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ISSUE **7** August  
2022

# Current Drishti

►► CURRENT AFFAIRS ◀◀  
ENGLISH MONTHLY

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67<sup>th</sup>  
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Solved

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- Agnipath :  
Defence Policy  
Reform
- 4<sup>th</sup> State Food Safety  
Index, 2021-22
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- Performance Grading  
Index for Districts  
(PGI-D)
- Global Peace Index,  
2022
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2022

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# CRISIS in Sri Lanka

Concept  
360°

RECENT NATIONAL DISASTERS

CASH BACK ₹25



Validity upto August, 2023

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# Current Drishti

>>> ENGLISH MONTHLY <<<

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Editorial Office :

**Sam-Samayik Ghatna Chakra**

188A/128 Allenganj, Churchlane,  
Prayagraj (Allahabad) - 211002

Ph.: 0532-2465524, 9335140296

e-mail : ssgcald@yahoo.co.in

Website : ssgcp.com

e-shop : ssgcp.com

Contact Timing : 12:00 Noon to 8 p.m.  
(Monday to Friday)

Editor : **Santosh Kumar Chaudhary**

Sub Editor : **Rishabh Srivastava**

Member Editorial : **Anubhav Upadhyay**

Writers : **Yogesh P. Singh, Rahul Yadav,**

**Kameshwar Shukla & Akash Singh**

Editorial Co-Ordinator : **Gyan Prakash**

Computer Assistance :

**Shoaib Qurashi, Vicky Raj**

Account Manager : **R.P. Bhatt**

Advertisement Manager :

**Jitendra Dwivedi**

Managing Editor : **Mamta Chaudhary**

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## EDITORIAL

Certain events that happen in a country can affect the happenings going on in other parts of the world. Hence, current affairs have an important role in our daily life. Owing to this importance and its dynamic nature, current affairs is a section that we can find in every competitive exams. This is to test a student's ability to be abreast of what is happening in the world.

Current affairs comprises topics like **National and International Affairs, Economics, Environment, Law & Justice, Science and Technology, and myriad others like important Personalities, Places, Organisations, Military Exercises, Awards, Appointments, Agreements, Sports** etc. which are related to competitive exams.

The "**CURRENT DRISHTI**" is a Monthly Magazine presented by **Sam Samayik Ghatna Chakra** encapsulates all the dimensions of the current affairs in a single book.

A New feature "**Concept 360°**" is added in this magazine, under which different dimensions of the current topics are depicted like - Historical, Geographical, Constitutional etc.

For the preparation of Civil Services Examinations, special sections of **Mains Answer Writing Practice, Ethics Booster Series, Learning through Maps** etc. have been initiated in this magazine.

This compendium of current affairs will definitely be beneficial for not only the aspirants of the civil services examinations, but to every reader who wants to be updated about the contemporary international and national events.

**Hope You Will Enjoy This...**

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# COVER STORY



## Crisis in Sri Lanka

### ❑ Crisis in Sri Lanka

Recently in July 2022, Ranil Wickremesinghe was sworn-in as Sri Lanka's President and he will face the tough task of leading the country out of its on-going economic crisis.

- Sri Lanka, is under the grip of an unprecedented economic turmoil, the worst in seven decades, leaving millions struggling to buy food, medicine, fuel and other essentials.
- The crisis has been characterized by high inflation and severe shortage of fuel and electricity.

### ❑ Status of Present Crisis in Sri Lanka

- The growth of **Sri Lanka's economy slowed down to 1.8%** in the fourth quarter of the FY2021-22, with annual growth of 3.7%.
  - This is much lower than projected growth of 5% by the Sri Lanka's Central Bank.
  - **Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) is at 16.8%**
- Sri Lanka is left with foreign reserves of only around US\$ 2.31 billion as of February 2022.
- It faces debt payments of about US\$ 4 billion through the rest of the year, indicating rising susceptibility of defaulting on debt.
  - The **US\$ 4 billion debt includes a US\$ 1 billion international sovereign bond** that matures in July 2022.
- Sri Lankan Rupee has fallen.
- The crisis has been caused by mismanaged government finances and ill-timed tax cuts, besides the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - The price of cooking gas spiked and the price of the milk powder shot up.

- Authorities were forced to cancel school examinations for millions of students, due to a shortage of paper.

### ❑ Reasons behind the economic crisis

- **Huge Loss in Tax Revenue:** The Sri Lanka government reduced value-added tax by nearly half and abolished some other taxes as a way to boost consumption and growth.
  - The tax cuts led to a loss of billions of rupees in tax revenues, putting further pressure on the public finances of the already heavily indebted economy.
- **Rising Expenditure:** Due to a rise in government expenditures, the **fiscal deficit exceeded 10% in 2020-21.**
- **Fertilizer Ban:** The Government wanted to become first country to fully adopt organic farming. So the use of chemical fertilizers was banned in April 2021.
  - However, **90% of Sri Lanka's farmers used chemical fertilizers** for cultivation. The move led to drastic reduction in food production, resulting in high prices.
- **Drain of Forex Reserve:** The country's foreign exchange reserves have fallen 70% in the past two years, from **US\$ 8 billion in 2020 to about US\$ 2.31 billion in 2022.**

Sri Lanka's usable forex reserves reached their lowest point – **\$50 million** – in **May 2022** amid a spiraling external debt.

According to reports, **Sri Lanka will need at least \$5 billion** for essential supplies in the **next six months.**

Low reserves have led to a shortage of essentials like fuel.

- ➔ **Crippled Remittances:** Remittances from Sri Lankans working overseas also declined sharply. Sri Lanka's public debt is estimated to have risen from **94% in 2019 to 119% of GDP in 2021 during the pandemic period.**
- ➔ **China's Debt Trap Policy:** It played a significant role in economic instability in Sri Lanka. With the depleting forex, now the country has foreign debt obligations of about **USD 7 billion in 2022.**
- ➔ **COVID-19 Pandemic:** The COVID-19 gave a huge blow to the tourism sector of Sri Lanka that accounts for **over 12% of country's total economic output.**
  - ☞ Exports of tea, rubber, spices and garments suffered due to pandemic.
- ➔ **Rising Inflation and Oil Price rise:** The crisis got compounded by the Russia-Ukraine conflict that has led to a steep hike in oil prices.
  - ☞ The data released by the Government show that now the **inflation has reached 25.7%.**
- ➔ **Policy Failures of Government:** The government declared emergency regulations for the distribution of essential food items.
  - ☞ It put wide import restrictions to save dollars which in turn led to consequent market irregularities and reported hoarding.

Considering all these reasons, the Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa declared national public emergency on April 1, 2022 to contain rising food prices, a depreciating currency, and rapidly depleting forex reserves.

### ❑ Outcome of the Crisis

- ➔ **Rising Inflation:** The Sri Lanka inflation has reached 25.7%, which has created a severe shortage of food.
- ➔ **Exponential Price rise in Fuel:** The last fuel price hike was announced on May 24, 2022 after which Petrol and diesel costs LKR 470 and LKR 460 per litre.
- ➔ **Unemployment and Poverty:** According to World Bank data, the share of the poor based on a daily income of US\$ 3.20 was estimated to have grown to 11.7% in 2020 from 9.2% in 2019. Job loss and rising prices caused rapid increase in poverty.

- ➔ **Trans-shipment nature of Sri-Lankan ports:** Thousands of containers sent from India to Sri Lanka, including for its own consumption as well as trans-shipment cargo, have been lying uncleared at Colombo port as authorities can't economically afford to transfer containers between terminals.
- ➔ **Lower Electricity Production:** Hydro-electricity contributes 40% to Sri Lanka's electricity generation. The electricity crisis has been exacerbated by low water level in reservoirs.
- ➔ **Massive Protest:** Sri Lanka has witnessed massive protests over shortages and steep prices, with thousands gathering on the main Galle Road in Colombo in June 2022. Protestors were demanding the resignation of the current President. The mob attacked the President House and the President left the office with immediate effect.

### ❑ India's Immediate Response to Sri Lankan Crisis

- ➔ India has come to rescue Sri Lanka which is currently under a severe economic crisis.
- ➔ In line with its **"neighbourhood first" policy**, India has been highly active to help Sri Lanka during its economic crisis.
- ➔ India has extended this year itself an unprecedented support of over **USD 3.8 billion in 2022** for ameliorating the serious economic situation in Sri Lanka.'
- ➔ In February 2022, India and Sri Lanka signed an agreement for a **USD 500 million** supply of petroleum products from the Indian Oil Company through a credit line.
  - ☞ This was expanded by a further USD 200 million in April.
- ➔ More than **25 tons of drugs and medical supplies** which were donated by the government and people of India during the last two months are valued at close to SLR 370 million.

### ❑ Concerns for India

- ➔ 60% of India's trans-shipment cargo is handled by the Colombo port. The present crisis has slowed down the process of Indian imports.

- ➔ More than one-fifth of Sri Lanka's total imports come from India, but due to currency crisis this import will also be reduced that will result into lower income from export to India.
- ➔ India is one of the largest contributors to Foreign Direct Investment in Sri Lanka.
- ➔ FDI from India amounted to about US\$ 1.7 billion from 2005 to 2019. The present crisis will reduce the income of these Indian companies.
- ➔ Refugees, mostly Sri Lankan Tamils, have started arriving in India via the sea-route. The influx is going to rise in future if the crisis does not abate.

### □ India-Sri Lanka Relations

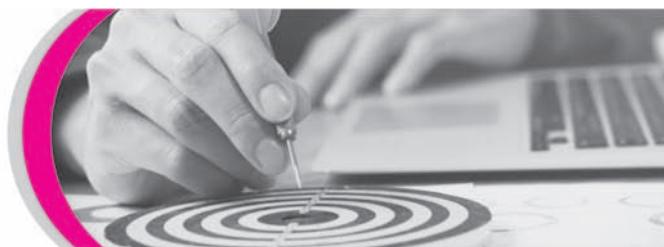
- ➔ **India and Sri Lanka have a legacy** of intellectual, cultural, religious and linguistic interaction and the relationship between the two countries are more than 2500 years old.
- ➔ Sri Lanka is one of **India's major development partners**.
  - ☞ The entry into force of the **India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISFTA) in 2000** contributed significantly to the expansion of trade between the two countries.
- ➔ Sri Lanka is one of **India's largest trading partners in SAARC** (South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation).
- ➔ In 2020, India was **Sri Lanka's 2nd largest trading partner** with the bilateral merchandise trade amounting to about **USD \$ 3.6 billion**.
- ➔ The main **items of exports to India** from Sri Lanka are: Base Oil, Poultry feeds, Areca nuts, (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard, Pepper, Ignition Wiring Sets, Copper wire, Marble, travertine and alabaster.
- ➔ Main **items of Imports from India** to Sri Lanka are: Gas oil/ Diesel, Motorcycles, Pharmaceutical Products, Portland cement, Semi finished products of Iron, Military weapon, Fuel oil, Rice, Cement clinkers, Kerosene Type jet Fuel.
- ➔ The nearly three-decade long armed conflict between Sri Lankan forces and the LTTE came to an end in

May 2009. During the conflict, **India supported the right of the Government of Sri Lanka to act against terrorist forces.**

- ➔ In recent years, significant progress in the implementation of developmental assistance projects for **Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)** and disadvantaged sections of the population in Sri Lanka.
- ➔ **11 Lines of credit (LOC) have been extended to Sri Lanka** by the **Export-Import Bank of India** in the last 15 years.
  - ☞ Important sectors in which Projects have been executed/ are under execution, under these LOCs include railways, transport, connectivity, defence, and solar.
- ➔ **Buddhism is one of the strongest pillars** connecting the two nations and civilizations from the time when the Great Indian Emperor Ashoka sent his children Arhat Mahinda and Sangamitta to spread the teachings of Lord Buddha at the request of King Devanampiya Tissa of Sri Lanka.

### □ Way Forward

- ➔ Sri Lanka has shown keen interest to negotiate with the IMF in order to prevent the looming Balance of Payment crisis.
- ➔ This deal should be brokered swiftly in order to provide sufficient cushion to the island nation.
- ➔ The country should try to revive its key driving sectors like Tourism.
  - ☞ Proactive measures should be undertaken to make sure tourists are safe and secure in the nation.
  - ☞ Tourism was brutally hit even before the pandemic when the 2019 **Easter Sunday suicide bombings** took place and killed more than 250 people.
- ➔ The work on building a trans-shipment hub in Kerala has begun, it is still in India's interest to help Sri Lanka come out of the economic crisis.
  - ☞ Therefore it must extend more aid and resources to help the island nation.



## Agnipath Defence Policy Reform

On **14th June 2022**, **Ministry of Defence**, Government of India has unveiled **Agnipath scheme** for recruiting soldiers across the three services (Army, Navy and Airforce).

Those recruited will be called **Agniveer** and this will be only mode of recruitment of **'Other Ranks' in armed forces**.

### □ About the Agnipath

- ➔ **Launched by:** Government of India
- ➔ **Launched on:** 14th June 2022
- ➔ **Launched for:** Recruitment scheme for Other Ranks (non commissioned officers or personnel other than officers) in armed forces.

### □ Ranking System in Indian Armed Forces

- ➔ Indian Army Ranks can be broadly classified into three categories: **Commissioned Officers, Junior Commissioned Officers and Other Ranks**.
- ➔ **Commissioned Officers** who are equivalent to All India Services & Group "A" Service officers.
- ➔ **Junior Commissioned Officers** who are equivalent to Group B Gazetted officers.
- ➔ **Other Ranks** comprising non-commissioned officers and soldiers.

### □ What is in Agnipath ?

- ➔ Under Agnipath scheme around 45,000 to 50,000 soldiers will be recruited annually, and will be discharged on completion of four years of service.
- ➔ At the time of completion of their 4 year of service, on discharge Agniveer will be paid a **'Seva Nidhi' package** of around 11 lakhs to enable them to return to the society for pursuing employment in other sectors.

- ➔ After discharge all of them will be able to apply for permanent commission and **upto 25% of them will be granted permanent commission**.
- ➔ Agniveer after their discharge **will not be eligible for any pension, gratuity** or other facilities being offered to regular recruits.

### □ Agniveer recruitment: Eligibility criteria

- ➔ Separate eligibility criteria for six categories have been announced.
- ➔ Aspirants between the **ages of 17.5 years and 23 years** will be eligible to apply.
- ➔ The upper age limit is relaxed to 23 years for year 2022-23 only.

### □ Objectives

- ➔ To enable a youthful and tech savvy profile of Armed Forces.
- ➔ To provide an opportunity to the patriotic and motivated youth to join forces.

### □ Benefits

- ➔ Makes armed forces much leaner and younger. Current average age is 32 years in armed forces which will go down to 26 in six to seven years.
- ➔ Younger people will be more tech savvy which will enhance tech profile of forces and helping them for future warfare.
- ➔ It will substantially reduce pension and salary cost from defence budget. This money will be utilized to buy new weaponry and systems.
- ➔ **Increased employment opportunities and higher skilled workforce:** Apart from job opportunities in the army, recruits because of the skills and experience acquired during the four-year service such soldiers will get employment in various fields.

## ❑ Criticism

- ➔ **Doubt about training:** 6 months of short training may not be enough to trust them with the same kind of tasks that current troops can be trusted with.
- ➔ **All India All Class recruitment of Agniveer may hamper the culture** of loyalty towards their regiments (Naam-Namak-Nishan).
- ➔ Agniveers will be cautious and most of them will be seeking for a second job.
- ➔ May result in the militarization of society and the

annual unemployment of 35,000 adolescents with war experience.

## ❑ Conclusion

- ➔ More than half of defence budget is spent on salaries and pensions due to which modernisation of armed forces takes a back seat.
- ➔ Something like Tour of Duty Concept was long needed however it should have been done after having a thorough debate in parliament so that all doubts regarding the process should have been eliminated.

## 4th State Food Safety Index 2021-22

*FSSAI has developed State Food Safety Index to measure the performance of states on various parameters of Food Safety. The Index is a dynamic quantitative and qualitative benchmarking model that provides an objective framework for evaluating food safety across all States/UTs. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) releases the State Food Safety Index (SFSI) annually for each financial year.*

### ❑ About 4th State Food Safety Index 2021-22

- ➔ **Published on** - June 7, 2022,
- ➔ **Published by**- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- ➔ The first SFSI was published in 2018-19 with the aim of creating a competitive and positive change in the food safety ecosystem in the country.

### ❑ Parameters of SFSI

- ➔ The index measures the performance of States across five parameters of food safety. These are :-

Parameters	Weightage (in percentage)
1. Human Resources and Institutional Data	20
2. Compliance	30
3. Food Testing- Infrastructure and Surveillance	20
4. Training and Capacity Building	10
5. Consumer Empowerment	20

### ❑ Key Findings of the SFSI 2021-22

- ➔ **Tamil Nadu is the top-ranking state** among the large states, followed by **Gujarat** and **Maharashtra**.
- ➔ **Goa** is the top-ranking state among the small states, followed by **Manipur** and **Sikkim**.
- ➔ **Jammu & Kashmir** is the top-ranking UT among the UTs, followed by **Delhi** and **Chandigarh**.

### ❑ States/UTs with significant improvement in ranking during last year :

- ➔ **Uttarakhand** in Large State category.
- ➔ **Tripura** in Small States category .
- ➔ **Ladakh** in the category of UTs.

