava people.
- ✓ The Central Ministry of Education has submitted to the Central Institute of Classical Tamil Studies a project to translate Thirukkural into 21 languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India.
- ✓ The Institute has already published Thirukkural translations in Punjabi (2012), Manipuri (2012), Telugu (2014), Kannada (2014) and Gujarati (2015).
- ✓ In the coming October, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Hindi, Nepali, Urdu, Arabic, Persian, Vakripoli (Narikkurava language), Paduku translations will be published in ten languages.

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- ✓ In that respect, 20 books including U.V. Saminathaya Diary, U.V. Saminathaya Glossary and Sangam books Vocabulary, Natrinai (Kannada Translation), Tolkappiyam (Hindi Translation), Patiruppattu (Kannada Translation) will be published.

## **Public Welfare Department Announcements**

- ✓ A red blood cell freezing unit will be set up at the Rajiv Gandhi Hospital in Chennai.
- ✓ Awareness will be created to reduce the use of sugar, salt and oil under the 'Slightly Reduce' (சற்றே குறைப்போம்) scheme.
- ✓ For the first time in India, a Siddha Medical University will be established near Chennai.
- ✓ For the first time in Tamil Nadu, a 24-hour Nursing Monitoring Centre will be set up.

## **Tamil Development department Announcements**

- ✓ These were released by the Minister Thangam Tennarasu in the Legislative Assembly during the demand for grants on the Tamil official Language and Tamil Culture and Archaeology Department.
- ✓ The Books of Tamil scholars will be nationalized and a sum of money will be given.
- ✓ Accordingly, the books of Dr. T. Paramasivan, Silamboli Su.Sellappan, Puluvar Ilangumaranar, Murugesu

Bhagavathar, Sankaravalli Nayakam and Pulavar Se. Rasu will be nationalized.

- ✓ In the temples, Tirukkural classes are conducted along with Thevaram, Thiruvagam and the Naalayira Divya Prabhandam.
- ✓ Tamil classes will be conducted through the media under the name 'Theerak Kadhal Thirukural' (தீராக கடல் திருக்குறள்).
- ✓ Rs. 1 crore will be allocated to form the 'Tamil Campaign Association' in order to teach Tamils living abroad and in other states.
- ✓ In particular, the Minister stressed that when writing a name in Tamil, the initials should also be written in Tamil.

### **United Democratic Alliance government - Nagaland**

- ✓ All the ruling and opposition political parties in Nagaland finalized the formation of an opposition-less government.
- ✓ That will be called the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) government.
- ✓ This is the second time that Nagaland will have an all-party government (opposition-less govt).
- ✓ In 2015, Congress MLAs merged with the ruling NPF-led Democratic Alliance of Nagaland (DAN).
- ✓ However, in 2021, the UDA government has been formed as a coalition without any merging.

**Rajasthan Compulsory Registration of Marriages (Amendment) Bill, 2021**

- ✓ CM Ashok Gehlot's government passed the Rajasthan Compulsory Registration of Marriages (Amendment) Bill, 2021 by voice vote to amend a 2009 Act.
- ✓ Rajasthan's new marriage bill says that the bride and groom can apply for registration of marriage to the marriage registration officer of the place where they have been residing for more than 30 days.
- ✓ The marriage between the bridegroom who has not completed 21 years and the bride who has not completed 18 years of age could be registered by the parents or guardians within the 30 days of the marriage.

**American corner**

- ✓ Andhra Pradesh virtually launched american corner at Andhra University in Visakhapatnam.
- ✓ It is the top centre in the country after Hyderabad and Ahmedabad.
- ✓ American corner is a partnership between the US Consulate and Andhra University, which aims to provide educational and cultural opportunities for the students.

**Gandhi Dhoti Centennial Celebrations**

- ✓ The centennial year of the Mahatma 'changing his attire to dhoti' was celebrated on 22, September.

- ✓ An incident on September 22nd of 1921 at Madurai made Gandhi to wear dhoti.
- ✓ Commemorating this occasion, Ramraj Cotton organised a grand event 'Dhoti 100' at Tirupur.
- ✓ 100 martyrs and 100 weavers were honoured and 100 saplings were planted on the occasion.
- ✓ Dancers from Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, performed a traditional dance drama on 'Gandhiya Vazhiyil RamRaj'.

### **World's highest EV charging station**

- ✓ The world's highest electric vehicle charging station was inaugurated in Gaza of Lahaul and Spiti district in Himachal Pradesh.

### **L Murugan - BJP's RS candidate**

- ✓ The BJP named Union minister of state L Murugan, as its candidate for the Madhya Pradesh Rajya Sabha seat vacated by Thawarchand Gehlot.
- ✓ Murugan headed BJP's Tamil Nadu unit till July.
- ✓ He was then inducted into the Union cabinet by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as MoS information and broadcasting, and fisheries, animal husbandry and dairying.
- ✓ This necessitated his election to Parliament in six months.
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh's Rajya Sabha vacancy emerged after Gehlot was appointed the Karnataka Governor.

### **Naga cucumber**

- ✓ The Naga cucumber from Nagaland has recently been granted the geographical indication tag under Agricultural Products of the Geometrical Indications of Goods Act of 1999.
- ✓ They are low in calories, high in potassium and contain a high level of water and can serve as an alternative to sports drinks.
- ✓ It is one of the important component crops in jhum cultivation.

### **Calicut University**

- ✓ The students seeking admissions in the colleges under Calicut University will now have to sign a declaration that they will not give, ask for or accept dowry during their marriage.

### **Tussar Silk Yarn Production Centre**

- ✓ Khadi and Village Industries Commission has started a historic initiative to set up first ever Tussar Silk Yarn Production Centre.
- ✓ It is to be set up at Choudwar in Cuttack district in Odisha.

### **Mass feeding scheme**

- ✓ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin virtually inaugurated the day-long annadhanam scheme.

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- ✓ The scheme was launched at Subramanya Swamy temple in Tiruchendur, Mariamman temple in Samayapuram, and Subramanya Swami temple in Tiruttani.
- ✓ Devotees could have food anytime between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. under this scheme.
- ✓ Arulmigu Aranganathaswamy temple in Srirangam and Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani swamy temple in Palani are the other two temples under the department where the day-long annadhanam scheme is being implemented at present.

### **Trans Kitchen**

- ✓ Trans Kitchen, a hotel run by a group of transgender people, was inaugurated near Goripalayam junction, Madurai.
- ✓ It is a first-of-its-kind initiative in the city.
- ✓ Swasti organization funded the initiative, in association with organizations like Aroghyam, Virutti, and Sri Lakshmi Pengal Munnetra Sangam.

### **AK Rajan Committee**

- ✓ A 165-page Report was submitted by the retired Justice AK Rajan Committee on the impact of NEET.
- ✓ The Report stated that NEET should be eliminated immediately.
- ✓ It said that NEET would affect the healthcare infrastructure of Tamil Nadu, bringing a shortage of

doctors' appointments in primary health centres and government hospitals.

- ✓ The report also stated that students from rural regions and poor backgrounds might lose access to medical education.
- ✓ The committee also pointed out that the admission to MBBS course before the NEET days for Tamil medium students was 14.44 per cent while it has fallen to a negligible 1.7 per cent in 2020-21.

### **1 trillion-dollar economy – TN**

- ✓ The five-year strategy for economic growth was unveiled by Chief Minister MK Stalin as TN targets a \$1 trillion economy by quadrupling its exports in nine years.
- ✓ TN will adopt a two-pronged approach,
  - ✚ export promotion and
  - ✚ export diversification
- ✓ This is to achieve its aim of a \$1 trillion economy by 2030.
- ✓ The State is setting up an Export Promotion Council under the Chief Secretary to boost exports.
- ✓ TN is also looking at developing two economic employment enclaves, in Mannasellore and Thoothukudi, in one phase.
- ✓ Tamilnadu is third place in India in terms of exports.
- ✓ The slogan for this will be Made in Tamilnadu and Etrrumathiyil Ettram (ஏற்றுமதியில் ஏற்றம்).

### **Bill banning online games - Karnataka**

- ✓ Karnataka Assembly has passed an amendment to the Karnataka Police Act, 1963.
- ✓ This seeks to ban online gaming and curtail online gambling.
- ✓ The proposal is not valid for online games that strictly comply with "game of skills".
- ✓ It bans only the 'games of chance'.

### **First Palmetum of Uttarakhand**

- ✓ The first Palmetum, a specialised Botanical Park, of Uttarakhand which is also the biggest in the whole of North India, was inaugurated.
- ✓ The Palmetum has around hundred different species of Palms.

### **Fully Solar Powered Central Railway Station**

- ✓ The Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G. Ramachandran Central or Chennai Central railway station has met the 100% day energy requirement targets by solar panels installed on the platform shelters of the station.
- ✓ The Station comes under the Southern Railway.
- ✓ The station has installed solar power capacity of 1.5MW.
- ✓ The Southern Railway is the first on Indian Railways to come up with the concept of 'Energy Neutral' railway stations.

### **Bhavantar Bharpayee Yojana**

- ✓ The Haryana government has decided to include Bajra from Kharif season 2021 under the "Bhavantar Bharpayee Yojana".
- ✓ Under the scheme, farmers kit combo for selling the crops at a price lower than that fixed by the government.

### **Judima rice wine**

- ✓ Judima, homemade rice wine of Assam's Dimasa tribe has become the first traditional brew in all of the north East to bag a geographical indication tag.

### **Jal Jeevan Mission – Tamilnadu**

- ✓ Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Prahlad Singh Patel lauded Tamil Nadu for the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission.
- ✓ Patel appreciated the provision of 100 per cent drinking water connections to State-run schools, anganwadi and Primary Healthcare Centres and government buildings.

### **NATIONAL**

### **Universal Postal Union – India**

- ✓ India has won the elections for membership of two key bodies of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), during the 27th UPU Congress in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.
- ✓ India got elected to the Council of Administration (CA).

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

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- ✓ The country received the highest votes in CA elections from South Asia and the Oceania region.
- ✓ Apart from this, India has also been elected to the Postal Operations Council (POC).
- ✓ India will now work with all to strengthen cooperation in the Universal Postal Union.

### **Ashok and 7 other ITDC hotels**

- ✓ Under the government's target of monetising "under-utilized public sector assets", 'The Ashok' 5-star hotel will be leased out to private operators in four years.
- ✓ The Ashok and the Hotel Samrat are among eight India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) properties that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman listed in the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP).

### **The Ashok group of hotels**

- ✓ These are the flagship hotel chain under ITDC, having a brand value developed in last 40-50 years.
- ✓ These hotels been the centre stage for all government events that are organised by various ministries and public sector entities.

### **POSHAN Maah**

- ✓ The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development has planned to organise and celebrate Thematic POSHAN Maah in September 2021.

- ✓ Under the Poshan Abhiyaan, the month of September is observed as Poshan Maah i.e., Nutrition month every year, since 2018.
- ✓ POSHAN Maah is celebrated to ensure community mobilization and bolster people's participation.

### **Neeraj Chopra Stadium**

- ✓ The Union Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh visited the Army Sports Institute, Pune and named the Army Sports Institute stadium as "Neeraj Chopra Stadium".
- ✓ The focus of the Indian Army (in the field of sports) is to identify and train promising sportspersons in 11 disciplines.
- ✓ The Indian Army's "Mission Olympics" programme was launched in 2001.
- ✓ It was launched with the intent to deliver medal-winning performances in the Olympics and other international events.

### **Note**

- ✓ The Athletics Federation of India has decided that javelin throw day will be on 7th August every year in honour of Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra.

### **World's highest movie theatre**

- ✓ The world's highest movie theatre has recently been inaugurated in Ladakh.

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- ✓ It got its first-ever mobile digital movie theatre in the Paldan area of Leh, at an altitude of 11,562 feet.
- ✓ The inflatable theatre can operate in -28 degrees Celsius.
- ✓ The initiative aims to bring cinema watching experience to the remotest areas of India.

### **BH-series**

- ✓ The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways launched the BH-series to facilitate seamless transfer of vehicles.
- ✓ The Vehicle with this registration mark will not require assignment of any new registration mark when owner of the vehicle shifts from one state to other.
- ✓ The Vehicle registration facility under this series will be available on voluntary basis to Defense personnel, employees of Central or State Government, Central or State Public Sector Undertakings and private sector companies or organizations, having their offices across four or more States or Union territories.
- ✓ Section 47 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 provides that a person cannot keep the vehicle for more than 12 months in any state other than the state where vehicle is registered.
- ✓ Instead, a new registration can be made with the new state-registering authority within 12 months.
- ✓ Considering this difficulty, new BH-series were launched.

### **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana**

- ✓ Under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) the number of bank accounts have increased to 43 crores with total deposits of Rs 1.46 lakh crore.
- ✓ The flagship financial inclusion scheme, PMJDY, has completed seven years of implementation.
- ✓ This scheme was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Independence Day address on August 15, 2014.
- ✓ It was launched on August 28 with the objective of bringing financial inclusion.
- ✓ It was launched to ensure that people have access to financial services, like banking, credit, insurance, remittance and pension in an affordable manner.

### **Coast Guard Ship Vighraha**

- ✓ The defence minister Rajnath Singh has dedicated to the nation, the indigenously built Coast Guard Ship 'Vighraha' in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ According to the defence ministry, the 98-meter vessel will be based in Andhra Pradesh's Visakhapatnam (Vizag).
- ✓ The ship has been designed and built indigenously by Larsen & Toubro Ship Building Limited.

## **Liberalized Drone Rules**

- ✓ The Union ministry of civil aviation (MoCA) notified the liberalized Drone Rules.
- ✓ These liberalized rules will replace the unmanned aircraft system (UAS) Rules 2021.
- ✓ A Digital sky platform will be developed as a user-friendly single-window system.

## **Digital sky platform**

- ✓ It is an initiative by MoCA.
- ✓ It seeks to provide a secure and a scalable platform in order to support the drone technology frameworks like 'No permission, no take-off'.
- ✓ It has been designed to enable flight permission digitally and manage unmanned aircraft operations & traffic in an efficient manner.

## **Online Marketplace e-Source**

- ✓ IIT Madras is in process of developing an online platform called e-Source that will be used to tackle electronic wastes (e-waste).
- ✓ E-Source will be used to tackle e-waste by linking stakeholders of the formal and informal economy.
- ✓ E-Source will act as an exchange platform to serve as an online marketplace for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE).

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- ✓ This initiative is being headed by Indo-German Centre for Sustainability (IGCS).

### **Entry age increase in National Pension System**

- ✓ The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has increased the entry age for the National Pension System (NPS) from 65 years to 70 years.
- ✓ Earlier the eligible age to invest in NPS was 18-65 years.
- ✓ Now it is revised to 18-70 years.
- ✓ As per the revised norms, any Indian Citizen, resident or non-resident and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) between the age of 65-70 years can join NPS and continue or defer their NPS Account up to the age of 75 years.
- ✓ If a person joins NPS after 65 years, then the Normal Exit shall be after 3 years.

### **World's highest motorable way**

- ✓ A road connecting Leh to the Pangong Lake was inaugurated recently.
- ✓ The stretch passing through the Kela Pass at 18,600 feet is the world's highest motorable way.
- ✓ The road was constructed by 58 Engineer Regiment of the Indian Army.
- ✓ It will reduce the distance between Leh (Zingral to Tangste) to Pangong Lake crossing the Kela by 41 kms.

### **First meeting with Taliban – India**

- ✓ According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), its Ambassador to Qatar Deepak Mittal, met the head of the Taliban's political office, Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai.
- ✓ With this meeting, the Government of India has softened its stance on the Taliban.
- ✓ India's only concern was that "Afghanistan's soil should not be used for any anti-Indian activities and terrorism".

### **NABARD AND NABFOUNDATION'S new initiative**

- ✓ In Tripura, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has inaugurated a project called 'My Pad, My Right' initiated by NABARD and NABFOUNDATION.
- ✓ It was inaugurated at Killa village in Gomati district.
- ✓ The project aims to bring livelihood and menstrual hygiene closer to rural women by way of grant, wage support and capital equipment.
- ✓ The Union Minister also flagged off the mobile ATM van of Tripura State Co-Operative Bank Limited.

### **Floating ATM at Dal Lake**

- ✓ The State Bank of India has opened a floating ATM on a Houseboat at Dal Lake in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar.
- ✓ The floating ATM was inaugurated by SBI Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara.

- ✓ This is not the first time that SBI has launched a floating ATM as back in 2004, the bank took this initiative in Kerala.
- ✓ The SBI installed a floating ATM at Jhankar yacht, which operates between Ernakulum and Vaypeyan region.

### **Royal Jelly**

- ✓ The Indian Royal Jelly was found to surpass top-quality sellers; those are produced in Thailand and Taiwan.
- ✓ This is according to Pune-based researchers.
- ✓ Royal Jelly is known for being a good antioxidant.
- ✓ It helps women with fertility issues.
- ✓ The Indian Royal Jelly meets the ISO-prescribed standards prescribed by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in 2019.
- ✓ The Royal Jelly is a pearl white or pale yellow-coloured cohesive mixture of honey and secretions from hypopharyngeal & mandibular glands of worker honeybees.

### **Eat Right Station**

- ✓ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India awarded a 5-star 'Eat Right Station' certification to the Chandigarh Railway Station.
- ✓ This certification was awarded for providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers.

- ✓ The 'Eat Right Station Certification' was the part of the 'Eat Right India' movement.
- ✓ Chandigarh Railway Station has become the fifth station in India to receive this certification.
- ✓ Other stations with this certification include,
- ✓ Anand Vihar Terminal Railway Station in Delhi,
- ✓ Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus in Mumbai,
- ✓ Mumbai Central Railway Station in Mumbai
- ✓ Vadodara Railway Station in Vadodara.

### **Gaganyaan Service Module Propulsion System**

- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation successfully conducted the first hot test of the System Demonstration Model of the Gaganyaan Service Module Propulsion System.
- ✓ It was done at the test facility of Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The test conducted for 450 seconds met the test objectives and matched the pre-test predictions.
- ✓ The Gaganyaan Service Module Propulsion System is a part of the Gaganyaan Orbital module of the Gaganyaan Mission, India's first human spaceflight mission.

### **Plastics pact**

- ✓ India has become the first Asian Country to launch a Plastics pact.

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- ✓ This new platform was developed by World-Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF India) in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- ✓ It will help to promote a circular system for plastics.
- ✓ The Commitments under the pact are aimed at keeping plastic packaging in the economy and out of natural environment.

### **Grenades made by private sector**

- ✓ The first batch of one lakh privately 'made in India' modern hand grenades were handed over to the Indian Army by Economic Explosives Ltd. (EEL).
- ✓ EEL is a Nagpur based private company.
- ✓ This is the first instance of ammunition being manufactured by the private industry in India.

### **Kisan Store**

- ✓ Amazon India announced the launch of Kisan Store.
- ✓ The store was launched by Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar.
- ✓ Kisan Store is an online platform that enable farmers of India to get access of more than 8,000 agriculture inputs like farm tools & accessories, seeds, plant protection, nutrition etc.
- ✓ These products are listed by small and medium businesses (SMBs).
- ✓ Products will be delivered at the doorstep of farmers.

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- ✓ Kisan store will be available in languages like Hindi, Telugu, Kannada, Tamil, and Malayalam.

### **Ladakh adopts State animal and bird**

- ✓ Ladakh adopted two endangered species, snow leopard and black-necked crane, as State animal and State bird.
- ✓ Black-necked cranes are only found in Ladakh's Changthang region.
- ✓ The bird is classified as Near-Threatened, as per the IUCN classification.
- ✓ Snow leopard has been classified as 'vulnerable'.

### **200 Army personnel for Zapad exercise**

- ✓ One of the contingents of the Indian armed forces is participating in Exercise Zapad.
- ✓ ZAPAD 2021 is one of the theatre levels exercises of Russian armed forces and will focus primarily on operations against terrorists.
- ✓ Multiple countries will be part of this exercise.
- ✓ Pakistan and china are part of this exercise as observer states.

### **CORBEVAX**

- ✓ The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) gave approval to another indigenous COVID-19 vaccine candidate called CORBEVAX for two clinical trials.
- ✓ This vaccine is also called as BioE COVID-19 vaccine.

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

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- ✓ This COVID-19 vaccine candidate has been developed by Indian bio pharmaceutical firm Biological E. Limited (BioE) in collaboration with the
- ✓ Baylor College of Medicine, Houston in the United States and the American company Dynavax Technologies (DVAX).
- ✓ This Vaccine is a protein subunit vaccine.
- ✓ Biological E received approval to conduct phase two and three clinical trials on children between five to eighteen years of age.
- ✓ The vaccine has also received financial assistance under Mission COVID Suraksha and a financial support under COVID-19 Research Consortia through National Biopharma Mission, BIRAC.

### **Saath initiative**

- ✓ Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, launched the Rural Enterprises Acceleration Programme called 'Saath'.
- ✓ This initiative was launched with the aim of transforming the lives of rural women associated with SHGs.
- ✓ This initiative will help about 48000 SHGs in which about four lakh women are connected, in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✓ Saath initiative will focus on mentoring and market linkages of products that created by these women.

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

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- ✓ Saath initiative was launched in line with the Umeed scheme that enabled women to start their own business.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Eastern Economic Forum**

- ✓ The petroleum minister Hardeep Singh Puri will lead an official and business delegation to Russia to participate in the 6th Eastern Economic Forum EEF Summit in Vladivostok.
- ✓ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually address the Plenary Session of the EEF Summit, in which President of Russia Vladimir Putin will be present.

### **Karbi Peace Accord**

- ✓ The Centre signed a tripartite “Karbi Peace Accord”.
- ✓ This accord is significant because insurgency by Karbi group has a long history in Assam which is marked by killings, ethnic violence, abductions and taxations since 1980s.
- ✓ Karbi is a major ethnic community in Assam and are dotted by several factions and splinters.

### **AYUSH AAPKE DWAR**

- ✓ Ayush Ministry launched the campaign called “AYUSH AAPKE DWAR” from some 45 locations across India.

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

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- ✓ Campaign was launched by Minister of State for Ayush from Ayush Bhawan by distributing medicinal plants to staff.
- ✓ AYUSH AAPKE DWAR campaign was launched with the aim of distributing medicinal plant saplings to 75 lakh households in India in one year.

### **New Secretary general**

- ✓ The Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu has appointed Dr PPK Ramacharyulu as the secretary general.
- ✓ He is the secretary in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat since 2018.
- ✓ He succeeds Desh Dipak Verma.

### **Defence Expo 2022**

- ✓ The next Defence Expo will be hosted by Gujarat in 2022.
- ✓ This was announced by chief minister Vijay Rupani.
- ✓ Defence Expo-2022 will be held in Gandhinagar.
- ✓ The aim of Defense Expo 2022 is to move from Make in India to make for the world.
- ✓ The Defence Expo-2022 will focus on making India a Defence manufacturing hub.

### **Note**

- ✓ Defence Expo was traditionally held in Delhi until 2014.
- ✓ After 2014 it has seen a string of new venues - Goa (2016), Chennai (2018) and Lucknow (2020).

**Shikshak Parv 2021**

- ✓ The Shikshak Parv-2021 will be observed from September 5, 2021.
- ✓ This event will be celebrated to honour the contribution of teachers.
- ✓ On the occasion, PM will launch five initiatives:
  - ✚ Indian sign language dictionary of 10,000 words
  - ✚ Talking books (audio books for visually impaired)
  - ✚ School quality assessment and accreditation framework of CBSE
  - ✚ NISTHA teachers' training programme for NIPUN Bharat, and
  - ✚ Vidyanjali portal to facilitate education volunteers, donors and CSR contributors in development of school.
- ✓ Shikshak Parv- 2021 will be celebrated by Ministry of Education from September 5 to 17, 2021.
- ✓ It will be organised to recognise the valuable contributions of teachers and to take National Education Policy 2020 ahead.

**125<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of ISKCON founder**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually unveiled a special commemorative coin of Rs 125 to mark the 125th birth

anniversary of ISKCON founder Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.

- ✓ In July 1966, Prabhupada founded the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) commonly known as the ‘Hare Krishna movement’.
- ✓ The spiritual leader was born as Abhay Charan De on September 1 in Calcutta.
- ✓ Later he was to be known by the honorific A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.

### **India’s first green hydrogen electrolyzer gigafactory**

- ✓ Ohmium International, a US-based renewable energy start-up has launched India’s first green hydrogen electrolyzer gigafactory at Bengaluru through its India subsidiary.
- ✓ The Gigafactory will manufacture India-made Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) hydrogen electrolyzers with an initial manufacturing capacity of about 500 MW per year.
- ✓ It will scale it up to 2 GW per year.

### **Coal India Ltd. (CIL) launches new software**

- ✓ Coal India Ltd (CIL), under the Ministry of Coal, has launched a new software named “Spectral Enhancement” (SPE).

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

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- ✓ It will help in identifying thin coal seams under the earth's crust and improve the assessment of coal resources using seismic survey during the coal exploration process.
- ✓ CIL's research and development arm Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI) has developed it.

### **Manthan 2021**

- ✓ The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), in coordination with the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), launched an online hackathon "Manthan 2021".
- ✓ It aims for the identification of innovative concepts and technology solutions to address the challenges faced by intelligence agencies.
- ✓ The BPR&D was established under the Ministry of Home Affairs in the 1970s.
- ✓ It was launched with the primary objective of modernisation of the Police Force.
- ✓ AICTE is a national-level apex advisory body to conduct a survey on the facilities available for technical education and to promote development in the country in a coordinated and integrated manner

### **President's Color to Indian Naval Aviation**

- ✓ The President of India, will award the President's Colour to Indian Naval Aviation at the ceremonial parade to be held at INS Hansa, Goa.

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

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- ✓ The President's Colour is the highest honour bestowed on a military unit in recognition of its exceptional service to the nation.
- ✓ The Indian Navy was the first amongst the Indian Armed Forces to be awarded the President's Colour.
- ✓ It was awarded on 27 May 1951 by Dr Rajendra Prasad, the then President of India.

### **Y Break App**

- ✓ The union AYUSH minister, Sarbananda Sonowal has launched 'Y Break' Yoga protocol mobile application in New Delhi.
- ✓ The app has been developed by Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga.
- ✓ The Y-Break (or the "Yoga Break) mobile application is a unique five-minute Yoga protocol app.
- ✓ It is designed especially for working professionals to de-stress, refresh and re-focus at their workplace.

### **India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu recently announced to set up India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve in the Palk Bay on the southeast coast.
- ✓ It will also construct a Dugong Marine Conservation Reserve in the Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay areas.
- ✓ Dugong or sea cow is an endangered marine mammal.

- ✓ It is the only living species of the order Sirenia.
- ✓ Dugong is found in Gulf of Mannar and at Palk Bay in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The IUCN has listed dugong as a “vulnerable to extinction species”.

### **Tunnel at the Delhi Legislative Assembly**

- ✓ A mysterious tunnel has been discovered at the Delhi Legislative Assembly.
- ✓ The tunnel connects the legislative assembly to Red Fort.
- ✓ It was used by the Britishers to avoid reprisal while moving freedom fighters.

### **5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament**

- ✓ The 5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (5WCSP) and first global parliamentary summit on counter terrorism is organised at Vienna, Austria.
- ✓ Both the events in Vienna are being organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Geneva, and the Parliament of Austria with the support of the United Nations.
- ✓ It will be the first physically attended global parliamentary event post Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ The Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha attended these events.

### **Integrated anti-Submarine warfare Defence Suits**

- ✓ The Ministry of Defence signed a contract worth Rs. 1,349 Crores with Mahindra Defence Systems (MDS) Limited.
- ✓ This is in order to buy 14 Integrated Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Defence Suits (IADS) for the Indian Navy.
- ✓ Integrated Anti-Submarine Warfare Defence Suits is high-end underwater equipment that uses the latest technology.
- ✓ The system is designed to detect and protect warships from underwater threats.

### **Court rules against EWS reservation**

- ✓ The Madras High Court ruled that the Centre ought not to have provided 10% reservation for economically weaker sections (EWS) of society in the All-India Quota medical seats without obtaining the express approval of the Supreme Court.
- ✓ Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee and Justice P.D. Adikesavalu held that Centre's July 29 notification was permissible only with respect to
  - 15% reservation for Scheduled Castes,
  - 7.5% for Scheduled Tribes and
  - 27% reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

**Indian Railways introduces new AC-3 economy coaches**

- ✓ Indian Railways introduced a new economy class in the AC 3-tier trains
- ✓ With the new coaches, the trains be able to accommodate more passengers.
- ✓ Tariff or ticket price for new coaches will be 8 per cent less than the normal AC 3-tier fares.
- ✓ The facility is being provided for the first time in “Prayagraj-Jaipur train.
- ✓ About 50 new coaches have been given to different zonal railways.
- ✓ 806 new coaches will be rolled out by the fiscal year 2021-2022.
- ✓ The new AC 3-tier Economy Class will comprise of two coaches. Number of berths have been increased from 72 to 83.

**Deity is owner of land attached to temple**

- ✓ According to supreme court bench, Deity is the owner of land attached to a temple.
- ✓ A priest cannot be treated as Bhumi swami (owner of land).
- ✓ The priest holds the land just for the management of property of the temple.
- ✓ Priest is only a grantee to manage the property of the deity.

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- ✓ The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) seeks to achieve 20-30 percent reduction in particulate matter (PM10 as well as PM2.5) concentrations in India by 2024.

### **Manda Buffalo**

- ✓ The National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR) has recognised the Manda buffalo as the 19th unique breed of buffaloes found in India.
- ✓ It is found in the Eastern Ghats and plateau of Koraput region of Odisha.

### **PRANA Portal**

- ✓ The Union environment minister Bhupendra Yadav launched a portal called PRANA portal.
- ✓ It will be used to track the progress of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).
- ✓ It aims to comply with India's commitment to ensure clean air and blue skies to everybody.
- ✓ The Non-attainment cities are those cities that failed to meet the National air quality standards in a five-year period.

### **24th meeting of FSDC**

- ✓ The union minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman has chaired the 24th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC).
- ✓ The finance minister is the chairperson of FSDC.

- ✓ It must be noted that FSDC Sub-Committee is chaired by the Governor, RBI.
- ✓ It is the apex level forum set up by the Government of India for strengthening and institutionalizing the mechanism for maintaining financial stability, enhancing inter-regulatory coordination and promoting financial sector development.

### **MSP for Rabi**

- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the increase in the MSP for all mandated Rabi crops for the Rabi Marketing Season 2022-23.
- ✓ MSP is the rate at which the government buys grains from farmers.
- ✓ Currently, it fixes MSPs for 23 crops grown in both Kharif and Rabi seasons.
- ✓ It is based on a calculation of at least one-and-a-half times the cost of production incurred by the farmers.
- ✓ The Union Budget for 2018-19 had announced that MSP would be kept at levels of 1.5 the cost of production.
- ✓ The MSP is fixed twice a year on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

## **Cabinet approves Russia-India pact for cooperation in geosciences**

- ✓ Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Russian on cooperation in the field of Geosciences.
- ✓ MoU was signed between the Joint Stock Company Rosgeologia (State holding Company) of Russia and the Geological Survey of India (GSI), Ministry of Mines.
- ✓ MoU was signed with the objective of extending mutual cooperation for technological collaboration for exploration of:
  - ✚ Deep-seated & concealed mineral deposit
  - ✚ Analysis & interpretation of aero-geophysical data
  - ✚ PGE & REE Exploration & Research
  - ✚ Joint development of Indian Geoscience Data repository with Russian Information Technology
  - ✚ Exchange of technology & knowledge with respect to drilling, sampling and laboratory analysis to achieve data accuracy and cost optimization.
  - ✚ Training and capacity building of scientific personnel.

## **Emergency Landing Facility**

- ✓ The Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the

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Emergency Landing Facility on the Satta-Gandhav stretch of National Highway (NH) 925A in Barmer in Rajasthan.

- ✓ For the first time, a National Highway will be used for the emergency landing of aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

### **Ashok Kumar Tandon committee**

- ✓ The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting constituted a committee to review the existing guidelines of Journalist Welfare Scheme.
- ✓ The committee will be headed by Prachar Bharati Board Member Ashok Kumar Tandon.

### **News Broadcasters Federations**

- ✓ The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has officially recognized the News Broadcasters Federations (NBF) self-regulatory body.
- ✓ Presently, it is the only body in the country that has successfully demonstrated compliance with national standards in the domain of news media.

### **NIRF 2021**

- ✓ The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) has been released by the Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.
- ✓ It lists top universities and colleges in India.

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- ✓ In 2021, the participated number of institutions in this ranking was 6000.
- ✓ It has been announced for eleven categories -- Overall, University, Management, College, Pharmacy, Medical, Engineering, Architecture, ARIIA (Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements), Law and Research Institutions.
- ✓ The ranking framework judges' institutions under five broad generic groups of parameters of Teaching, Learning and Resources (TLR), Research and Professional Practice (RP), Graduation Outcomes (GO), Outreach and Inclusivity (OI) and Perception (PR).

## **Key findings**

- ✓ IIT Madras remains the best institute in the overall category in the country.
- ✓ The IIT Madras has topped the list for the sixth consecutive year in the Engineering Category.
- ✓ The IIT Madras has bagged the second position in the newly introduced 'research' category.
- ✓ The IIM Ahmedabad has topped in the Management Category.
- ✓ IISc Bangalore has topped in the university category
- ✓ IISc Bengaluru is also the top-ranking institute in newly introduced category research.

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- ✓ University of Delhi's Miranda House has been ranked first in the college category.
- ✓ The Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi tops in the Pharmacy category.
- ✓ All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi tops in the medical category
- ✓ Christian Medical College, Vellore ranks third in medical.

### **Tamil Nadu**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu has a total of 19 institutions in the top 100.
- ✓ Last year, Anna University ranked 20 in the overall category but this year its rank has dropped to 25.
- ✓ Similarly, University of Madras ranked 47 this year but ranked 41 last year.
- ✓ Bharathiar University of Coimbatore ranked 22 this year but ranked 21 last year.
- ✓ But NIT-Trichy improved from 24 last year to 23 this year.
- ✓ Chennai's Loyola College ranked third in this year from 6th in the last year.

### **Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021**

- ✓ It will be launched under the Swachh Bharat Mission Phase -2, as a part of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- ✓ The Survekshan 2021 aims to assist in the acceleration of ODF plus interventions and results in India.

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- ✓ The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) had earlier commissioned Swachh Survekshan Grameen (SSG) in 2018 and 2019.

## **Textile Parcel Train**

- ✓ The Western Railway runs the First 'Textile Parcel Train' from Gujarat's Surat to Bihar's Muzaffarpur.

## **NSCN Agreement**

- ✓ A ceasefire agreement has been signed between the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) Khaplang (K) led by Nikki Sumi for one year.
- ✓ The main objective of the organization is to establish a sovereign Naga State "Nagalim".
- ✓ It will consist of all the areas that have been inhabited by the Naga people in Northeast India as well as Northwest Myanmar.

## **IROAF**

- ✓ The Indian Railways Organization of Alternate Fuel (IROAF) has been shut down by the Railways Ministry.
- ✓ IROAF was an organization that was formed to promote green energy across the Indian Railway Network.
- ✓ The work of IROAF will now be transferred to the Northern Railways and the Railway Board.

### **100-day plan for Civil Aviation**

- ✓ The 100-day plan for boosting India's civil aviation sector will begin with the construction of 4 new airports across Kushi nagar, Agartala, Dehradun, and Jewar in the next 100 days.
- ✓ The first airport will be in Kushi nagar in Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ Kushi nagar will become the focal point of the Buddhist circuit.

### **Gambusia fish**

- ✓ The Firozabad district administration in Uttar Pradesh has released Gambusia fish (mosquitofish) that eat dengue-breeding mosquito larvae in ponds.
- ✓ This Insectivorous fish is known to check the spread of mosquito-borne diseases like malaria and dengue.
- ✓ Gambusia eats about 100 larvae daily.
- ✓ Besides Gambusia, guppy fish is used to check the spread of mosquito-borne diseases.

### **Prophylactic Medicines**

- ✓ The Ayush Ministry kickstarts campaign to distribute prophylactic medicines
- ✓ The kit of Ayurveda prophylactic medicines for Covid-19 contains Sanshamani Vati (also known as Guduchi or Giloy Ghan Vati) and Ashwagandha Ghan Vati.

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- ✓ The kit and the guidelines have been prepared by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Medicines (CCRAS).
- ✓ Prophylactic means a preventive measure.

## **Digital Population Clock**

- ✓ It was inaugurated at the Institute for Economic Growth inside the University of Delhi.
- ✓ The Union Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Bharati Pravin Pawar, inaugurated this.
- ✓ It was launched in order to provide minute by minute estimate of India's population.
- ✓ It will also capture data on Total Fertility Rate, Infant Mortality Rate as well as Maternal Mortality Rate.

## **India's first bio-brick based building**

- ✓ India's first building made of bio-bricks from agro-waste has been inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad.
- ✓ The sample building is made up of bio-bricks supported by a metal framework.
- ✓ The roof is also made of bio-bricks over PVC sheets to reduce heat.
- ✓ It is part of the Bold Unique Idea Lead Development (BUILD) project to demonstrate the strength and versatility of the material.

**CIFT develops technology to convert fish waste into aqua feed**

- ✓ Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) has built a new technology to overcome the threat of fisheries waste being turned into fish feeds, while also providing feasible income opportunities.
- ✓ The technology developed by ICAR-CIFT will aid in the conversion of fish waste into aqua feeds.
- ✓ Matsyafed has signed an MoU with CIFT to take the new technology for production and marketing.

**New Governors in India**

- ✓ The President of India Ramnath Kovind appointed new governors of Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, and Nagaland.
- ✓ The former Nagaland governor R. N. Ravi is appointed as the Governor of Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The present Governor of Tamil Nadu Banwarilal Purohit, who was holding additional charge of the Governor of Punjab, is appointed as regular Governor of Punjab.
- ✓ Jagdish Mukhi, Governor of Assam is appointed to discharge the functions of the Governor of Nagaland in addition.
- ✓ Gurmit Singh was appointed as Governor of Uttarakhand
- ✓ The President also accepted the resignation of Baby Rani Maurya as the Governor of Uttarakhand.

### **GM soy meal**

- ✓ India allowed imports of GM soy meal for the first time to help the poultry industry.
- ✓ Besides the Nhava Sheva Port in Mumbai, traders could now import soy meal via the Mumbai Sea Port, the Tuticorin Sea Port, and the Visakhapatnam Sea Port.
- ✓ The imports could take place from countries like Argentina, Europe and the US
- ✓ Soymeal is a protein-rich solid leftover raw material after extracting oil from soyabean seed.
- ✓ There are three types of GM foods, one with Genetically Modified Organism (GMO), second with Living Modified Organism (LMO) and third with Non-Living Modified Organism (NLMO).
- ✓ The soymeal is NLMO.

### **GM crops**

- ✓ A GM or transgenic crop is a plant that has a novel combination of genetic material obtained through the use of modern biotechnology.
- ✓ GM crop can contain a gene(s) that has been artificially inserted instead of the plant acquiring it through pollination.

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- ✓ The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is the apex body that allows for commercial release of GM crops.
- ✓ Use of the unapproved GM variant is punishable under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
- ✓ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is the authorised body to regulate the imported crops in India.

### **Tocilizumab**

- ✓ The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved the generic version of Tocilizumab for emergency use for the treatment of Covid-19 among adult patients.
- ✓ It is produced by the Hyderabad-based pharmaceutical company Hetero.
- ✓ The medicine would be available under the brand name of Tocira.
- ✓ Hetero's Tocilizumab is the bio-similar version of Roche's Actemra/RoActemra.

### **75% quota for locals**

- ✓ Jharkhand State aims to provides 75% reservation for locals in private sector jobs with a monthly salary of up to ₹40,000.

- ✓ Once notified, Jharkhand will become the third State, after Andhra Pradesh and Haryana, to pass such a law.

### **Best Tourism Villages**

- ✓ Meghalaya's Whistling village, Kongthong, has been nominated by the Ministry of Tourism for the UNWTO (World Tourism Organisation) 'Best Tourism Villages' award.
- ✓ The two other villages in India that have also been nominated for UNWTO 'Best Tourism Villages' award are - Ladhpura Khas in Madhya Pradesh and Pochampally in Telangana.

### **Atma Nirbhar Bharat corners**

- ✓ Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs, is setting up an Atma Nirbhar Bharat corner in 75 Indian Missions/ Embassies across the world.
- ✓ The first such Atma Nirbhar Bharat corner was successfully inaugurated at Indian Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand.
- ✓ The 75 countries include Jamaica, Ireland, Turkey, Kenya, Mongolia, Israel, Finland, France, and Canada, Singapore, Russia, the US, Indonesia, Greece and Cyprus among others.

### **Eyes in Sky Project**

- ✓ The Government of India gave its final approval to build 6 AEW&C (Airborne Early Warning and Control) aircraft.
- ✓ It aims to bolster the surveillance capability of the Indian Air Force (IAF) along the borders with China and Pakistan.
- ✓ These aircrafts are regarded as powerful 'eyes in the sky' in modern warfare.
- ✓ The IAF currently operates 3 Israeli Phalcon AWACS mounted on Russian IL-76 transport aircraft.
- ✓ The IAF has 2 indigenous 'Netra' aircraft fitted on smaller Brazilian Embraer-145 jet.

### **MRSAM**

- ✓ A medium-range surface-to-air-missile (MRSAM) system has been successfully inducted in the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- ✓ The missile system is capable of knocking out aerial threats at a range of 70 km.
- ✓ The system has been jointly developed by DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries.
- ✓ The naval version of MRSAM has already been deployed on few Indian warships.

### **National Minorities Commission**

- ✓ The Former IPS officer Iqbal Singh Lalpura has been chosen as chairman of National Commission for Minorities.
- ✓ The last chairperson of the commission was Syed Ghayorul Hasan Rizvi.
- ✓ It has been setup under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.
- ✓ Six religious' communities, viz; Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains have been notified as minority communities in India.
- ✓ In 2014, Jains were the last to be notified as a minority community.

### **NIOS bags UNESCO Literary Prize for Innovation in Education**

- ✓ The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) of India has won the prestigious King Sejong Literary Prize 2021 of UNESCO International Literary Prizes.
- ✓ The award was granted for enabling the education of persons with disabilities through technology-enabled inclusive learning materials, with a specific focus on Indian Sign language-bases content.

### **Nipah Virus**

- ✓ It is recently found in the Kozhikode district in Kerala.

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- ✓ It is a zoonotic virus caused by the fruit bats.
- ✓ Human beings can get infected if they come in close contact with the infected animal — bats or other animals such as pigs — or its body fluids such as saliva or urine.
- ✓ The initial jump of the virus from animal to human is known as a ‘spill over’ event in an outbreak.
- ✓ Once the infection has moved to humans, person-to-person the spread of virus can occur.
- ✓ It can also be transmitted through contaminated food, or directly between people.
- ✓ In India, the outbreaks have so far been limited to West Bengal and Kerala.

### **Medicine from the Sky**

- ✓ The Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launched the 'Medicine from the Sky' project in Vikarabad, Telangana.
- ✓ It is the first such project in India.
- ✓ The project will help deliver medicines and vaccines to remote areas with the help of drones.
- ✓ It is an initiative of the Telangana government in collaboration with the NITI Aayog, World Economic Forum and HealthNet Global.

### **Gujarat New Chief Minister**

- ✓ Senior BJP leader Bhupendra Patel will be the new Chief Minister of Gujarat.

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- ✓ Vijay Rupani has become the fourth BJP Chief Minister to resign this year.
- ✓ It is after Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yeddyurappa, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat and Assam Chief Minister Sarbanand Sonowal.

## **Resident Certificate**

- ✓ The Ladakh administration has decided to issue “Resident Certificate” only to the Permanent Resident Certificate holders of the region.
- ✓ In Jammu and Kashmir, new domicile laws allowed outsiders too to apply for jobs, land and other facilities.

## **100 percent vaccination**

- ✓ A total of 6 states and union territories (UTs) in India have achieved the milestone of administering the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine to 100 per cent of their eligible adult population.
- ✓ These 6 states and UTs are Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Ladakh, Sikkim, Lakshadweep, Daman & Diu, and Dadar and Nagar Haveli.
- ✓ Goa has become the second state in India to complete 100% covid vaccination of the first dose for all its eligible residents.
- ✓ Himachal Pradesh was the first state to achieve this feat.
- ✓ The Nilgiris became the first district in Tamil Nadu to achieve 100% coverage of the first dose.

## **Renewable energy in India**

- ✓ India recently crossed the 100-gigawatt (GW) milestone of installed renewable energy capacity.
- ✓ India has a total installed power generation capacity of 383.73 GW.
- ✓ The Indian renewable energy sector is the fourth most attractive renewable energy market in the world.
- ✓ India was ranked fifth in wind power, fifth in solar power and fourth in renewable power installed capacity, as of 2019.
- ✓ The installed solar energy capacity stands at 41.09 GW.
- ✓ India is running the world's largest clean energy programme.
- ✓ India has also enhanced its ambition to install 450 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030.
- ✓ If large hydro is included the installed Renewable Energy capacity increases to 146 GW.
- ✓ It contributes to about 37% of the country's total capacity
- ✓ India's per capita emission is one-third of the world average.

## **INS Dhruv**

- ✓ India's first nuclear-missile tracking ship, named INS Dhruv, has been commissioned from Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

- ✓ The 10,00 tonnes satellite and ballistic missile tracking ship has been built by the Hindustan Shipyard Limited in collaboration with the DRDO and National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO).
- ✓ India now joins an elite list of countries consisting of France, the US, the UK, Russia, and China.

### **India's first plant for CO2 capture**

- ✓ Tata Steel has commissioned 5-tonne per day (TPD) carbon capture plant at Jamshedpur works.
- ✓ This makes it the country's first team company to adopt such a carbon capture technology that extract CO2 directly from the blast furnace class.
- ✓ Tata Steel will reuse the captured CO2 on site to promote a circular carbon economy.

### **World's first fossil free steel manufactured**

- ✓ The first three Steel in the world has been delivered by Swedish Steel maker SSAB Oxelosund to its first customer, Volvo group.
- ✓ The technology uses 100% fossil free hydrogen instead of coal and coke.

### **India's largest floating solar PV Plant**

- ✓ Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has successfully commissioned India largest floating Solar photovoltaic Plant.

- ✓ Located at NTPC Simhadri in Andhra Pradesh.

### **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)**

- ✓ Justice M. Venugopal has been named as the new Acting Chairperson of this Tribunal.
- ✓ The NCLAT was constituted under the Companies Act, 2013 for hearing appeals against the orders of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).
- ✓ It is also an appellate tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by NCLT under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), and by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
- ✓ It is also the appellate tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

### **PM Adarsh Gram Yojna**

- ✓ Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda informed recently this.
- ✓ This ministry will start Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojna covering 36 thousand villages across the country.
- ✓ The villages with 50 percent tribal population will be given priority under the rural development programme.
- ✓ Under this Yojna, roughly 1,700 tribal villages in Assam will be converted into model villages.

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- ✓ Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) is a rural development programme.
- ✓ It was launched by the central government in fiscal year 2009–10 for the development of villages that have a higher ratio (over 50%) of people belonging to the scheduled castes.

## **First fastag**

- ✓ Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) has enabled the country's first FASTag-based metro parking facility in partnership with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC).

## **Jayant Opencast Coal Project**

- ✓ It is in Singrauli District of Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ It is one of the largest projects of Coal India Limited under the Ministry of Coal
- ✓ It is working towards a mission of land restoration and enhancing green cover each passing day along with coal mining activity.
- ✓ The Project is one of many greenfield projects that aim at simultaneous backfilling of land after opencast coal mining operations and dense plantation to maintain environmental balance.

## **Speed limit for Vehicles**

- ✓ The Madras High Court (HC) has set aside the 2018 notification of Central government.

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- ✓ That had fixed a speed of 120 km/hour as the limit on highways and expressways.
- ✓ The order of HC was given on an appeal arising under the Motor Vehicles Act.
- ✓ Over speeding is the main killer and responsible for most of the accidents.
- ✓ Citing this, the notification was quashed.

### **Project Udaan**

- ✓ IIT-Bombay launched its “Project Udaan” on the occasion of Hindi Diwas.
- ✓ It was launched with the aim of breaking the language barrier that many students face while joining the institutes of higher education.
- ✓ It enables the translation of textbooks and other study material of the engineering and other streams from English to Hindi & other Indian Languages.
- ✓ It is a donation based and Artificial Intelligence-based translation ecosystem.

### **Geeta Samota**

- ✓ She became the "fastest Indian" to summit two peaks located in Africa and Russia.
- ✓ She successfully climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa.

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- ✓ Africa's Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest single free-standing mountain in the world which has three volcanic cones on its summit.
- ✓ She became the youngest Asian girl to climb Kilimanjaro.
- ✓ Geeta scaled another highest peak situated in Europe, Mount Elbrus, in Russia.
- ✓ She is a Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) officer.
- ✓ CISF is a central paramilitary force working under the command of the Union home ministry.

### **Visvesvaraya PhD scheme**

- ✓ The central government launched the second phase of the Visvesvaraya PhD scheme on 17 September 2021.
- ✓ It has been launched with an aim to promote research in 42 imaging technologies in Electronics system design and manufacturing and Information Technology.
- ✓ The scheme was initiated by the Ministry of Electronics and information technology in 2014.

### **Sindhudurg airport**

- ✓ The new airport at Chipi-Parule in the Sindhudurg district of Konkan region has received the aerodrome licence from the Director General of civil Aviation.
- ✓ It is a big requirement before the formal commissioning of the airport and the start of flights.

### **Sansad television**

- ✓ The Vice President of India M Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla jointly launched Sansad TV.
- ✓ In February 2021, the decision to merge Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV was taken.
- ✓ When the Parliament is in session, Sansad TV will have two channels so that the proceedings of both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha can be aired simultaneously
- ✓ Sansad TV programming will primarily be in four categories - functioning of Parliament and democratic institutions, governance and implementation of schemes/policies, history and culture of India and issues/interests/concerns of contemporary nature.
- ✓ The Lok Sabha TV (LSTV) was founded in July 2006.
- ✓ It was the brainchild of former Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee.
- ✓ The Rajya Sabha TV was formed in 2011.