### ❑ Ranking of States/UTs

#### Ranking of Large States in SFSI 2021-22

Rank	States	Rank	States
1	Tamil Nadu	9	Karnataka
2	Gujarat	10	Rajasthan
3	Maharashtra	11	Punjab
4	Himachal Pradesh	12	Jharkhand
5	West Bengal	13	Chhattisgarh
5	Madhya Pradesh	14	Assam
6	Kerala	15	Telangana
7	Uttarakhand	16	Bihar
8	Odisha	17	Andhra Pradesh
8	Uttar Pradesh		

### □ Ranking of Small States

Rank	States
1	Goa
2	Manipur
3	Sikkim
4	Tripura
5	Meghalaya
6	Nagaland
7	Mizoram
8	Arunachal Pradesh

### □ Ranking of Union Territories

Rank	Union Territories
1.	Jammu & Kashmir
2.	NCT of Delhi
3.	Chandigarh
4.	Andaman and Nicobar Island
5.	Ladakh
6.	Puducherry
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu
8.	Lakshadweep

### □ About the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

- ➔ The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has been established under **Food Safety and Standards, 2006** which consolidates various acts & orders that have hitherto handled food related issues in various Ministries and Departments.
- ➔ FSSAI has been created for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.
- ➔ Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India is the Administrative Ministry for the implementation of FSSAI.
- ➔ The Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) have been appointed by Government of India.
- ➔ The Chairperson is in the rank of Secretary to Government of India.

## The Global Liveability Index 2022

*The Global Liveability Index assesses which locations around the world provide the best or the worst living conditions. Assessing liveability has a broad range of uses, from benchmarking perceptions of development levels to assigning a hardship allowance as part of expatriate relocation packages. The liveability rating quantifies the challenges that might be presented to an individual's lifestyle in any given location and allows for direct comparison between locations. To assess the best city, the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has published the 'Global Liveability Index 2022'.*

### □ About The Global Liveability Index 2022

- ➔ **Published In** - June 2022,
- ➔ **Published by**- The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)
- ➔ **Published**- The 'Global Liveability Index 2022'.
  - ☉ The index covers **173 cities** to quantifies the challenges that might be presented to an individual's lifestyle in these cities worldwide.

### □ Methodology

- ➔ The index ranked the cities based on five broad categories:
- ➔ **Stability** (weight-25%)
- ➔ **Healthcare** (weight-20%)
- ➔ **Culture & Environment** (weight-25%)
- ➔ **Education** (weight- 10% )
- ➔ **Infrastructure** (weight: 20% )

### □ Key Findings

- ➔ **Austria's city Vienna** ranked first and **Damascus** ranked last (172nd) in the Global Liveability Index 2022.
- ➔ **Copenhagen (Denmark)** has moved up 13 places to second, and **Zurich (Switzerland)** now shares third place with **Calgary (Canada)**, which has risen from 18th position.
- ➔ In Global Liveability Index 2022, India's two cities, **New Delhi** and **Mumbai** are ranked **112th and 117th position respectively.**

## □ Top 5 cities

City	Location	Rank	Index	Stability	Healthcare	Culture & Environment	Education	Infrastructure
Vienna	Austria	1	99.1	100.0	100.0	96.3	100.0	100.0
Copenhagen	Denmark	2	98.0	100.0	95.8	95.4	100.0	100.0
Zurich	Switzerland	3	96.3	95.0	100.0	96.3	91.7	96.4
Calgary	Canada	3	96.3	95.0	100.0	90.0	100.0	100.0
Vancouver	Canada	5	96.1	90.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	92.9

## □ Bottom 10 Cities

City	Location	Rank	Index	Stability	Healthcare	Culture & Environment	Education	Infrastructure
Karachi	Pakistan	168	37.5	20.0	33.3	35.2	66.7	51.8
Algeria	Algeria	169	37.0	35.0	29.2	45.4	50.0	30.4
Tripoli	Libya	170	34.2	30.0	29.2	33.0	41.7	41.1
Lagos	Nigeria	171	32.2	20.0	20.8	44.9	25.0	46.4
Damascus	Syria	172	30.7	20.0	29.2	40.5	33.3	32.1

## □ About the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)

- ➔ EIU is the research and analysis division of **The Economist Group**, the sister company to **The Economist newspaper**.
- ➔ It was **created in 1946**.
- ➔ They help businesses, financial firms and governments to understand how the world is changing and how that creates opportunities to be seized and risks to be managed.
- ➔ **Headquarter-** London, United Kingdom

## Carbon Bombs

*In May, 2022, more than 70 NGOs and activist groups from around the world have formed a “Carbon Bomb Defusal” network to share expertise and resources in the fight to halt the projects and prevent the catastrophic climate breakdown they would cause.*

### □ What is Carbon Bomb?

- ➔ These are an oil or gas project that will result in **at least a billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions over its lifetime**.

- ➔ Whenever coal, oil, or gas is extracted it results in pollution and environmental degradation.
- ➔ Further, carbon emissions take place in particularly large amounts when fuel is burned.

### □ Carbon Bombs around the world

- ➔ In total, around 195 such projects have been identified worldwide including USA, Russia, Australia, West Asia and India.
- ➔ Collectively they will overshoot the limit of emissions that had been agreed to in the **Paris Agreement of 2015**.

# Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Report 2022

The Sustainable Development Report (SDR) reviews progress made each year on the Sustainable Development Goals since their adoption by the **193 UN Member States in 2015**. Fifty years after the release of **Limits to Growth** and the first UN Conference on the Environment, held in **Stockholm in 1972**, this **7th edition of the SDR** is published. Ahead of the **SDG Summit in September 2023**, which will convene at the level of heads of state under the auspices of the UN General Assembly, the SDR 2022 identifies major priorities to restore and accelerate **SDG progress towards 2030 and beyond**.

## □ About Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Report 2022

- ➔ **Published on** - June 2, 2022,
- ➔ **Published by**- The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
- ➔ **Published** - The Sustainable Development Report 2022.
- ➔ This year's report discusses the critical need and channels of development finance for low-income and lower-middle income countries.

## □ What is Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ?

- ➔ The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were **adopted by the United Nations in 2015** as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.
- ➔ The 17 SDGs are integrated—they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.
- ➔ The 17 SDGs are as follows-



## □ Key Findings

- ➔ Peace, diplomacy, and international cooperation are fundamental conditions for the world to progress on the SDGs towards 2030 and beyond.
- ➔ For the second year in a row, the **world is no longer making progress on the SDGs**.
- ➔ A global plan to finance the SDGs is urgently needed.
- ➔ At mid-point on the way to 2030, policy efforts and commitments supporting the SDGs vary significantly across countries, including among G20 countries.
- ➔ Rich countries generate negative international spillovers notably through unsustainable consumption; Europe is taking actions.
- ➔ The COVID-19 pandemic forced data providers to innovate and build new forms of partnerships; these should be leveraged and scaled up to promote SDG impacts by 2030 and beyond.
- ➔ Science, technological innovations, and data systems can help identify solutions in times of crises and can provide decisive contributions to address the major challenges of our times.
- ➔ These require increased and prolonged investments in statistical capacities, R&D, and education and skills.

## □ Top 10 Countries in SDGs Report 2022

Rank	Country	Score
1.	Finland	86.5
2.	Denmark	85.6
3	Sweden	85.2
4	Norway	82.3
5	Austria	82.3
6	Germany	82.2
7	France	81.2
8	Switzerland	80.8
9	Ireland	80.7
10	Estonia	80.6

## □ Bottom 5 countries in SDGs Report

Rank	Country	Score
159	Sudan	49.6
160	Somalia	45.6
161	Chad	41.3
162	Central African Republic	39.3
163	South Sudan	39.0

## □ India and its Neighbour Countries

Rank	Country	Score
56	China	72.4
70	Bhutan	70.5
76	Sri Lanka	70.0
98	Nepal	66.2
104	Bangladesh	64.2
121	India	60.3
125	Pakistan	59.3

## □ India in SDGs Report 2022

- ➔ In the SDGs index 2022, **India is ranked 121 out of the 163 countries.**
- ➔ India had ranked 117 in 2020 and 120 in 2021.
- ➔ **India is not placed well** to achieve the United Nations-mandated Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and its preparedness has worsened over the years in comparison with other countries.
- ➔ India's rank in the global Sustainable Development Report, 2022 has **slipped for the third consecutive year.**
- ➔ The **country continues to face major challenges in achieving 11 of the 17 SDGs**, which has pushed down its global ranking on SDG preparedness.
- ➔ The progress in around 10 of these goals is similar to those in 2021.

- ➔ These include SDG 2 on Ending Hunger, SDG 3 on Good Health and Well being and SDG 6 on Clean Water and Sanitation.
- ➔ But ensuring decent work (SDG 8) has become more challenging.
- ➔ India is on track to achieving **SDG 13 on Climate Action.**

## □ About UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

- ➔ In 2012, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) was launched under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General.
- ➔ Starting with ten thematic working groups on a range of environmental, social, and economic topics, which contributed to the debate and ultimately the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ➔ The SDSN quickly grew and founded its global networks program; a membership-based alliance of top-tier knowledge-generating institutions focused on sustainable development, organized in national and regional clusters.
- ➔ As of 2022, SDSN has over 1,600 members in 47 networks across 137 countries.

## The Asia University Rankings 2022

On June 1st 2022, The Times Higher Education (THE) released the latest edition of Asia University Rankings.

### □ About the 2022 Rankings

- ➔ **Launched by:** The Times Higher Education
- ➔ **Launched on:** 1st June 2022
- ➔ **Ranking based on:** 13 performance indicators
- ➔ **Key trait:** This year's ranking comprises 616 Universities from 31 countries and territories

### □ Key Findings

- ➔ **Japan** is the most-represented nation again this year, with 118 institutions, up from 116 last year.
- ➔ **China** is home to the continent's top two universities for the third consecutive year.
- ➔ **China** is also the second most represented country with 97 mainland Chinese Universities in the ranking, up from 91 last year.
- ➔ **A Palestinian University** is ranked for the first time and Saudi Arabia has increased its representation in the top 100 from four to six institutions.

### □ Top Five Institutions as per the Rankings

1. Tsinghua University ,China
2. Peking University ,China
3. National University of Singapore, Singapore
4. University of Hong Kong,Hong Kong
5. Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

### □ India's Presence in the Rankings

- ➔ India is the third most-represented country in the rankings.
- ➔ A total of 71 institutions of India participated in the Rankings, up from 62 Indian institutions participated last year in the rankings.
- ➔ There are 17 Indian universities in the top 200 as compared to 18 last year.
- ➔ **The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore**, is the only institute to make the top-50 list with 42 rank.
- ➔ **The JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research** makes its debut in **65th place**, followed by the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar** at **68<sup>th</sup>** and **IIT Indore** at **87<sup>th</sup>** rank, respectively.

# Global Peace Index 2022

Focus

Peace is notoriously difficult to define. The simplest way of approaching it is in terms of the **harmony achieved by the absence of violence or the fear of violence**, which has been described as *Negative Peace*. *Negative Peace* is a complement to *Positive Peace* which is defined as the attitudes, institutions and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies. In this context, the **Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)** has published the **Global Peace Index 2022**.

## About Global Peace Index 2022

- ➔ **Published On-** June 20, 2022
- ➔ **Published by-** Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)
- ➔ **Edition -** The 16th edition of the 'Global Peace Index (GPI) 2022'
- ➔ The GPI covers **163 countries** comprising 99.7 per cent of the world's population.

## GPI Methodology

- ➔ The GPI measures a country's level of Negative Peace using three domains of peacefulness
- ➔ Ongoing Domestic and International Conflict
- ➔ Societal Safety & Security
- ➔ Militarisation

## Key Findings

- ➔ The average level of **global peacefulness deteriorated by 0.3 per cent** in the 2022 Global Peace Index.
- ➔ The largest deteriorations were recorded in the political terror scale, neighbouring country relations, intensity of internal conflict, number of refugees and IDPs and political instability.
- ➔ **The Middle East and North Africa (MENA)** region remained the world's least peaceful.
- ➔ **Europe remains the most peaceful** region in the world.
  - ⊖ The region is home to four of the five most peaceful countries, and only one country in Europe is ranked outside the top half of the index.
- ➔ **Iceland** is the most peaceful country, a position it has held since the inception of the index.
- ➔ **Afghanistan** remains the least peaceful country, a position it has held for the last five years.
- ➔ The five countries with the largest deteriorations were **Ukraine, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Russia** and **Haiti**.
- ➔ The five countries with the biggest improvements were **Libya, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the Philippines** and **Algeria**.

- ➔ Ongoing Conflict recorded the largest deterioration of any GPI domain, while the Safety and Security domain also deteriorated.
- ➔ Since 2008, the level of **global peacefulness has deteriorated by 3.2 per cent**, with 84 countries deteriorating and 77 improving in the GPI.
  - ⊖ The world has become successively less peaceful each year since 2014.
- ➔ The global economic impact of violence was \$16.5 trillion in 2021, equivalent to 10.9 per cent of global GDP, or \$2,117 per person.
- ➔ Military spending has doubled since 1980 to nearly \$2 trillion, however as a percentage of GDP it has fallen from four per cent to two per cent.

## Ranking of the Country

### Top 5 Country in GPI 2022

Rank	Country	Rank	Country
1	Iceland	6	Portugal
2	New Zealand	7	Slovenia
3	Ireland	8	Czech Republic
4	Denmark	9	Singapore
5	Austria	10	Japan

## Bottom 5 Countries

Rank	Country
159	South Sudan
160	Russia
161	Syria
162	Yemen
163	Afghanistan

## India and its Neighbours

Rank	Country	Rank	Country
73	Nepal	135	India
89	China	147	Pakistan
90	Sri Lanka		
96	Bangladesh		

## About Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)

- ➔ IEP is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit think tank dedicated to shifting the world's focus to peace as a positive, achievable, and tangible measure of human well-being and progress.
- ➔ **Headquarter -** Sydney, Australia

## Performance Grading Index for Districts (PGI-D)

The Indian Education System is one of the largest in the world with about 15 lakh schools, 97 lakh teachers and nearly 26 crore students from varied socio-economic backgrounds. Based on the success of State-PGI, Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSE&L) released the “Performance Grading Index for Districts (PGI-D)”.

### □ Performance Grading Index for Districts (PGI-D)

- ➔ **Released Date** - On June 27, 2022
- ➔ **Released by** - Department of School Education and Literacy (comes under Ministry of Education)
- ➔ **Combined report for the year** - 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- ➔ **PGI-D report graded** - 725 districts in 2018-19 and 733 districts in 2019-20 across the States / UTs.

### □ What is PGI-D?

- ➔ The PGI is a tool to provide insights on the status of school education in country.
- ➔ It also provides tools that drive the performance and critical areas for improvement for school level education.

### □ Objective

- ➔ PGI aims to assess the relative performance of all the State/UTs in a uniform scale to encourage State/UTs to perform better.

### □ How PGI-D get prepared?

- ➔ PGI-D comprises of total **weightage of 600 points with 83 indicators**. These points have been grouped under six categories-
- ➔ Learning Outcomes and quality (290 points), Effective Classroom Transaction(90 points), Infrastructure Facilities & Student’s Entitlements (51 points), School Safety & Child Protection (35 points), Digital Learning (50 points) and Governance Process.
- ➔ **Digital learning and Effective Classroom Transaction** have been added for this report in the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic.

### □ Grading system

- ➔ The PGI-D grades the **districts into 10 grades**. Highest grade is ‘**Daksh**’ for those districts scoring more than 90% of the total.

- ➔ It is followed by ‘**Utkarsh**’ (81% to 90%), ‘**Ati Uttam**’ (71% to 80%), ‘**Uttam**’ (61% to 70%), ‘**Prachesta-1**’ (51% to 60%) and ‘**Prachesta-2**’ (41% to 50%) and so on.
- ➔ The lowest grade in PGI-D is ‘**Akanshi-3**’ which is for scores upto 10% of the total points.

### □ Key Findings of the PGI 2019-20:- Best Performers:Utkarsh

- ➔ The three districts - **Sikar, Jhunjhunu, and Jaipur** figured in ‘**Utkarsh**’ grade in **2019-20**
- ➔ Noted that year before when no district featured in that category.
- ➔ **Rajasthan** has the highest 24 districts in this grade, followed by **Punjab (14), Gujarat (13), and Kerala (13)**.

### □ Lowest Performers:Akanshi-3

- ➔ **South Salmara-Mankachar (Assam), Alirajpur (Madhya Pradesh), North Garo Hills and South Garo Hills in Meghalaya, and Khowai (Tripura)**.
- ➔ Bihar, Goa, Jammu and Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttarakhand-don’t have a single district in the Ati-Uttam and Uttam category.
- ➔ **Progress so far** : The number of districts increased from 49 to 86 during 2018-19 to 2019-20 showing “remarkable improvements” under Ati-Uttam category.
- ➔ **Digital Learning Category** : As compared to 2018-19, 20 districts have shown over 20% improvement while 43 districts bettered their score by over 10% during 2019-20.
- ➔ **Infrastructural Facilities** : 478 districts improved their score in 2019-20 as compared to 2018-19.

### □ Significance

- ➔ Help the state education departments to identify gaps at the district level and Improve their performance in a decentralised manner.
- ➔ The indicator-wise PGI score shows the areas where a district needs to improve so can help to make targeted policies.
- ➔ The PGI-D will reflect the relative performance of all the districts in a uniform scale which encourages them to perform better.

### □ Govt Initiatives for Education

- ➔ **PM e-VIDYA** : Launched to enable multi-mode access to education.
- ➔ **DIKSHA Platform** : ‘One nation-one digital platform’ for providing quality e-content in school education.
- ➔ **One class-One Channel** : Dedicated TV channel per grade for each of the classes 1 to 12.
- ➔ **SWAYAM** : Integrated platform for Online courses for school and higher education.
- ➔ **Digitally Accessible Information System** : Study material for the differently-abled persons with sign language.
- ➔ **Manodarpan Initiative** : Provides support related to mental health and emotional wellbeing through a website, a toll-free helpline and chat.
- ➔ **National Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission** : Ensures that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy in Grade 3 by 2020.

## Gold Refining and Recycling Report: World Gold Council

India's gold refining landscape has changed over the last decade, with the number of formal operations increasing from less than five in 2013 to 33 in 2021. As a result, the country's organised gold refining capacity has surged to an estimated 1,800t compared to just 300t in 2013. Recently, World Gold Council has published a report titled 'Gold Refining and Recycling: India Gold Market Series'.

### □ About Gold Refining and Recycling Report

- ➔ **Published On** - June 21, 2022
- ➔ **Published by** - World Gold Council
- ➔ **Published** - Gold Refining and Recycling: India Gold Market Series
- ➔ As per report, **India is 4th largest country in global gold recycling** in the year 2021.

### □ Key Findings

- ➔ Over the past five years 11% of India's gold supply has come from ‘Old Gold’.
  - ⊖ The high recycling was driven by movements in the gold price, future gold price expectations, and the wider economic outlook.
- ➔ Recycling in India is a **Rs 440 billion** industry making up 11% of the average local annual supply.
- ➔ There are three major sources of gold recycling - jewellery, manufacturing scrap, and end-of-life industrial scrap.
  - ⊖ **Old jewellery scrap** represents the largest source of recycling in India, with an approximate **85 per cent share of the total**.
  - ⊖ Industrial scrap is generated from end-of-life electronic products, such as printed circuit boards, mobile phones, connectors, and contact points.
  - ⊖ This industrial segment accounts for less than 5 per cent of the total Indian Scrap Supply.

- ➔ In 2021, India recycled 75 tons, or **6.5 per cent of the total gold recycled across the globe**.
- ➔ India's organised gold refining capacity has a significant jump - from barely 300 tons in 2013 to around 1,800 tons in 2021.

### □ Top 7 countries in gold recycling

**Gold recycling volumes of top six countries (tonnes)**

Country	2017	2020	2021
China	143	189	168
India	88	96	75
Turkey	85	75	52
Italy	80	87	80
United States	82	72	78
Egypt	76	50	44
World	1111	1292	1150

Source: Metals Focus World Gold Council

### □ Challenges to gold recycling in India

- ➔ The prevalence of cash transactions in the scrap market.
- ➔ Logistical hurdles to scrap collection.
- ➔ GST loss on sale of old gold.

### □ About World Gold Council

- ➔ The World Gold Council was **formed in 1987** by some of the world's most forward-thinking mining companies.
- ➔ The WGC works to improve understanding of the gold market and underscore gold's value to individuals, investors, and the world at large.
- ➔ Headquarter - **London, UK**.

# SIPRI Year Book 2022

*The SIPRI Yearbook is an authoritative and independent source of data and analysis on armaments, disarmament and international security. It provides an overview of developments in international security, weapons and technology, military expenditure, arms production and the arms trade, and armed conflicts and conflict management, along with efforts to control conventional, nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.*

## □ About SIPRI Year Book 2022

- ➔ **Released On-** June 13, 2022
- ➔ **Released by-** The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)
- ➔ **Released-** The SIPRI Yearbook 2022
- ➔ **Special Feature** - As per report, despite a marginal decrease in the number of nuclear warheads in 2021, nuclear arsenals are expected to grow over the coming decade.

## □ Key Findings

- ➔ **Food Insecurity:** Armed conflict continued to be one of the main drivers of food insecurity in 2021.
  - ⊖ It is due to the triple impact of conflict, climate shocks and the socio-economic consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic.
  - ⊖ A record high of up to **283 million people across 80 countries were likely to have been food insecure or at high risk** in 2021 (up from 270 million across 79 countries in 2020).
- ➔ **Global Military Expenditure:**
  - ⊖ Global military expenditure reached **US\$2113 billion** in the year 2021, **exceeding \$2 trillion for the first time.**
  - ⊖ It accounted for 2.2 per cent of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP), equivalent to \$268 per person.
  - ⊖ **World military spending was 0.7 per cent higher** than in 2020 and 12 per cent higher than in 2012.
  - ⊖ The \$2 trillion spent on the military represents a lost opportunity to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of Agenda 2030 and the targets of the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change.

## ➔ The Main Exporter and Importer of Major Arms:

- ⊖ **Top 5 Major Arms Exporter** are - USA, Russia, France, China, Germany, which accounted for 77 per cent of the total volume of exports.
- ⊖ **Top 5 Major Arms Importer** are - India, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Australia, China, which together accounted for 38 per cent of total arms import.

### The main Exporter and Importer of Major Arms, 2017–21

Exporter	Global Share (%)	Importer	Global Share (%)
1. USA	39	1. India	11
2. Russia	19	2. Saudi Arabia	11
3. France	11	3. Egypt	5.7
4. China	4.6	4. Australia	5.4
5. Germany	4.5	5. China	4.8

## □ World Nuclear Forces

- ➔ At the start of 2022, nine states - USA, Russia, United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea)—possessed approximately 12705 nuclear weapons.
- ➔ Out of 12705 nuclear weapons, 9440 were estimated to be in military stockpiles for potential use.
- ➔ About 3732 of these warheads were estimated to be deployed with operational forces, and around 2000 of these were kept in a state of high operational alert.

## □ About SIPRI

- ➔ SIPRI is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament.
- ➔ It was established in **1966**.
- ➔ SIPRI provides data, analysis and recommendations, based on open sources, to policymakers, researchers, media and the interested public.
- ➔ It is based in Stockholm, Sweden.

# NATIONAL



## Accessible India Campaign

With the deadline of **14 June 2022**, Accessible India Campaign (AIC) will probably be examined during a meeting of the **Central Advisory Board on Disability**. In December 2019, the campaign extended to March 2020 and further to June 2022.

### □ Accessible India Campaign

- ➔ **Launched on-** 3rd December 2015 (International Day of Persons with Disabilities)
- ➔ **Nodal Agency-** Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- ➔ **Aim-** To make a barrier-free and conducive environment for Divyangjans (Persons with Disabilities - PwDs) all over the country.

### □ Targets entailed under the three components

1. Built Environment Accessibility
  2. Transportation System Accessibility
  3. Information and Communication Eco-System Accessibility
- ➔ The original deadlines for various targets under the three heads were between July 2016 and July 2019.

### □ Some notable targets are- Under the Built Environment Accessibility

- ➔ Conducting accessibility audit of at least 25-50 most important government buildings and converting them into fully accessible buildings in the selected 50 cities.
- ➔ Converting 50% of all the government buildings of National Capital and all the State capitals into fully accessible buildings.
- ➔ Conducting audit of 50% of government buildings etc.

### Under the Transportation System Accessibility

- ➔ Ensuring that 50% of railway stations in the country are converted into fully accessible railway stations Public Transport (Buses).
- ➔ Ensuring that 25% of Government-owned public transport carriers in the country are converted into fully accessible carriers.

### Under the Information and Communication Eco-System Accessibility

- ➔ Conducting accessibility audit of 50% of all government (both Central and State Governments) websites and converting them into fully accessible websites.
- ➔ Ensuring that at least 50% of all public documents issued by the Central Government and the State Governments meet accessibility standards.

### □ Key facts

- ➔ **Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995** designed for non-discrimination in transport and in the built environment (Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 replaced the PwD Act, 1995).
- ➔ United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) 2006-India is a signatory.
- ➔ UN declared the year from **1981 to 1992** as the years for the person with disabilities.

## Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL)

Recently, Haryana Legislative Assembly has passed a resolution seeking completion of Sutlej - Yamuna Link (SYL)

### □ What is Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) Project?

#### History

- ➔ At the time of reorganization of **Punjab in 1966**, the issue of sharing of river waters between both the states emerged.
- ➔ **Punjab refused to share waters of Ravi and Beas with Haryana** stating it was against the riparian principle.
- ➔ Before the reorganization, in 1955, 7.20 MAF to undivided Punjab, Out of 7.20 MAF allocated, Punjab did not share any water with Haryana.

- ➔ To provide this allocated share of water to southern parts of Haryana, a canal linking the Sutlej with the Yamuna, cutting across the state, was planned.

### ❑ Current Scenario

- ➔ Finally, the construction of 214-km SYL was started in April 1982, 122 km of which was to run through Punjab and the rest through Haryana.
- ➔ Haryana has completed its side of the canal, but work in Punjab has been hanging fire for over three decades.
- ➔ Supreme Court directed the CMs of Punjab and Haryana to negotiate and settle the SYL canal issue, but Punjab CM refused categorically.

### ❑ Punjab's animosity toward the project

- ➔ Punjab fears that once the construction of the canal restarts, the youth may start feeling that the state has been discriminated against.

- ➔ The state also stated that Pakistan and secessionist organisations could exploit this and foment trouble in the state.
- ➔ The state wants a tribunal seeking a fresh time-bound assessment of the water availability.
- ➔ According to the state there has been no adjudication or scientific assessment of Punjab river waters.

### ❑ Way Forward

- ➔ Punjab needs to understand the importance of the canal for Haryana and should rethink its previous stands.

### ❑ Conclusion

- ➔ It's time for the Centre to chart a new course centred on Punjab's demand for a fresh tribunal for the division of the river waters. For that, it's imperative that all stakeholders stop further complicating the situation.

## SHRESHTA Scheme

*With the basic motive to uplift the socio-economic status of the Scheduled Castes peoples by providing high quality education to their children in best private residential schools in the country Government has launched **SHRESHTA Scheme**.*

### ❑ SHRESHTA Scheme

- ➔ **Launched on** - 2 June 2022
- ➔ **Launched by** - The ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- ➔ **Objective** - Scheme is designed for residential education for SC students in High School in targeted areas.

### ❑ About the Scheme

- ➔ Scholarships will be provided to the beneficiaries that will cover all the educational expenses of meritorious students from **class 9th to 11th**.
- ➔ Only scheduled caste students (Parental income should be less than 2.5 lakh per annum) will be able to take benefit of this scheme.
- ➔ The government is going to roll out the scheme from the **academic year 2022-23**.
- ➔ The Niti Ayog has identified **177 private schools**.

- ➔ Around 1300 seats in grade 9 and 1700 seats in grade 11 are reserved for the students in these schools under the scheme.
- ➔ Scheduled caste students from across states and union territories are eligible for this scheme.

### ❑ Scholarship

- ➔ For Grade 9 is Rs 1 lakh, for grade 10 is Rs 1.10 lakh, for grade 11 is Rs 1.25 lakh and for grade 12 is Rs 1.35 lakh per annum.

### ❑ Conclusion

- ➔ By collaborating with voluntary organizations, government is trying to fill the gap in service-deprived Scheduled Castes (SCs) dominant areas in the sector of education. In this regard Shreshta Scheme seems promising initiative.
- ➔ The scheme needs fair processing and strong will power from administration end.

### ❑ Other related initiatives for SCs

- ➔ **BABU JAGJIVAN RAM CHHATRAWAS YOJANA (BJRCY)** - In third five year plan for SC girls and 1989-90 for boys.
- ➔ **Post Matric Scholarship Schemes for SCs** - Year 2006
- ➔ **Single National Scholarship Scheme** - 2008-09

## NTPC's Biodiversity Policy 2022

Recently India's largest integrated energy producer, **National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC Ltd.)** has issued a renewed **Biodiversity Policy 2022**.

### □ About the launch of Policy

- ➔ **Launched on:** 31st May 2022
- ➔ **Launched by:** NTPC Ltd.
- ➔ **Launched for:** To establish a comprehensive vision and guiding principle for conservation, restoration, and enhancement of biodiversity.

### □ Need for such policy for NTPC

- ➔ It is an integral part of NTPC's Environmental Policy and its objectives are aligned with environmental and sustainability policies.

### □ Objectives

- ➔ It aims to support NTPC's professionals to achieve Biodiversity Target and to mainstream the concept of biodiversity across NTPC's value chain.
- ➔ It also hopes to adopt systematic consideration of local threats to biodiversity beyond the company's business activities.

### □ Other Facts related to NTPC's Biodiversity approach

- ➔ NTPC was the first PSU to issue Biodiversity Policy in 2018.

- ➔ In the same year, NTPC also became a member of the India Business & Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI).

### □ What is Biodiversity?

- ➔ It refers to the variety of living species on Earth, including plants, animals, bacteria, and fungi.

### □ Significance:

- ➔ **Biodiversity Hotspot:** India is home to nearly 8% of global biodiversity on just 2.3% of global land area and contains sections of four of the 36 global biodiversity hotspots.
- ➔ **Staggering Economic Value:** Biodiversity richness has very high economic value for a country for eg., estimates suggest that India's forests alone may yield services worth more than a trillion rupees per year.
- ➔ **Protection from Natural Disasters:** The varied ecosystems across land, rivers, and oceans, feed our people, enhance public health security, and shield us from environmental disasters.

### □ India Business & Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI)

- ➔ It serves as a national platform of business and its stakeholders for dialogue sharing and learning, ultimately leading to mainstreaming sustainable management of biological diversity into businesses.

## National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) Report 2021

**E-Governance** may be understood as the **performance of the governance via the electronic medium** in order to facilitate an efficient, speedy and transparent process of disseminating information to the public. To measure the efficacy of E-Governance and their delivery system, **Government has released the NeSDA Report for the year 2021**.

### □ National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) Report 2021

- ➔ **Released on** - June 13, 2022
- ➔ **Released by** - Ministry of State of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions
- ➔ **Edition** - Second (First edition was launched in 2019.)
- ➔ **First Introduced in** - August 2018.
- ➔ **Based on** - UNDESA e-Government Survey's Online Service Index (OSI) (basically UN E-governance survey for countries)

### □ What is NeSDA?

- ➔ NeSDA is a biennial study that assesses States, Union Territories (UTs), and focus Central Ministries on the effectiveness of e-Governance service delivery.
- ➔ NeSDA Portal was launched in June 2021 to conduct the entire assessment process online.

## ❑ Objective

- ➔ Report provides suggestions for governments on enhancing their e-Governance service delivery systems.
- ➔ NeSDA's mission is to support e-government initiatives and promote digital government excellence.

## ❑ NeSDA 2021 Report

- ➔ This India version covered 7 sectors and 56 mandatory services for each States & UTs and 27 services for the focus Central Ministries.
  - ➔ **Seven sectors such as;** Finance, Labour & Employment, Education, Local Governance & Utility Services, Social Welfare, Environment and Tourism.

## ❑ The report assesses on 7 key parameters

- ➔ Accessibility, Content Availability, Ease of Use, Information Security & Privacy, End service Delivery, Integrated Service Delivery and Status & Request Tracking.

## ❑ Key findings of the report

- ➔ There are **4 categories:** Union territories (8), North-Eastern States and Hill states (10), Remaining states

(18), Central government ministries websites.

- ➔ **Kerala** is the overall champion and has the highest overall compliance score amongst all the States and UTs.
- ➔ **Among Union Territory-** Jammu and Kashmir scored the highest.
- ➔ **North-east and Hill States: Meghalaya and Nagaland,** with an overall compliance of 90% across all assessment parameters.
- ➔ **Remaining State Category:** Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh had a compliance of more than 85% among the remaining state category.
- ➔ **Meghalaya and Tripura** showed highest improvement across all sectors compared to NeSDA 2019.
- ➔ **Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab, Goa, and Odisha** also improved the compliance of their services portals by 100%.
- ➔ Whereas, the ministry portals of Home Affairs, and Ministry Services Portal of Finance - Central Public Procurement (CPPP) have emerged leaders across “all parameters”.

## Har Ghar Dastak 2.0

*Being implemented in a 'Mission Mode', States and Union Territories (UTs) have been advised to give an intensive push towards full vaccination coverage for all eligible beneficiaries. Thus, Indian Government has re-launched its campaign Har Ghar Dastak in 2.0 version.*

## ❑ Har Ghar Dastak 2.0

- ➔ **Launched on** - 1 June 2022,
- ➔ **Launched by** - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- ➔ **Run from** - 1st June to 31st July
- ➔ **The first phase was launched** - Nov 2021
- ➔ **Objective** - Door to Door drive for Covid-19 vaccination of all beneficiaries and spreading awareness about covid-19 vaccination.

## ❑ The campaign 2.0 has other few objectives as

- ➔ To vaccinate the eligible groups first. (The people who are ready for their second dose and precaution dose)
- ➔ Vaccination coverage for children aged between 12 and 18.

- ➔ People aged between 60-70 years will be the major focus.

## ❑ Progress so far

- ➔ The campaign has resulted in a hike of 5.9% in the 1st dose coverage (during the first phase), and 11.7% hike in 2nd dose COVID-19 vaccination.
- ➔ On 17 July 2022, India has achieved major landmark of 200 core vaccinations.

## ❑ Mission COVID Suraksha

- ➔ The mission was launched in November 2020.
- ➔ It was India's targeted effort to enable the development of indigenous, affordable and accessible vaccines for the country.
- ➔ Department of Biotechnology (DBT) had received the 900 crore grant for Research and Development (R&D) of Indian Covid-19 vaccines.
- ➔ Under this mission nation received various vaccines as per global standards like Covishield, Covaxin, ZyCoV-D.

# Amendments in Information and Technology Rules 2021

*IT Rules, 2021 is secondary or subordinate legislation that suppresses India's Intermediary Guidelines Rules 2011. The Rules are designed to empower ordinary users of social media. To make social media platforms more liable and ensuring the consumer right, government has issued some amendments in Information and technology Rules 2021.*

## □ Draft Amendments to the IT Rules 2021

- ➔ **Issued on-** 6 June 2022
- ➔ **Issued by-** Ministry of Electronics and Information and Technology.
- ➔ **Objective-** To keep up with the challenges and gaps emerging in an expanding digital ecosystem.

## □ Key changes proposed to the IT Rules 2021 Obligations of Intermediaries

1. The Rules specify restrictions on the types of content that users are allowed to create, upload, or share. The Rules require intermediaries like Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube to “inform” users about these restrictions.
2. Proposed amendments seek to expand the obligation on intermediaries to include:
  - (i) “**ensuring compliance**” with rules and regulations, privacy policy, and user agreement.
  - (ii) “**causing users to not**” create, upload, or share prohibited content.
3. Intermediaries should take all reasonable measures to ensure accessibility of their services to all users, with a reasonable expectation of due diligence, privacy, and transparency.

## Appeal mechanism

1. The 2021 Rules require intermediaries to designate a **grievance officer** to address complaints regarding violation of the rule.
2. A **Grievance Appellate Committee** will be formed by the central government to hear appeals against the decisions of grievance officers.
  - ➔ The Committee will consist of a chairperson and other members appointed by the central government.