### **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report**

- ✓ There was a 28% increase in the registration of cases in 2020 compared to 2019.
- ✓ It is primarily owing to the violations of COVID-19 norms across the country.
- ✓ Crimes against Scheduled Castes showed an increase of 9.4%.

- ✓ There was 8.30% decline in cases of crime against women.
- ✓ The States reporting high charge-sheeting rate under IPC crimes were Gujarat (97.1%), Kerala (94.9%) and Tamil Nadu (91.7%).

### **The Crimes rates in India**

- ✓ It was revealed by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- ✓ Amongst the 19 Metropolitan Cities, cities reporting highest charge-sheeting rate under Indian Penal Code (IPC) Crimes are Surat (96.7%), Coimbatore (96.6%) and Ahmedabad (96.3%).
- ✓ Assam recorded the highest rate of crime against women in the country for the fourth consecutive year.
- ✓ The rate is calculated as the number of crimes recorded per 100,000 population.
- ✓ Odisha came at the second place.
- ✓ Delhi came at the third place.
- ✓ West Bengal and Odisha registering the highest increase.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh registered the biggest drop
- ✓ Lucknow of Uttar Pradesh occupies the first place in crimes against women in the category of Metro cities at the rate of highest level.
- ✓ In the category of low rate of crime against women, Coimbatore occupies 1st place, Chennai 2nd place and Kerala's Kochi occupies third place.

- ✓ Rajasthan recorded the highest number of rape cases followed by Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Assam.
- ✓ Among all crimes against women, the highest number of cases was recorded under “cruelty by husband or relatives” in 2020.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh (31) and Madhya Pradesh (27) recorded the instances of rape-cum-murder/gang rape.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh topped in the crime rate for dowry deaths.
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar recorded the highest rate of crimes against the SCs.
- ✓ Among cities, Kanpur and Jaipur registered the highest rate.
- ✓ Kerala, Rajasthan and Telangana recorded the highest rate of crimes against the STs.

### **Global Buddhist Conference**

- ✓ India is set to host the first-ever Global Buddhist Conference in November, 2021 at in Nalanda, Bihar.
- ✓ The academic conference will be organised by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- ✓ Four regional conferences in India (Telangana, Sarnath, Gangtok and Dharamshala) and abroad (Japan, South Korea, Thailand and Cambodia) will be organised, in the run-up to the conference.

### **Sputnik Light**

- ✓ The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) gave its approval to conduct Phase3 trials of the Sputnik Light COVID-19 vaccine on the Indian population.
- ✓ Sputnik Light is the single-dose COVID-19 vaccine version of Sputnik V.
- ✓ Russia had launched the single-dose Sputnik Light.

### **Shoonya campaign**

- ✓ The NITI Aayog, in association with the RMI and RMI India, launched this campaign.
- ✓ The main purpose of the campaign is to eliminate pollution from urban freight sector.
- ✓ It was launched with the aim of accelerating the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in urban delivery segment.

### **iRASTE**

- ✓ Union Minister for Road Transport, Nitin Gadkari launched 'iRASTE'.
- ✓ It is an Artificial Intelligence-powered project.
- ✓ The project aims to help reduce road accidents, understand the factors responsible for these events and come up with solutions to mitigate them.
- ✓ iRASTE stands for Intelligent Solutions for Road Safety through Technology and Engineering.

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- ✓ It has been launched on a pilot basis in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- ✓ It is launched jointly by the Centre, Intel, INAI, IIIT-Hyderabad, CSIR-CRRI (Central Road Research Institute), Mahindra & Mahindra and Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC).

### **Hybodont sharks**

- ✓ These have been reported for the first time from the Jurassic rocks.
- ✓ The Jurassic period refers approximately, between 160 and 168 million-yearsold.
- ✓ It is found at the Jaisalmer region of Rajasthan by a team of the Geological Survey of India (GSI).
- ✓ Hybodonts, an extinct group of sharks, was a dominant group of fishes in both marine and fluvial environments during the Triassic and early Jurassic time.
- ✓ They finally became extinct at the end of the Cretaceous time 65 million years ago.
- ✓ With this discovery, the genus Strophodus is discovered for the first time in the Indian subcontinent.
- ✓ It is only third such discovery from Asia after Japan and Thailand.
- ✓ The Geological Survey of India (GSI) was set up in 1851 primarily to find coal deposits for the Railways.

- ✓ Headquartered in Kolkata, GSI is an attached office to the Ministry of Mines.

### **Vanijya Saptah**

- ✓ The ministry of Commerce is organising special events and programs, as part of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations. It will observe the "Vanijya Saptah" during the 20-26 september 2021.

### **BRO appoints women army officers**

- ✓ The border roads organisation has appointed women army officer for the first as the officer Commanding of its 75 road construction company in Uttarakhand.
- ✓ The three platoon commanders under Major Aaina, Captain Anjana, AEE(Civ) Bhawana Joshi and AEE(Civ) Vishnumaya K became the first women RCC.

### **World's largest expressway**

- ✓ The Delhi-Mumbai Expressway will be the world's largest expressway in India.
- ✓ It will be 1,380-km long and 8-lane wide.
- ✓ It will run through Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana, and Delhi.
- ✓ It will be the first expressway that will have wildlife corridors (5 corridors).

### **Justice delivery at doorstep**

- ✓ The Ministry of Law and Justice has launched a Pan-India Special Campaign called “Ek Pahal Drive” for Justice Delivery at doorstep.
- ✓ It was launched by Department of Justice and National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).
- ✓ It is to encourage mass registration under Tele-Law.

### **Gupta Period Inscriptions**

- ✓ The Archaeological Survey of India discovered remains of an ancient temple dating back to the Gupta period in a village in Uttar Pradesh’s Etah district.
- ✓ The discovery becomes significant since only 2 other structural temples from the Gupta age have been found so far.
- ✓ They are Dashavatara Temple (Deogarh) and Bhitargaon Temple (Kanpur Dehat).
- ✓ The Guptas were the first to build structural temples, distinctly different from the ancient rock-cut temples.

### **Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity**

- ✓ The NITI Aayog launched a report on measures to ramp up urban planning capacity in India.
- ✓ India is home to 11% of the total global urban population.
- ✓ By 2027, India will surpass China as the most populous country in the world.

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- ✓ The report recommends a Central Sector Scheme ‘500 Healthy Cities Programme’, for a period of 5 years.
- ✓ Under this priority cities and towns would be selected jointly by the states and local bodies.

## **Surya Kiran**

- ✓ Exercise Surya Kiran between Indian Army and Nepali Army is commenced at Pithoragarh of Uttarakhand.
- ✓ It is 15th Edition of Indo – Nepal Joint Military Training.

## **NCC Committee**

- ✓ The Ministry of Defence has constituted a High-Level Expert Committee, for a comprehensive review of the National Cadet Corps (NCC).
- ✓ Baijayant Panda will be the Chairperson of the Committee.
- ✓ It will also include Cricketer MS Dhoni and Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra as members.
- ✓ The NCC is the largest uniformed organisation.
- ✓ It aims at developing character, discipline, a secular outlook and ideals of selfless service amongst young citizens.

## **Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana**

- ✓ It has been launched by the Central Government under the aegis of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.

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- ✓ Under the programme, entry-level training will be provided to the youth in industry-relevant skills through Railway Training Institutes.
- ✓ Skill training will be provided to 50,000 candidates over a period of three years.

## **NIELIT**

- ✓ The union minister of state for electronics & information technology, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, inaugurated three National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) centres of northeast states.
- ✓ These were inaugurated in Churachandpur district of Manipur, Kokrajhar and Tezpur districts of Assam.

## **Global innovation index**

- ✓ Indian has improved its ranking in the Global innovation index 2021 to 46 place among the 132 economies.

## **2.50 cores COVID-19 vaccine doses**

- ✓ India on September 17, 2021, administered a record number of over 2.50 cores COVID-19 vaccine doses on the occasion of PM Modi's 71 birthday.
- ✓ Karnataka with over 26.9 lakh doses administered the highest number.
- ✓ It was followed by Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat.

### **State food safety index**

- ✓ Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mansukh Mandaviya release the food safety and standard Authority of India third state food safety index.
- ✓ Among the larger States, Gujarat was top ranking state, followed by Kerala and Tamilnadu.
- ✓ Among the smallest states, Goa stood first followed by Meghalaya and Manipur.
- ✓ Among Union territories, Jammu and Kashmir secured top rank.

### **Cordelia Cruises - IRCTC**

- ✓ The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has joined hands and signed the agreement with Cordelia Cruises.
- ✓ Cordelia Cruises is being operated by M/s Waterways Leisure Tourism Pvt. Ltd.
- ✓ This is for promotion and marketing of the first indigenous luxury cruise in India.
- ✓ This is another incredible luxury travel offering under IRCTC's umbrella of tourism services to the public.
- ✓ The luxury travel offering in the form of the indigenous cruise will take guests on-boards to some of the most popular Indian and international tourist destinations – such as Goa, Diu, Kochi, the Lakshadweep islands, and Sri Lanka.

### **SPIN Scheme**

- ✓ The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched the Strengthening the Potential of India (SPIN) Scheme.
- ✓ It set up a pottery cluster under SFURTI Scheme in Varanasi to empower the marginalized potters.
- ✓ SPIN Scheme is a specially-designed no-subsidy program that enables to make potters self-sustainable.
- ✓ It enables the registered potters to get easy direct loans from the banks under Pradhan Mantri Shishu Mudra Yojana.
- ✓ Under the SPIN Scheme, KVIC is acting as a facilitator for financial aid to potters through RBL bank and also providing training to the artisans.
- ✓ There will be no financial burden on the exchequer.
- ✓ The loan will be repaid by the potter in easy instalments.

### **Blue Flag certification**

- ✓ Two more beaches in India have been awarded “Blue Flag” certification.
- ✓ With the addition of two beaches, the total number of such beaches in India have reached to 10.
- ✓ “Blue Flag” certification is an international eco-level tag.
- ✓ The two beaches to receive the certification this year are Kovalam in Tamil Nadu and Eden in Puducherry.

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- ✓ The Foundation for Environment Education (FEE), Denmark, accords the Blue Flag certification.
- ✓ The other eight beaches got the Blue Flag certification in 2020.
- ✓ Beaches with Blue Flag certification are considered as the cleanest beaches across the world.

### **India-UK Consular dialogue**

- ✓ India hosted the first India-UK Consular Dialogue through video conferencing.
- ✓ At this inaugural consular dialogue, the two side discussed ways to further strengthen people to people Court the two countries as the part of the India-UK 2030 roadmap.
- ✓ Both sides agreed to hold the next round of dialogue in 2022, in London.

### **Snakebite cases in India**

- ✓ In the 20-year period from 2000 to 2019, the country recorded 1.2 million snakebite deaths with an average of 58,000 deaths every year.
- ✓ As much as 97 per cent of these deaths happened in villages and more than half of the dead were men in their most productive years.

### **National Snakebite Awareness Summit**

- ✓ It was recently organised in virtual mode.

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- ✓ It was organised by the Integrated Health and Wellbeing Council, New Delhi.
- ✓ The summit was held on the eve of the International Snakebite Awareness Day, observed on 19 September every year.

### **IAS & IPS officers - gifts from Foreign Dignitaries**

- ✓ As per the existing rules, these officers were allowed to accept gifts from their near relatives or from personal friends having no official dealings with them, on the occasions like weddings, funerals, anniversaries, and religious functions.
- ✓ However, they are required to make a report to the government if the value of such gift is more than Rs 25,000.
- ✓ Amended rule
- ✓ A new subsection has been added to the All-India Service (Conduct) Rules, 1968.
- ✓ According to it, a member of the service may receive and retain gifts from foreign dignitaries as per the provisions of the Foreign Contribution (Acceptance or Retention of Gifts or Presentations) Rules, 2012.

### **Trans fat-free India - 2022**

- ✓ India is all set and is on the right track to become industrial trans fat-free by 2022.

- ✓ This is as per Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) study.

**Trans fat**

- ✓ Trans fat is considered as the worst type of fat.
- ✓ Unlike other dietary fats, trans fat or trans-fatty acids increases bad cholesterol and lowers the good cholesterol.
- ✓ A diet comprising of trans fat increases the risk of heart disease.

**R N Ravi resigns as Centre's interlocutor for Naga Peace Talks**

- ✓ R N Ravi resigned from the post of the Centre's interlocutor for Naga peace talks after serving for the post since 2014.
- ✓ During his tenure as the interlocutor, Ravi negotiated key insurgent groups for signing the Naga Peace Accord.
- ✓ The Central government had deputed Ravi as Tamil Nadu Governor due to increased disapproval of his ways to handle the Naga Peace process.

**SC dismissed Centre's plea to postpone Women's entry into NDA**

- ✓ The Supreme Court has rejected a plea by Central Government to postpone the entry of women into National Defence Academy (NDA) till May 2022.

- ✓ It refused to modify August 18 interim order, that allowed women candidates to appear in the NDA and the Naval Academy Examinations and to train at the NDA.

**Centre's view**

- ✓ The Centre had told the supreme court that women cadets' entry into the NDA is not possible in the year 2021 because several facilities had to be developed for them before they are allowed into the academy.

**Plant Discoveries 2020**

- ✓ The Botanical Survey of India, in its new publication Plant Discoveries 2020 has added 267 new taxa/ species to the country's flora.
- ✓ The 267 new discoveries include 119 angiosperms; 3 pteridophytes; 5 bryophytes, 44 lichens; 57 fungi, 21 algae and 18 microbes.
- ✓ There are 14 new macro and 31 new micro fungi species recorded from various parts of India.
- ✓ 22% of the discoveries were made from the Western Ghats followed by the Western Himalayas (15%), the Eastern Himalayas (14%) and the Northeast ranges (12%).

**Fortified Rice Kernels**

- ✓ Centre government, for the first time issued uniform specifications for Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK) for grade A & Common Rice.

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- ✓ The specifications have been issued by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- ✓ The fortified rice is to be distributed under various government schemes, including the public distribution system (PDS) and midday meals in schools, by 2024.

## **Need for Rice fortification**

- ✓ According to the Food Ministry, every second woman in the country is anaemic and every third child is stunted.
- ✓ India ranks 94 out of 107 countries and is in the 'serious hunger' category on the Global Hunger Index (GHI).

## **Note**

- ✓ Food fortification is defined as the practice of adding vitamins and minerals to commonly consumed foods during processing to increase their nutritional value.

## **First Atal community innovation centre**

- ✓ India's first Atal community innovation centre was inaugurated at Vivekananda Global University, Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- ✓ Government has set up the Atal innovation mission at Niti Aayog.

## **Ek Pahal**

- ✓ Department of Justice, ministry of law and Justice, has launched the "Ek Pahal" drive across the country.

- ✓ The Tribe aims to increased mass registration under Tele-Law.

### **Sojat mehndi**

- ✓ Sojat Mehndi from Rajasthan has received the geographical indication tag from the government.
- ✓ Sojat mehndi originate from Mehndi leaves grown in Sojat, Rajasthan.
- ✓ It is fully naturally cultivated by rainwater for getting high lawsone content in Mehndi leaves.

### **Tehri Dam**

- ✓ The Tehri Dam reservoir in Uttarakhand touched the level of 830 metres, its full reservoir level for the first time.
- ✓ Tehri Dam project is the multipurpose hydro power scheme on the Bhagirathi river and is the third highest among earth-fill Dam and tenth highest among all the dam of the world.
- ✓ It has the capacity to store about 2615 mcm of surplus flood water during the monsoon.

### **National Single Window System**

- ✓ The union minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal has launched the ‘National Single Window System (NSWS)’.
- ✓ This was launched for investors and businesses.

- ✓ NSWS is a single-window portal that will act as a one-stop-shop for investors or entrepreneurs, to get approvals and clearances needed from Government.
- ✓ The portal has been developed jointly by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade along with Invest India.

### **12-digit unique IDs for farmers**

- ✓ The central government has started generating 12-digit unique IDs for farmers.
- ✓ This is done as a part of the government's Digital Agriculture Mission to create a unified Farmers Service Interface.
- ✓ The unique ID will help in availing all-farm-related services of various agricultural schemes and credit facilities seamlessly.
- ✓ The IDs will also help the central and state government to plan better.

### **Arjun tank procurement**

- ✓ The Ministry of Defence has placed an order to procure 118 Main Battle Tanks (MBTs) Arjun for the Indian Army.
- ✓ The Defence ministry placed this order with Heavy Vehicles Factory (HVF), Chennai to supply the 118 Arjun Mk-1A tanks.

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- ✓ Arjun tank has been designed and developed by the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO).

### **Education ministry's panel head - K Kasturirangan**

- ✓ The Union education ministry has formed a 12-member committee to develop new curriculums for school, early childhood, teacher and adult education.
- ✓ The panel tasked with developing four national curriculum frameworks (NCFs) will be headed by National Education Policy-2020 (NEP-2020) drafting committee chairperson K Kasturirangan.

### **"Vaccine Maitri" programme**

- ✓ India will resume export of surplus COVID-19 vaccines in the fourth quarter of 2021 under the "Vaccine Maitri" programme.
- ✓ This is to meet its commitment to the COVAX global pool.
- ✓ India stopped the export of COVID-19 vaccines after the second wave of the pandemic hit the country in April this year.
- ✓ COVAX is a worldwide initiative aimed at equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.

### **PM Modi drink 157 artefacts**

- ✓ The United States handed over 157 artefacts and antiquities during Prime Minister Modi's visit.

- ✓ The items largely belong to the period of 11th CE to 14th CE.
- ✓ Some 45 antiquities belong to Before Common Era (BCE).
- ✓ While half of the artefacts are cultural, the other half consist of figurines which relate to Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism.

### **Finance ministry sets up two committees**

- ✓ The Finance ministry has set up two committees of state finance ministers who could review current tax slabs and GST exchange items, identify potential evasion sources and suggest changes in IT systems.
- ✓ The committees are Group of ministers on rate rationalization and Group of ministers on GST system reforms.
- ✓ The Group of ministers on rate rationalization will be 7-member panel headed by Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai.

### **India's clean energy commitments at UN summit**

- ✓ India has made commitments to increase the renewable energy installed capacity to 450 GW by 2030.
- ✓ India has also committed to develop and implement a National Hydrogen Energy Mission.
- ✓ This is in order to boost the annual green hydrogen production to 1 MT by 2030.

- ✓ It also announced to start a Production Linked Incentive Scheme which will help in adding 10 GW solar PV manufacturing capacity by 2025.
- ✓ India also announced to establish a 15 MMT production capacity of compressed biogas by 2024.
- ✓ It also announced to achieve 20 percent ethanol blending in petrol by the year 2025-26.

### **MSP for Oilseeds**

- ✓ The Union government announced very high Minimum Support Price (MSP) for rabi crops such as oilseeds and pulses to boost their production.
- ✓ The 50% rise in price of edible oils is mainly due to labour shortages and crop failures in major edible oil-producing nations - Indonesia, Malaysia, Argentina, etc.
- ✓ So, the government increased MSP for oilseeds to
  - ✚ Cut down India's dependence on foreign oil imports by boosting domestic production, and
  - ✚ Protect Indian consumers from price shocks due to global factors.

### **National Cooperative Conference**

- ✓ Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah has inaugurated and addressed the first-ever National Cooperative Conference (Sehkarita Sammelan).
- ✓ It was inaugurated at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi.

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- ✓ This conference was India's first such cooperative conference, to provide a platform for accelerating and strengthening Indian cooperatives on the global stage.
- ✓ The conference was organised jointly by the IFFCO, National Cooperative Federation of India, Amul, Sahakar Bharti, NAFED, KRIBHCO and all cooperatives together.

### **FASTER**

- ✓ The Supreme Court of India has approved an electronic system named FASTER (Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records).
- ✓ The FASTER system will be used for transferring e-authenticated copies from courts to prisons.

### **ICMR Report on cancer cases**

- ✓ The Indian Council of medical research (ICMR) recently released its report titled "Clinicopathological Profile of Cancers in India: A Report of Hospital Based Cancer Registries, 2021".
- ✓ The report provides data on cancer cases in India.
- ✓ It was prepared by ICMR- National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research, Bengaluru.
- ✓ As per report, total of 6.10 lakh cancers have been reported in India in between 2012 to 2019.
- ✓ Out of these, 52.4 percent cases were reported among males while 47.6 percent cases were reported among females.

**Right to Government Aid, not a Fundamental Right**

- ✓ The Supreme Court said that the right to receive Government Aid of an institution (whether a majority or minority institution) is not a fundamental right, but only a matter of policy.
- ✓ The Supreme Court also said that the grant of aid brings with it conditions that the institution receiving it is bound to comply with.
- ✓ If an institution does not want to accept the conditions, it can decline the grant but cannot say that the grant must be on its own terms.
- ✓ It said if the government made a policy call to withdraw aid, an institution cannot question the decision as a “matter of right”.
- ✓ As per Article 30 (2), the state shall not, in granting aid to educational institutions, discriminate against any educational institution on the ground that it is under the management of a minority, whether based on religion or language.

**Swachh Survekshan**

- ✓ The Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched the seventh consecutive edition of Swachh Survekshan in New Delhi.
- ✓ Swachh Survekshan is the largest urban cleanliness survey of the world.

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- ✓ It is conducted by Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban.
- ✓ This programme is designed with “People First” as its driving philosophy.
- ✓ Swachh Survekshan 2022 was launched with the objective of capturing initiatives of cities for welfare and well-being of frontline sanitation workers.

## **PM Poshan**

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has renamed the flagship School meal program Mid-Day Meal as PM Poshan.
- ✓ PM Poshan will now cover free primary-students also.
- ✓ The cabinet committee on economic affairs has approved the continuation of the 'National Scheme for PM POSHAN in Schools' for the five-year period 2021-22 to 2025-26.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Talibans against co-education**

- ✓ Taliban has banned co-education in Afghanistan by their first fatwa.
- ✓ Men are not allowed to teach girls.
- ✓ They call co-education as the root of all evil in society.

### **G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment**

- ✓ The First-ever G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment was held at Santa Margherita Ligure, Italy.

- ✓ It was held in mixed format i.e., people participated in physical form and via video conference also.
- ✓ The Union Minister of Women & Child Development, Smriti Irani addressed the meet on behalf of India.

### **Hurricane Ida**

- ✓ Hurricane Ida made landfall in Louisiana recently.
- ✓ It is the Category 4 storm that has hit on the same date as the Hurricane Katrina that ravaged Louisiana and Mississippi of America in 2005.
- ✓ Hurricane Ida will most definitely be stronger than Katrina, the costliest storm in American history.
- ✓ Note
- ✓ Hurricanes are categorized on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale.
- ✓ It rates them on a scale of 1 to 5 based on wind speed.
- ✓ Hurricanes that reach category three or higher are called ‘major hurricanes’.

### **Sri Lanka declares Food Emergency**

- ✓ Sri Lanka declared a state of emergency over food shortages after private banks in the country ran out of foreign exchange to finance imports.

### **Mu variant**

- ✓ Mu variant of the corona virus was first identified in Colombia.

- ✓ Now, the World Health Organization is monitoring this variant.
- ✓ Mu variant is scientifically known as B.1.621 and has been classified as a “variant of interest”.
- ✓ According to WHO, variant has constellation of mutations indicating a risk of resistance to vaccines.

### **UNSC adopts resolution (1267) on Afghanistan**

- ✓ The United Nations Security Council, under the Presidency of India, adopted a resolution on the situation in Afghanistan.
- ✓ The resolution demanded that Afghanistan is not be used to threaten or attack any nation or shelter terrorists.
- ✓ The Resolution was put forward by the US, UK and France.
- ✓ It was adopted with the votes of 13 Council members in favour.
- ✓ The Permanent members Russia and China abstained from the voting.

### **Protected Areas in Central Africa 2020**

- ✓ This report was produced under the Central Africa Forest Observatory which is a specialised unit of Central African Forests Commission.
- ✓ According to the report, Central Africa can develop itself sustainably if the resources are shared equitably and its environment is protected.

### **New Development Banks- new members**

- ✓ New Development Bank by BRICS group of nations has added United Arab Emirates, Uruguay and Bangladesh as its new members.
- ✓ New Development Bank was launched in 2015.
- ✓ It was launched by the BRICS Members (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).
- ✓ It was formerly referred as “BRICS development bank”.
- ✓ It is headquartered in Shanghai.
- ✓ The first regional office of the NDB was set up in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- ✓ The second regional office was established in 2019 in Brazil, followed by in Russia.
- ✓ The bank mobilises resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in the member countries as well as in other developing nations.

### **FDA approves First COVID-19 vaccine**

- ✓ The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the first COVID-19 vaccine.
- ✓ The vaccine has been known as the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine.
- ✓ It will now be marketed as Comirnaty, for the prevention of COVID-19 disease in individuals 16 years of age and older.