- ➔ The Committee is required to dispose of such appeals within 30 days from the date of receipt.

## Expeditious removal of prohibited content

1. The 2021 Rules require intermediaries to acknowledge complaints regarding violation of Rules within 24 hours, and dispose of complaints within 15 days. The complaints concerning the removal of prohibited content must be addressed within 72 hours.

## □ Significance

- ➔ The proposed changes will guarantee that the “**constitutional rights of Indian citizens**” are not violated by any big tech platform.
- ➔ The changes empowers person who have been removed from social media platforms without being given the opportunity to justify their acts.

## □ Conclusion

- ➔ The new rules will ensure new accountability standards and shift more power into the hands of government to have better control over the contents on internet.

## □ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

- ➔ It was carved out of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology on 19 July 2016.
- ➔ A ministerial agency responsible for IT policy, strategy and development of the electronics industry.

## □ Some Companies under MeitY

- ➔ CSC e-Governance Services India Limited
- ➔ Media Lab Asia (MLAsia)
- ➔ National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated (NICSI) — Public Sector Enterprise under control of National Informatics Centre.
- ➔ National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)
- ➔ Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)

## CiSS Application

*Article 51 (A) of the Constitution provides a platform to the public and organizations catering to the welfare of the children to report any child in need of assistance. In the line the government has launched the CiSS application.*

### □ CiSS application

- ➔ **Launched on** - 08 June 2022
- ➔ **Developed by** - National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)
- ➔ **Objective** - To help in the rehabilitation process of Children in Street Situations (CiSS).
- ➔ **Portal is launched** - Under the Baal Swaraj portal
- ➔ **Baal Swaraj** is a portal launched by NCPCR for online tracking and digital real-time monitoring mechanism of children in need of care and protection.

### □ Key Highlights of the Portal

- ➔ The CiSS application is used for receiving data of children in street situations from all the states and union territories.
- ➔ The platform serves to collect data and report to the **District Child Protection Officer (DCPO)** for them to take necessary action.
- ➔ The portal track the rescue and rehabilitation process of rescued children.

### CiSS (Children in Street Situation)

- ➔ If the child is living on the streets alone, living on the streets during the day, or living on the streets with the family.
- ➔ The root cause of this phenomenon is the migration of families from rural to urban areas in search of a better standard of living.

National

## CDS: Amended Service Rules of the Army, Navy and Air Force

*The Ministry of Defence has issued gazette notifications to amend regulations of three defence forces – Army, Navy and Air Force -- related to the appointment of the Chief of Defence Staff, a post that remains vacant since the death of General Bipin Rawat in a helicopter crash in December 2021.*

### □ About CDS: Amended Service Rules of the Army, Navy and Air Force

- ➔ **Issued notification on** - June 6, 2022,
- ➔ **Issued by**- Ministry of Defence, Government of India
- ➔ The Government has amended Service Rules of the Army, Navy and Air Force, to make retired officers eligible for Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Post.

### □ Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)

- ➔ The Prime Minister of India has announced the Creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff during his address to the Nation on **15th August 2019**.
- ➔ **The Cabinet Committee on Security on 24th December 2019** took the decision to create the post of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) to enhance the quality of Military Advice to Political Leadership through integration of Service inputs.

- ➔ The Chief of Defence Staff is the **Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee** and acts as the **Principal Military Adviser** to Raksha Mantri on all tri-services matters so as to provide impartial advice to the political leadership.
- ➔ Former Chief of the Army Staff, **(Lt.) General Bipin Rawat** took office of as the country's first Chief of Defence Staff on **1st January, 2020**.
- ➔ Bipin Rawat was martyred in a chopper crash on December 8, 2021.
- ➔ The post of CDS has been lying vacant since then.

### □ Key Points

- ➔ **Changes in eligibility criteria:** An officer who is serving as Lieutenant General or General or an officer who has retired in the rank of Lieutenant General or General but has not attained the age of sixty-two years on the date of his appointment can be appointed as the Chief of defence Staff (CDS).
- ➔ Provided that the Central Government may, if considered necessary, in public interest, so to do, extend the service of the Chief of Defence Staff for such period as it may deem necessary subject to a maximum age of sixty-five years.

- ➔ This amendment makes all three-star rank officers who have retired in the last two years eligible, as Lieutenant Generals in the Army, Vice-Admirals in the Navy and Air Marshals in the Air Force retire at the age of 60.
- ➔ The age limit for the CDS's post is 65 years with no fixed tenure defined, unlike for the Service Chief which is three years of tenure or 62 years of age.
- ➔ Similar amendment was made in the service rules of Navy and Air Force as well.

## Bharat Gaurav Trains

*Indian Railways' southern zone flagged off the country's first privately-run train under the **Bharat Gaurav Trains on 16 June 2022**. The train was being operated between **Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu to Sainagar Shirdi in Maharashtra**. **Southern Railway** became the first zone in Indian Railways to get the first registered service provider under the 'Bharat Gaurav' trains.*

### □ Bharat Gaurav Trains

- ➔ The scheme was announced by the Indian Railways in November 2021.
- ➔ This initiative was started by Union Government under '**Dekho Apna Desh**' to promote domestic tourism.
- ➔ It was announced under the theme-based tourist circuit trains.
- ➔ **Objective**-To tap the huge potential of tourism in the country.
- ➔ To showcase India's rich cultural heritage and magnificent historical places.

### □ Features of Bharat Gaurav Scheme

- ➔ It allows any operator or service provider, or virtually anyone, to lease trains from Indian Railways to run on a theme-based circuit as a special tourism package.
- ➔ The core strength of the professionals of the tourism sector would be leveraged to develop or identify tourist circuits and run theme-based trains.
- ➔ The tenure of this public-private arrangement is a minimum of two years and maximum of the service life of the coach.
- ➔ Under the Bharat Gaurav scheme, the operator holds the freedom to decide the route, the halts, the services provided and the tariff.

### □ Related Scheme

- ➔ **Swadesh Darshan Scheme**- Launched in 2014-15 (Central Sector Scheme)
- ➔ **Dekho Apna Desh Initiative**- January 2020
- ➔ **Prasad Scheme**- Introduced in 2014-15

## One Nation One Ration Card now Extended to Pan India

*In order to tackle the problem of food security, the government of India introduced the **One Nation One Ration Card scheme (ONORC)**. ONORC allows a beneficiary to access his food entitlements from anywhere in India irrespective of the place where the ration card is registered. Recently, in June 2022, **Assam** has become the **36th State/UT** to implement One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC).*

### □ About ONORC

- ➔ **Implemented Under** : National Food Security Act (NFSA)
- ➔ **Initiated in** : August 2019 (Pilot basis in 4 States) Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat
- ➔ **Specific Feature** : Through this all eligible ration card holders/beneficiaries covered under NFSA can access their entitlements from anywhere in the country.

- ➔ This system allows all NFSA beneficiaries, particularly migrant beneficiaries, to claim either full or part foodgrains from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) in the country through existing ration card with biometric/Aadhaar authentication in a seamless manner.

### □ Objectives

- ➔ To empower **all NFSA beneficiaries** to become **AtmaNirbhar** for their food security anywhere in the country, through portability of their existing ration cards enabling them.
- ➔ To seamlessly lift their entitled subsidized food-grains (in part or full) from any Fair Price Shop of their choice.
- ➔ To enable family members to lift balance/required amount of foodgrains on the same ration card at their native/ any place from the FPS of their choice.

## □ Present Status of ONORC

- ➔ Since its inception in August 2019, about 71 Crore portable transactions (43.6 crore NFSA and 27.8 crore PM-GKAY transactions) have taken place under ONORC.
  - ☉ It has delivered foodgrains equivalent to about Rs. 40,000 Crore in food subsidy through portability.
- ➔ About 64 Crore portable transactions have been recorded during COVID-19 period itself (from April 2020 till date).
  - ☉ Delivering foodgrains equivalent to about Rs. 36,000 Crore in food subsidy through portability.
  - ☉ Out of these 64 crore portable transactions, 27.8 crore portability transactions were recorded under PMGKAY (Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana).
- ➔ PMGKY was announced in March 2020 for distribution of additional free-of-cost foodgrains (Rice/Wheat) to NFSA beneficiaries to mitigate the COVID induced hardships.
- ➔ Additionally, as a key indicator, presently a monthly average of about 3 Crore portable transactions are being recorded, delivering the subsidised NFSA and free PMGKAY foodgrains with anywhere flexibility to the beneficiaries.

## □ MERA RATION

- ➔ Another dimension under ONORC plan is the

'MERA RATION' mobile application which has been rolled out to take maximum advantage of the ONORC plan.

- ➔ The mobile app is providing a host of useful real time information to the beneficiaries and is available in 13 languages.
  - ☉ So far, the App has been downloaded more than 20 Lakh times from Google play store.

## □ About National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013

- ➔ **Notified on:** 10th September, 2013
- ➔ **Objective:** To provide food and nutritional security in the human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantities of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity.
- ➔ **Coverage:** 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving subsidized foodgrains under **Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)**.
- ➔ **Overall, NFSA caters to 67% of the total population.**
- ➔ **NITI Aayog** has recommended reducing the rural and urban coverage under the NFSA to 60% and 40%, respectively.
- Provisions :**
  - ➔ **5 Kgs of foodgrains per person** per month at Rs. 3/2/1 per Kg for rice/wheat/coarse grains.
  - ➔ **The existing AAY household will continue to receive 35 Kgs of foodgrains per household per month.**

## Bedti-Varada River Interlinking Project

*The proposal to connect the Bedti and Varada rivers in Karnataka has drawn criticism from environmental organizations. In June 2022, thousands of people had gathered in the protest of the project.*

### □ Background

- ➔ The Bedti-Varada project was **envisaged in 1992** as one to supply drinking water.
- ➔ In 2002, the Central Government established a task team to develop action plans for the project.
- ➔ The project **suppose to start in 2016** after the project's cost and funding sources were determined, but then state govt. did not lead the project.
- ➔ Project get highlighted after Karnataka government allotted Rs 2,194.29 crore for this project revival in his budget 2021.

### □ The Bedti-Varada Project

- ➔ The plan aims to link the **Bedti, a river flowing west into the Arabian Sea, with the Varada, a tributary of the Tungabhadra river**, which flows into the Krishna, which in turn flows into the Bay of Bengal.
- ➔ The first dam will be erected at **Hirevadatti in Gadag district and second one will be built on the Pattanahalla river at Menasagoda in Sirsi, Uttara Kannada district.**
- ➔ Both dams will take water to the Varada via tunnels of length 6.3 kilometres and 2.2 kms.
- ➔ The water will reach at a place called Kengre, then it will go down a 6.88 km tunnel to Hakkalumane, where it will join the Varada.

### ❑ Benefits

- ➔ It is well-being for a state to transfer the water from water 'surplus' basins where there is flooding, to water 'deficit' basins where there is drought/scarcity.
- ➔ Farmers will not have to depend on the monsoon for cultivation and also the excess or lack of water can be overcome during flood or drought.

### ❑ Related Concerns

- ➔ According to the environmentalists, the project objective will not ensure water to the places that are intended to be the beneficiaries.
- ➔ It would only benefit contractors, cement, iron and granite industries as well as politicians' lobbying groups, they pointed out.
- ➔ Both rivers do not have so much water to feed three districts for both domestic and farming purposes.

- ➔ It would need 61 megawatts of power to pull the water all the way to Gadag. Even after this, it is unknown whether the water would reach Gadag.
- ➔ The Bedti and Varada rivers are also lifelines for thousands of farmers in the Malenadu region (Part of Western Ghat) and fishing communities along the coast.

### ❑ Way Forward

- ➔ River interlinking offers advantages and disadvantages, but because of the potential economic, political, and environmental repercussions, it might not be a good idea to implement this project at a centralised national level.
- ➔ In order to lessen floods and droughts, decentralised efforts to connect rivers may be explored instead. Rainwater collecting should also be encouraged.

## Quick Bits

### ❑ UNESCO Reserve List: Khuvsgul Lake National Park

- ➔ The Khuvsgul Lake National Park of Mongolia has been added to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves by UNESCO.
- ➔ This decision was taken during 34th session of International Co-ordinating council of Man and Biosphere Programme.
- ➔ This programme is taking place in Paris, France.
- ➔ The Man and Biosphere Programme is an intergovernmental scientific program. It was set up in early 1970s by UNESCO.

### ❑ EASE 5.0

- ➔ On June 8, 2022, **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** launched the EASE 5.0 "Common reforms agenda" of EASE Next program.
- ➔ EASE 5.0 'Common reforms agenda' has been developed for Public Sector Banks.
- ➔ Under EASE 5.0, PSBs will be investing in new-age capabilities. It will also deepen the ongoing reforms for responding to evolving customer needs, technology environment and changing competition.
- ➔ EASE Agenda was launched by government in collaboration with PSBs in January 2018.
  - ☞ **EASE 1.0**; showed significant improvement in performance of PSB, in resolving Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) in a transparent manner.

### ❑ Haryana Signs Joint Declaration on Water Cooperation with Israel

- ➔ Recently on June 14, 2022, in New Delhi, the Haryana government and Israel have signed a joint declaration in the field of integrated water resources management and capacity building.

- ➔ In this regard, Dr. Satbir Singh Kadyan, Co-Project Director and Engineer-in-Chief, Atal Bhujal Yojana, Haryana informed that the joint cooperation agreement has been signed with Ambassador of Ministry of External Affairs, Israel, Inayat Shelin (Head MASHAV).
- ➔ As part of this joint declaration, MASHAV will share knowledge, capacity building and Israeli technologies for Haryana's development in the water management sector.

### ❑ Kerala Migration Survey

- ➔ Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan, has announced to conduct "Kerala Migration Survey 2022-23", in order to prepare a data bank on Malayali expatriates across the world.
- ➔ Data bank will be prepared, because lack of data affected the government's welfare measures for expatriates.
- ➔ As a part of the survey, a "Malayali Pravasi Portal" will be launched.

### ❑ Kerala: First in Asia's Global Start-up Ecosystem Report

- ➔ Asia's Global Start-up Ecosystem Report was recently released on June 14, 2022, in the light of London Tech Week 2022.
- ➔ In the report, start-up ecosystem in Kerala has been ranked at first position in Asia.
- ➔ Kerala has also been ranked at fourth position, in terms of Affordable Talent.
- ➔ The report recognises creative steps taken by Kerala Start-up Mission (KSUM) to position it as a start-up power house.



## 14th BRICS Summit 2022

The 14th BRICS summit took place for **23 to 24 June 2022**. The conference was held virtually in the light of current covid crisis. The conference convened under the chairship of China. It was the **third hosting of China, first was in 2011 and another in 2017**.

### □ 14th BRICS SUMMIT 2022

- ➔ **Date-** 23 to 24 June 2022
- ➔ **Theme-** Foster High-quality BRICS Partnership, Usher in a New Era for Global Development.
- ➔ **Hosted by-** China
- ➔ **Mode-** Virtually
- ➔ **Note-** India hosted the **13th BRICS Summit on 9th September 2021**, (Chairmanship) also hosted the BRICS Summit in 2012 and 2016.
- ➔ **BRICS Plus virtual conference-** This was the part of the summit and attended by ministers from countries like UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, Argentina, Nigeria, Senegal, and Thailand.

### □ Key Highlights of the Summit Adopting Beijing Declaration

- ➔ The declaration was based on “**making instruments of global governance more inclusive, representative and participatory**”.
- ➔ It also states that BRICS nations back negotiations between Russia and Ukraine.

### Discussions were held on

- ➔ Humanitarian Situation in Ukraine,
- ➔ Afghan territory must not be used to shelter terrorists or attack any other country,
- ➔ Initiative on Denial of Safe Haven to Corruption,
- ➔ Establishment of the Digital Economy Working Group by upgrading the E-commerce Working Group for consumer rights protection.

### □ BRICS

- ➔ The term BRIC was coined by **Jim O’Neil**, the then chairman of Goldman Sachs in 2001.
- ➔ In 2010, South Africa formally joined the association making it BRICS.

- ➔ An acronym for 5 emerging economies of the world viz. – **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**.
- ➔ Representing **41% of the global population, 24% of the global GDP** and **16% of the global trade**.
- ➔ The **first BRIC summit took place in the year 2009 in Yekaterinburg (Russia)**.
- ➔ Chairmanship of the forum is rotated annually among the members, in accordance with the acronym; B-R-I-C-S-

### □ Importance to India

- ➔ The country's developing partnerships with the West, are balanced by membership in a non-Western organisation via BRICS.
- ➔ Trade opportunities for India as China remains important commercial partner despite security tensions.
- ➔ BRICS platform provides an opportunity for India to balance Russia-China axis.
- ➔ NDB (New Development Bank) can be seen as an alternative global financial system and revamping the global trading system as a whole (WTO reforms).

### □ Challenges

- ➔ Despite accounting for 41% of the population, trade is just 16% of world trade.
- ➔ There is **no internal mechanism for resolving disputes** among the member nations.
- ➔ China and Russia are seen on the opposite ends of the established order in respect of Democracy, Human Rights and Global peace.
- ➔ **All the BRICS nations have different global aims and ambitions** and lack coherence in them.

### □ Conclusion

- ➔ Despite all the differences, the grouping can work together towards common goals where interests align, whether in financing projects, as the NDB has done, working on climate change, as India and China have continued to do despite the LAC crisis, or even on space cooperation, where the five countries have agreed to create a joint constellation of remote sensing satellites.

## ❑ New Development Bank (NDB)

- ➔ Referred to as the bank of BRICS or BRICS development bank.
- ➔ Established by the **Fortaleza Declaration in 2014** during the sixth BRICS Summit.
- ➔ The bank is headquartered in **Shanghai, China**.
- ➔ The bank aims for strengthening cooperation among BRICS nation and supplement the efforts of multilateral and regional financial institutions for global development.
- ➔ It had an initial authorized capital of US\$ 100 billion.