**8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Agricultural Experts of BIMSTEC Countries**

- ✓ India hosted the 8th Meeting of Agriculture Experts of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).
- ✓ The meeting was chaired by Dr Trilochan Mohapatra.
- ✓ He is the Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research & Education & Director General of ICAR.
- ✓ During this meet, Chairman highlighted the UN Food System Summit 2021 and transformational aspects that are happening across agriculture and food systems globally.
- ✓ BIMSTEC comprise of seven Member States including,
  - Five from South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka), and
  - Two from Southeast Asia, including Myanmar and Thailand.
- ✓ BIMSTEC was formed in 1997.
- ✓ It earlier included six sectors.
- ✓ Sectors were later expanded to 14 (technology, trade, energy, agriculture etc.).

**World Social Protection Report 2020-22**

- ✓ This report was released by International Labour Organisation (ILO).

- ✓ As per report, more than half of the world population is not getting any form of social protection.
- ✓ People in Europe and Central Asia are among the best covered population.
- ✓ Just one in four children in the world gets a social protection benefit.

### **First road-rail transport link to Indian Ocean**

- ✓ The first shipments on a newly-launched railway line from the Myanmar border to the key commercial hub of Chengdu in western China was made recently.
- ✓ This project provides China a new road-rail transportation channel to the Indian Ocean
- ✓ The transport corridor involves a sea-road-rail link.
- ✓ This passage connects the logistics lines of Singapore, Myanmar and China.
- ✓ It is currently the most convenient land and sea channel linking the Indian Ocean with southwest China.

### **Yoshihide Suga to step down as Japan PM**

- ✓ Prime minister of Japan, Yoshihide Suga, will not run for re-election as the party leader for Liberal Democratic Party.
- ✓ He had been appointed as Prime Minister in 2020 after the resignation of Shinzo Abe.

- ✓ Suga announced to end his tenure as his approval ratings dropped to an all-time low.

### **Panjshir Valley**

- ✓ Panjshir Valley is located to the north of Kabul in Afghanistan.
- ✓ The valley is home for Afghanistan's largest concentration of ethnic Tajiks.
- ✓ Taliban claims to have captured the control of the Panjshir Valley.
- ✓ The fall of Panjshir marks the success of the Taliban and the Pakistan military, and is a setback for India.
- ✓ Iran became the first country to protest against the Taliban blockading the valley.

### **Association of Southeast Asian Nations**

- ✓ The year 2022 marks the 30th anniversary of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) – India relation.
- ✓ It is also designated as the ASEAN-India Friendship Year.

### **Covid C.1.2**

- ✓ The Covid C.1.2 variant was first detected in South Africa.
- ✓ According to a study, the C.1.2 variant could be more infectious and has shown signs of evading protection provided by vaccines.

### **Theme of 13<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit**

- ✓ The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi has chaired this summit.
- ✓ PM Modi called for enhanced BRICS cooperation under the motto of ‘Build-back Resiliently, Innovatively, Credibly and Sustainably’.
- ✓ The theme for the 13th BRICS Summit 2021 will be ‘BRICS@15: Intra BRICS cooperation for continuity, consolidation, and consensus’.
- ✓ The Summit concluded with the adoption of the ‘New Delhi Declaration’.
- ✓ This was the third time that India hosted the BRICS Summit.
- ✓ Prior to this India held the Presidency of the BRICS in 2012 and 2016.
- ✓ This is the second time that Prime Minister Modi has chaired the BRICS Summit.
- ✓ He had previously chaired the Goa Summit in 2016.

### **Russia to remain part of ISS**

- ✓ NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said that Russia will remain a part of the International Space Station through the end of the decade.
- ✓ The International Space Station (ISS) is a modular space station in low Earth orbit.

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✓ It is a multinational collaborative project involving five participating space agencies:

- NASA (US),
- Roscosmos (Russia),
- ESA (Europe),
- CSA (Canada) and
- JAXA (Japan).

## **Note**

✓ Russian space agency, Roscosmos, had announced in February 2015 that it would remain a part of the ISS till 2024.

## **El Salvador**

- ✓ El Salvador has become the world's first country to make Bitcoin an official currency or legal tender.
- ✓ El Salvador bought its first 400 bitcoins, in two tranches of 200, and promised more were coming.

## **Mexico Supreme Court decriminalises abortion**

- ✓ The Supreme Court of Mexico has decriminalised abortion and ruled that criminal penalties on terminating pregnancies are unconstitutional.
- ✓ This ruling was meant for northern state of Coahuila. It now prevents women from being prosecuted for abortion.

- ✓ Currently, abortion is severely restricted in four of the states in Mexico. It is also legal in cases of rape or where mother's life is in danger.
- ✓ Thus, this decision could pave way to decriminalise abortion across Mexico.
- ✓ With this ruling, women who were jailed for having abortions will now be released, with immediate effect.

### **India's Sherpa for G20**

- ✓ Piyush Goyal, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Textiles has been appointed as India's Sherpa for the G20.
- ✓ Piyush Goyal has replaced Suresh Prabhu as India's Sherpa.
- ✓ The next G20 Summit (2021) will be held in October under the Italian presidency.
- ✓ India will hold the G20 presidency from December 1, 2022, and convene the G20 Leaders' Summit in 2023 for the first time.
- ✓ India will be a part of the G20 Troika (preceding, current, and incoming G20 presidencies) from December 2021, till November 2024.
- ✓ In 2022, Indonesia and in 2024 Brazil will head the G20.

### **UAE's Green Visa**

- ✓ The United Arab Emirates has announced a new class of visas.
- ✓ Under the green visa, foreigners will be allowed to work in the UAE without being sponsored by an employer.
- ✓ The program will also allow the holder a grace period of up to three months to look for a new job if they lose their old one.
- ✓ It is intended to ease the restrictions faced by foreigners in pursuing employment opportunities in the country.
- ✓ In 2019, the UAE launched the 10-year “golden visa”, aimed at welcoming rich residents and highly skilled workers into the country.
- ✓ Besides UAE, Saudi Arabia and Qatar have recently opened up their countries to wealthy investors.

### **Global Leader Approval Tracker Morning Consult**

- ✓ According to this US-based consult, approval rating of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the highest among thirteen world leaders who were surveyed.
- ✓ He is ahead of President of Mexico Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, Prime Minister of Italy Mario Draghi, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, President of USA Joe Biden, Prime Minister of Australian Scott Morrison, Prime minister of Canada Justin Trudeau, UK Prime Minister

Boris Johnson and Prime Minister of Brazil Jair Bolsonaro.

### **Rashid Rover**

- ✓ 'Lake of Dreams,' also known as Lacus Somniorum, is the main site chosen by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Lunar Mission's team for the landing of the 'Rashid Rover' on the moon's surface.
- ✓ It will be launched between August and November 2022
- ✓ The UAE is the first in the Arab world and the fourth worldwide in lunar exploration.

### **Inspiration4**

- ✓ SpaceX is going to launch 'Inspiration4', the world's 1st all-civilian, non-governmental spaceflight soon.
- ✓ This mission will take 4 private citizens into space in the Crew Dragon spacecraft, which will be privately operated by SpaceX.
- ✓ This mission involves circling the Earth for 3 days at the height of 575km (low Earth orbit), and then splashing down into the Atlantic Ocean.
- ✓ This will be the farthest distance travelled by a crewed mission since 2009, when astronauts went to repair the Hubble telescope (547km).
- ✓ The journey will present an opportunity for collecting many health data.

## **2+2 Ministerial Dialogue**

- ✓ The first-ever 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue between India and Australia started in New Delhi.
- ✓ The Afghanistan crisis will be on the top of the agenda.
- ✓ It is the Ministerial Dialogue between the Foreign and Defence minister of Australia and India.

## **20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11 attacks**

- ✓ September 11, 2021 marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attack on World centre towers in New York, which is also known as “9/11 attack”.
- ✓ This incident had sent shockwaves across the world 20 years ago.
- ✓ It showed the ugly head of terror aided and abetted by Al Qaeda, in the name of radical Islam.
- ✓ On this day in 2001, AL Qaeda terrorists had hijacked four aircrafts in United States with a sinister design.
- ✓ Two aircrafts crashed into the World Trade Center towers, New York while one aircraft crashed into Pentagon outside Washington.
- ✓ Fourth aircraft crashed into rural Pennsylvania because passengers tried to take back the control from hijackers.
- ✓ In the incident, about 2977 people were killed, raising the spectre of terrorism.

### **Agreement between India and Portugal**

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of an agreement between India and Portugal.
- ✓ It will open doors for Indian migrant workers in a European Union member nation Portugal.

### **India-US 'Climate Action and Finance Mobilisation Dialogue'**

- ✓ Environment Minister of India, Bhupender Yadav and United States Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, John Kerry launched India-US Climate Action and Finance Mobilisation Dialogue.
- ✓ This dialogue was launched under India-US Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership.
- ✓ This Partnership will provide both countries an opportunity to renew their collaborations on climate change and also address the financing aspects.
- ✓ It will also strengthen India-US bilateral cooperation on climate and environment and also demonstrate how the world can align swift climate action along with inclusive & resilient economic development.

### **England: First country to mandate new homes to install EV chargers**

- ✓ Under the legislation, all new homes and offices will be required to feature smart charging devices which can automatically charge vehicles during off-peak periods.

- ✓ According to it, new office blocks will require to install a charging point for every five parking spaces.
- ✓ This law will make England the first country in the world, that require all new homes to have EV chargers.
- ✓ The legislation is part of the movement that seeks to rapidly boost the number of chargers in England ahead of UK's 2030 ban of new fossil-fuel vehicles.
- ✓ Home and office EV charger proposal is expected to start in 2022.

### **Britain begins world's largest trail of blood test**

- ✓ Britain's National Health Service began the world's biggest trail of Grial Inc's flagship Galleri blood test that can be used to detect more than 50 types of cancer before symptoms appear.
- ✓ The Galleri test looks at the DNA in a patient's blood to determine if any come from cancer cells.
- ✓ Earlier diagnosis of cancers leads to dramatically increased survival tests.

### **Abdala and Soberana**

- ✓ Cuba has become the first country in the world to vaccinate children as young as two years old.
- ✓ However, the jabs given to the children are homegrown which has not been recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO).

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- ✓ Cuba completed clinical trials on minors with its Abdala and Soberana vaccines.
- ✓ The Cuban vaccines, the first developed in Latin America, have not undergone international and scientific peer review.
- ✓ They are based on recombinant protein technology — the same used by the United States' Novavax and France's Sanofi.
- ✓ Novavax and Sanofi are also awaiting the WHO approval.
- ✓ Unlike many other shots in use, recombinant vaccines do not require extreme refrigeration.

## **Qeqertaq Avannarleq**

- ✓ It is a tiny, uninhabited and previously unknown island discovered recently off the coast of Greenland.
- ✓ It has now become the new northernmost piece of land on Earth.
- ✓ Before this, Oodaaq was marked as the Earth's northernmost terrain.

## **Antarctica's oldest ice**

- ✓ The Centre for Oldest Ice Exploration (COLDEX) will be set up to bring together experts from across the United States.
- ✓ It will work to generate knowledge about earth's climate system.

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- ✓ The Oregon State University will lead an exploration to discover Antarctica's oldest ice.
- ✓ The oldest record of the Antarctic ice currently dates back to about 800,000 years.

### **Orca – Iceland**

- ✓ The world's largest plant designed to capture carbon dioxide out of the air began its operations in Iceland.
- ✓ The plant is named Orca.
- ✓ It will suck out up to 4,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.
- ✓ The carbon dioxide captured directly from the air will be deposited underground at a depth of 1,000 metres, where it would be turned into rock.

### **Tejaus Chauhan**

- ✓ He was appointed Regional Director for South Asia in the International Court of Arbitration (ICA) of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) based in Singapore.
- ✓ Chauhan will be the 2nd Indian to be appointed for the regional director post.
- ✓ The ICC has three regional centres in North Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East.
- ✓ The ICA is the world's leading arbitral institution established in 1923.

### **England – Electric Vehicle Chargers**

- ✓ All the newly built homes and offices will require to feature electric vehicle chargers in England.
- ✓ England is the first country in the world in this regard.

### **CAFMD**

- ✓ India and the United States jointly launched the Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD) of Agenda 2030 Partnership.
- ✓ The US-India Agenda 2030 Partnership was announced by President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Leaders' Summit on Climate in April 2021.

### **WHO SEARO**

- ✓ The Seventy Fourth Regional Committee Session of WHO South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO) was hosted by Nepal.
- ✓ The session focussed on the elimination of measles and rubella by 2023.

### **Dosan Ahn Chang**

- ✓ The South Korea successfully test-fired its own submarine-launched missile.
- ✓ It is the locally developed 3,000-tonne class submarine ballistic missile.
- ✓ By launching this South Korea become 8th country.

- ✓ It joined with USA, Russia, China, United Kingdom, France and India.

### **Iran and IAEA**

- ✓ Iran agreed to allow nuclear surveillance by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
- ✓ Iran has allowed the international inspectors to install new memory cards into surveillance cameras across its sensitive nuclear sites.
- ✓ Iran is now enriching small amounts of uranium to its closest levels to weapons-grade purity because its stockpile continues to increase.

### **Groundswell report on climate change**

- ✓ It was recently released by the World Bank.
- ✓ It examined how the impacts of slow-onset climate change, such as water scarcity, decreasing crop productivity and rising sea levels.
- ✓ These could lead to millions of what it describes as “climate migrants” by 2050.

### **Third Dose on Covid**

- ✓ According to a report published in the Lancet, vaccine efficacy against severe Covid-19 is so high.
- ✓ The booster doses for the general population are “not appropriate” at this stage of the pandemic.

- ✓ The review was provided by the scientists from World Health Organization (WHO) and US Food & Drug Administration (FDA).
- ✓ Countries like Israel, Italy, France and Russia have already rolled out the third dose of Covid-19 vaccines.

### **Bangladesh - sea level by 2050**

- ✓ 17 per cent of Bangladesh could be submerged by the rising sea level by 2050.
- ✓ The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet quoted a report of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in her address to the 48th session of the Human Rights Council.
- ✓ As per the WEF report, Bangladesh has the 3rd largest number of more than 4 million people who got displaced from their homes during disasters in 2019.
- ✓ Other countries that witnessed disaster displacement in 2019 include India, China, Philippines.

### **QS Global Full Time MBA Rankings**

- ✓ QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) is one of the leading global business school analysts.
- ✓ It is composing the world's 286 strongest global MBA colleges.
- ✓ Globally, Stanford Graduate School of Business was named the world's number-one MBA program for the second consecutive year.

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

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- ✓ The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore and IIM Ahmedabad are in the top-50 list.
- ✓ IIM Calcutta and the Indian School of Business (ISB) of Hyderabad are in the top 100 list.

## **New chemical**

- ✓ University Of California riverside-led team has developed a new chemical 'Antabactin' that would aid seeds to Spring to life, which otherwise could have been dormant.
- ✓ Antabactin blocs the Abscicic acid hormone that plants used to prevent seed germination, hence making the dormant seed also sprout.

## **Cosmic concrete**

- ✓ Scientist at the University of Manchester have produced a concrete-like material.
- ✓ It comprises extra-terrestrial dust, as well as doughnuts blood, sweat and tears.
- ✓ A protein from human blood, combined with the compound from urine, sweat or tears, could glue together simulated moon or Mars soil to produce a material stronger than ordinary concrete.

## **World economic forum**

- ✓ The world economic forum has announced that its next Annual meeting would be held in the Swiss ski Resort town of Davos in January 2022.

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- ✓ The theme of the meeting will be "Working together, Restoring Trust".
- ✓ The Annual meeting 2022 will be the first global leadership event to set the agenda for a sustainable recovery.

## **QUAD Meeting**

- ✓ The US President Joe Biden will be hosting the first in-person meeting of the Quad countries in at the White House, in Washington of USA.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Australian PM Scott Morrison and Japanese PM Yoshihide Suga will be present at the meeting.
- ✓ The quadrilateral security dialogue includes Japan, India, United States and Australia.
- ✓ It met for the first time in 2007 on the sidelines of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- ✓ All four nations find a common ground of being the democratic nations and common interests of unhindered maritime trade and security.
- ✓ China had branded it an emerging “Asian NATO”.

## **India-Africa Defence Dialogue**

- ✓ The Government of India has proposed to institutionalise the India-Africa Defence Dialogue, as a regular event, to be held on the sidelines of the biennial DefExpo military exhibition.

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

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- ✓ The first India-Africa Defence Ministers Conclave (IADMC) was held at DefExpo in February 2020 in Lucknow.
- ✓ The second India – Africa Defence Dialogue will be held on the sidelines of the DefExpo, scheduled to be held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat in March 2022.
- ✓ The theme of the 2nd India Africa Defence Dialogue will be ‘India – Africa: Adopting Strategy for Synergizing and Strengthening Defence and Security Cooperation.

### **SCO Summit**

- ✓ The 21st meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of State will be held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in a hybrid format.
- ✓ The President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon will chair the SCO Summit.
- ✓ This will be the first SCO Summit that will be conducted in a hybrid mode.
- ✓ This is the 4th Summit that India will participate as a full-fledged member of the SCO.
- ✓ The Summits of the SCO Council of Heads of State is held annually at alternating venues.
- ✓ The SCO Summit 2020 was chaired by Russia.

### **Heads of Tax Authorities**

- ✓ The meeting on Heads of Tax Authorities of the BRICS countries was held under the Chairship of India.

- ✓ It was held with the broad theme of “redefining business processes of tax administration amidst the challenges posed by COVID-19 and in the digital era”.

### **First women head – UNCTAD**

- ✓ Rebecca Grynspan will serve as the Secretary-General of UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) for the period of four years from 2021.
- ✓ She became the first woman and Central American to hold such post.
- ✓ She is the former Vice-President of Costa Rica.
- ✓ She succeeded Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi.
- ✓ Kituyi was also the first Kenyan to head the UN trade agency from 2013 to 2021.

### **First all-tourist crew - “Earth circling trip”**

- ✓ The SpaceX rocket blasted off from NASA’s Kennedy Space Centre.
- ✓ This crew included Chris Sembroski, Sian Proctor, Jared Isaacman and Hayley Arceneaux.
- ✓ The crew of the Inspiration4 is now officially in orbit, according to SpaceX.
- ✓ It is the first-ever orbital flight crewed entirely by tourists.
- ✓ The passengers will now spend three days aboard their 13-foot-wide Crew Dragon capsule in orbit at a 350-mile altitude.

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- ✓ Dragon capsule is aimed for an altitude of 575 km, beyond the Hubble Space Telescope.

### **TIME's 100 Most Influential People list**

- ✓ TIME magazine has unveiled its annual list.
- ✓ The list is divided into six categories – Icons, Pioneers, Titans, Artists, Leaders and Innovators.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla have been named among the list.
- ✓ Taliban Deputy PM Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar also included into this listed.
- ✓ According to Time, India has had three pivotal leaders namely Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Modi.

### **AUKUS**

- ✓ United States, United Kingdom and Australia have announced this new partnership.
- ✓ It is a new trilateral security partnership for the Indo-Pacific region.
- ✓ The first project of AUKUS will be to help Australia acquire a nuclear-powered conventionally-armed submarine fleet.

### **Indo Nepal joint military exercise**

- ✓ The 15th edition of the Indo Nepal joint military exercise "Surya Kiran" began in Pithoragarh.

- ✓ Infantry battalions from both countries are participating in the exercise.

### **Taliban removes Uzbek**

- ✓ The Taliban removed Uzbek from official language status.
- ✓ The law in titled "Fundamentals" indicate the official language of Afghanistan - Pashto and Dari.

### **CPTPP – China**

- ✓ China has applied to join the Asia-Pacific Free Trade grouping or Comprehensive & Progress Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).
- ✓ CPTPP was originally the Trans-Pacific Partnership promoted by the former American President Barack Obama.
- ✓ Donald Trump had pulled out the group in 2017.
- ✓ The current President of US Joe Biden has not yet re-joined the group.
- ✓ China was not included in the initial group.
- ✓ CPTPP is a trade agreement among 11 countries namely, Australia, Brunei, Chile, Canada, Japan, Mexico, Malaysia, Peru, New Zealand, Singapore, and Vietnam.

### **Statue of Bitcoin founder**

- ✓ Hungary has unveiled the statue of Bitcoin founder Satoshi Nakamoto in Budapest.

## **Kailash Satyarthi**

- ✓ The Indian Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi was appointed as Sustainable Development Goals Advocate by the United Nations.
- ✓ Microsoft President Brad Smith, STEM activist Valentina Munoz Rabanal and K-pop superstars BLACKPINK has also been appointed as new SDG advocates.
- ✓ They will be integral to advancing the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

## **Ebola**

- ✓ Jean-Jacques Muyembe held that Ebola has been defeated.
- ✓ He is the Congolese epidemiologist who discovered the Ebola virus in 1976.
- ✓ It was discovered at Yambuku in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- ✓ It was named Ebola after a river close to Yambuku.

## **A Multi-Billion-Dollar Opportunity: Repurposing agricultural support to transform food systems**

- ✓ This report was launched by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).
- ✓ It estimates that 87 percent of growing producer supports are harmful to 2030 agenda.

### **Artificial heart implant**

- ✓ French Artificial heart maker Carmat carried out the first implant of the Aeson artificial heart in a woman.

### **ICAO**

- ✓ Shefali Juneja from India has become the first woman Chairperson of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Aviation Security Committee.
- ✓ India has taken up the responsibility of the Aviation Security Committee after a gap of 12 years.
- ✓ Juneja is the first woman to lead this strategic committee.
- ✓ ICAO is a specialized United Nations agency headquartered at in Quebec, Canada.
- ✓ It is funded by 193 countries.

### **Shanghai cooperation organisation**

- ✓ Iran has become a permanent member of the Shanghai cooperation organisation.
- ✓ The country obtained observer status in the organisation in June 2005, and in 2008, applied for free membership.

### **Angela Merkel**

- ✓ German chancellor, Angela Merkel will be at the end of 2021 after serving 16 years as the head of Germany's government.

- ✓ She was named "The world's most powerful woman" by forbes magazinem for the last 10 years in a row.
- ✓ She is the first female chancellor of Germany.

### **Ukraine launches military drills**

- ✓ Ukraine launched joint military exercises with the USA and other NATO countries.
- ✓ The drill is an important step towards Ukraine's European integration.

### **UNESCO World book capital**

- ✓ The Director General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulary, has named Accra (Ghana) UNESCO world book capital for 2023.
- ✓ The year of celebrations with start on 23 April 2023, on world book and copyright day.

### **France recalls ambassadors - AUKUS security pact**

- ✓ France is recalling its ambassadors from the United States and Australia over the recent trilateral security pact between US, UK and Australia that involves the building of nuclear-powered submarines.
- ✓ The AUKUS military agreement was signed to counter the military threats in the Indo-Pacific region and it involves the delivery of a nuclear-powered submarine fleet to Australia.

- ✓ The submarines will be built in Australia with the support from UK and the US.

### **Global Innovation Index 2021 rankings**

- ✓ Recently, India has climbed two spots and has been ranked 46th in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2021 rankings.
- ✓ The GII is launched by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).
- ✓ WIPO is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
- ✓ The GII aims to capture the multi-dimensional facets of innovation ranking and rich analysis referencing around 132 economies.
- ✓ Switzerland, Sweden, U.S., and U.K. continue to lead the innovation ranking, and have all ranked in the top 5 in the past three years.
- ✓ The Republic of Korea joins the top 5 of the GII for the first time in 2021.
- ✓ India's Performance
- ✓ India performs better in innovation outputs than innovation inputs in 2021.
- ✓ This year India ranks 57th in innovation inputs.
- ✓ As for innovation outputs, India ranks 45th.
- ✓ India ranks 2nd among the 34 lower middle-income group economies.
- ✓ India ranks 1st among the 10 economies in Central and Southern Asia.

### **Charger for electric vehicles**

- ✓ The Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) has developed its indigenous charger for electric vehicles.
- ✓ ARAI has developed indigenous technology for EV charger called AC001.
- ✓ It has been taken up for manufacturing and promotion by the Bharat Electronics.
- ✓ ARAI is also setting up its new centre in Takwe, at Maharashtra.

### **Oldest living identical twins**

- ✓ Guinness World Records has certified two Japanese sisters as the “oldest living identical twins” of the world.
- ✓ Twin sisters that have set the Guinness World Records are Umeno Sumiyama and Koume Kodama.
- ✓ Both the sisters are at 107.

### **Food grain production - India**

- ✓ India’s food grain production is expected to touch a record of 150.50 million tonne in the Kharif season of 2021 with a better rice output.
- ✓ This is according to the Agriculture Ministry.
- ✓ Record production is expected in rice, sugarcane and cotton.

### **Public film-screening**

- ✓ Sonalia hosted its first public film screening in 30 years.

### **India - 3rd largest importer by 2050**

- ✓ India could become the world's third-largest importer by 2050.
- ✓ This is according to a report released by the UK's Department of International Trade.
- ✓ With a 5.9 per cent share of global imports by 2050, the country will become the third-largest importer.
- ✓ It will follow China and the United States.
- ✓ At present, India occupies the eighth spot on the list of the largest importing countries with a 2.8 per cent share.
- ✓ As per the Global Trade Outlook report, the country's position on the list will jump to the fourth position by 2030 with a 3.9 per cent share.

### **WHO's new Air Quality Norms**

- ✓ The World Health Organization set the new standards in the first update of its air quality guidelines since 2005.
- ✓ PM 2.5 norms for 24 hours average has been changed to 15 micro-g/m<sup>3</sup> against 25 micro-g/m<sup>3</sup> in 2005.
- ✓ While the PM 2.5 norms for annual average has been changed to 5 micro-g/m<sup>3</sup> against the 10 micro-g/m<sup>3</sup> in 2005.
- ✓ The revised guidelines for air quality released by the World Health Organisation means that nearly entire India will be considered a polluted Zone for most of the year.

### **Oldest human footprints**

- ✓ Fossilised footprints have been discovered in New Mexico.
- ✓ They indicate that early humans were walking across North America around 23,000 years ago.
- ✓ The first footprints were found in a dry lake bed in White Sands National Park in 2009.

### **WHO Director-General**

- ✓ France and Germany along with other European Union nations have nominated WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus of Ethiopia for a second term at the post.
- ✓ This is the first that a candidate has not been nominated by the home country for the top post at the UN Health Agency.

### **Agreement on Food Security**

- ✓ The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) have signed an agreement on Food security.
- ✓ Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on programmes and research in order to improve food, nutrition security and livelihoods across India.
- ✓ ICRISAT is headquartered in Patancheru, Hyderabad.

- ✓ WFP is founded in 1961, with headquarter in Rome.

### **International start-up hubs ranking 2021**

- ✓ This ranking was recently compiled and published by Start-up Genome for its annual Global Start-up Ecosystem Report 2021.
- ✓ As per this London, Mumbai and Bangalore have been featured among the world's top start-up hubs.
- ✓ Bangalore has also been ranked at 23rd position.
- ✓ Delhi was ranked at 36th.
- ✓ Mumbai has been ranked at first position in the Emerging Ecosystems ranking, outperforming the fast-growing ecosystems in areas of performance, funding, talent and market research.
- ✓ Karnataka is also the 4th largest technology and innovation cluster in the world.

### **World Giving Index 2021**

- ✓ Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) published the report recently.
- ✓ India has been ranked at the 14th spot.
- ✓ CAF report notes that, India is one of the fastest climbers on the Index.
- ✓ According to the report,
  - ✚ 61% Indians have helped a stranger during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.
  - ✚ 36% of Indians donated money.

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- ✚ 34% Indians volunteered for social causes in India.
- ✚ The most generous country across the world is Indonesia.

## **QUAD Leaders' Summit 2021**

- ✓ The first in-person meeting of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) of India, Australia, the United States, and Japan, was held in Washington.
- ✓ The meeting was participated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with leaders of the US, Japan, and Australia.
- ✓ US President Joe Biden is hosting all of them at the White House.
- ✓ PM Modi added that the “Quad vaccine initiative” will help Indo-Pacific nations.

## **UNGA - PM Modi**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.
- ✓ PM Modi is the first world leader who addressed in this UN General Assembly meet.
- ✓ This is the second time after 2019 Prime Minister Modi is addressing a session of the UNGA.
- ✓ The theme for General Debate for the year 2021 is “Building Resilience through hope to recover from Covid-19, rebuild sustainably, respond to the needs of the planet, respect the rights of people, and revitalize the United Nations”.

### **Australia's Lake Pinpa**

- ✓ Scientists have excavated the remains of an ancient eagle near Australia's Lake Pinpa, which is now deserted.
- ✓ This majestic bird is believed to be 25 million years old.

### **WHO Ambassador for Global Health Financing**

- ✓ The WHO announced the appointment of Gordon Brown as WHO Ambassador for Global Health Financing.
- ✓ He is the former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.
- ✓ He is widely credited with preventing a second Great Depression through his stewardship of the 2009 London G20 summit.

### **Same-sex marriage - Switzerland**

- ✓ The Voters in Switzerland decided to legalize same-sex marriage.
- ✓ It makes Switzerland one of the last countries in Western Europe to do so.
- ✓ Under the amended law, same-sex couples will be able to have a civil wedding.
- ✓ They will be granted the same institutional and legal rights as heterosexual couples.

### **U.S. rules out adding India, Japan to AUKUS**

- ✓ The U.S. President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson

jointly announced the formation of the trilateral security alliance AUKUS.

- ✓ Under this Australia would get a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines for the first time.
- ✓ The United States has ruled out adding India or Japan to the new trilateral security partnership with Australia and Britain to meet the challenges of the 21st century in the strategic Indo-Pacific region.

## **GEOGRAPHY**

### **Ejections from sun's Corona**

- ✓ Recent study has shown how conditions and events in the Solar atmosphere like coronal mass ejections influence the accuracy of space weather prediction.
- ✓ His understanding will aid the interpretation of data from the upcoming Aditya L1, India's first Solar Mission.

### **Cyclone Gulab**

- ✓ The low pressure area which has formed in the Bay of Bengal has intensified into cyclone Gulab.
- ✓ The cyclone storm is almost about 500 km south-east of Gopalpur.
- ✓ This will be the third cyclone of 2021 after Tauktae and Yaas.
- ✓ Tauktae had formed in the Arabian Sea while Yaas had formed in the Bay of Bengal.

### **Ozone hole**

- ✓ The hole in Ozone that is created every year over the South Pole region has now become larger than Antarctica.
- ✓ This was informed by scientist from the European Union.
- ✓ The linear deeply and form a hole over the Antarctic in the southern hemisphere's spring, which is from August to October.

### **Tropical Storm**

- ✓ Tropical storm Peter formed in the Atlantic Ocean East Of The Caribbean.
- ✓ It is the 16th named storm of the 2021 season.
- ✓ In 2020, there were 30 named storms, including six major hurricanes.

### **Guatemala's Fuego Volcano**

- ✓ Guatemala's Fuego Volcano began a strong eruptive phase.
- ✓ Fuego, 3.7kms high, is one of the three active volcanoes in Guatemala.

### **World's oldest Tropical rainforest**

- ✓ In historic deal, the world's oldest Tropical rainforest, Australia Daintree, has been returned to its aboriginal owners.

- ✓ This UNESCO World Heritage site is over 180-million-year-old.
- ✓ It is also home to several aboriginal people.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Recombinant protein-based COVID-19 vaccine**

- ✓ The Reliance Life Sciences (RLS) will be conducting the trials of its recombinant protein-based COVID-19 vaccine candidate.
- ✓ The recombinant protein COVID-19 vaccine uses the spike protein of SARSCoV-2 as the antigen.
- ✓ This helps the human body to recognize and develop a strong booster response to fight off the COVID-19 infection.

### **World's first 'Plant based' Smart Air – Purifier “Ubreathe Life”**

- ✓ This product is being developed by Urban Air Laboratory which is a start-up company of IIT Ropar.
- ✓ Product is being claimed as world's first, state-of-the-art 'Smart Bio-Filter', which can make breathing fresh.
- ✓ Technology used in this product is called as 'Urban Munnar Effect' and patent-pending “Breathing Roots”.
- ✓ IIT Ropar is a designated iHub – AWaDH (Agriculture and Water Technology Development Hub) by the Department of Science and Technology of government.

### **China develops miniature helicopter for Mars mission**

- ✓ China developed a prototype miniature helicopter for the purpose of surveillance work on future Mars missions.
- ✓ The prototype helicopter is similar to the robotic helicopter Ingenuity in appearance, which was developed by NASA for its Perseverance mission.
- ✓ Chinese prototype helicopter also comprises of two rotor blades, a sensor & camera base and four thin legs. However, it does not comprise of solar panel at the top like in Ingenuity.
- ✓ China has planned its first crewed mission to the Mars in 2033.

### **IISc and ISRO- Microbial experiments**

- ✓ Researchers from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have developed device to conduct microbial experiments in outer space.
- ✓ This modular, self-contained device can be used to cultivate microorganisms.
- ✓ This in turn will enable scientists to carry out biological experiments even in outer space.
- ✓ This study was published in Acta Astronautica.
- ✓ Researchers showed how this device can be used to activate and track the growth of a bacterium called Sporosarcina pasteurii.

### **Electric Air Taxi**

- ✓ NASA has begun flight testing electrical vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft with Jobby Aviation for air taxi services under its Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) National Campaign.
- ✓ This is the first time NASA is testing an eVTOL aircraft as part of the AAM National Campaign.

### **Largest scientific collaboration**

- ✓ A worldwide COVID-19 study led by the experts of the UK and conducted at Indian hospitals among others around the world has been awarded the 'Guinness World Records' title for the world's largest scientific collaboration.
- ✓ The study involved over 1,40,000 patients in 116 countries.
- ✓ The record for 'Most authors on a single peer-reviewed academic paper' is now held by the Birmingham and Edinburgh University.
- ✓ This record was awarded after 15,025 scientists around the globe contributed to the major research into the impact of Coronavirus on surgical patients.

### **Perseverance**

- ✓ Perseverance, the Mars rover of NASA has successfully collected the first rock sample for return to the Earth.

- ✓ This search is believed to reveal about ancient life.

## **Chandrayaan-2**

- ✓ Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft has completed 9,000 orbits around the moon.
- ✓ It has detected minor elements of manganese and chromium through remote sensing for the first time from the surface of the moon.
- ✓ The discovery was clearly a surprise as these elements are less than one weight percentage on the moon.
- ✓ The two elements, Chromium and Manganese, were detected at few places during the intense solar flare events.
- ✓ So far, the presence of these elements on the lunar surface was only known through soil samples which were collected during the earlier missions.
- ✓ ISRO Chief K Sivan, also the Secretary of the Department of Space, released the science and the data product documents from the mission.

## **Hub for pandemic and epidemic intelligence**

- ✓ The World Health Organization opened a centre in Berlin at Germany.
- ✓ Here the information can be shared to help prepare the world for the next global health crisis.
- ✓ The center is known as the Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence.

- ✓ The initiative aims to track, collect, analyse, and use data from outbreaks, epidemics, and pandemics to better prepare for, predict, and manage them.

### **Skyroot Aerospace formally sign up with ISRO**

- ✓ Skyroot Aerospace, a Hyderabad-based space technology start-up, has become the first private company to formally enter into an agreement with ISRO.
- ✓ It will use its expertise and access facilities to test and qualify its small rocket ahead of launch in 2022.

### **2021PJ1**

- ✓ The Jet Propulsion Laboratory of NASA has marked the 1,000th Near-Earth Asteroid named '2021 PJ1' as it passed Earth.
- ✓ The asteroid was not a threat to Earth but it was a historic event.
- ✓ The Near-Earth Asteroids and comets are collectively referred to Near-Earth Objects (NEOs).
- ✓ The first radar observation of the asteroid '1566 Icarus' was conducted in 1968.

### **Gaofen-5 02**

- ✓ China successfully launched this new Earth observation satellite.
- ✓ It was launched from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in north China's Shanxi Province.

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- ✓ It is to monitor environmental protection efforts and boost its natural resources surveillance.

### **SpaceX**

- ✓ SpaceX is all set to launch four people into space on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021.
- ✓ Inspiration will be a three-day mission and it will be the first mission to orbit the Earth with only private citizens on board.
- ✓ The SpaceX flight has been chartered by Jared Isaacman an American billionaire.
- ✓ He is the founder and CEO of payment processing company Shift4 payment.

### **pgSIT**

- ✓ The Researchers from California have developed CRISPR-based system to safely restrain mosquito vectors via sterilization.
- ✓ pgSIT is a new scalable genetic control system that uses a CRISPR-based approach to engineer deployable mosquitoes that can suppress populations.
- ✓ It alters genes linked to male fertility — creating sterile offspring — and female flight in *Aedes aegypti*.
- ✓ *Aedes aegypti*, the mosquito species, is responsible for spreading wide-ranging diseases including dengue fever, chikungunya, and Zika.

- ✓ CRISPR technology is basically a gene-editing technology that can be used for the purpose of altering genetic expression or changing the genome of an organism.

### **Low carbon bricks**

- ✓ Researchers have developed a technology to produce energy efficient walling materials using construction and demolition waste and alkali activated binders.
- ✓ These are called low C- bricks, do not require high temperature firing, and avoid the use of high energy real such as Portland cement.

### **Skyroot Aerospace**

- ✓ A Hyderabad-based Space technology start-up, Skyroot Aerospace has become the first private company to formally enter into an agreement with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- ✓ Skyroot Aerospace is building the Vikram series of rockets to carry small satellites into space.

### **Asia's First Hybrid flying car**

- ✓ Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia reviewed the concept model of Asia's First Hybrid flying car.

- ✓ The Minister said that the flying cars will be used for transporting people and cargo and for medical emergencies as well.
- ✓ It will be a fully autonomous hybrid-electric VTOL vehicle capable of accommodating two passengers.
- ✓ It is being built by Chennai-based Vinata Aero mobility.

### **ISRO to develop reusable GSLV Mk-III launch vehicle**

- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is working on technologies in order to develop reusable GSLV Mk-III launch vehicle.
- ✓ This new technology will help ISRO to land its GSLV Mk-III launch vehicles vertically.
- ✓ It will be similar to what Elon Musk's SpaceX is doing.
- ✓ With this technology, ISRO also seeks to recover the first and second stages of the launch vehicle.

### **NASA's VIPER rover**

- ✓ NASA's VIPER woodland near the Western edge of the noble Crater at the Moon's the South Pole, one of the coldest areas in the solar system.
- ✓ VIPER transport Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover.
- ✓ The robotic Rover would be delivered to the Moon's surface in late 2023 under the Artemis program and the part of Nasa agency's commercial lunar payload services initiative.

### **University of Florence**

- ✓ University of Florence in Italy is offering a masters degree in coffee.
- ✓ This will be the nine-month course where in students will gain practical and theoretical knowledge about coffee.
- ✓ Students will learn history, chemistry, technology and economics of coffee.

### **Human spaceflight**

- ✓ NASA splitting its human spaceflight department into two separate bodies.
- ✓ One would be sending on big, future oriented mission to the Moon and Mars, while the other on the International Space Station and other operations closer to Earth.

### **Sensor to detect chemicals**

- ✓ Indian scientists have for the first time developed a thermally stable and cost-effective sonic polymer-based sensor for rapidly detecting nitro- aromatic chemicals used in high-energy explosives.
- ✓ They developed the layer by layer consisting of two organic polymers.

### **China's new launch**

- ✓ China has aimed to launch heavy-duty Rocket in 2028, powerful enough to send a crewed spacecraft to the moon.

### **Dead galaxies**

- ✓ The Hubble telescope of the National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) has discovered six massive dead galaxies.
- ✓ These galaxies had run out of cold hydrogen gas which is needed to make stars.

### **Dark energy**

- ✓ Recently, an international team of researchers made the first direct detection of dark energy.
- ✓ They noticed certain unexpected results in the XENON1T experiment and write that dark energy may be responsible for it.
- ✓ Dark Energy is a hypothetical form of energy that exerts a negative, repulsive pressure, behaving like the opposite of gravity.
- ✓ XENON1T is the world's most sensitive dark matter experiment.
- ✓ It was operated deep underground at the INFN Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso in Italy.

## **ECONOMY**

### **Fastest orbiting asteroid**

- ✓ The Astronomers at the Carnegie Institution of Science (CIS) of USA announced that they have discovered the fastest orbiting asteroid ever spotted in the solar system.

- ✓ The fastest orbiting asteroid, 2021 PH27, was detected using the Dark Energy Camera (DEC).
- ✓ It is 1 kilometer in diameter and completes its orbit in just 113 Earth days.

### **India's GDP growth in Q1 FY22**

- ✓ According to the data of Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, economic growth of India accelerated to a record high in the quarter through June 2021.
- ✓ As per data, the Gross domestic product has increased to 20.1% in the three-month period as compared to contraction of 24.4% in the same quarter in 2020.
- ✓ This is India's fastest growth since the quarterly data started being released.
- ✓ This growth is bit lower than the projection of Reserve Bank of India (21.4%).

### **PayU to acquire Bill Desk**

- ✓ Netherlands-based Prosus NV has announced to acquire the Indian digital payments provider Bill Desk and merge it with its own fintech service business PayU.
- ✓ The size of the deal is \$4.7 billion.
- ✓ This acquisition will make the combined entity of PayU and Bill Desk as the leading online payment providers globally and in India by total payment volume.

### **CBDC Scheme**

- ✓ The Central banks in Australia, Singapore, Malaysia and South Africa launched a Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDC) Scheme recently.
- ✓ CBDC scheme is a cross border payments trial that uses different central bank digital currencies (CBDC) in order to assess if this allows transactions to be settled in a cheap and easy manner.
- ✓ CBDCs are digital forms of existing currencies.

### **Special Drawing Rights – India's quota**

- ✓ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has made an allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDR) 12.57 billion to India. (approx. USD 17.86 billion).
- ✓ With this, the total SDR holding of India has gone up to SDR 13.66 billion (equivalent to around USD 19.41 billion).
- ✓ SDR is one of the components of the Foreign Exchange Reserves (FER) of India.
- ✓ Hence the Foreign Exchange Reserves (FER) has also increased now.

### **Committee on NUE licenses**

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India will set up a committee to scrutinize applications and give recommendations on New Umbrella Entity (NUE) licenses.

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- ✓ The 5-member committee will be headed by P. Vasudevan.
- ✓ The committee will be responsible for looking into several aspects of NUE, from the macroeconomic impact of such a step to the security risks.

### **Note**

- ✓ The New umbrella entities will be set up for profit entities that will manage payments in the retail space.

### **Alternate Investment Fund**

- ✓ ASK Investment Managers (ASK IM), registered with SEBI, is one of the largest Portfolio Management Service providers in India.
- ✓ It has launched India's First Digital Alternate Investment Fund (AIF).
- ✓ An alternative investment is a financial asset that does not fall into one of the conventional investment categories.
- ✓ Alternative investments include private equity or venture capital, hedge funds, managed futures, art and antiques, commodities, and derivatives contracts.

### **Digital Payment Scorecard**

- ✓ The Bank of Baroda tops in the MeitY (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) Digital Payment Scorecard for the month of February and March 2021.

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- ✓ The scorecard ranks 44 banks (Public Sector Banks, Private Banks, Foreign Banks, Payments Banks, Small Finance Banks) on various parameters on the digital business.

## **PM-KUSUM scheme**

- ✓ Haryana becomes the first state in the country to install solar pumps.
- ✓ Under the scheme, the solar pumps are being installed in the state with 75% subsidy.
- ✓ The pumps can be installed by farmers for irrigation purpose only.

## **Millet Mission**

- ✓ Chhattisgarh launches 'Millet Mission' for farmers.
- ✓ The Chief Minister Baghel signed MoUs with the Indian Institute of Millet Research (IIMR), Hyderabad in this regard.
- ✓ This initiative will help the state become India's millet hub.
- ✓ The year 2023 will be celebrated as the International Year of Millet.

## **PMGDISHA**

- ✓ The Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) drive for 100% Digital Literacy of all

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digital villages has been launched under PMGDISHA scheme.

- ✓ It is a flagship Digital Literacy scheme of the Government for rural areas.
- ✓ It envisages to make six crore persons in rural areas digitally literate in 2020.
- ✓ It aims to cover one member from every household where there is no digitally literate person.
- ✓ Under the campaign, a three-day certification drive for rural citizens especially women and disadvantaged communities will be conducted.
- ✓ The Common Service Centre (CSC) is also proposed to make all the Digital Villages 100 percent Digital Literate.

## **UPI and PayNow**

- ✓ India and Singapore have announced the linking of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and PayNow.
- ✓ It aims to enable users to make instant, low-cost fund transfers.

## **States borrowing**

- ✓ The Central government has allowed 11 states to borrow an additional fund of Rs 15,721 crore from the market.
- ✓ They achieved the capital expenditure target that finance ministry had set for June quarter the fiscal year 2021-22.

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- ✓ Additional open market borrowing permission equivalent to 0.25% of their Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) was granted.
- ✓ Out of total net borrowing ceiling of 4% of GSDP, about 0.50% of GSDP has been kept for incremental capital expenditure to be incurred by states during FY22.
- ✓ These states are Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.

### **Subsidy on stubble burning**

- ✓ The Central Government has released the amount for four states - Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Punjab, and Haryana to subsidize the machinery for the issue of stubble burning.
- ✓ It is required for in-situ management of the crop residue during 2021-22.
- ✓ It aims to address the problem of air pollution in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR).
- ✓ It is because of stubble burning in the adjoining states of Haryana, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh.

### **Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP)**

- ✓ It is a Central Sector scheme by the Department of Land Resources.

- ✓ According to union government, land records have been integrated with the e-portal of central government, by most states except three.
- ✓ Three states that have not integrated their digital land records with the nodal procurement agency, Food Corporation of India (FCI) include Assam, Uttarakhand and Jammu & Kashmir.
- ✓ Cross-checking land records before procurement will help in ensuring that the MSP reaches to the farmers and not traders.
- ✓ Crop cultivated by farmers, either in their own land or rented property, will be procured by the government.

### **GST extension for costliest drugs**

- ✓ The GST Council has given an exemption on expenses imported drugs such as Zolngelsma and Viltepsa, which cost crores of rupees.
- ✓ GST Council members made it clear they do not want petroleum products to be included under the single tax regime.

### **Cohort under Regulatory Sandbox**

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India has announced the theme for the Third Cohort under the Regulatory Sandbox (RS) as 'MSME Lending'.
- ✓ Regulatory Sandbox (RS) refers to live testing of new products or services in a controlled/test regulatory

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environment for which regulators may (or may not) permit certain regulatory relaxations for the limited purpose of the testing.

- ✓ First Cohort - Retail Payments in December 2020.
- ✓ Second Cohort - Cross Border Payments in December 2020.

## **Army Chief's conclave**

- ✓ The 8th edition of the Indian Army Chief's Conclave was organised at New Delhi.
- ✓ It is a gathering of serving and former Chiefs of Army Staff of the Indian Army.
- ✓ The invitation was extended to former Chiefs of the Nepali Army, who were also Chiefs of the Indian Army.

## **Notified Airport**

- ✓ The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has declared Kushi nagar Airport as a Customs notified airport.
- ✓ This would also facilitate international passenger movements including that of Buddhist pilgrims.
- ✓ The Kushi nagar airport is an international airport in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

## **Equinox**

- ✓ Infosys launched Infosys Equinox to help the enterprises.

- ✓ It aims to securely deliver hyper-segmented, personalized omnichannel commerce experiences for B2B and B2C buyers.

### **Trade and Development report 2021**

- ✓ The UNCTAD report has noted that India's GDP growth rate is expected to grow at 7.2% in 2021.
- ✓ With this growth rate, India will be the fastest growing economy after China
- ✓ In 2022, even with a slower growth rate of 6.7%, the country will still be the fastest-growing major economy.

### **'Doing Business' rankings**

- ✓ The World Bank Group has decided to discontinue the publication of its 'Doing Business' rankings of country business climates.
- ✓ In August 2020, the World Bank found a number of irregularities were reported regarding changes to the data.
- ✓ The irregularities in Doing Business reports had affected four countries.
- ✓ They are China; Saudi Arabia; United Arab Emirates; and Azerbaijan.

### **'Bad bank' setup**

- ✓ The government has set up two new entities to acquire stressed assets from banks and then sell them in the market.

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- ✓ To make it work, the government has okayed the use of Rs 30,600 crore to be used as a guarantee.
- ✓ The NARCL-IDRCL structure is the new bad bank.
- ✓ The “National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited” (NARCL) has already been incorporated under the Companies Act.
- ✓ It will acquire stressed assets worth about Rs 2 lakh crore from various commercial banks in different phases.
- ✓ Another entity is India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL).
- ✓ Bad Bank are set up to resolve the problem of bad loans which are impacting the public sector banks.

### **India’s 1st Euro Green Bond**

- ✓ Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) has issued its first Euro 300 million 7- year Euro Bond.
- ✓ It is the leading Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) in power sector of India.
- ✓ It is the first ever Euro denominated green bond issuance from India.
- ✓ It is the first ever Euro issuance by an Indian NBFC.
- ✓ It is also the first Euro bond issuance from India since 2017.
- ✓ Green bond is a fixed-income instrument designed specifically to support specific climate-related or environmental projects.

### **Food delivery under GST**

- ✓ E-commerce operators Swiggy & Zomato will come under GST regime.
- ✓ They are now required to pay GST on restaurant service supplied through by them.
- ✓ It is because tax is charged at point of delivery.
- ✓ Earlier, restaurants used to pay the tax.

### **Asiamoney 2021 Poll**

- ✓ HDFC Bank has been awarded the ‘Overall Most Outstanding Company in India’.
- ✓ This is in addition to the bank being voted ‘Most Outstanding Company in India – Banking Sector,’ for the 4th consecutive year.
- ✓ The poll aims to identify and recognize publicly.

### **Second biggest trade partner**

- ✓ India has emerged as UAE's second biggest trading partner after China, according to official data released by the United Arab Emirates government.

### **45th GST council meeting**

- ✓ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the 45th Meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council.
- ✓ This is the first time that a GST Council meeting took place in Lucknow, capital of Uttar Pradesh.

- ✓ It is also the first physical meeting of the GST Council following the outbreak of COVID-19.
- ✓ The GST Council members made it clear that they do not want petroleum products to be included under GST.
- ✓ It has decided to exempt the following life-saving drugs from the GST taxation.
- ✓ They are Zolngelsma and Viltepsa (cost around Rs 16 Cr), Drugs to treat muscular atrophy.
- ✓ Transport of export goods by vessels and air is also exempted from GST.