## World Mental Health Report

*Poorest and disadvantageous section of society are at the greatest risk of mental ill-health and least likely to receive adequate services. All over the world, mental health needs are high but responses are insufficient and inadequate. In this line WHO released its World Mental Health Report.*

### ❑ World Mental Health Report

- ➔ **Released date** - 16 June 2022
- ➔ **Released by** - World Health Organisation (WHO)
- ➔ **Theme of the Report** - Transforming mental health for all.
- ➔ **Objective** - This report is designed to inspire and inform the indisputable and urgent transformation required to ensure better mental health for all.
- ➔ **First report published in** - 2001

### ❑ What is Mental health?

- ➔ According to the World Health Organization (WHO), **mental health is a state of well-being** in which the individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community.
- ➔ Like Physical health, Mental health is also important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood.

### ❑ Key Highlights of the Report

- ➔ **970 million people globally** were living with a mental disorder.
- ➔ Depressive and anxiety disorders are about 50% more common among women than men.
- ➔ Around **8% of the world's young children** (aged 5–9 years) and **14% of the world's adolescents** (aged 10–19 years) live with a **mental disorder**.

- ➔ Prevalence of mental disorders is **highest in American continent** and **lowest in Africa**.
- ➔ People with severe mental health conditions die 10 to 20 years earlier than the general population.
- ➔ Suicide accounts for more than one in every 100 deaths globally and for every death by suicide there are more than 20 suicide attempts.
- ➔ Globally, mental disorders account for 1 in 6 years lived with disability.
- ➔ Governments allocating just 2% of their health budgets to the treatment and prevention of mental health condition.
- ➔ Two-thirds of low-income countries did not include mental health in national health insurance schemes.

### Paths to transformation

- ➔ WHO presented three key points for paths to transformation-

#### Deepen Value and Commitment

- ➔ Understand and appreciate intrinsic value
- ➔ Promote social inclusion of people with mental health conditions
- ➔ Give mental and physical health equal priority
- ➔ Intensify engagement across sectors
- ➔ Step up investment in mental health

#### Reshape Environments

- ➔ Reshape physical, social and economic characteristics of different environments for mental health, including
  - ➔ Homes
  - ➔ Schools
  - ➔ Workplaces
  - ➔ Health care services
  - ➔ Communities
  - ➔ Natural environments

### Strengthen Mental Health Care

- ➔ Build community-based networks of services
- ➔ Move away from custodial care in psychiatric hospitals
- ➔ Diversify and scale up care options
- ➔ Make mental health affordable and accessible for all
- ➔ Promote person-centred, human rights-based care
- ➔ Engage and empower people with lived experience

### Significance

- ➔ Investing in mental health can greatly reduce suffering and advance public health.
- ➔ There is a core set of cost-effective interventions for priority mental health interventions that are feasible, affordable and appropriate.
- ➔ Improving people’s mental health improves educational outcomes and participation in the workforce, boosts productivity and strengthens social functioning to the benefit of all.

### Conclusion

- ➔ Ultimately this is the time to start understanding and valuing mental health at individual as well as community level. Governments should also prioritize mental health in overall health. By making laws and policies to promote rights and improve access to mental health care, government can assure the good governance with public.

### World Health Organization (WHO)

- ➔ The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health.
- ➔ It is headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland.**
- ➔ Objective is ensuring "**the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health.**"
- ➔ The World Health Assembly (WHA), composed of representatives from all 194 member states, serves as the agency's supreme decision-making body.
- ➔ **Current Director General - Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**

## West Seti Hydro Project

*India will be taking over the West Seti Hydro Power Project nearly four years after China withdrew from this. National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC) has already begun preliminary engagement of the site in far-western Nepal.*

### West Seti Hydroelectric Project

- ➔ **Type** - Storage type hydro-power project
- ➔ **Installed capacity** - 750MW
- ➔ **Development on** - Seti river.

### Key Highlights

- ➔ The dam site is located 67 km upstream of the confluence of the Seti River with the Karnali River.
- ➔ Project will generate electrical energy throughout the year.
- ➔ The project is envisaged to provide Nepal 31.9 percent free electricity .

### Significance

- ➔ Stored monsoon water in reservoir will be drawn to generate power during peak hours each day in the dry season.
- ➔ The project targets multi-purpose like flood control, navigation, fisheries, irrigation, that will help people on both sides.

- ➔ It will restore India’s image in Nepal and give it weightage in future considerations for various projects.

### Conclusion

- ➔ This project has the potential to be a defining example of how Nepal and India will deal with power in the future. Mutual mistrust will continue to overshadow the possibility for long-term success on both sides unless India decides to respect Nepal's water and the current emphasis on electricity is reassessed.

### Seti River

- ➔ The Seti River is an important **tributary of the Karnali system** that drains **western Nepal.**
- ➔ The Seti originates from the snow fields and glaciers around the **twin peaks of Api and Nampa** in the south facing slopes of the main Himalayas.
- ➔ The whole basin belongs to the monsoon climate and the climate varies slightly from region to region due to different altitudes.
- ➔ The area is near the **trijunction of the borders of Nepal, India (Kumaon, Uttarakhand), and China (Tibet).**

# Stockholm+50

June 2022 marks the fifty years since the first United Nations conference on the human environment took place – the 1972 Stockholm Conference. Sweden government hosted a UN, high-level meeting on 2-3 June 2022 to commemorate this anniversary, The event is called Stockholm+50.

## □ Stockholm+50

- ➔ **Type** - United Nations high-level conference
- ➔ **Date** - 2 to 3 June, 2022
- ➔ **Place** - Stockholm (Sweden)
- ➔ **Co-hosted by** - Sweden and Kenya
- ➔ **The International Climate and Environment Week** - Held between 30 May to 5 June 2022.

## □ Objective of the Meeting

- ➔ The aim was to contribute to accelerating a transformation that leads to sustainable and green economies, more jobs, and a healthy planet for all, where no one is left behind.

## □ Theme of the Conference

- ➔ A healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity.

## □ Adopted Declaration

- ➔ Stockholm Declaration and Action Plan for the Human Environment.
- ➔ Report submitted by **The Stockholm Environment Institute and the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)**
- ➔ The report has prepared recommendations for action for the sustainable development.

## □ Findings of the Report

- ➔ Since 1972, only around one-tenth of the hundreds of global environment and sustainable development targets agreed to by countries, have been achieved.
- ➔ The use of natural resources has more than tripled from 1970, with the benefits emanating from the usage are unevenly distributed across countries.
- ➔ The poorest half of the global population owns barely 2% of the total global wealth, while the richest 10% owns 76% of all wealth.

- ➔ The poorest half of the global population contributed 10% of emissions; the richest 10% of the global population emitted more than half of the total carbon emissions during 1990–2015..
- ➔ High-income countries have consumed most of these resources, with carbon dioxide consumption footprints that are more than 13 times the level of low-income countries.

## □ Way forward

- ➔ The goal of Stockholm+50 is to help people take action.
- ➔ It strives to establish climate-neutral, resilient, circular, and inclusive economies by leveraging sustainable consumption and nature-based solutions.
- ➔ The narrative and result will be further developed together with interested governments and other partners.

## □ 50 years of Improvement

- ➔ The toxicity of the environment is still a major worry. As the effects of climate change spiral out of control, we are running out of time.
- ➔ Ensuring lasting prosperity for all and bringing emission and resource footprints within ecological limits requires a complete rethink of our ways of living.

### The 1972 Stockholm Conference

- ➔ It was the first UN conference on the environment and was held between **5 and 16 June 1972 in Stockholm.**
- ➔ The meeting then adopted **The Stockholm Declaration** included several principles that are still important for environmental management.
- ➔ Another result of the meeting was the establishment of the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** and the World Environment Day, held annually on 5 June.

# Indian Prime Minister's visit to UAE

India and United Arab Emirates (UAE) enjoy strong bonds of friendship based on age-old cultural, religious and economic ties between the two nations.

**Prime Minister Modi's recent visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on 28 June, 2022** is his fourth since assuming office in May 2014, having previously visited the country in August 2015, February 2018, and again in August 2019.

Juxtaposed against the fact that no Indian Prime had visited the UAE for 34 long years since the visit of Mrs. Indira Gandhi in 1981, the transformation in India's engagement with this Gulf state is quite extraordinary.

## □ Key Highlights

- ➔ Both countries vowed to “deepen and diversify” their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
- ➔ During their meeting, both leaders reviewed the progress in the ‘vision statement’ unveiled during a virtual summit between India and the UAE in February.
- ➔ The statement lays down a road map for enhancing cooperation between both countries with a special focus on defence and security, and trade and investments.
- ➔ The discussions were mostly aimed at enhancing trade and investment cooperation.

## □ Bilateral trade and investment – Current Status

- ➔ India is the UAE's second largest trade partner, accounting for nine percent of the UAE's total foreign trade and 13 percent of non-oil exports.
- ➔ The UAE is India's third largest bilateral trade partner. India-UAE bilateral trade is expected to surpass the US\$60 billion in the current financial year.
- ➔ India-UAE **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** was signed on 18th February 2022, during the India-UAE Virtual Summit. The Agreement entered into force on 1st May 2022.

- ➔ CEPA is a significant milestone, negotiated and finalised in just 88 days and promising to increase bilateral trade from US\$60 billion to US\$100 billion within five years.
- ➔ It came into force on 1 May and has already ushered in preferential market access for 97 percent of tariff lines, accounting for 99 percent of Indian exports to the UAE.
- ➔ It is expected to help Indian exports in areas such as gems and jewellery, textiles, leather, footwear, sports goods, plastics, furniture, agricultural and wood products, engineering products, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and automobiles.
- ➔ It also provides Indian service providers with enhanced access to around 111 sub-sectors from the 11 broad service sectors.

## □ Indian Community

- ➔ Indian expatriate community of approx. 3.3 millions is the largest ethnic community in UAE constituting roughly about 30 per cent of the country's population.
- ➔ Among the Indian States, Kerala is the most represented followed by Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. However, Indians from the Northern States, all put together, also form a significant portion of the UAE Indian population.
- ➔ The profile of the community has changed from the 1970s and 1980s, when majority of the Indian community was blue-collared to the extent of 85% - 90%.
- ➔ Today, around 35% of the Indian community is made up of professionally qualified personnel, businessmen & other white collar non-professionals.

*Given that the UAE is keen on transforming itself from an oil-dependent economy to a knowledge-based economy, the India-UAE relationship has the potential to expand to critical areas in the science, technology, innovation (STI) domain. With India's strong science and technology base including in STEM education, space and nuclear fields, the two countries have the potential to transform the nature and scale of their engagement.*

## Quick Bits

### ❑ Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting (SAIFMM)

- ➔ India hosted a Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting (SAIFMM) on June 16, 2022, in order to commemorate 30 years of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations.
- ➔ Meeting was co-chaired by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore, Vivian Balakrishnan.
- ➔ During the meeting, foreign ministers highlighted the importance of India-ASEAN relations. They underlined the role played by ASEAN in India's Act East Policy vision for a wider Indo-Pacific.

### ❑ Singapore Shangri-La Dialogue

- ➔ The 19th Shangri-La Dialogue was hosted in Singapore, from June 10 to June 12, 2022, in Singapore after two-years.
- ➔ It is hosted by International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS). About 500 delegates from more than 40 countries took part in the summit.
- ➔ **Shangri-La Dialogue:** It is Asia's premier defence summit, in which ministers' debate on pressing security challenges in the region and engage in important bilateral talks.

### ❑ India-Qatar Start-Up Bridge

- ➔ On June 5, 2022, the Vice President of India M Venkaiah Naidu launched the India-Qatar Start-Up bridge.
- ➔ India-Qatar Start-up bridge is a joint initiative, launched with the aim of linking the start-up ecosystems of two countries as well as helping their economies mutually.
- ➔ This initiative was launched as Vice President Naidu addressed the members of business community, at India-Qatar Business Forum.

### ❑ G7: India's invite to invest in clean energy

- ➔ On June 27, 2022 Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the G7 Summit in Germany and asked the Group of Seven (G7) countries to consider investing in and promoting the emerging market for clean energy technologies in India.
- ➔ German Chancellor Olaf Scholz invited PM Modi for attending G7 Summit 2022 as a partner country.
- ➔ Apart from India, Argentina, Indonesia, Senegal and South Africa also took part in the summit, as partner countries.

### ❑ Partners in the Blue Pacific' initiative

- ➔ The United States and allied countries namely Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the United Kingdom; have launched a new initiative called 'Partners in the Blue Pacific'.
- ➔ Under the new initiative, countries will involve in "effective and efficient cooperation" with small island nations of the region.
- ➔ The Partners in the Blue Pacific Initiative is a five-nation "informal mechanism", launched for supporting Pacific islands and for boosting economic and diplomatic ties in the region. This initiative was announced on June 24, 2022.

### ❑ India-Senegal sign three MoUs

- ➔ This is the first ever high level Indian visit to Senegal.
- ➔ India's Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu led delegation level talks with the President of Senegal, H.E. Mr Macky Sall and assured Senegal of India's continued commitment to support the socio-economic development of Senegal through all means, bilateral, regional and international frameworks.
- ➔ The first MoU pertains to visa-free regime for Diplomatic and Official passport.
- ➔ Second agreement relates to renewal of Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) for the period 2022-26.
- ➔ Third MoU seeks to enhance bilateral cooperation in youth matters.



## RBI's Payments Vision 2025

On June 17, 2022 Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released a document named "Payments Vision 2025". The vision document is a progressive document which aims to establish India as a powerhouse of payments globally.

### □ Background

➔ This is a follow up vision document after Payments Vision 2019-21 which had envisaged to empower every Indian with access to a bouquet of e-payment options that is safe, secure, convenient, quick and affordable.

### □ About RBI's Payments Vision 2025

- ➔ **Launched by:** Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- ➔ **Launched on:** 17th June, 2022
- ➔ **Core Theme:** E-Payments for Everyone, Everywhere, Everytime (4 Es)
- ➔ **Vision:** Provide every user with Safe, Secure, Fast, Convenient, Accessible, and Affordable e-payment options (6 Attributes)

### □ Roadmap

- ➔ The Payments Vision 2025 document is presented across the five anchor goalposts of Integrity, Inclusion, Innovation, Institutionalisation and Internationalisation(5I's).
- ➔ Resilience to operational and security concerns would continue to be at the heart to withstand and recover from the evolving threat landscape.
- ➔ Integrity of payment systems shall be non-negotiable for buttressing customer confidence.
- ➔ Financial inclusion will be promoted through collection and publication of disaggregated payment data leading to policy enhancements; customer awareness transcending geographies; digital penetration infrastructure review etc.

### □ Key Expected Outcomes of Vision Document application

- ➔ Volume of cheque-based payments to be less than 0.25% of the total retail payments.
- ➔ More than **three times increase in number of digital payment transactions**.
- ➔ UPI to register average digitization growth of 50% and IMPS / NEFT at 20%.
- ➔ Increase in debit card transactions at PoS by 20%.
- ➔ Debit card usage to surpass credit cards in terms of value.
- ➔ Increase of registered customer base for mobile based transactions by 50% CAGR
- ➔ **Reduction in Cash in Circulation (CIC)** as a percentage of GDP.

### □ Conclusion

- ➔ The Reserve Bank of India's Payments Vision 2025 document will aid in driving digitization at the last mile and it shows the regulator's intent and the road map to enhance the outreach for digital payments.

### □ Reserve Bank of India

- ➔ The Reserve Bank of India was established on **April 1, 1935** in accordance with the provisions of the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.
- ➔ The Head Office of the Reserve Bank was initially established in Kolkata but was permanently moved to **Mumbai in 1937**.
- ➔ It is India's central bank and is under ownership of Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- ➔ It is **regulatory body** responsible for regulation of the Indian banking system.
- ➔ It also performs various other functions like monetary policy control, issuer of currency, forex management etc.

# Business Reforms Action Plan 2020 Assessment

*Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) was initiated by the Union Government's Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in 2014. For this, DPIIT undertakes a feedback-based exercise from various businesses on the quality of the reform implementations by the states and the UTs. In the recent development DPIIT released its latest assessment for the year 2020.*

## ❑ Business Reforms Action Plan 2020 Assessment

- ➔ **Released on** - 30 June 2022
- ➔ **Released by** - Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- ➔ **Based on** - Implementation of Business Reforms Action Plan for the year 2020.
- ➔ **Edition** - 5th (Previously for the years 2015, 2016, 2017-18 and 2019)

## ❑ Objective

- ➔ To infuse a culture of learning from each other's best practices and improve upon the business climate in each State/UT.

## ❑ Report Preparedness

- ➔ The report is based on **301 reform points** covering **15 business regulatory** areas such as Access to Information, Single Window System, Labour, Environment, Land Administration & Transfer of Land and Property and others.

## ❑ Into the Report

- ➔ States have been placed under the four categories viz. **Top Achievers, Achievers, Aspirers and Emerging Business Ecosystems**.
- ➔ Due to insufficient User Data feedback could not be obtained for Sikkim, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Lakshadweep and Ladakh.

## ❑ Top Achievers Category

- ➔ Andhra Pradesh
- ➔ Gujarat
- ➔ Haryana
- ➔ Karnataka
- ➔ Punjab
- ➔ Tamil Nadu
- ➔ Telangana

## ❑ Achievers Category

- ➔ Himachal Pradesh
- ➔ Madhya Pradesh
- ➔ Maharashtra
- ➔ Odisha
- ➔ Uttarakhand
- ➔ Uttar Pradesh

## ❑ Aspirers Category

- ➔ Assam
- ➔ Chhattisgarh
- ➔ Goa
- ➔ Jharkhand
- ➔ Kerala
- ➔ Rajasthan
- ➔ West Bengal

## ❑ Emerging Business Ecosystems Category

- ➔ Andaman & Nicobar
- ➔ Bihar
- ➔ Chandigarh
- ➔ Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli
- ➔ Delhi
- ➔ Jammu & Kashmir
- ➔ Manipur
- ➔ Meghalaya
- ➔ Nagaland
- ➔ Puducherry
- ➔ Tripura

## ❑ Way Forward

- ➔ The assessment does not represent the hierarchy amongst States/UTs but to rather create an enabling framework wherein learnings can be shared amongst States/UTs which in turn will lead to a nationwide spill over of good practices.

## World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business' Report

- ➔ The report was **introduced in 2003**.
- ➔ For measuring business regulation across **190 economies of the world**.
- ➔ India **ranked among the top 10 economies** showing "the most notable improvement" in report 2017, 2018 and 2019.
- ➔ The report got discontinued in 2021 following by some data misbehaving.

## Black Swan Event

A study of **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** stated that the capital outflows of USD 100 billion (around Rs 7,80,000 crore) from India in case of a major global risk scenario or a **black swan event**.

### □ The Term "Black Swan"

- ➔ **Coined by-** Author and investor Nassim Nicholas Taleb in 2001.
- ➔ **Popularised in his 2007 book -** The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable (2007)

### □ What is Black Swan event?

- ➔ It is an uncertain or unpredictable occasion that comes as a shock and has a significant impact on society or the world.
- ➔ Event have three distinctive qualities -They are extremely rare and outside the realm of regular

expectations; they seem probable in hindsight when plausible explanations appear and they have a severe impact after they hit.

- ➔ The current event comprises a combination of three shocks - (i) a COVID-type contraction in real GDP growth (ii) a GFC type decline in interest rate differentials vis-à-vis the US, or (iii) a GFC type surge in the VIX.

### □ History of Black Swan

- ➔ **The fall of the Soviet Union** - Began from December 1991.
- ➔ **Asian Financial Crisis** - 1997
- ➔ **2008 global financial crisis** - Triggered by a sudden crash in the booming housing market in the United States.
- ➔ **The terrorist attack in the US** - September 2011

## Vivatech 2022

**Viva Technology is Europe's largest startup** and technology conference that brings together the best business leaders, startups, researchers and innovators in Paris and online to spark positive change in business and society.

### □ Vivatech 2022

- ➔ **Date** - 15 to 18 June
- ➔ **Place** - Paris
- ➔ **Edition** - Sixth
- ➔ **Vivatech 2023** - 14 to 17 June next year in Paris.

### □ Main highlight of the Conference

- ➔ In the conference India has been recognized as the "**country of the year**."
- ➔ For this year, Government has selected 15 Indian startups and companies to showcase indigenously developed tech products.

- ➔ **Some are as** BON V Technology, Sunfox Technologies, Thinkerbell Labs, BlueSemi, Log9 Materials etc.

### □ Startup in India

- ➔ According to the **Economic Survey 2021-22**, India is the **third-largest startup ecosystem in the world, after the US and China**.
- ➔ India has more than 61,400 startups to date. The Government of India recognised over 14,000 new startups in 2021-22 alone.

### □ What is Vivatech?

- ➔ One of the largest digital and startup events in Europe, held in Paris every year since 2016.
- ➔ This bring together the best innovation actors to ignite positive change in business and for society.

## The Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2022

The startup landscape has shifted substantially, with **India surging close behind the United States and China**. The country has seen a rapid rise in the number of large exits and early-stage rounds, and a **substantial increase in Ecosystem Value**.

### □ About the Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2022

- ➔ **Published On** - June 14, 2022

- ➔ **Published by** - Startup Genome
- ➔ **Published** - 'The Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2022'.
- ➔ **Kerala has been ranked first** in Asia in Affordable Talent in **Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER)**.
- ➔ The first Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER) was published in the year 2012.

### ❑ Key Findings

- ➔ **540 companies** achieved Unicorn status in 2021, up from 150 in 2020.
- ➔ Asia experienced a **312% increase** in the dollar amount of exits over \$50 million from 2020 to 2021.
- ➔ China's ecosystems have declined in the rankings, a reflection of the relative decline in early stage funding in comparison to other ecosystems.
- ➔ Several Indian ecosystems have risen in the rankings, such as **Delhi**, which is ranked 26 in GSER 2022.
- ➔ **Bangalore** ranked 22 in GSER 2022.
- ➔ Mumbai's has moved out of the Emerging Ecosystems ranking and into the global overall rankings (ranked 36).

### ❑ Global Startup Ecosystem Ranking

#### Top 5 Countries

Rank	Country	Performance
1	Silicon Valley	10
2	New York City	10
2	London	9
4	Boston	10
5	Beijing	10
Indian Cities in GSER 2022		
22	Bangalore	5
26	Delhi	8
36	Mumbai	6

#### Emerging Ecosystems with Four or More Unicorns in the Last 10 Years

Ecosystems	Number of Unicorns
Phoenix	4
Tianjin	4
Mexico City	5
Hong Kong	7
Jakarta	7
Wuxi	7
Guangzhou	9
Nanjing	10

#### Top 10 Ecosystems by Ecosystem Value

Ecosystems	Ecosystem Value (\$B)
Detroit	\$90.6
Kuala Lumpur	\$71.8
Hong Kong	\$63.5
Jakarta	\$61.9
Nanjing	\$44.6
Guangzhou	\$38.6
Bucharest	\$36.9
Wuxi	\$32.8
Tianjin	\$26.2
Minneapolis	\$23.9

#### Top 10 Emerging Ecosystems by Total Early-Stage Funding

Ecosystems	Early Stage Funding (\$M)
Zurich	\$1,365.4
Jakarta	\$1,284
Guangzhou	\$1,134.3
Hong Kong	\$1,022.3
Barcelona	\$857.3
Mexico City	\$811.5
Phoenix	\$742.4
Nanjing	\$721.8
Research Triangle	\$680
Dublin	\$679.8

### ❑ About Startup Genome

- ➔ It is the world-leading policy advisory and research organization for public and private organizations committed to accelerating the success of their startup ecosystem.
- ➔ **Headquarter**- San Francisco, California (USA)

## Quick Bits

### ❑ 'Udyami Bharat' Programme

- ➔ On June 30, 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in 'Udyami Bharat' programme.
- ➔ On the occasion, he launched following key initiatives:
  1. Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance(RAMP) scheme
  2. Capacity Building of First-Time MSME Exporters(CBFTE) scheme
  3. New features of Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) to boost the MSME sector.
- ➔ He also transferred the assistance to beneficiaries of PMEGP, digitally, for 2022-23.
- ➔ He announced results of MSME Idea Hackathon, 2022 and distributed National MSME Awards, 2022.
- ➔ Digital Equity Certificates were also issued to 75 MSMEs in Self Reliant India (SRI) Fund.

### ❑ FSSAI Standards for fortified rice kernels (FRKs)

- ➔ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) recently decided to operationalise standards for fortified rice kernels (FRKs).
- ➔ Standards for fortified rice kernels will be operationalised with immediate effect, in order to strengthen national-level fortification programme in India.
- ➔ The draft regulation on "standards for FRKs" has been framed and notified on May 25, 2022. However, the amended regulation will be finalised after consultation with the stakeholder.

#### ❑ What are FRKs?

- ➔ FRKs are rice-shaped kernels, comprising of vitamins and minerals produced through extrusion technique. In terms of aroma, texture and taste, they are required to resemble normal rice kernels as closely as possible.

### ❑ India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy

- ➔ NITI Aayog recently published its report titled "India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy".
- ➔ In its report, NITI Aayog has proposed fiscal incentives for companies, such as tax breaks or start-up grants.

- ➔ It proposed to provide incentives for companies having one-third of their workforce people with disabilities and women.
- ➔ NITI Aayog also recommended to extend social security measures like income support, insurance, paid sick leaves, and pension plans for people working on platform companies like Swiggy, Ola, Zomato, and Uber.

### ❑ T-Hub 2.0: World's Largest Innovation Centre

- ➔ Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao on 28 June, 2022 inaugurated T-Hub 2.0, the world's largest innovation campus in Hyderabad.
- ➔ T-Hub's new innovation campus is T-shaped, with a total built-up area of 5,82,689 sq ft, making it the world's largest, the second largest being Station F based in France.
- ➔ T-Hub will provide young Indians to launch their startups with a collaborative innovation ecosystem.

### ❑ 'Dak Karmayogi'

- ➔ On June 28, 2022, Minister of Communications Ashwini Vaishnaw launched 'Dak Karmayogi'. It is an e-learning portal of Department of Posts.
- ➔ Dak Karmayogi portal has been launched with the aim of enhancing competencies of departmental employees and Gramin Dak Sevaks by enabling them to access uniform standardised content in blended campus mode or online.

### ❑ Vanijya Bhawan And Niryat Portal

- ➔ In the direction of Citizen-Centric Governance and ensuring ease of access to the all stakeholders Government has launched Niryat Portal and a new building called Vanijya Bhawan.
- ➔ **Inaugurated on** - 23 June 2022
- ➔ **Inaugurated by** - PM Narendra Modi
- ➔ **Place** - Delhi

#### NIRYAT portal

- ➔ NIRYAT stands for 'National Import-Export Record for Yearly Analysis of Trade'.
- ➔ It will deal with the import and export analysis of India and provide important real-time data to all stakeholders.



## Prithvi-II missile

On 15 June 2022, DRDO successfully test-fired the short-range nuclear-capable ballistic missile Prithvi-2 from an **Integrated Test Centre in Odisha**. It was a successful test and met all the prescribed operational and technical parameters during the test.

### □ Prithvi-II missile

- ➔ **Type** - Surface-to-surface missile and capable of striking targets with high degree of precision.
- ➔ **Specifications** - Single staged, two engines, and liquid-fuel propulsion.
- ➔ **Strike range** - 350 km, Short-range ballistic missile (SRBM)
- ➔ **Warhead Carrying Capacity**-500 to 1000 kilogram of warheads.
- ➔ It can be launched through a **mobile launcher**.
- ➔ It uses advanced **inertial guidance system** with maneuvering trajectory in order to hit its target.
- ➔ Prithvi is India's first indigenously developed ballistic missile under **IGMDP (Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme)**.

### □ History of Prithvi-II Missile

- ➔ The Prithvi's development began in 1983, and it was first fired on February 25, 1988.
  - ➔ The missile was already inducted into armory of Indian defence forces in 2003.
  - ➔ Prithvi I, Prithvi II, and Prithvi III are the three variants of the Prithvi missile series that have been developed under IGMDP-
1. **Prithvi I (SS-150)** – Army version (150 km) range with a payload of 1,000 kg
  2. **Prithvi II (SS-250)** – Air Force version (350 km) range with a payload of 500 kg
  3. **Prithvi III (SS-350)** – Naval version (350 km) range with a payload of 1,000 kg

### □ DHANUSH

- ➔ Dhanush is a variant of the surface-to-surface or ship-to-ship Prithvi III missile, which has been developed for the Indian Navy.

## Ethenol Blending

Due to the coordinated efforts of the **Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs)** the target of **10% Ethenol blending** has been achieved in June 2022, much ahead of the targeted timelines of **November, 2022**.

### □ What is Ethenol Blending?

- ➔ Ethanol is a biofuel naturally produced by the fermentation of sugars by yeasts or by petrochemical processes like ethylene hydration.
- ➔ Process of mixing petrol with ethanol that mixture is called Ethanol Fuel / Gasohol.
- ➔ It is considered as a **quasi-renewable energy**.
- ➔ Ethanol is biofuel derived from Sugarcane molasses, corn, sorghum etc.
- ➔ In India, practice of blending ethanol was started in **2001**.
- ➔ **National Policy on Bio-fuels, 2009** made mandatory for oil companies to sell petrol blended with at least 5% of ethanol.

### □ Roadmap for Ethanol Blending in India 2020-25

- ➔ Released in June, 2021 by NITI Aayog.
- ➔ The Roadmap lays out a detailed pathway for achieving 20% ethanol blending and the target year has been curtailed from **2030 to 2025**.
- ➔ This roadmap also mentioned 10% blending target that had to be achieved by November, 2022.

## ❑ Significance so far

- ➔ Saved forex reserve of over **Rs.41,500 crores**, reduced GHG emissions of **27 lakh MT** and also led to the expeditious payment of over Rs.40,600 crores to farmers.

## ❑ Fuel Ethanol Production Worldwide

- ➔ USA>BRAZIL>EUROPEAN UNION>CHINA>INDIA

### ❑ Ethanol-blended petrol (EBP) programme

- ➔ **Launched in** - January, 2003
- ➔ **Launched by** - Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- ➔ **Target** - 5% ethanol blended Petrol(Now 20% till 2025,also called Mission E20)
- ➔ **E20 will be rolled out from** - April 2023 to April 2025
- ➔ **Objective** - To promote the use of alternative and environment friendly fuels and to reduce import dependency for energy requirements.

## India gets world's first liquid-mirror telescope

Recently India's first liquid-mirror telescope became operational. With this India became the first country to have such telescope.

The International Liquid-Mirror Telescope (ILMT) has been set up at the Devasthal Observatory campus owned by Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital in Uttarakhand.

### ❑ What is Liquid-mirror Telescope?

- ➔ Liquid-mirror telescopes are telescopes with mirrors made with a reflective liquid.
- ➔ The most common liquid used is mercury, but other liquids will work as well (for example, low-melting alloys of gallium).
  - ☞ Technology behind liquid-mirror telescope
- ➔ Liquid mirror (LM) telescope has three components
  - ☞ A dish containing a reflecting liquid metal (essentially mercury),
  - ☞ An air bearing on which the LM sits, and
  - ☞ A drive system.
- ➔ To operate the air bearing an air compressor is needed.
- ➔ When a bowl of reflective liquid mercury is rotated, the combination of gravity and centrifugal force pushes the liquid into a perfect parabolic shape, exactly like a conventional telescope mirror.

### ❑ About ILMT

- ➔ **Jointly developed by:** India, Belgium, Canada, Poland and Uzbekistan
- ➔ **Funding:** between Rs 30 to Rs 40 crore, was jointly provided by Canada and Belgium
- ➔ **Operations and maintenance:** By India

- ➔ **Set up at:** Devasthal Observatory campus owned by Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital in Uttarakhand.
- ➔ **Timeline:** operational for next five years starting October 2022
- ➔ Mirror diameter is 4 meter.

### ❑ Difference between Conventional and Liquid-mirror telescope (LMT)

- ➔ ALMT is a stationary telescope whereas a conventional telescope moves along the direction of the object of interest in the sky.
- ➔ A LMT will survey and capture any and all possible celestial objects such as stars, galaxies, supernovae explosions, asteroids and even space debris. However, a conventional telescope captures just a piece of sky at a given point of time.
- ➔ LMT comprises mirrors with a reflective liquid (ILMT has mercury as reflective liquid). On the other hand, a conventional telescope uses highly-polished glass mirrors.
- ➔ While ILMT will be capturing images of the sky on all nights, conventional telescopes observe specific objects in the sky for fixed hours only.

### ❑ Significance of LMT

- ➔ It is capable of generating 10-15 GB/night. This enormous data will be helpful for global scientific community.
- ➔ Selected data can be used as a base data for carrying out further focused research using spectrographs, near-Infrared spectrograph mounted on the in-house DOT.

## Ancovax: Nation's first animal vaccine against Covid-19

The need for a COVID-19 vaccine for animals was felt when Denmark culled 17 million mink in 2020 after a study confirmed that a strain of the virus had passed from humans to mink. Later, mutated strains of the virus from the mink were detected in humans. In India, eight Asiatic lions at Hyderabad's Nehru Zoological Park tested positive for the novel coronavirus in May 2021. As COVID-19 cases rise across India, the government launched the nation's first animal vaccine — Ancovax — against SARS-CoV-2 virus.

### □ Why in News

- ➔ **Launched On** - June 9, 2022,
- ➔ **Launched by** - Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare
- ➔ **Launched** - Animal Vaccine (Ancovax) and other Diagnostic Kits developed by the ICAR-National Research Centre on Equines, Hisar, Haryana.

### □ Key Highlights

#### About Ancovax

- ➔ The Ancovax Vaccine on Equines is an inactivated SARS-CoV-2 Delta (COVID-19) Vaccine for Animals.
- ➔ It contains **inactivated SARS-CoV-2 (Delta) antigen** capable of neutralizing **both Delta and Omicron** Variants of SARS-CoV-2.
- ➔ It is safe for **dogs, lions, leopards, mice and rabbits.**
- ➔ It was developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Research Centre on Equines (ICAR-NRCE).

#### CAN-CoV-2 ELISA Kit-Sub

- ➔ It is a specific nucleocapsid protein based indirect ELISA Kit for antibody detection against SARS-CoV-2 in Canines.

#### Surra ELISA Kit

- ➔ The Surra ELISA Kit is a suitable Diagnostic Assay for Trypanosoma evansi infection in multiple animal species.

- ➔ The Surra is one of the most important haemoprotozoan diseases of the different livestock species caused by Trypanosoma evansi.
- ➔ The disease is prevalent in all the agro-climatic parts of India.
- ➔ In India, losses to livestock productivity are estimated to be Rs. 44.740 Billion annually due to Surra.

### The Equine DNA Parentage Testing Kit

- ➔ It is a powerful genomic technology for parentage analysis.
  - ➔ The Parentage among the Horses can be definitely established using Multiplex PCR Technology to compare allele sizes.
  - ➔ At ICAR-NRC on Equines, an optimized 21 DNA Market Panel is being used for Parentage testing.

### □ Which are the other animal COVID vaccines?

- ➔ **Russia** had registered the world's first COVID-19 vaccine for animals called Carnivac-Cov in **March, 2021.**

### □ ICAR-National Research Centre on Equines

- ➔ National Research Centre on Equines is a premier institute established under the aegis of **Indian Council of Agricultural Research** for conducting research on equine health and production.
- ➔ India possesses **1.17 million equines.**
- ➔ **National Research Centre on Equines (NRCE)** was established during **7th five-year plan** under the aegis of ICAR for research on equine health and production.
- ➔ After the initial joining of the Project Director at ICAR headquarter on 26th November 1985, the Centre became operational at **Hisar** on 7th Jan. 1986 for conducting researches and for providing effective health coverage for equines.