### **ENVIRONMENT**

#### **Leaded petrol eradicated**

- ✓ The use of leaded petrol has been eradicated from the globe as per the observation made by UNEP
- ✓ Achieving of this milestone will prevent more than 1.2 million premature deaths.
- ✓ It will save world economies over \$2.4 trillion annually.
- ✓ Algeria was the last country to use the fuel.
- ✓ India banned leaded petrol in March 2000.

#### **557 new species of fauna**

- ✓ According to a document published recently by the Zoological Survey of India Animal Discoveries 2020 reveals that India has added 557 new species to its fauna.

- ✓ It includes 407 new species and 150 new records.
- ✓ The number of faunal species in India has increased now to 1,02,718 species with the discovery of the new species.
- ✓ The highest number of new species were discovered from Karnataka.

### **Deepar Beel Wildlife Sanctuary**

- ✓ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the eco-sensitive zone of the Deepar Beel Wildlife Sanctuary on the south-western fringe of Guwahati.
- ✓ Deepar Beel is likely one of the largest freshwater lakes in Assam.
- ✓ The wetland has for many years been threatened by a railway observe.
- ✓ The wetland expands as much as 30 sq.km in the summer season.

### **Air Quality Life Index report**

- ✓ India is the most polluted country in the world with about 40% of its population living in the Indo-Gangetic plains in the north India.
- ✓ The pollution levels have regularly exceeded there than those found anywhere else in the world.
- ✓ This was stated in the Air Quality Life Index report by the University of Chicago.

- ✓ The report says that the people living in Northern India are on track to lose more than 9 years of life expectancy.
- ✓ It also says that the pollution has now increased so in the states of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- ✓ For example, an average person in these states is losing an additional 2.5 to 2.9 years of life expectancy, relative to early 2000.

**Atlas of Mortality and Economic Losses from Weather, Climate and Water Extremes (1970-2019)**

- ✓ It was released by the UN's world meteorological organization.
- ✓ The developed nations incurred the bulk of \$3.6 trillion in economic losses because of severe weather events in past five decades.
- ✓ The High death tolls in poorer countries have been partly reduced by better evacuation.
- ✓ Three out of 10 world's costliest disasters occurred in 2017 alone namely - hurricanes Harvey (\$96.9bn), Maria (\$69.4bn) and Irma (\$58.2bn).

**Red - eared Slider Turtle**

- ✓ The Red-Eared Slider Turtle has recently been found accidentally from the Malankara dam in Idukki.
- ✓ It is a native of the southern U.S. (Mississippi river) and northern Mexico.

- ✓ It is identified as exotic and enlisted in the 100 most invasive species in the world.
- ✓ It is also known to be a carrier of human-infected bacteria such as salmonella.

### **Erosion of India's coastline**

- ✓ As much as 32 per cent of India's coastline underwent sea erosion and 27 per cent of it expanded between 1990 and 2018.
- ✓ This is according to a report published by the National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) under the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- ✓ The West Bengal coastline has been particularly vulnerable with 60 per cent of the coastline erosion.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu underwent 41 per cent erosion.
- ✓ Odisha coast expanded by 51 percent.
- ✓ In Tamil Nadu it is 22 percent.

### **Sharks' status**

- ✓ According to a new red list by IUCN, world's sharks and rays have been witnessing declines in their populations since 2014.
- ✓ Sharks are now threatened with extinction.
- ✓ About 37% of sharks and rays across the world are considered endangered as of 2021.

### **Latest Red List of Threatened Species**

- ✓ The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has released this report.
- ✓ Some 902 species are officially extinct according to the latest Red List
- ✓ The Red List also shows that 30 per cent of the species (38,543) that it assessed (138,374) face the threat of extinction.
- ✓ Some 80 species are extinct in the wild, 8,404 are critically endangered, 14,647 are endangered, 15,492 are vulnerable and 8,127 are near threatened.
- ✓ The Atlantic bluefin tuna moved from endangered to least concern.
- ✓ The Southern bluefin tuna moved from critically endangered to endangered.
- ✓ The world's largest living lizard, the Komodo dragon has been moved from vulnerable to endangered.
- ✓ The species is endemic to Indonesia and occurs only in the World Heritage-listed Komodo National Park.

### **CII National Energy Leader**

- ✓ GMR led Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) has won the prestigious awards of CII 'National Energy Leader' and 'Excellent Energy Efficient Unit'.

- ✓ GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL) also clinched the CII ‘National Energy Leader’ and ‘Excellent Energy Efficient Unit’.
- ✓ It was at the 22nd National Award ceremony for ‘Excellence in Energy Management’.
- ✓ It was organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) - Green Business Centre (GBC) during the 22nd edition of ‘Energy Efficiency Summit’.
- ✓ The objective of these awards is to recognize the companies engaged in energy-efficiency initiatives that adopt best practices and technological advancement in their daily operations.
- ✓ DIAL is Asia Pacific’s first Level 4+ (transition) accredited airport under Airport Council International’s Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) programme.
- ✓ Hyderabad International Airport is also a carbon neutral airport having Level 3 + “Neutrality” accreditation.

### **Slender Gecko in Goa**

- ✓ A tiny slender gecko, *Hemiphyllodactylus goensis*, has been described by researchers as a new species from Goa and the northern Western Ghat region.
- ✓ It was published in Zootaxa “A new species of the genus *Hemiphyllodactylus* Bleeker, 1860,” a zoological journal.

- ✓ The Goan slender gecko is one of the smallest of the species in India.
- ✓ It is hardly 32mm in size that can sit on the human thumb.
- ✓ Hemiphyllodactylus goensis is only the eight Indian species of the genus and 44th globally.
- ✓ This is also the first species of animal described from Goa University.

### **Sand and Dust Storms Risk Assessment in Asia and the Pacific**

- ✓ The findings were published in the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) report.
- ✓ APDIM is a regional institution of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).
- ✓ The report identified 'east and northeast Asia', 'south and southwest Asia', 'central Asia' and the 'Pacific' as the four main sand and dust storm corridors of Asia-Pacific.
- ✓ The region is the second-largest emitter of mineral dust.
- ✓ Sand and dust storms contribute significantly to poor air quality in Karachi, Lahore and Delhi in 'southwest Asia'.
- ✓ Sand and dust storms are a transboundary meteorological hazard.

- ✓ Much of this dust is characterized by high salt content, making it toxic for plants.
- ✓ It reduces yield, posing a significant threat to the production of irrigated cotton and other crops.
- ✓ More than 500 million people in India and more than 80 per cent of the entire populations of Turkmenistan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran are exposed to medium and high levels of poor air quality due to sand and dust storms.
- ✓ Very high dust deposition also occurs in the Himalaya-Hindu Kush Mountain range and the Tibetan Plateau.
- ✓ This plateau is called 'third pole' that are the sources for fresh water for more than 1.3 billion people in Asia.

### **Largest Open-Air Fernery**

- ✓ India's largest open-air fernery has been inaugurated in Ranikhet of Uttarakhand.
- ✓ It is the country's first open-air fernery in natural surroundings which is not under any poly-house/ shade house.
- ✓ The fernery has the largest collection of fern species, second to only Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanical Garden and Research Institute (TBGRI), Thiruvananthapuram.

- ✓ It has been developed under Central Government's Compensatory Afforestation Management Funds Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) scheme.

### **New species of Jurassic Era Hybodont Shark discovered**

- ✓ The teeth of new species of Hybodont Shark of Jurassic age have been discovered for the first time from Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- ✓ Hybodonts what a dominant group of fishes in both Marine and fluvial environment during the Triassic and early Jurassic time.
- ✓ The newly discovered crushing teeth in Jaisalmer represents a new species named by the research team as 'Strophodusjaisalmerensis'.

### **Australian fly species**

- ✓ Australian entomologist have named a fly species after RuPaul-- the Titan of drag queens.

### **India's first plant to capture CO2**

- ✓ Tata Steel has commissioned India's first carbon capture plant.
- ✓ It extracts CO2 directly from the blast furnace gas, at its Jamshedpur Works.
- ✓ With this achievement, Tata Steel has become the country's first steel company to adopt such a carbon capture technology.

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- ✓ The plant can capture 5 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per day (5 tonne per day - TPD).
- ✓ This project has been executed with technological support from Carbon Clean, a global leader in low-cost CO<sub>2</sub> capture technology.

### **Mura-Drava-Danube**

- ✓ Recently, Mura-Drava-Danube (MDD) was declared as the world's first 'fivecountry biosphere reserve' by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
- ✓ The biosphere reserve covers 700 kilometres of the Mura, Drava and Danube rivers.
- ✓ It stretches across Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and Serbia.

### **Biosphere Reserves in India**

- ✓ Presently, there are 18 Biosphere Reserves in India.
- ✓ 12 Biosphere reserves in India find their place in UNESCO's List of Man & Biosphere Reserves Programme.
- ✓ The latest included under the MAB was 'Panna Biosphere Reserve' (Madhya Pradesh).

### **Climate Indicators and Sustainable Development Report**

- ✓ The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has published a new report.

- ✓ It is titled “Climate Indicators and Sustainable Development: Demonstrating the Interconnections”.
- ✓ WMO published its report with the aim of demonstrating the connections between global climate and SDGs.
- ✓ It also seeks to limit global warming to less than 2 °C or even 1.5 °C by the end of the current century.

### **Black Carbon emission – IMO**

- ✓ With Arctic summer ice reaching its 12th lowest ever extent, the Clean Arctic Alliance has called for urgent cuts to black carbon emissions from shipping.
- ✓ This is planned ahead of the 77th Marine Environment Protection Committee meeting (MEPC 77) at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in November.

### **UNESCO 33rd session**

- ✓ The 33rd session of the International Co-ordinating Council of the UNESCO’s MAB (Man and the Biosphere) Programme was held in a hybrid format in Abuja, Nigeria.
- ✓ This was the first time that it was held in the African continent.
- ✓ 20 new sites in 21 countries were added to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (BRs).
- ✓ This made Biosphere Reserves reach a total number of 727 Biosphere in 131 countries.

- ✓ The sites from Lesotho (Matseng BR), Libya (Ashaafean BR), and Saudi Arabia (Juzur Farasan BR) are designated for the first time.
- ✓ UNESCO's BRs now cover more than 5% of the Earth's landmass.

### **Rare Eagle species**

- ✓ A group of scientists has uncovered the fossils of its unknown species of eagle from 25 million years ago.
- ✓ This remains belong to an ancient hawk called *Archaeohierax sylvestris*.
- ✓ This species had short but strong wings, longer legs and a wide foot span.

### **Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis report**

- ✓ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recently published this report.
- ✓ The report calls for clear climate action.
- ✓ It illustrated the following scenarios,
  - ✚ Very low and low GHG emissions - Here, emissions decline to net zero around the middle of the century. Beyond this, emissions are net negative.
  - ✚ Intermediate GHG emissions - Emissions are double the current level by 2100.
  - ✚ High and very high emissions - Here, emissions are double the current levels by 2050.

- ✓ The average global temperature is currently 1.09°C higher than pre-industrial levels.
- ✓ The CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the atmosphere is 410 ppm as compared to 285 ppm in 1850.

### **Ocean State Report 5**

- ✓ The Copernicus Marine Environmental Monitoring Service has released the 5th edition of the Ocean State Report (OSR 5).
- ✓ The report has said that the global ocean is undergoing severe changes from natural variations, over-exploitation and anthropogenic influences.
- ✓ These changes caused the sea level to rise by 3.1 millimeters each year on an average between January 1993 and May 2020.
- ✓ The report showed that the sea ice is steadily decreasing in the Arctic.

### **United in Science 2021 - WMO**

- ✓ Recently, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) released a report named United in Science 2021.
- ✓ It is a multi-organization high-level compilation of the latest climate science information.
- ✓ The report is coordinated by the WMO.
- ✓ It had got inputs from the United Nations Environment Programme, World Health Organization, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Global

Carbon Project, World Climate Research Programme and the Met Office (UK).

## **NAVY**

### **Naval exercise with Morocco**

- ✓ India which has been at the forefront in developing a Maritime Domain Awareness network in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) recently conducted bilateral naval exercises with Morocco and Algerian navies.
- ✓ According to the Indian Navy, INS Tabar made a port call at Casablanca in Morocco.
- ✓ Morocco is strategically located in the Maghreb region and is the largest country of Africa.
- ✓ INS Tabar (F44) is the third of the Talwar-class frigate of the Indian Navy.

### **Naval exercise with Sudan**

- ✓ The Indian Navy and Sudanese Navy carried out a bilateral maritime exercise in the Red Sea off the Sudanese coast.
- ✓ It was the first time that Indian and Sudanese navies conducted such an exercise.
- ✓ From the Indian side, INS Tabar participated in the exercise.
- ✓ Apart from Sudan, it has also conducted naval exercises with the Egyptian navy in the Mediterranean Sea.

### **Navy Exercise - India and Algeria**

- ✓ The Indian and Algerian navies conducted their first ever naval exercise off the coast of Algeria.
- ✓ The exercise reflects increased maritime cooperation among two countries.
- ✓ Stealth ship INS Tabar represented India while Algeria was represented by its naval ship ANS Ezager.

### **‘Peaceful Mission’ 2021 – 6th version**

- ✓ The Indian military contingent is participating in the Exercise PEACEFUL MISSION -2021.
- ✓ It is a Joint Counter Terrorism Exercise between Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states.
- ✓ It is being hosted by Russia. It is the 6th edition of the biennial multilateral Exercise.

### **Samudra Shakti**

- ✓ Indian Naval ships Shivalik and Kadmatt arrived at Jakarta, Indonesia to participate in the third edition of bilateral exercise Samudra Shakti with the Indonesian Navy.
- ✓ It has been held at Sunda Strait.

### **Raytheon hypersonic weapon**

- ✓ The United States has successfully tested the hypersonic weapon built by Raytheon Technologies.

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- ✓ The free flight test of the Hypersonic Air-breathing Weapon Concept occurred.
- ✓ Hypersonic weapons travel in the upper atmosphere sounds of more than 5 times the speed of sound, or about 6,200km per hour.

### **Akash Prime**

- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has tested a new version of Akash Missile called 'Akash Prime'.
- ✓ It was launched from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) of Chandipur, Odisha.
- ✓ Akash Missile is a medium-range mobile surface-to-air missile (SAM) system.
- ✓ Akash Prime is based on the existing Akash SAM.
- ✓ It is equipped with an improved active radio-frequency (RF) seeker.

## **BOOKS AND AUTHORS**

### **Back to the roots**

- ✓ Tamannaah Bhatia, one of the prominent actors from the South Indian movie industry, has released her book, Back to the roots.
- ✓ She collaborated with Luke Coutinho for this book.
- ✓ The book has been published by Penguin India.

### **A Rude Life**

- ✓ Vir Sanghvi has come with his new book titled 'A Rude Life: The Memoir'.
- ✓ The book has been published by Penguin India.
- ✓ Vir Sanghvi is an Indian print and television journalist, author, columnist and talk show host.

### **Human Rights and Terrorism in India by Subramaniya Swamy**

- ✓ Subramaniya Swamy has come out with a book 'Human Rights and Terrorism in India'.
- ✓ It traces how the combating of terrorism can be harmonised with human and fundamental rights within reasonable restrictions that is permitted by the Constitution and upheld by the Supreme Court.
- ✓ It is the thesis of this study that to deter terror, India as a nation must foster a concept of identity.

### **Chetan Bhagat new book**

- ✓ Auto Chetan Bhagat released the trailer of his upcoming book '400 days'.
- ✓ The book, published by Westland, is the third story from the Keshav Saurabh series after "The Girl in Room 105" and "One Arranged Murder".

**Nirupama Rao's new book**

- ✓ Auto Nirupama Rao will come up with her new book titled 'The Fractured Himalaya: How the Past Shadows The Present In India- China relations'.

**Vijay Gokhale'S new book**

- ✓ Actor Vijay Gokhale has come up with his new book titled 'The Long Game: How the Chinese Negotiate with India'.
- ✓ The book explores the Dynamics of India-China relations through the prism of 6 historical and recent events in the India-China relationship.

**Kulpreet Yadav new book**

- ✓ Ex-naval officer and author kulpreet Yadav has come with his new book titled "The Battle of Rezang La".
- ✓ It tells the story of 120 Indian soldiers who put up a valiant fight against the 5000 strong Chinese military troops in the 1962 Indo-China war, preventing a possible occupation of the entire Ladakh region.
- ✓ The Charlie company of the 13 Kumaon battalion fought a Chinese attack.

**Shining Sikh youth of India**

- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has released a book titled 'Shining Sikh youth of India'.
- ✓ It has been authored by Dr Prabhleen Singh, administrative officer at Punjabi University.

- ✓ The book as part of the commemoration of the four hundred birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh guru of Sikhs.

## **SPORTS**

### **Noisiel International Open 2021 Chess Tournament**

- ✓ Indian Grandmaster P Iniyam won the Noisiel International Open 2021 Chess Tournament.
- ✓ Iniyam finished half a point ahead of higher rated GM Yuri Solodovnichenko of Ukraine who secured 7.5 points.
- ✓ French International Master Kambrath Yannick took 3rd place.

### **Tokyo Paralympics 2020**

- ✓ Sharad Kumar won a bronze in the men's high jump T63 event at Tokyo Paralympics 2020.

### **Tokyo Paralympics 2020 updates**

- ✓ The Wrestler-turned-javelin thrower Sumit Antil scripted history by winning the gold.
- ✓ He won the gold with a world record effort of 68.55m in F64.
- ✓ Shooter Avani Lekhara also created history as she became the first Indian woman to win a gold medal at the Paralympics.

- ✓ She won gold in R-2 women's 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1 event.
- ✓ She finished with a world record equalling total of 249.6, which is also a new Paralympic record.
- ✓ Discus thrower Yogesh Kathuniya clinched a silver medal in the men's F56 event.
- ✓ Devendra Jhajharia won silver as Sundar Singh Gurjar bagged bronze in the Men's Javelin Throw F46 Final.

### **Mariappan Thangavelu – Silver Medal**

- ✓ Mariappan Thangavelu cleared a height of 1.86 metres in men's high jump Tokyo Paralympics 2020.
- ✓ He clinched the silver medal.
- ✓ Mariyappan was born in Periyavudagampatti village, Salem district, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ At the Rio Paralympics of 2016, he won the gold medal in the men's high jump event.

### **Nishad Kumar – silver**

- ✓ India's Nishad Kumar has clinched a silver medal in the men's high jump T47 event at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020.
- ✓ This is the second medal for India at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics.
- ✓ The 23-year-old Nishad made a jump of 2.06m, and in doing so created an Asian record.

- ✓ He also equalled his jump with USA's Dallas Wise, who also took home silver.

### **Tokyo Paralympics 2020 updates**

- ✓ At the ongoing Tokyo Paralympics 2020, Indian shooter Singh raj Adana has won the bronze medal in the P1 Men's 10m Air Pistol SH1 final.
- ✓ Chao Yang and Huang Xing of China won the gold and silver medals respectively.

### **Czech International table tennis tournament**

- ✓ India's top paddler G Sathyan beat Yevhen Ryshchepa of Ukraine in the final of the Czech International table tennis tournament at Olomouc in Czech Republic.
  - ✚ This is his third ITTF Challenger title following triumphs in Belgium Open 2016 and Spanish Open 2017.

### **First Indian woman to win two medals at the Paralympics**

- ✓ Avani Lekhara won the bronze medal in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions SH1 event.
- ✓ She became the first Indian woman to win two medals at the Paralympics.
- ✓ Lekhara had also won gold in the 10m air rifle standing SH1 event.

### **Praveen Kumar- Asian record**

- ✓ Praveen Kumar won the silver with an Asian record jump of 2.07m.
- ✓ He finished behind Great Britain's Jonathan Broom-Edwards, who managed to jump 2.10 m.
- ✓ Praveen is India's fourth medallist in men's high jump at Tokyo Games after Nishad Kumar, Mariyappan Thangavelu, and Sharad Kumar.

### **Pramod Bhagat wins gold**

- ✓ At the Tokyo Paralympics, Indian shuttler Pramod Bhagat has won the gold medal in the men's singles SL3 category.
- ✓ While in the same event, Manoj Sarkar has won a bronze medal for India.

### **Suhas Yathi Raj**

- ✓ Suhas Yathi raj, current district magistrate of Noida, has become the first IAS officer to win Paralympics medal.
- ✓ He ended his campaign with the winning of historic silver.
- ✓ He lost gold to top seed Lucas Mazur of France in the men's singles SL4 class final at the Tokyo Paralympics.

### **50m Mixed Pistol - Tokyo Paralympics**

- ✓ Indian shooters Manish Narwal and Singh raj Adhana clinched the gold and silver medal respectively in the P4 – Mixed 50m Pistol SH1 final at Asaka Shooting Range.

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- ✓ The 19-year-old Manish created the Paralympic record as he amassed 218.2 points to clinch the gold.
- ✓ Singh raj grabbed his second medal of the Tokyo Paralympics.

### **Harvinder Singh**

- ✓ In Paralympics 2020, India's ace archer Harvinder Singh has won the bronze medal in the men's individual recurve open.
- ✓ The 31-year-old has become India's first-ever archer to win a medal in the Paralympics.

### **Asian boxing championship 2021 - Junior & Youth Category**

- ✓ India concluded its successful campaign with 39 medals, including 14 gold, in Dubai.
- ✓ India had already won 19 medals, including eight gold, five silver and six bronze medals, in the junior event played earlier.
- ✓ The youth boxers added 20 more (six gold, nine silver and five bronze) to India's tally.

### **Shaun Tait appointed as bowling coach of Puducherry**

- ✓ The Former Australia pacer Shaun Tait has been roped in as the bowling coach of the Puducherry cricket team.
- ✓ He had recently been appointed bowling coach of the Afghanistan team for a period of five months.

## **India at Tokyo Paralympics**

- ✓ China topped the medal table in this version (207 – 96 golds, 60 silvers and 51 bronzes).
- ✓ It is the fifth time; China tops the medal table since Athens (2004).
- ✓ India won a total of 19 medals at Tokyo Paralympics 2020, including 5 gold, 8 silver and 6 bronze.
- ✓ The 19 medals were clinched by Indian para-athletes across five sporting disciplines including shooting, javelin throw, badminton, athletics and archery.
- ✓ India have finished at 24th position out of 162 nations in terms of overall medal tally.
- ✓ India made its first appearance at the Paralympics in 1968.
- ✓ India won only 12 medals from 1968 to 2016.
- ✓ It had won four medals at Rio 2016 and four at the 1984 Paralympics.
- ✓ This is the first time that badminton and taekwondo has been added to the Paralympics.
- ✓ Tokyo has been the first city to host two Paralympic Games since the city held the 1964 Paralympics.
- ✓ Avani was India's flag-bearer at the Tokyo Paralympics closing ceremony.
- ✓ The Indian gold medallists at Tokyo Paralympics include shooter Avani Lekhara, javelin thrower Sumit Antil,

shooter Manish Narwal and shuttlers Pramod Bhagat and Krishna Nagar.

- ✓ Shooters Avani Lekhara, who won a gold and bronze, and Singh raj Adhana, who won a silver and bronze, were the top performers for India with two medals each.

**Other Medallists:**

- ✓ India's ace archer Harvinder Singh has won the bronze medal in the men's individual recurve open.
- ✓ He has become India's first-ever archer to win a medal in the Paralympics.
- ✓ Indian shooters Manish Narwal and Singh raj Adhana clinched the gold and silver medal respectively in the P4 – Mixed 50m Pistol SH1 final (Shooting).
- ✓ Suhas Yathi raj, current district magistrate of Noida, has become the first IAS officer to win Paralympics medal.
- ✓ He won the silver medal in in the men's singles at Badminton SL4 class final.
- ✓ Pramod Bhagat and Manoj Sarkar had won a gold and a bronze respectively in men's singles at Badminton SL3 category.
- ✓ Pramod claimed India's first badminton gold at the Paralympics.
- ✓ Krishna Nagar won the second Para-Badminton gold for India.

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- ✓ He becomes the first-ever SH6 gold medallist in the history of the Indian Paralympics.

### **Daniel Ricciardo wins F1 Italian Grand Prix**

- ✓ Daniel Ricciardo won the Formula One Italian Grand Prix.
- ✓ Ricciardo was followed by his McLaren teammate Lando Norris in the British team's first win since the 2012 Brazilian GP.
- ✓ Valtteri Bottas was at third despite starting in the last place due to a five-second time penalty for Sergio Perez.

### **Durand Cup**

- ✓ The 130th edition of the Durand Cup kicked off at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata.
- ✓ This is the oldest club football tournament in Asia.
- ✓ It was first held in 1888, at Dagshai in Himachal Pradesh.
- ✓ This tournament has been named after Mortimer Durand.
- ✓ He was the then Foreign Secretary in charge of India.

### **Guinness World Records – Ronaldo**

- ✓ Portuguese captain Cristiano Ronaldo has broken the world record for most goals scored in men's international football.
- ✓ Ronaldo surpassed Iranian striker Ali Daei's long-held record of 109 international goals.

### **North Korea**

- ✓ The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has suspended North Korea until the end of 2022 after it failed to send a delegation to the Tokyo Games.
- ✓ The suspension by IOC means the North Korea will not be able to participate in the Beijing Winter Games.

### **Lasith Malinga announces retirement**

- ✓ Sri Lanka pace veteran Lasith Malinga has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
- ✓ He was the captain of Sri Lanka's 2014 T20 World Cup-winning team.
- ✓ He picked up 107 wickets in 84 T20 Internationals, 338 scalps in 226 ODIs, and 101 wickets in 30 Tests.

### **US Open Tennis 2021**

- ✓ In the men's category, Daniil Medvedev of Russia has lifted his first Grand Slam trophy after defeating Novak Djokovic of Serbia.
- ✓ In the women's category, Great Britain's tennis player Emma Raducanu defeated Canada's Leylah Annie Fernandez.

### **Jaskaran Malhotra**

- ✓ The Chandigarh-born Jaskaran Malhotra of USA hits six sixes in an over against Papua New Guinea.

- ✓ He also became the first cricketer from USA to score an international century.
- ✓ Malhotra's record saw him join the likes of Herschelle Gibbs (South Africa), Yuvraj Singh (India), and Kieron Pollard (West Indies).
- ✓ They also hold the record of smashing six-sixes in international cricket.

### **Beijing 2022 winter game**

- ✓ The official motto of the Olympic and Paralympic winter games Beijing 2022 was revealed as "Together for a Shared Future" by the organising team.
- ✓ The motto represents the power of the games to overcome Global challenges as a community, with a shared future for humankind.

### **Virat Kohli**

- ✓ Indian skipper Virat Kohli will step down as the T20 captain of the Indian cricket team after the men's T20 World Cup in Dubai in October 2021.
- ✓ He will remain the captain for the ODI and Test formats.

### **70th Grandmaster - R Raja Rithvik**

- ✓ India's R Raja Rithvik became chess Grandmaster after he crossed the ELO Rating of 2500.
- ✓ The 17-year-old achieved this GM title in Vezerkepzo Grandmaster Chess Tournament at Budapest, Hungary.

- ✓ He thus became the 70th Grandmaster from the country.
- ✓ A native of Warangal, Rithvik has been undergoing advanced coaching under reputed coach N.V.S. Rama Raju.

### **Asian Games 2022**

- ✓ The 2022 Asian Games is set to be held in Hangzhou, China.
- ✓ It will feature 8 esports titles as medal events.
- ✓ The eight esports titles included in the 2022 Asian Games are Arena of Valour, Dota 2, Dream Three Kingdoms 2, EA Sports FIFA, Hearthstone, League of Legends, PUBG Mobile, and Street Fighter V.
- ✓ This will mark the first year the Asian Games will recognize esports as medal events.

### **Asian Snooker Championship 2021**

- ✓ India's Pankaj Advani won the Asian Snooker Championship 2021 by defeating Amir Sarkhosh.
- ✓ He has won this title for a second consecutive time.
- ✓ He is the winner of the last Asian Snooker Championship held in 2019.
- ✓ In 2019, Pankaj also became the only player who won the titles in all forms of billiards, snooker, 6Reds, and 10Reds competitions.

- ✓ Yasin Merchant (1989, 2001), Alok Kumar (2004), Aditya Mehta (2012) were the other Indians who won the championship.

### **Women's 1500m race - National record**

- ✓ Harmilan Kaur Bains of Punjab has created a new national record in the women's 1500m race.
- ✓ She clocked 4:05.39 to bag the gold at the 60th National Open Athletics Championships in the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Hanamkonda in Telangana.
- ✓ With this achievement, the 23-year-old athlete has erased the 19-year-old record held by Sunita Rani in 1500m at the 2002 Asian Games in Busan by clocking 4:06.03.

### **Batsman name amended**

- ✓ The word 'Batsman' has been amended to the gender-neutral term 'batter' by the MCC.
- ✓ The full form of MCC is Marylebone Cricket Club.

### **First Indian batter**

- ✓ Virat Kohli has become the first batter from the country to cross the 10,000 runs mark in in the T20 format.
- ✓ Kohli is the first batter to make the 10,000 T20 runs.

### **Men's Hockey Junior World Cup**

- ✓ Odisha will host the Men's Hockey Junior World Cup at the Kalinga Stadium.

- ✓ Lucknow had hosted the tournament's last edition in 2016 where India claimed the honours.

### **Pavithra Venkatesh**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu's Pavithra Venkatesh won gold in the women's pole vault event at the 60th National Open athletics meet.
- ✓ It was held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Warangal.
- ✓ The 19-year-old, who hails from Salem, cleared the bar at 3.90m.

### **International online shooting Championship**

- ✓ India's Vishnu Shivraj Pandiyan won the bronze medal in the 10 metre air rifle event at the international online shooting Championship.

### **Praveen Chithravel**

- ✓ Praveen Chithravel of Tamilnadu clinched the gold in triple jump event at the National Open Athletics Championships.
- ✓ He produced a massive jump of 16.88m.
- ✓ This made him the third-best Indian ever after Renjith Maheswary (17.30) and Arpinder Singh (17.17).
- ✓ **Ostrava Open**
- ✓ India's Sania Mirza and her Chinese partner Zhang Shuai won the women's doubles title in the women's doubles final at the Ostrava Open.

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- ✓ It was held in Ostrava, Czech Republic.

## **2021 World Archery Championships**

- ✓ The team India archers settled for three silver medals at the 2021 World Archery Championships.
- ✓ It was held in Yankton, South Dakota, United States.
- ✓ The three silver medals were won in Women's Compound Individual, Women's Compound Team and Compound Mixed Team competitions.
- ✓ Besides this, Vennam Jyothi Surekha of Vijayawada became the first Indian woman archer to win three silver medals at a world championship.

## **AWARDS AND EVENTS**

### **Ramon Magsaysay Award**

- ✓ Ramon Magsaysay Award 2021 awardees have been announced
- ✓ The winners will be formally awarded the Magsaysay Award at the Ramon Magsaysay Centre in Manila, Philippines.
- ✓ The Awardees are,
  - ✚ Vaccine pioneer Dr Firdousi Qadri of Bangladesh,
  - ✚ Muhammad Amjad Saqib of Pakistan,
  - ✚ Philippine fisheries and community environmentalist Roberto Ballon,
  - ✚ American citizen Steven Munsie and

- ✚ Indonesian Watchdog for investigative journalism.
- ✓ Ramon Magsaysay Award is the highest honour in Asia.
- ✓ It was established in April 1957.
- ✓ It is widely regarded as the equivalent of the Nobel Prize in Asia.
- ✓ The award is presented to individuals who have made extraordinary contributions in eradications of poverty and development of the society in Asia.

### **Global award for turtle conservation**

- ✓ The Indian biologist Shailendra Singh has been awarded the Behler Turtle Conservation Award.
- ✓ This award was given for bringing three critically endangered turtle conservation species back from the brink of extinction.
- ✓ The species are,
  - ✚ Red-crowned Roofed Turtle (Batagur kachuga),
  - ✚ Northern River Terrapin (Batagur baska), and
  - ✚ Black Softshell Turtle (Nilssonia nigricans)
- ✓ There are 29 species of freshwater turtles and tortoises in the country.

### **Bird Photographer of the year**

- ✓ The Mexican photographer Alejandro Prieto has emerged as the winner of the Bird Photographer of the Year 2021.

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

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- ✓ He has won for capturing a photograph of a greater roadrunner staring up at the barbed-wire-clad border wall between the USA and Mexico.
- ✓ The image has been given the title as ‘Blocked’.

### **Association for Talent Development 2021 Best Award**

- ✓ Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) has been awarded the coveted “Association for Talent Development 2021 BEST Award”.
- ✓ POWERGRID is a Maharatna CPSU under Ministry of Power, Government of India.
- ✓ POWERGRID secured 8th rank among the 71 organizations from around the globe.
- ✓ It became the only PSU to win this award and one of the only two companies of India in the Top 20.

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### **Energy Leader award – 2021**

- ✓ National Thermal Power Corporation-Ramagundam received the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Energy Leader award-2021.

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

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- ✓ This is consecutively for third year that NTPC-Ramagundam has received the coveted award.
- ✓ The Energy leader award is being conferred on exemplary performance and contribution in the area of Energy Efficiency and Environment Protection and Implementation of Energy Management System as per ISO 50001 standards.

### **Yamin Hazarika - Woman of Substance Award**

- ✓ Writer Namita Gokhale has been chosen as the recipient of the seventh Yamin Hazarika Woman of Substance Award.
- ✓ She is a co-founder and co-director of the Jaipur Literature Festival.
- ✓ The award was organised by a collective of women professionals from the year 2015.
- ✓ The annual award honours Yamin Hazarika, the first woman from Northeast India to be selected for DANIPS.

### **National Awards for Excellence in Energy Management**

- ✓ The Golden Rock Railway Workshop (GOC), Tiruchchirappalli has bagged 22nd National Award for Excellence in Energy Management.
- ✓ It is instituted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

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

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- ✓ It is the only workshop of Indian Railways to have received the award this year.

## **2021 International Young Eco-Hero award**

- ✓ Ayaan Shankta (12) from Mumbai, India, has been named as a 2021 International Young Eco-Hero award winner
- ✓ It is given by the Action For Nature (AFN), a US-based non-profit organization.
- ✓ Ayaan won 3rd place in the 8 to 14 years age group category for his project 'Conservation and Rehabilitation of Powai Lake'.
- ✓ In an attempt to save the lake, Ayaan began the project 'Conservation and Rehabilitation of Powai Lake'.

## **Women's Prize for Fiction 2021**

- ✓ The Author Susanna Clarke won the Women's Prize for Fiction 2021 for her novel 'Piranesi'.

## **President's award**

- ✓ Headmaster of Malda's Shovanagar high School Hariswami Das has been selected for the president's award from Bengal Malda for 2021.

## **Free media Pioneer award**

- ✓ Indian news portal The Wire has received the 2021 Free media Pioneer award instituted by the Vienna-based international press Institute.

### **Swami Brahmanand Award 2021**

- ✓ Mathematician Anand Kumar was conferred with the Swami Brahmanand Award 2021.
- ✓ It was given for his contribution in the field of education through his 'Super 30' initiative.
- ✓ It prepares underprivileged students for the IIT entrance exam.
- ✓ 'Super 30' is a coaching programme of Kumar's Patna-based Ramanujan School of Mathematics.
- ✓ It hunts for 30 meritorious students from among economically backward sections of the society and shapes them to clear the test to get into the prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT).

### **Rajbhasha Keerthi Puraskar**

- ✓ The most prestigious 'Rajbhasha Keerthi Puraskar' award was given to Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant (first prize).
- ✓ The award is presented to recognize the efforts towards the implementation of Hindi as the official language.
- ✓ The NMDC got the 3rd prize in the category of Undertakings.
- ✓ National Mineral Development Ltd. (NMDC) is working under the Ministry of Steel.
- ✓ NMDC has been winning this award for the past three years in a row.

### **Africa food prize 2021**

- ✓ Hyderabad based International crops Research Institute for the semi-arid has been awarded the Africa Food Prize 2021 for improving food security in sub-Saharan Africa.
- ✓ The award was given away at the Africa forum for Green Revolution 2021 Summit.
- ✓ It received the award for the tropical leguminous project.

### **National Florence Nightingale Award 2021**

- ✓ It will be given to a nurse, Bhanumati Gheewala, from Sir Sayajirao General Hospital, Gujarat.
- ✓ The Florence Nightingale Award is given by the Indian Nursing Council.
- ✓ This is a statutory agency under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to recognise the contributions of healthcare workers.

### **The Earthshot Prize**

- ✓ Two Indian Projects out of 5 finalists across the world have been selected to this prize.
- ✓ One is Solar Powered Ironing Cart project that has been designed by Vinisha Umashankar of Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Second is Agricultural Waste Recycling Concept developed by Takachar and cofounded by Vidyut Mohan from Delhi.

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

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- ✓ It is the first-ever Environment Prize launched by Britain's Prince William (Duke of Cambridge) and David Attenborough in 2020.
- ✓ It is given by the Royal Foundation, England.

### **UNESCO Literacy Prize**

- ✓ The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), run by the education ministry, has bagged this global recognition.
- ✓ The recognition is for educating differently-abled people through technology-enabled inclusive learning material.
- ✓ The NIOS move has a specific focus on Indian sign language-based content.

### **Prof. S.K. Joshi Laboratory Excellence Award**

- ✓ It was launched recently by the Quality Council of India.
- ✓ This is country's first-of-its-kind Laboratory Excellence Award.

### **Sahitya Academy prize for translation**

- ✓ TES Raghavan and K Chellappan have been chosen for the Sahitya Academy prize for translation for the year 2020.
- ✓ TES Raghavan has been chosen for this prize for translating Tirukural into Hindi.
- ✓ K Chellappan has been chosen for translating Gora, a novel in Bengali, authored by Rabindranath Tagore into Tamil.

**Ramakrishna Bazar memorial Global award**

- ✓ Adani group chairman Gautam Adani was conferred with Ramakrishna Bajaj Memorial Global award.
- ✓ These awards are conferred on national and international dignitaries for outstanding contribution in their respective fields.

**Ki.Ra. Award**

- ✓ The Coimbatore Vijaya Publishing house's Vijaya Reader Circle's 2021 has announced that the Ki.Ra. award will be given to famous writer Konangi.
- ✓ Writer Konangi who is a story teller of modern Tamil literature belongs to Kovilpatti.
- ✓ Every year Ki.Ra. award and a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh is awarded in the name of Writer K. Raja Narayanan, who is known as the father of Karisal literature.
- ✓ This K.R. The award is presented by Shakti Masala.
- ✓ For the past 5 years the Vijaya Readers Circle of Coimbatore Vijaya Publishing house has selected Jayakanthan Award for Best Author, Poet Meera Award, Innovator Award, Shakthi Vai Govindan Award for Best Government Librarian and Vanathi Thirunavukkarasu Award for Best Bookseller.

**73rd Emmy award 2021**

- ✓ The 73rd Primetime Emmy Awards ceremony was held in Los Angeles, California.

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

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- ✓ The award honoured the best in U.S. prime time television programming as chosen by the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.
- ✓ An Emmy Award, or simply Emmy, is an American award that recognizes excellence in the television industry.

### **Brigadier SV Sarasvati**

- ✓ Brigadier SV Sarasvati, the Deputy Director-General of Military Nursing Service has been bestowed with the National Florence Nightingale Award 2020.
- ✓ She has been honoured with a prestigious Nightingale Award for her immense contribution to the Military Nursing Service as a Nurse Administrator.
- ✓ Brigadier Sarasvati hails from the Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ The National Florence Nightingale Award is the highest distinction in India that a nurse can achieve for selfless devotion and exceptional professionalism.

### **Changemaker award 2021**

- ✓ Fairouz Faizah Beether of Bangladesh has been chosen for the 20-21 changemaker award for her work promoting good health and well-being by and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- ✓ She is co-founder Moner School which is an anonymous online platform active in the field of Mental Health.

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- ✓ It works with the youth to educate them about the importance of Mental Health Care through train.

### **The Himalayan Film Festival 2021**

- ✓ The first edition of 'The Himalayan Film Festival-2021' (THFF) is from 24 to 28 September at Leh, Ladakh.
- ✓ The film festival is being organised by the Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh.
- ✓ It is done in collaboration with the Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.

### **2021 global goalkeeper award**

- ✓ Former United Nation Under Secretary General and executive director of UN women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, has been named the recipient of the bill and Melinda Gates Foundation 2021 Global Goalkeeper Award.
- ✓ The award recognises a leader who has drive in progress on a global scale towards achieving the sustainable development goals.
- ✓ She has been honoured for fighting for gender equality.

### **Swedish International Film Festival 2021**

- ✓ Fahadh Faasil's malayalam feature film 'Joji' has won the Best International feature film award at the Swedish international film festival 2021.

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

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- ✓ "Joji", which was released on Amazon Prime video, is inspired by Shakespeare's tragedy "Macbeth".
- ✓ It was directed by the Dileesh Pothan from Syam Pushkaran's script.

## **SDG Progress Award**

- ✓ Bangladesh Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, has been conferred with the “SDG Progress Award”.
- ✓ Award was conferred by the UN-sponsored Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).
- ✓ She was awarded for Bangladesh’s steady course in responding to the universal call of action to end poverty, protect the planet as well as ensure peace & prosperity for all.

### **Note**

- ✓ Ninth Annual International Conference on Sustainable Development was held on September 20.
- ✓ On this occasion, Sheikh Hasina was introduced as jewel in the crown of the day.

## **Blue Planet Prize**

- ✓ NHPC's 510 MW Teesta-V Power Station, Sikkim has been conferred with the Blue Planet Prize by international hydropower Association.

**Soli J Shorabjee endowment award**

- ✓ OP Jindal Global University has established the Soli J Shorabjee endowment award and scholarship.
- ✓ This award and scholarship will be awarded annually to a deserving student in a field of human rights law and theory.

**Best legislator of the year 2020-21**

- ✓ Karnataka Legislative Assembly has named former state chief minister BS Yeddyurappa as the best legislator of the year 2020-21.
- ✓ Yeddyurappa was the first BJP chief minister in South India.
- ✓ He had served as the 19th Chief Minister of Karnataka.

**Russian Grand Prix 2021**

- ✓ Lewis Hamilton has become the first Formula One Driver to win 100 races with victory in the Russian Grand Prix to retake the Championship lead from Max Verstappen.
- ✓ Hamilton has now won the Russian Grand Prix on 5 of 8 occasion.

**2021 Yidan Prize**

- ✓ Professor Eric A. Hanushek and Dr Rukmini Banerji have been awarded the 2021 Yidan Prize.

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

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- ✓ This prize is considered as the world's highest education accolade.
- ✓ This was awarded in recognition of their ground-breaking work addressing the 'improving quality of education and outcomes for learners at scale'.

### **Business excellence award**

- ✓ Kapil Pathare has been presented with the "Business Excellence and National Achievers Award" by the governor of Maharashtra.
- ✓ This award was given in recognition for his excellent contribution to the industry and ultimately in Indian Economy.

### **CSIR innovation award**

- ✓ The Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu presented the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) innovation award.
- ✓ These Awards were presented to two Class 10 students from Udupi district in a virtual ceremony.
- ✓ Those students are Anusha and Rakshitha Naik from Charamakki Narayana Shetty Memorial Government High School in Ardi Village.
- ✓ They received the award for their project named "Gas Saving Kit".

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

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- ✓ Among 14 schools, Charamakki Narayana Shetty Memorial Government High School is the only government school to get this award.

## **Hunarbaaz Awards**

- ✓ The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad under the auspices of the Ministry of Rural Development presented Hunarbaaz Awards to 75 differently-abled candidates from 15 states.
- ✓ The award ceremony was organized to commemorate Antyodaya Diwas.

## **Globoil Lifetime Achievement Award 2021**

- ✓ Dinesh Shahra has received Globoil India Lifetime Achievement Award 2021 for his exemplary contribution to the Edible Oil Industry.
- ✓ Shahra has played a pivotal role in transforming Madhya Pradesh into the "soy bowl of India".

## **Nansen Refugee award**

- ✓ The Jeel Albina Association for humanitarian development has won the 2021 UN High Commissioner of Refugee Nansen Refugee award.
- ✓ It is a Yemeni Humanitarian Organisation that has supported people caught up in the country is conflict.

**APPOINTMENTS**

**Chief of Air Staff - Vivek Ram Chaudhari**

- ✓ Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force Air Marshal, Vivek Ram Chaudhari has been appointed the next Chief of Air Staff.
- ✓ The current Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria is set to retire on September 30.
- ✓ Chaudhari had taken over as the vice chief on July 1 this year, after Air Marshal HS Arora retired.
- ✓ He is a recipient of the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and the Vayu Sena Medals.

**External auditor of the International Atomic Energy Agency**

- ✓ India's Comptroller and Auditor General, GC Murmu was selected as the external auditor of the International Atomic Energy Agency.
- ✓ International Atomic Energy Agency is a prestigious institution that promotes the peaceful use of nuclear energy.
- ✓ His tenure will be for six years, from 2022 to 2027.

**Vartika Shukla**

- ✓ Vartika Shukla took charge as the first woman Chairperson and Managing Director of public sector enterprise Engineers India Ltd.

**GC Murmu**

- ✓ The Comptroller and Audit General (CAG) of India GC Murmu, was elected as the Chairman of the assembly of ASOSAI for a period of three years from 2024 to 2027.
- ✓ ASOSAI stands for Asian Organization of Supreme Audit institutions.
- ✓ As the Chairman, he would be the Chief Executive of ASOSAI and represent ASOSAI in its dealings with national and international organizations.

**Rani Rampal, Smriti Mandana: Brand ambassadors of Equitas Bank**

- ✓ Equitas Small Finance Bank has roped in Rani Rampal and Smriti Mandan as its brand ambassadors.
- ✓ Rampal holds the record for being the youngest player to play in the national hockey team while Mandana was recognised as the Best Women's International Cricketer by BCCI.
- ✓ The appointment comes in line with the fifth-year anniversary celebrations of the bank.

**S.L. Tripathy appointed as CMD of United India Insurance**

- ✓ S.L. Tripathy has been selected as the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the United India Insurance Company Limited.

- ✓ Tripathy is currently General Manager and Director at the New India Assurance Company Limited.
- ✓ He has been appointed as CMD of United India from the date of assumption of charge of the office and up to the date of his attaining the age of superannuation.

### **New DG of BSF**

- ✓ Pankaj Kumar Singh, a 1988-batch IPS officer, has taken over as the new Director General of the Border Security Force.
- ✓ While Sanjay Arora has assumed charge of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police.
- ✓ Pankaj Kumar Singh, from the Rajasthan cadre of the IPS, has been serving as the special DG of the country's largest border guarding force that man over 6,300km of Indian Boundary with Pakistan and Bangladesh.

### **Nirlep Singh Rai takes over as chief of National Fertilizers Limited**

- ✓ Nirlep Singh Rai took over as chairman and managing director (C&MD) of National Fertilizers Limited (NFL)
- ✓ Rai is also the nominee director on the board of the joint venture company of NFL, Ramagundam Fertilizers and Chemicals limited.

- ✓ NFL is an Indian state-owned corporation that manufactures chemical fertilizers, organic fertilizers, and industrial chemicals.

### **Coca-Cola India appoints Sonali Khanna as Vice President**

- ✓ Coca-Cola announced the appointment of Sonali Khanna as Vice President and General counsel for Coca-Cola India and South West Asia.
- ✓ Sonali would succeed Anjuli Kelotra, current Vice President.

### **Fossil appoints Kriti Sanon as its brand ambassador**

- ✓ The American watches and accessories firm, Fossil, has appointed Indian Bollywood actor Kriti Sanon as its newest celebrity brand ambassador in India.
- ✓ Her collaboration with Fossil will extend to promoting the watch and accessories category ranging from traditional and smartwatches to leather products as well as jewellery for women.
- ✓ She will feature with actor Varun Dhawan in a new campaign.

### **Chairperson of NCLAT**

- ✓ Justice M Venugopal has been appointed as the acting Chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).



### **The new Punjab Chief Minister**

- ✓ Charanjit Singh Channi is appointed as the new Punjab Chief Minister.
- ✓ The Minister of Technical Educational & industrial Training in the Punjab government is now appointed as the new Punjab Chief Minister.
- ✓ He was appointed as the Chief minister after Captain Amarinder Singh resigned from the post.
- ✓ This is the first time ever that Punjab has got a chief minister from a scheduled caste community.

### **PERSONALITIES**

#### **Dr Basant Kumar Misra**

- ✓ Odisha-born neurosurgeon Dr Basant Kumar Misra has been conferred the prestigious American Association of Neurological Surgeons' 'International Lifetime Achievement Award in Neurosurgery'.
- ✓ Misra is the first Indian physician to receive the AANS honor.
- ✓ He was the world's first surgeon to perform Computer-Guided Aneurysm surgery.
- ✓ He is also the recipient of the most prestigious Dr BC Roy National Award in the category of 'Eminent Medical Person' (Highest Medical Award in India) in 2018.

### **Dorje Angchuk**

- ✓ Dorje Angchuk has been admitted as an Honorary Member of the International Astronomical Union.
- ✓ He is an Engineer in charge at the Indian Astronomical Observatory of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics at Hanle in the Ladakh region.
- ✓ Angchuk is the first and only Indian to bag the position in the prestigious body.

### **10-year Dubai Golden Visa**

- ✓ The Indian golfer Jeev Milkha Singh has become the first professional golfer in the world to receive the prestigious 10-year Dubai Golden Visa.

### **Amarnath Ramakrishna**

- ✓ K. Amarnath Ramakrishna, the Superintending Archaeologist has been transferred back to the Archaeological Survey of India's Chennai Circle.
- ✓ He oversaw the first two phases of the Keeladi excavations.
- ✓ Currently, Mr. Ramakrishna is serving as Superintending Archaeologist in the Goa Circle.

### **Manorama Mohapatra**

- ✓ Eminent odia litterateur and journalist Manorama Mohapatra passed away.

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- ✓ She was the former editor of the largest Odia daily "Samaja".