## Quick Bits

### ❑ 'Abhyas' High-speed Expendable Aerial Target

- ➔ On June 29, 2022 the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) announced the successful flight test of ABHYAS - the High-Speed expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) in Odisha.
- ➔ The test took place at the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Bay of Bengal in Odisha.
- ➔ The test demonstrated the performance at low altitude including sustained level & high manoeuvrability.
- ➔ It has been designed for autonomous flying with the help of an autopilot system on-board.

### ❑ Centre for Brain Research (CBR)

- ➔ On June 20, 2022 Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Centre for Brain Research (CBR).
- ➔ The Centre for Brain Research (CBR) has been set up at Indian Institute of Science (IISc), at a cost of Rs 280 crore.
- ➔ Centre for Brain Research was established as a non-profit, autonomous research organization in the IISc.

### ❑ China: New Geological Map of the Moon

- ➔ A new comprehensive Geological map of the Moon was released by China. It is the most detailed map till date.
- ➔ Chinese scientists have created the high-resolution topographic map on the basis of data from Chinese lunar exploration project called "Chang'e project".
- ➔ The new map is to a scale of 1:2,500,000. It includes 12,341 impact craters, 17 rock types, 81 impact basins, and 14 types of structures.
- ➔ Chang'e-5 mission has been named after ancient Chinese goddess of the moon.

### ❑ GSAT-24

- ➔ On June 23, 2022 India launched its GSAT-24 satellite that has been built by ISRO for NewSpace India Limited (NSIL).
- ➔ GSAT-24 satellite was launched on Ariane 5 space launch vehicle, by French company Arianespace.
- ➔ It was launched from Kourou in French Guiana, in South America.

- ➔ GSAT-24 is a 24-Ku band communication satellite. It weighs 4180 kg. The satellite will provide coverage to pan-India, to meet DTH application needs.

### ❑ Iskander-M missile system

- ➔ Russia has announced to transfer the "Iskander-M Missile System" to Belarus. This missile system can use ballistic or cruise missiles, in their nuclear and conventional versions.
- ➔ Iskander-M missile system is codenamed as "SS-26 Stone" by NATO.
- ➔ Russia uses the term Iskander-M to define transporter-erector launch system as well as short-range ballistic missile (SRBM) fired by it.
- ➔ This system can be used to fire ground-launched cruise missiles (GLCMs) viz., SSC-7 and the SSC-8. This system has been exclusively used by Russian military. It was first launched in 1996, successfully.

### ❑ South Korea: Launch of First domestically built space rocket

- ➔ On June 21, South Korea launched its first domestically built space rocket in second attempt. Space rocket was launched months after its previous lift-off could not place a payload into orbit.
- ➔ In 2013, South Korea had launched a satellite from its soil for the first time, but its first stage launch vehicle was manufactured by Russia.
- ➔ The domestically built space rocket is a three-stage rocket, which is carrying a functioning "performance verification" satellite. It is named as Nuri rocket.

### ❑ DAVINCI Mission

- ➔ NASA is set to launch a mission called "DAVINCI Mission". DAVINCI stands for "Deep Atmosphere Venus Investigation of Noble gases, Chemistry and Imaging Mission".
- ➔ The mission will fly by Venus and explore its harsh atmosphere in 2029.
- ➔ It will be the first mission to study Venus by means of both flybys and descent.
- ➔ Spacecraft is likely to explore layered Venusian atmosphere.
- ➔ It will reach Venusian surface by June 2031.

# ENVIRONMENT



## 'Clean and Green' campaign

*With an aim to protect and care for the environment by engaging the community in leading an environmentally conscious lifestyle, Indian government has launched the Clean and Green' campaign.*

### ❑ 'Clean and Green' campaign

- ➔ **Launched on** - 5 June 2022, (World Environment day)
- ➔ **Launched by** - Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- ➔ **Objective** - To make country free of Single Use Plastic (SUP).

### ❑ Main event of campaign

- ➔ **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** has issued a detailed advisory to States and UTs will take up a range of activities to fulfill all mandates for no use of Single Use plastic (SUP).

### ❑ Under this advisory-

- ➔ States and Urban Local Bodies have to enter into Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with nearby cement plants or other industrial units.
- ➔ A part of the plastic waste generated is used either as an alternative fuel in cement plants, or for road construction purposes.
- ➔ The advisory stresses on large-scale people participation to carry forward the message of Single-Use Plastics ban and enforcement.
- ➔ States/ UTs will need to ensure that the remaining 2,100-plus ULBs notify the same by 30th June, 2022.

### ❑ Progress so far

- ➔ 2,591 ULBs (Urban Local Bodies) (out of 4,704) have already reported notification SUP ban as per the directions of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and MoEF&CC.

### ❑ What is Single use plastic?

- ➔ Single-use plastics, or disposable plastics, are used only once before they are thrown away.
- ➔ These items are things like plastic bags, straws, coffee stirrers, soda and water bottles and most food packaging.

### ❑ 9 Reasons To Refuse Single-Use Plastic

- ➔ Made from fossil fuels
- ➔ Only a tiny percentage is recycled
- ➔ Huge carbon footprint
- ➔ Leaches toxins into food & drink
- ➔ Will still be here in hundreds of years
- ➔ Causes hormone disruption & cancers
- ➔ Pollutes our oceans
- ➔ Kills marine animals and birds
- ➔ Enters our food chain

### ❑ World Environment Day

- ➔ This year it is hosted by Sweden.
- ➔ 'Only One Earth' is the campaign slogan of the Environment Day this year.
- ➔ This year also mark the 50 year of 1972 Stockholm Conference, that was the first UN Conference on Human Environment.

### ❑ Clean and Green Campaign' at Delhi AIIMS

- ➔ It was launched by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2015.
- ➔ This campaign was launched as a part of Kayakalp initiative which aims to encourage public health facilities in the the health institutions.
- ➔ Large scale cleaning & plogging drives, with special emphasis on plastic waste collection.
- ➔ Tree plantation at a large scale, with participation of all citizens.

# Global Status Report 2022

Governments are committed to get **net zero greenhouse gas emissions**, but in response to the energy crisis, most countries have gone back to seeking out new sources of fossil fuels and to burning even more coal, oil and natural gas that says the Global Status Report 2022.

## Global Status Report, 2022

- ➔ **Released on :** 15 June 2022
- ➔ **Released by :** Renewable Energy Policy Network (REN21)
- ➔ **Series :** 17th (seventeenth)
- ➔ **Objective :** Provides a world map of renewable energy shares by country and highlights progress in some of the leading countries.

## Overview of the Report

- ➔ Record growth in renewables, but world missed historic chance for a clean energy recovery.

## Findings of the Report

- ➔ **Renewable power capacity** additions grew 17% in 2021 to reach a new high of more than 314 GW of added capacity globally.
- ➔ **China** added around 136 GW of renewable energy and became the first country to exceed 1 Terawatt of installed capacity.
- ➔ **India added around 15.4 gigawatts (GW) of renewable power capacity in 2021**, the third highest after **China (136 GW)** and the **United States (43 GW)**.
- ➔ China is the global leader in cumulative renewable energy capacity at the end of 2021, followed by the **USA (398 GW)**, **Brazil (160 GW)**, **India (158 GW)** and **Germany (139 GW)**.
- ➔ The total installed renewable power capacity grew 11 per cent to reach around **3,146 GW** worldwide.

Parameters	I <sup>st</sup>	II <sup>nd</sup>	III <sup>rd</sup>	IV <sup>th</sup>	V <sup>th</sup>
Solar PV capacity	China	United States	India	Japan	Brazil
Wind power capacity	China	United States	Brazil	Vietnam	United Kingdom
Hydropower capacity	China	Canada	India	Nepal	Lao PDR
Geothermal power capacity	China	Turkey	Iceland	Japan	New Zealand
Concentrating solar thermal power (CSP) capacity	Chile	-	-	-	-
Solar water heating capacity	China	India	Turkey	Brazil	United States
Air-source heat pump sales	China	Japan	United States	France	Italy
Ethanol production	United States	Brazil	China	Canada	India
Biodiesel production	Indonesia	Brazil	United States	Germany	France

Table : Technologies/countries ordered based on total capacity addition during 2021 (Net capacity/sales/etc 2021.)

## India at the Report

- ➔ India installed 843 MW of hydro-power electricity in 2021, bringing the overall capacity to 45.3 GW.
- ➔ India was **ranked third globally for total installed wind power capacity behind China, USA and Germany.**
- ➔ **India was the second largest market for new solar PV (Photovoltaic) capacity in Asia and third largest globally.**

## Way Forward

- ➔ To reach the average milestones as "Net Zero emissions by 2050" and by the World Energy Transitions Outlook scenarios from the International Renewable Energy Agency (IREA), the world would need to add **825 GW of renewable each year until 2050.**

## India to Promote Renewable Energy

- ➔ **National Solar Mission (NSM):** Launched in January 2010, 100 GW solar ambition at the heart of the world's largest renewable energy expansion programme.
- ➔ **National Biofuels Policy 2018:** Building value chains to reduce fuel imports, increase clean energy, manage waste, and create jobs.
- ➔ **International Solar Alliance (ISA) :** Harnessing the infinite power for the Sun for sustainable human development. Formed in November 2015.
- ➔ **National Hydrogen Energy Mission (NHEM):** Announced in Budget 2021, Exploring the commercial viability of a versatile clean fuel.

## UN-Habitat Plan For Jaipur

At the end of May 2022, The **United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)** has recognised difficulties in Jaipur, such as multi-hazard vulnerabilities, poor mobility, and a **Green-Blue economy**. UN-Habitat also proposed a strategy for increasing the Jaipur city's sustainability that blueprint is called **UN-Habitat Plan For Jaipur**.

### □ What does the report say?

- ➔ Jaipur got an overall sustainability rating of three on the **Urban Sustainability Assessment Framework (USAF)**.
- ➔ It is based on the information collected for **87 of its 131 parameters**.

### □ The UN-Habitat finds the problem related to the city

- ➔ Access to public transit is limited, with fewer buses and poorly marked routes.
- ➔ **Droughts of epic proportions** during the summer, as well as urban floods.
- ➔ Due to a lack of green cover, the urban heat island effect has damaged biodiversity.

### □ Recommendations

- ➔ **Boost green cover**, reinforce urban biodiversity, and thereby improve inhabitants' quality of life.
- ➔ Re-development and **Re-densification of the existing urban areas** to address the challenges of urban sprawling.
- ➔ Integration of fares for various modes of transportation and improvements to non-motorised transport infrastructure, makes travel more convenient.
- ➔ For **rainwater harvesting** and raising the water table,

- 800 dry wells in Jaipur's Walled City could be used.
- ➔ Eco-trails with plantations along natural drainage channels and railway tracks.
- ➔ Urban development authorities should measure oxygen produced and carbon dioxide released each day in each urban complex and plan green cover accordingly.
- ➔ Select the species of plants with utmost caution since only indigenous, broad-leaved and tap-root trees produce more shade and oxygen.

### □ Conclusion

- ➔ The urban problems which persist in Jaipur are the same for other cities. The recommendation of UN-Habitat should be used for every cities for maximum support for sustainable development goals.

### □ UN-Habitat

- ➔ The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is the United Nations programme for human settlements and sustainable urban development.
- ➔ It was established in 1978 as an outcome of the first United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat I) held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976.
- ➔ Headquartered at the United Nations Office at **Nairobi, Kenya**.
- ➔ **Objective**-To promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.
- ➔ It is a member of the United Nations Development Group.

## Green Jobs

The Prime Minister spoke on India's ongoing efforts to prevent climate change during a celebration for World Environment Day. He also brought up India's initiatives to develop "Green jobs."

### □ What are Green Jobs?

- ➔ Green jobs are jobs that contribute to preserve or restore the environment, be they in traditional sectors such as manufacturing and constructions, or in new emerging green sectors such as renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- ➔ In all, they're aimed at reducing the negative environmental impact of economic sectors and

furthering the process of creating a low-carbon economy.

### □ India at Green Jobs

- ➔ India's green economy could add 3 million jobs in the renewable energy sector alone by 2030, estimated the International Labour Organisation.
- ➔ 24 million jobs could be created by transitioning to a circular economy, which includes activities such as recycling, repair, rent and re-manufacturing.
- ➔ These jobs are known as Wind Technician, Solar Technician, Solar Installer, Solar Project Manager, Environmental Specialist/Engineer etc.

## National Air Quality Resource Framework of India (NARFI)

In the country there is an absence of authenticated and integrated information on air quality in the country. To fulfill this vacuum, a science-based integrated air quality resource framework is needed. In the line, Government has launched an information mechanism "NARFI".

### □ National Air Quality Resource Framework of India (NARFI)

- ➔ **Inaugurated on :** 22 June 2022
- ➔ **Inaugurated by :** Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to Govt. of India
- ➔ **Developed by :** National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS)
- ➔ **Inaugurated at :** India International Centre, New Delhi
- ➔ **Objective :** The framework will provide an all-inclusive guide to collecting air quality data, studying its impact and implementing science-based solutions.

### □ What is NARFI?

- ➔ The NARFI is an information mechanism to help governments and all stake holders to address air pollution issues in different climatic zones of India.

- ➔ Research-based audited Information and industry-oriented solutions will be shared in an easy-to-understand format on this platform.

### □ The NARFI will evolve around the following five modules

- ➔ **THEME-1 :** Emission Inventory, Air Shed, and Mitigation
- ➔ **THEME-2 :** Impacts on Human Health and Agriculture
- ➔ **THEME-3 :** Integrated Monitoring, Forecasting and Advisory Framework
- ➔ **THEME-4 :** Outreach, Social Dimension, Transition Strategy and Policy
- ➔ **THEME-5 :** Solutions, Public-Industry Partnership, Stubble Burning & New Technologies.

*Tackling pollution is a complex and multi-dimensional problem thus solutions to the problem requires an integrated, multi-sectoral science and technology approach, while also addressing the social aspect of the problem, NARFI can bridge this gap with its data sharing techniques.*

## Quick Bits

### □ Industrial Decarbonization Summit 2022

- ➔ Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, inaugurated the "Industrial Decarbonization Summit 2022"- road map for carbon neutrality by 2070 on June 16, 2022.
- ➔ The 'Industrial Decarbonization Summit 2022' was inaugurated to overcome power shortage because it is necessary to develop alternative fuels.

### □ Green Open Access Rules 2022

- ➔ On June 6, 2022 Union Government has notified the Green Open Access Rules 2022 that will accelerate India's renewable energy programmes.
- ➔ These rules are notified to promote generation, purchase and consumption of green energy including the energy generated through waste-to-energy plants.

### □ World's largest freshwater fish: Giant Stingray

- ➔ Scientists have caught the world's largest recorded freshwater fish, named giant stingray, in the **Mekong River of Cambodia**.

- ➔ The stingray was captured on June 13, 2022.
- ➔ It measured almost four metres from snout to tail while weighed under 300kg.

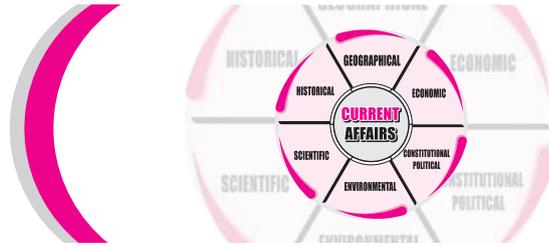
### □ Lifestyle for Environment Movement

- ➔ On June 5, 2022 "World Environment Day", Global initiative "Lifestyle for Environment Movement" was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ➔ LIFE initiative was launched with the vision of living a lifestyle, which is in line with planet Earth and does not harm it.

### □ State Butterfly of Sikkim

- ➔ On World Environment Day 2022 (June 05); the Chief Minister of Sikkim, P.S. Golay, declared Blue Duke as "State Butterfly of Sikkim".
- ➔ Blue Duke is a native butterfly species of Sikkim.
- ➔ It represents Sikkim with its two unique colours. Blue colour represents sky while white colour depicts snow clad mountains of Himalayas.
- ➔ The butterfly is befitting to Sikkim and its unique identity. It is found in Himalayas, at an altitude below 1,500 metres.

# CONCEPT 360°



## Recent National Disasters

### Contemporary Perspective

#### (Assam Floods)

Assam is currently in the throes of devastating floods. But data shows that large parts of the same state were recently stricken with drought. It took just a week for the situation to change from drought to deluge, a classic case of how climate change is exacerbating extreme weather events.

- ➔ The current spate of floods in Assam claimed 71 lives and affected nearly 3.2 million people in 32 districts.
- ➔ The cumulative rainfall in the first 12 days of June was 528.5 millimetres of rainfall — an excess of 109 per cent.
- ➔ Meghalaya, Earth's wettest region, recorded 1,215.5 mm of rainfall this month as of the 19<sup>th</sup> June, resulting in 185 per cent excess rainfall.

#### ❑ Reasons behind the flood in Assam

##### Climate Change

- ➔ A combination of **La Nina in the Pacific** and a **negative Indian Ocean Dipole** in the Indian Ocean has strengthened the winds blowing from the southwest to the northeast (south westerlies) in the **Bay of Bengal**.
- ➔ These strong monsoon winds in the Bay of Bengal can now carry much more moisture than ever before, in response to global warming.
- ➔ The volume of atmospheric moisture increases with rising temperature because warmer air holds more moisture and for longer.
- ➔ Hence, the large amount of rainfall that we see now might be a climate change impact.

##### Poor Planning

- ➔ An embankment that was reconstructed after getting damaged in the floods in May was breached again this time.

- ➔ Companies who are awarded contracts to build embankments by the government profit from these back-to-back destructions.

#### ➔ Embankments

- ➔ Embankments have been known to mess with the environment of the floodplains.
- ➔ These walled structures affect natural spillage of the rainwater to the ground to the lowest point on the river.
- ➔ This results in tributaries not being able to drain water into the river and subsequent water-logging.