### **Veteran journalist KM Roy**

- ✓ Noted journalist and Columnist KM Roy passed away.
- ✓ He had also worked with The Economic Times, The Hindu and UNI news agency.
- ✓ Roy was the recipient of swadeshabhimani Kesari award, the highest honour that journalists received from the Kerala government.
- ✓ He also authored books like Irulum Velichavum and Kaalathinju Munpe Nadanna Manjooran.

### **Shivani Meena**

- ✓ Shivani Meena, an IIT Jodhpur alumna, has become the first one excavation engineer to work in an open cast mine at Coal India CCL (Central Coalfields Limited).

### **Indira Parthasarathy - Sahitya Academy**

- ✓ After a gap of 25 years, the Sahitya Academy has chosen a Tamil litterateur, Indira Parthasarathy for its highest honour of Fellowship.
- ✓ He is commonly known as Ee. Paa.
- ✓ In 1996, D. Jayakanthan, aged 62, was the youngest to become a Fellow of the Academy.
- ✓ Before him, only two from the Tamil literary world.

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- ✓ They were Rajaji or C. Rajagopalachari (1969) and T.P. Meenakshisundaram (1975).
- ✓ Though V. Raghavan (1979) and K.R. Srinivasa Iyengar (1985), both Tamils, were also given the Fellowship, they were recognised for their contributions to Sanskrit and the Indian writing in English.
- ✓ Indira Parthasarathy is author of over 40 books, including 16 novels, 10 plays and six collections of short stories.
- ✓ Prof. Parthasarathy is noted for his works on political themes.
- ✓ He considers the play Ramanujar his magnum opus.
- ✓ His Kurithi Punal, written against the backdrop of the 1968 Keezh venmani massacre of 42 poor farmers, fetched him the Sahitya academy award in 1977.
- ✓ He went on to win several prestigious awards, including the Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad Award and the Saraswati Samman.
- ✓ He is the only Tamil writer to be given awards by both the Sahitya and Sangeet Natak Academies.

### **Susheela**

- ✓ Freedom fighter and senior members of the famous Vadakkath family, G. Susheela passed away in September 2021.
- ✓ Born in 1921 in Kerala, she participated in the freedom struggle while she was a student in Madras.

- ✓ A follower of the principles of Mahatma Gandhi, Susheela served as the National Secretary of the women's wing of the Congress.

### **Francis Kiruba**

- ✓ Renowned writer and Tamil poet Francis Kiruba recently passed away in Chennai.
- ✓ He hails from Pathiniparai village near Nanguneri in Tirunelveli district.
- ✓ He wrote the screenplay and script for the biopic of 'Kamaraj'.

### **Activist Kamla Bhasin**

- ✓ Kamla Bhasin, a noted feminist activist and author, passed away.
- ✓ Since the 1970's, Bhasin has been a prominent voice in the women's movement both in India, as well as in other South Asian countries.
- ✓ In 2002, she founded the feminist network 'Sangat', which works with underprivileged to the men from the rural and tribal communities.

### **Shefali Juneja**

- ✓ Senior bureaucrat Shefali Juneja was elected as the chairperson of the International Civil Aviation organisation aviation security committee.

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- ✓ She became the first woman to lead the strategic committee for the United Nations' body.

### **Sripada Sriram**

- ✓ Indian army officer Lt Col Sripada Shriram have set a new Guinness World Record for 'Fastest Solo Cycling' by covering 472 km from Leh to Manali in just over 34 hours.
- ✓ The event was part of the 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh' celebrations.

### **Elon Musk overtakes Jeff Bezos**

- ✓ Tesla CEO Elon Musk, overtook Amazon's Jeff Bezos to become the world's richest person again, according to Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

### **Nimaben Acharya**

- ✓ Veteran legislator Nimaben Acharya was unanimously elected the first woman Speaker of the Gujarat Assembly recently.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Rabobank's 2021 Global Top 20 Dairy Companies list**

- ✓ Amul, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation has ranked 18th in this list
- ✓ Amul was placed at 16th spot in 2020.

- ✓ French-based dairy company Lactalis has topped the list as the world's largest dairy company.
- ✓ It has unseated Switzerland-based global behemoth Nestle, which dominated the list for decades.
- ✓ Rabobank's Global Dairy Top 20 Report is released annually to rank the dairy industry upon their sales data and financial statements.

### **World University Rankings 2022**

- ✓ The Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2022 has been announced.
- ✓ The University of Oxford is at the top of the list.
- ✓ It is followed by the California Institute of Technology and Harvard University at the second and third positions, respectively.
- ✓ The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, is placed between the 301-350 position.
- ✓ It is also the only university in the top 350 rankings.
- ✓ The ranking is based on 13 balanced performance indicators.

#### **Note**

- ✓ IISc Bangalore - (301-350)
- ✓ Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar – (351-400)
- ✓ IIT Indore – (401-500)

### **Hurun India Future Unicorn List 2021**

- ✓ Hurun Research Institute has released this recently.
- ✓ As per this, India is the third-largest Unicorn/startup ecosystem in the world.
- ✓ The USA is on top followed by China on second.
- ✓ India has 51 unicorns according to the list.
- ✓ Zilingo is the top unicorn in the ranking in India.
- ✓ The headquarters of Zilingo is in Singapore.
- ✓ Bengaluru is the top Indian city in terms of the number of Unicorns headquartered in a city.
- ✓ Bengaluru has 31 unicorns followed by Mumbai which has 12 unicorns.

### **FreightFox**

- ✓ FreightFox have qualified for the Global 2021 cohort of 100+ Accelerators Global program.
- ✓ FreightFox is a manufacturing logistics Technology startup.

### **Menhir from Megalithic period**

- ✓ A typical Menhir stone slab, about 7 feet in height, was found at Basrur, comedy wale historical City, on West Coast of India.
- ✓ The Menhir found at Basrur is oriented to the Northwest direction and the slightly leaning to the East.

- ✓ Basure or Basir means pregnant in the local language, kannada.

### **Lunar crater**

- ✓ The international astronomical Union has named up tractor at the Moon's south pole after the Arctic Explorer Matthew Henson.
- ✓ He was an African-American explorer who discovered the north pole in 1909 with Robert Peary.

### **Digital quality of life index**

- ✓ India ranks 33rd on e-government and 47th on internet affordability, according to the Global index on digital quality of life in 110 countries.
- ✓ The digital quality of life index 2021 was launched by the cyber security company Surfshark.
- ✓ Overall, India ranked 59th among 110 countries.
- ✓ Denmark topped the index for the second year in a row, followed by South Korea and Finland.

### **IMPORTANT DAYS**

#### **National Nutrition Week 2021 – September 1 to 7**

- ✓ The purpose behind celebrating is to spread awareness about good nutrition, and health.
- ✓ The theme for National Nutrition Week 2021 is "Feeding smart right from start".



### **International Day of Charity**

- ✓ It was chosen to celebrate the day because it is Mother Teresa's death anniversary.
- ✓ Mother Teresa died (87) on September 5th 1997.
- ✓ She received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.
- ✓ It was declared by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2012.
- ✓ It was first celebrated by the Hungarian civil society with the support of government of Hungary.

### **Teachers' Day**

- ✓ It is annually celebrated as Teachers' Day to pay tribute to Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and all teachers in the country since 1962.
- ✓ He was also the first Vice President of India (1952–1962) and second President of the country (1962-67).
- ✓ India's Teacher's Day Celebration is one month ahead of World Teachers' Day, which is on October 5.

### **Food Processing Week – September 6 to 12**

- ✓ To commemorate 75 years of India's independence, the Government of India is celebrating the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.'
- ✓ As a part of the celebration, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries observed this 'Food Processing Week'.

**International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies – September 07**

- ✓ ‘Healthy Air, Healthy Planet’ is the theme for this year.
- ✓ 2020 marked the first international observance of the Day.
- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution in this regard in 2019.

**International Literacy Day**

- ✓ In the year 1966, UNESCO proclaimed 8th September as International Literacy Day.
- ✓ The theme of the day this year is ‘Literacy for a human-centered recovery, Narrowing the digital divide.’
- ✓ The issue of literacy is a key component of the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 4 and the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**World Physical Therapy Day – September 8**

- ✓ It is commemorated to provide a chance for physical therapists from all across the world.
- ✓ It also aims to promote awareness about the profession's critical role in enhancing people's well-being and health.
- ✓ Designated in 1996, this Day is promoted by the World Physiotherapy.
- ✓ This year's theme will be the same theme of last year (Rehabilitation and Long Covid-19).

## **International Day to Protect Education from Attack – 9 September**

- ✓ It is an international observance established by a unanimous decision of the United Nations General Assembly in 2020.
- ✓ The resolution proclaiming the Day was presented by Qatar.
- ✓ UNESCO and UNICEF will facilitate the annual observance of the Day in close collaboration with partners within and outside the UN system.

## **Himalaya Day – 9 September**

- ✓ It is celebrated every year in the state of Uttarakhand.
- ✓ The National Mission for Clean Ganga organised Himalaya Diwas in collaboration with Naula Foundation, as a part of ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’.
- ✓ It was observed under the theme ‘Contribution of Himalayas and our responsibilities’.

## **World Electric Vehicle Day – 9 September**

- ✓ The day marks the celebration of e-mobility.
- ✓ It was an initiative created by the sustainability media company Green TV.
- ✓ The first World EV day was observed in 2020.
- ✓ China is the largest EV market in the world.

- ✓ Japan based Suzuki also declared to launch its first EV in India.
- ✓ Currently, the automotive industry of India is the fifth largest worldwide.
- ✓ It is set to become third largest by 2030.

### **World Suicide Prevention Day – 10 September**

- ✓ In 2003 at Stockholm of Sweden, the International Association for Suicide Prevention teamed up with the World Health Organization (WHO) to create a for this.
- ✓ For 2021, the theme for this day is "creating hope through action."

### **National Forest Martyrs Day – 11 September**

- ✓ It is observed to commemorate the Khejarli massacre, which took place on September 11 in 1730.
- ✓ During the reign of Maharaja Abhay Singh in Rajasthan, it was ordered to cut down the Khejarli trees.
- ✓ Over 360 Bishnoi tribe members led by Amrita Devi protested the destruction of trees.
- ✓ In 2013, the Ministry of Environment and Forest announced officially announced the observation of this day.
- ✓ Moreover, the Chipko Movement was also inspired by this brave act of the people of Bishnoi community.

- ✓ The Chipko movement originated in the Himalayan region of Uttarakhand (then part of Uttar Pradesh) in 1973.
- ✓ The Gandhian social activist Chandi Prasad Bhatt led the first Chipko movement at Mandal village.
- ✓ Later this Movement gained traction under Sunder Lal Bahuguna, an eco-activist.
- ✓ Bahuguna is best remembered for the slogan “ecology is the permanent economy”.

### **World First Aid Day – 11 September**

- ✓ It is observed on the second Saturday of September.
- ✓ It is observed by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).
- ✓ The theme of this year is “First aid and road safety”.

### **International Day for South-South Cooperation – September 12**

- ✓ The day celebrates the economic, social and political developments made in recent years by regions and countries in the south.
- ✓ The history of the South-South cooperation begins in 1949 with the establishment of the UN technical aid programme by the Economic and Social Council and the creation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1969.

## **Hindi Day – 14 September**

- ✓ It is celebrated every year marking the declaration of Hindi language in Devanagari script as one of the two official language of Union government of India.
- ✓ Hindi, along with English, are the official languages of India under Article 343 of the Constitution.
- ✓ The first Hindi Diwas was celebrated in 1953.
- ✓ World Hindi Day is celebrated on January 10.
- ✓ On 14 September 1949, Hindi was adapted as official language in India.
- ✓ The 14th September 1949 was the 50th birthday of Beohar Rajendra Simha.
- ✓ Beohar Rajendra Simha, along with Hazari Prasad Dwivedi, Kaka Kalelkar, Maithili Sharan Gupta and Seth Govind Das, debated tirelessly in the Constituent Assembly and worked hard towards making Hindi the official language of India.
- ✓ Hindi belongs to the Indo-Aryan branch of the Indo-European family of languages.
- ✓ The word "Hindi" is Persian in origin.
- ✓ The first ever 'Hindi' poem was written by the eminent Persian poet Amir Khusro.

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- ✓ In 1977, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the first External Affairs minister addressed the United Nations General Assembly for the first time in Hindi.
- ✓ In 1918, Mahatma Gandhi for the first time talked about making Hindi as the national language of India.

### **International Day of Democracy – 15 September**

- ✓ In 2007, the United Nations passed a resolution in this regard.
- ✓ Qatar led efforts to promote an International Day of Democracy
- ✓ The Universal Declaration on Democracy was adopted on September 15, 1997 by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).
- ✓ It is an international organisation of national parliaments.
- ✓ In 2021, United Nations has called for strengthening democratic resilience in the face of a future crisis.

### **Engineers Day – 15 September**

- ✓ It is celebrated to pay tribute to India's finest engineer Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya.
- ✓ Visvesvaraya was the Chief Engineer of Krishna Raja Sagara dam in the Mysuru city.
- ✓ He has also served as one of the Chief Engineers of the flood protection system for the city of Hyderabad.
- ✓ In 1903, he designed the automatic barrier water floodgates at Khadakvasla reservoir in Pune.

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- ✓ The theme for this day is 'Engineering for A Healthy Planet- Celebrating the UNESCO Engineering Report'.
- ✓ In 1968, the Indian government declared Visvesvaraya's birth anniversary as Engineers' Day.
- ✓ He was regarded as the "Father of Modern Mysore".
- ✓ Visvesvaraya has also authored various books, such as 'Planned Economy of India' and 'Reconstructing India'.

### **World Lymphoma Awareness Day - 15 September**

- ✓ The day is dedicated to raising awareness about lymphoma.
- ✓ It was initiated in 2002 by the Lymphoma Coalition.

### **57th Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) day – 15 September**

- ✓ It was established in 1964 by the External Affairs Ministry.
- ✓ It is to offer the benefit of India's development experience and appropriate technologies to the developing countries.

### **International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer – 16 September**

- ✓ It was designated by the United Nations General Assembly in 1994.
- ✓ It is in commemoration of the date in 1987 on which nations signed the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

- ✓ The closure of the hole in the ozone layer was observed 30 years after the protocol was signed.

### **World Ozone Day Theme (16 September)**

- ✓ It is the reminder of the Spring of 1975 when the scientists in Antarctica had detected an appalling drop in the Ozone concentration.
- ✓ The Montreal Protocol theme has been selected for the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer 2021
- ✓ The theme for World Ozone Day 2021 is ‘Montreal Protocol- Keeping us, our food, and vaccines cool’.
- ✓ The Montreal Protocol was the first to be ratified by all the 197 countries of the United Nations.

### **World Patient Safety Day – 17 September**

- ✓ It aims to raise global awareness about patient safety and call for solidarity and united action by all countries and international partners to reduce patient harm.
- ✓ This year’s campaign slogan by the World Health Organization is “Act now for safe and respectful childbirth!”.
- ✓ The theme for this year is “Safe maternal and new born care”.
- ✓ It was established in 2019 when the 72nd World Health Assembly adopted resolution.

### **Social Justice Day**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu Government celebrated the 143rd birthday of E.V. Ramasamy Periyar as Social Justice Day on 17th September.
- ✓ The Chief Minister M.K. Stalin administered the social justice pledge to Government staff at the Secretariat.

### **International Equal Pay Day – 18 September**

- ✓ Under an initiative of the United Nations, it is observed
- ✓ The world observed its first-ever International Equal Pay Day in 2020.
- ✓ It aims to highlight the importance of ending sexual discrimination in relation to gender pay gap.
- ✓ It refers to the difference in earnings between men and women in paid employment.
- ✓ At the current pace, it could take 257 years to achieve economic gender parity.

### **International Red Panda Day – 18 September**

- ✓ It is celebrated on third Saturday of September every year.
- ✓ The day was launched by the Red Panda Network in 2010.
- ✓ Almost 50% of the red panda's habitat is in the Eastern Himalayas.
- ✓ It is native to the eastern Himalayas and southwestern China.
- ✓ It is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

- ✓ These animals spend most of their lives in trees and even sleep aloft.
- ✓ The loss of nesting trees and bamboo is causing a decline in red panda populations.

### **World Water Monitoring Day – 18 September**

- ✓ It is an international effort aimed to increase public awareness and involvement in water monitoring and protecting water resources around the world.
- ✓ Water Monitoring Day was created by America's Clean Water Foundation in 2003.

### **36th International Coastal Clean Up Day – 18 September**

- ✓ It is traditionally held on the third Saturday in September since 1986.
- ✓ The theme in 2021 is "Keep trash in the bin and not in the ocean".
- ✓ It was established by the Ocean Conservancy.

### **World Bamboo Day – 18 September**

- ✓ The theme in 2021 is '#PlantBamboo: It Is Time To Plant Bamboo'.
- ✓ Bamboo is a tall, tree-like grass of the family Poaceae.
- ✓ It was declared by the World Bamboo Organization in 2009.

**International Snakebite Awareness Day - September 19**

- ✓ It is observed the fourth International Snakebite Awareness Day this year.
- ✓ Snakebite, a major public health issue but a hugely neglected problem continues to affect millions of people with death and disability worldwide.
- ✓ In 2018, the first ever International Snakebite Awareness Day was celebrated on September 19.
- ✓ This is to emphasize on awareness and actions needed to tackle the burden of snakebite.

**International Day of University Sport – 20 September**

- ✓ The International University Sports Federation (FISU) proposed to UNESCO to internationally recognize a day dedicated to university sport in 2015.
- ✓ This date coincides in most countries around the world with the beginning of the academic year.
- ✓ It is also the date of the first Student World Championships in 1924.

**Railway Protection Force (RPF) Day – 20 September**

- ✓ It was celebrated to commemorate the conferring of the Armed Force status to RPF.
- ✓ It is on par with the other paramilitary forces of the Union of India on September 20, 1985.

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- ✓ It is a security force, established by the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957.
- ✓ It is under the authority of Ministry of Railways.

### **International Week of Deaf People 2021 - September 20 to 26**

- ✓ Every year, the full week ending on the last Sunday of September is observed as the International Week of the Deaf (IWD).
- ✓ The last Sunday of the month of September is celebrated as the World Day of Deaf or International Day of the Deaf (September 26, 2021).
- ✓ The theme of 2021 IWD is “Celebrating Thriving Deaf Communities”.

#### **Note**

- ✓ It is an initiative of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD).
- ✓ It was first launched in 1958 in Rome, Italy to commemorate the month when the first World Congress of the WFD was held.

### **International Day of Peace – 21 September**

- ✓ It is a United Nations-sanctioned holiday.
- ✓ It was first celebrated in 1981.
- ✓ To inaugurate the day, the United Nations Peace Bell is rung at UN Headquarters (in New York City)

- ✓ 2021 Theme is 'Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world'.

### **World Alzheimer's Day – 21 September**

- ✓ Alzheimer's Disease is the most common type of Dementia.
- ✓ There is no cure for Alzheimer's disease.
- ✓ The theme for 2021 is 'Know dementia, know Alzheimer'.
- ✓ It will launch the World Alzheimer Report entitled the 'Journey through the diagnosis of dementia'.

### **Zero Emissions Day – 21 September**

- ✓ It is to help reduce carbon emissions from the atmosphere.
- ✓ It is to move towards renewable energies instead of fossil ones.
- ✓ The theme for 2021 is "Giving our planet a day off a year".

### **World Rhino Day – 22 September**

- ✓ This day is celebrated to raise awareness of the need to protect all the five existing species of Rhinoceros.
- ✓ They are
  - ✚ Black Rhino,
  - ✚ White Rhino,
  - ✚ Greater one-horned Rhino,
  - ✚ Sumatran Rhino and
  - ✚ Javan Rhinos.

- ✓ World Rhino Day was first announced by World Wildlife Fund-South Africa in 2010.
- ✓ It is being observed internationally since 2011.

### **World Car-Free Day – 22 September**

- ✓ World Car-Free Day is an opportunity to highlight the benefits of going car-free.
- ✓ The day is celebrated every year on 22 September around the globe to encourage motorists to give up their cars for a day.
- ✓ The event highlights the numerous benefits of going car-free to citizen including reduced air pollution and the promotion of walking and cycling in a safer environment.

### **World Rose Day – 22 September**

- ✓ World Rose Day is observed in the memory of 12-year-old Melinda Rose from Canada who was diagnosed with Askin's Tumour, a rare form of blood cancer.
- ✓ World Rose Day is annually celebrated on September 22 in dedication to the welfare of cancer patients.
- ✓ World Cancer Day is observed on February 4.

### **NSS Day – 24 September**

- ✓ The National Service Scheme is a public service program conducted by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- ✓ It aims to provide hands-on experience to young students in delivering community service.

- ✓ The National Service Scheme was launched in 1969, the birth centenary year of Mahatma Gandhi.
- ✓ NSS is a central sector scheme of the government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.

### **World Pharmacist Day – 25 September**

- ✓ This day is celebrated to create awareness about the role of a pharmacist in improving health.
- ✓ The day was an initiative of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) along with the council of this organization.
- ✓ This year's theme is "Pharmacy: Always trusted for your health".
- ✓ The day was designated in 2009.

### **Antyodaya Diwas – 25 September**

- ✓ This day is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.
- ✓ The day was declared by the Modi Government on September 25, 2014.
- ✓ Antyodaya means uplifting the poorest of the poor.

### **The European Day of Languages – 26 September**

- ✓ It is a well-established, annual opportunity to raise awareness around language learning and linguistic diversity.

- ✓ It started in 2001, organized jointly by the European Union and the Council of Europe.

### **World Rivers Day 2021 – 26 September**

- ✓ The day is celebrated every year on the “Fourth Sunday of September” since 2005.
- ✓ It is observed to raise global awareness of the need to support, protect and preserve the rivers around the world.
- ✓ In 2021, World Rivers Day is being celebrated on 26 September.
- ✓ The theme for World Rivers Day 2021 is “Waterways in our communities”.

### **World Environmental Health Day – 26 September**

- ✓ The International Federation of Environmental Health declared to observe World Environmental Health Day on 26 September every year.
- ✓ This day is celebrated to shed the light on important work of environmental health around the world.
- ✓ The theme for the 2021 World Environmental Health Day: Prioritizing Environmental Health for healthier communities in the global recovery.

### **World Contraception Day – 26 September**

- ✓ This day has been designated to bring focus to the rights of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children.

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- ✓ The day was first observed in 2007.
- ✓ Contraception is a birth control method required to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

## **80th Foundation Day of CSIR – 26 September**

- ✓ CSIR observed its 80th foundation day this year.
- ✓ The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) is a contemporary R&D organization.
- ✓ CSIR has put in place CSIR@80: Vision & Strategy 2022 – New CSIR for New India.
- ✓ CSIR is ranked 37th among 1587 government institutions worldwide.
- ✓ It is the only Indian organization among the top 100 global government institutions, according to the Scimago Institutions Ranking World Report 2021.
- ✓ CSIR holds the 7th rank in Asia and leads the country at the first position.

## **Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar's birth anniversary: September 26**

- ✓ September 26 marks the birth anniversary of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar.
- ✓ She was born in 1820 and the year 2021 marks his 201st birth anniversary.
- ✓ He was an Indian educator and social reformer.

- ✓ Social reforms included 'Bidhobabivah' on the widow's right to remarry (1855), 'Bahubivah' on the banning of polygamy (1871), etc.

**World Tourism Day – 27 September**

- ✓ The purpose of this day is to raise awareness of the role of tourism within the international community.
- ✓ The theme for World Tourism Day 2021 is "Tourism for Inclusive Growth".
- ✓ The day is observed since 1980.

**World Rabies Day – 28 September**

- ✓ This day is observed to raise awareness about the impact of the viral disease and how to prevent it.
- ✓ This day is also observed globally to mark the death anniversary of Louis Pasteur, who developed the first rabies vaccine.
- ✓ This year, the theme for World Rabies day is 'Rabies: Facts, not Fear'.

**The International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste – 29 September**

- ✓ The UN General Assembly designated this day.
- ✓ The day strives towards meeting SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production).

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- ✓ The day is co-convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme.

## **World Heart Day – 29 September**

- ✓ It is organized by World Heart Federation.
- ✓ It aims to raise awareness about cardiovascular disease (CVD).
- ✓ This year, the theme for World Heart Day is 'Use Heart To Connect'.

## **National Coffee Day – 29 September**

- ✓ 29th September is observed as the National Coffee Day in India.

## **International Translation Day – 30 September**

- ✓ This special day was created to pay tribute to language professionals such as translators and interpreters.
- ✓ The theme for 2021 is 'United in Translation'.
- ✓ This date is chosen to celebrate the feast of St. Jerome, the Bible translator.
- ✓ He is also considered the patron saint of translators.

## **World Maritime Day – 30 September**

- ✓ It aims to spread awareness about the importance of shipping safety, maritime security, and the marine environment.

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- ✓ The first time World Maritime Day was held on March, 1978 to mark the date of the IMO Convention's entry into force in 1958.
- ✓ The theme of World Maritime Day 2021 is "Seafarers: at the core of shipping's future".
- ✓ In India, the National Maritime Day is celebrated on April 5 every year.

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