#### ➔ Disaster Management Plans (DDMP)

- ➔ Also only 7 per cent of the districts have updated their disaster management plans (DDMP) until 2020 in Assam.
- ➔ Ensuring updation of the DDMPs and, more importantly, its practical implementation can help manage floods better.

#### ❑ Climate vulnerable districts

- ➔ The Union Ministry of Science and Technology has stated that Assam is the most climate-vulnerable state in India, with 11 of the country's 16 most climate vulnerable districts being located in it.

#### ❑ Measures suggested by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources in its August 2021 Report:

##### ➔ Strengthen embankments

- ➔ One of the major steps that Assam could undertake could be to strengthen embankments along the Brahmaputra and other rivers.
- ➔ Most flood protection structures in Assam are over 50-60 years old.
- ➔ These were constructed on the main stem of the Brahmaputra and its tributaries way back in the 1960s and 1970s and have become weak now.

### ➔ Dredging the state's rivers

- ☞ Due to persistent silt accumulation, highest flood level of rivers in the floodplain are rising because of the extremely shallow bed of the river and the heavy sediment brought in the monsoon by the river.
- ☞ Under such circumstances, increasing the water-holding capacity of the Brahmaputra and its tributaries by dredging may help.

### ➔ Weather stations

- ☞ The panel had also asked the Centre to set up modern weather stations in the upstream catchment of all dams in the North East and install sirens on river banks near dams.
- ☞ This would alert downstream populations in the event of floods.

### ➔ Wetlands

- ☞ The panel also suggested afforestation and rejuvenation of wetlands as measures to mitigate floods.

### ➔ National Disaster Response Fund / State Disaster Response Fund

- ☞ The government should consider the inclusion of river erosion in the admissible list of calamities for availing assistance under the National Disaster Response Fund / State Disaster Response Fund.

### ➔ Brahmaputra Board

- ☞ The report also noted that the Brahmaputra Board, which has been functional since 1982, does not have enough manpower.
- ☞ It had asked the board to fill up all vacant posts on a priority basis.

### ➔ Floodplain zoning

- ☞ The report also noted that major flood-prone states such as **Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Odisha, etc had not taken initiatives to enact the flood plain zoning bill.**
- ☞ The bill envisages the zoning of the flood plain of a river according to flood frequencies and defines the type of use of flood plains.
- ☞ The report suggested that the **Union Ministry of Jal Shakti** should consider providing financial assistance to those states that were willing to implement floodplain zoning.

### ➔ River Basin Organizations or RBOs

- ☞ The panel also strongly recommended the setting up of **River Basin Organizations or RBOs.**
- ☞ These would effectively provide immediate, short-term and long-term solutions in addition to the overall development of river basin.

### ➔ River Basin Management Authority

- ☞ The **Jal Shakti ministry** was also asked to prioritise and enact the **River Basin Management Authority for holistic management of water resources** of each river basin.

*The issue with flood management at the global level is the exclusive focus on techno-centric engineering structures such as embankments which uses up a chunk of the state exchequer. Embankments are a temporary solution and they are as good as their management. The government should bring the flood-affected people into the policy discourse and focus on making their lives flood-proof.*

## Landslide in Manipur

**Landslides have killed at least 125 people** across four north-eastern States this year after the onset of rainfall in April. India's northeast comprising Manipur and seven other States is the sixth most earthquake-prone belt in the world.

### ❑ Why this disaster?

Almost all landslides in the hilly states of North East India have been caused due to weak lithology, intense fracturing of rocks, steep slopes, thick mantle of waste and excessive rainfall in short duration.

Apart from weakness of the soil due to prolonged exposure, rainfall and anthropogenic (human) pressure factors, the way the people used the land is also responsible for landslides.

- ➔ There was incessant rain continuously for a few days before the landslide, which led to oversaturation of the slope mass exceeding the plastic limit, probably reaching the liquid limit of the soil mass.
- ➔ Consistency limits such as plastic and liquid limits are index properties of soil which determine whether a soil will be in solid, plastic or liquid states as a function of water / moisture content in soil.
- ➔ So the over-saturated and weakened slope mass, nearly reaching the liquid state, failed to resist

gravity, leading to this massive landslide in the early hours of June 30.

### ❑ How can disasters be averted?

According to the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)**, disasters and human fatalities can be minimised if its **national landslide susceptibility mapping is integrated with infrastructure development and planning** in hilly or mountainous terrain.

In India, the mountainous and hilly areas in 16 States and in two Union Territories in the Himalayan region, sub-Himalayan parts of the northeast and in the **Western Ghats are landslide-prone**. These areas comprise about 12.6% or 4.2 lakh sq. km of India's landmass spreading over 159 districts.

- The GSI advised **structural and non-structural measures** for mitigating or preventing landslides.
- The structural measures involve engineering works for stabilisation and control of landslides while non-structural measures emphasise the identification and avoidance of landslide-prone areas through monitoring and warning systems.
- Nainital in Uttarakhand and Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu are the only two places in India where non-structural measures have been successfully implemented through landslide hazard zoning information.

### Earthquake in Afghanistan

*At least 1,000 people have died and another 3,000 have been injured in an earthquake in eastern Afghanistan. It is the deadliest earthquake to have struck Afghanistan in two decades. The quake originated near the city of Khost, which is close to the country's border with Pakistan and about 160 kilometers (100 miles) south of the Afghan capital, Kabul. Earthquakes are not uncommon in the mountainous province of Khost — nearly 50 have been recorded over the past five years, according to the US Geological Survey.*

### ❑ What caused the Earth quake?

- Afghanistan is earthquake-prone because it's located in the mountainous Hindu Kush region, which is part of the Alpide belt — the second most seismically active region in the world after the **Pacific Ring of Fire**.
- The **Alpide belt** runs about 15,000 kilometers, from the southern part of Eurasia through the Himalayas and into the Atlantic.

- Along with the **Hindu Kush**, it includes a number of mountain ranges, such as the **Alps, Atlas Mountains and the Caucasus Mountains**.
- Additionally, the **Earth's crust is especially lively in Afghanistan because it is where the Arabian, Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates meet**.
- The Earth's crust is made up of 15 tectonic plates, which create earthquakes when they shift against each other at their borders.
- The boundary between the Indian and Eurasian plates exists near Afghanistan's border with Pakistan.

### Amarnath Cloudburst

*At least 13 people were killed and six others were injured as a cloudburst near the cave shrine of Amarnath in Kashmir triggered flash floods on 8th July, 2022.*

### ❑ What is a cloudburst?

- A cloudburst refers to an **extreme amount of rain that happens in a short period**, sometimes accompanied by hail and thunder, and this has a precise definition.
- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) defines it as unexpected precipitation exceeding 100mm (or 10 cm) per hour over a geographical region of approximately 20 to 30 square km.
- Basically, all instances of cloudbursts involve heavy rain in a short period, but all instances of heavy rain in a short period are not cloudbursts if they do not fit this criterion.

## Geographical Perspective

### Cyclones

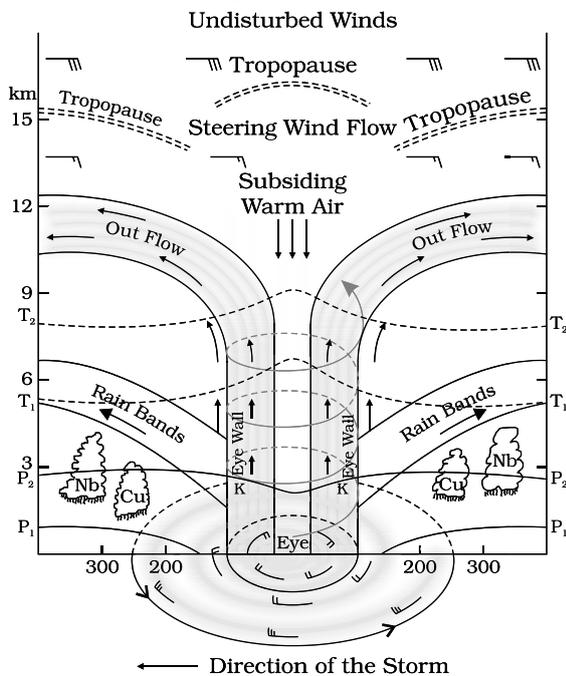
### ❑ Tropical Cyclones

- Tropical cyclones are violent storms that originate over oceans in tropical areas and move over to the coastal areas bringing about large scale destruction caused by violent winds, very heavy rainfall and storm surges.
- They are known as **Cyclones in the Indian Ocean, Hurricanes in the Atlantic, Typhoons in the Western Pacific** and South China Sea, and **Willy-willies in the Western Australia**.
- Tropical cyclones originate and intensify over warm tropical oceans.
- The conditions favourable for the formation and intensification of tropical storms are:

- (i) Large sea surface with temperature higher than  $27^{\circ}\text{C}$ ;
- (ii) Presence of the Coriolis force;
- (iii) Small variations in the vertical wind speed;
- (iv) A pre-existing weak low-pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation;
- (v) Upper divergence above the sea level system.

### ❑ From where does energy for cyclones come?

- ➔ The energy that intensifies the storm, comes from the condensation process in the towering cumulonimbus clouds, surrounding the centre of the storm.
- ➔ With continuous supply of moisture from the sea, the storm is further strengthened.
- ➔ On reaching the land the moisture supply is cut off and the storm dissipates.



**Figure** : Vertical section of the tropical cyclone (after Rama Sastry)

### ❑ Extra tropical Cyclones

- ➔ Extra tropical cyclones are also called wave cyclone or mid-latitude cyclone or temperate cyclones.
- ➔ The systems developing in the mid and high latitude, beyond the tropics are called the middle latitude or extra tropical cyclones.
- ➔ Extra tropical cyclones form along the polar front. Initially, the front is stationary.
- ➔ In the northern hemisphere, warm air blows from the south and cold air from the north of the front.

When the pressure drops along the front, the warm air moves northwards and the cold air move towards, south setting in motion an anticlockwise cyclonic circulation. The cyclonic circulation leads to a well developed extra tropical cyclone, with a warm front and a cold front.

### ❑ Difference between Tropical and Extra tropical cyclone

- ➔ The extra tropical cyclone differs from the tropical cyclone in number of ways.
  - The extra tropical cyclones have a clear frontal system which is not present in the tropical cyclones. They cover a larger area and can originate over the land and sea.
  - Whereas the tropical cyclones originate only over the seas and on reaching the land they dissipate.
  - The extra tropical cyclone affects a much larger area as compared to the tropical cyclone.
  - The wind velocity in a tropical cyclone is much higher and it is more destructive.
  - The extra tropical cyclones move from west to east but tropical cyclones, move from east to west.

### ❑ Floods

- ➔ Inundation of land and human settlements by the rise of water in the channels and its spill-over presents the condition of flooding.
- ➔ Unlike other natural disasters, the causes of floods are well established.
- ➔ Floods are relatively slow in occurrences and often, occur in well-identified regions and within expected time in a year.
- ➔ Floods occur commonly when water in the form of surface run-off exceeds the carrying capacity of the river channels and streams and flows into the neighbouring low-lying flood plains.
- ➔ At times, this even goes beyond the capacity of lakes and other inland water bodies in which they flow.
- ➔ Floods can also be caused due to a storm surge (in the coastal areas), high intensity rainfall for a considerably longer time period, melting of ice and snow, reduction in the infiltration rate and presence of eroded material in the water due to higher rate of soil erosion.

## ❑ Landslides

- ➔ Landslide is the rapid sliding of large mass of bedrocks.
- ➔ Landslides are largely controlled by highly localised factors.
- ➔ Hence, gathering information and monitoring the possibilities of landslide is not only difficult but also immensely cost-intensive.
- ➔ Landslide Vulnerability Zones
  - ⊖ **Very High Vulnerability Zone** : Highly unstable, relatively young mountainous areas in the Himalayas and Andaman and Nicobar, high rainfall regions with steep slopes in the Western Ghats and Nilgiris, the north-eastern regions, along with areas that experience frequent ground-shaking due to earthquakes, etc.
  - ⊖ **High Vulnerability Zone** : All the Himalayan states and the states from the north-eastern regions except the plains of Assam are included in the high vulnerability zones.
  - ⊖ **Moderate to Low Vulnerability Zone** : Areas that receive less precipitation such as Trans Himalayan areas of Ladakh and Spiti (Himachal Pradesh), undulated yet stable relief and low precipitation areas in the Aravali, rain shadow areas in the Western and Eastern Ghats and Deccan plateau also experience occasional landslides.

## ❑ Earthquake

- ➔ An earthquake in simple words is shaking of the earth. It is a natural event.
- ➔ It is caused due to release of energy, which generates waves that travel in all directions.
- ➔ India has been divided into the following five earthquake zones:
  - (i) **Very high damage risk zone** : North-east states, areas to the north of Darbhanga and Araria along the Indo-Nepal border in Bihar, Uttarakhand, Western Himachal Pradesh (around Dharamshala) and Kashmir Valley in the Himalayan region and the Kachchh (Gujarat).
  - (ii) **High damage risk**: remaining parts of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Northern parts of Punjab, Eastern parts of Haryana, Delhi, Western Uttar Pradesh, and Northern Bihar fall under the High Damage Risk Zone.
    - (iii) Moderate damage risk zone
    - (iv) Low damage risk zone
    - (v) Very low damage risk zone

## Economic Perspective

### GLOBALLY

- ➔ The global economy suffered a loss of **\$232 billion** (Rs 16.5 lakh crore) due to natural disasters in 2019. The year turned out to be the eighth-costliest in terms of weather-related disasters, adjusting for inflation.
- ➔ Weather-related disasters, or events caused by **'atmospheric-driven scenarios'**, in fact caused most of the damage at \$229 billion — 17 per cent above the 21st century average.
- ➔ Typhoons, floods and hurricanes proved to be the costliest.
- ➔ The report established that 2017, 2018 and 2019 were the three straight costliest in terms of weather-related disasters.
- ➔ The total count of natural disasters increased to 409 in 2019 from 394 a year ago.
- ➔ Typhoons in Japan and monsoon floods in China hit the hardest, causing losses of \$30 billion and \$15 billion respectively. Typhoon Hagibis and Typhoon Faxai were the costliest.

### ❑ In India

- ➔ June-October monsoon floods caused a loss of \$10 billion to be the seventh-costliest. They also led to the death of 1,750 people - the most among all natural disasters last year.
- ➔ Cyclone Fani, which affected Odisha in India and Bangladesh, was the tenth-most costly natural disaster in the world, according to the report.
- ➔ The year ended the costliest decade until now in terms of such disasters, with a loss of \$2.98 trillion.
- ➔ The report pegged this at \$1.1 trillion higher than in 2000-2009.
- ➔ The Asia-Pacific region - affected by earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, and cyclones- accounted for \$1.3 trillion. That's 44 per cent of the total loss.
- ➔ Tropical cyclones have been the costliest natural catastrophe in the world in the last two decades. In 2018, 2017, 2012, 2005 and 2004 cyclones accounted for nearly \$909 billion of a total \$1.43 trillion lost due to disasters.

# LEARNING THROUGH MAP



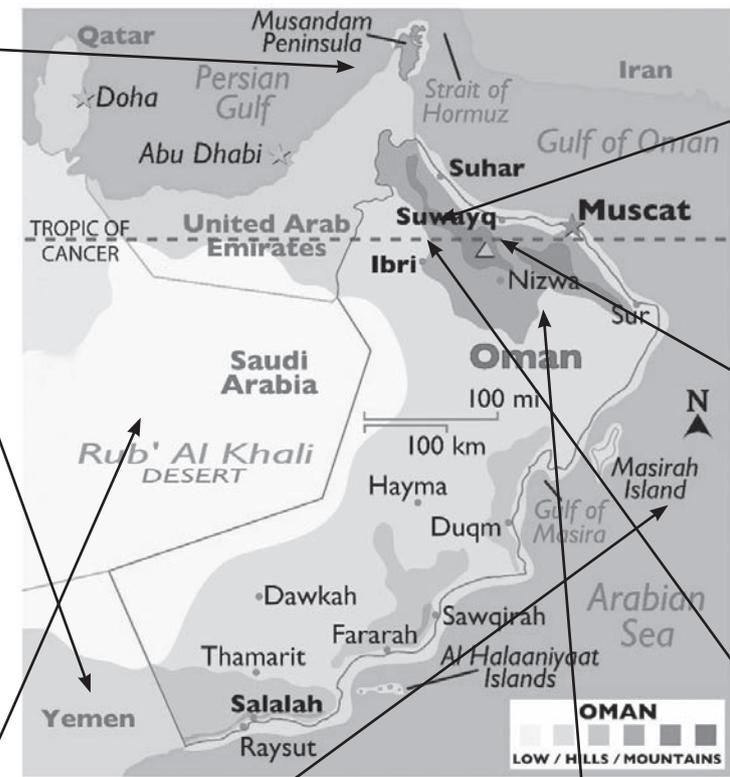
## Oman

*Oman is located in the southeastern quarter of the Arabian Peninsula and covers a total land area of 309,500 km<sup>2</sup> (119,500 sq. mi). The land area is composed of varying topographic features: valleys and desert account for 82 percent of the land mass; mountain ranges, 15 percent; and the coastal plain, 3 percent.*

7. Oman encompasses an isolated strip of land at the tip of the **Musandem Peninsula**.

1. Oman is bounded to the southwest by **Yemen**, to the south and east by the **Arabian Sea**, to the north by the **Gulf of Oman**, to the northwest by the **United Arab Emirates**, and to the west by **Saudi Arabia**.

4. An inland plateau falls away to the southwest of the Hajar Mountains into the great **Rub' al-Khali** ("Empty Quarter") desert. It is shared by Saudi Arabia and Yemen.



3. They separate the low coastal plain of Oman from the high desert plateau, and lie 50–100 km (31–62 mi) inland from the Gulf of Oman.

8. There are no perennial rivers in Oman. A small number of wadis (shallow watercourses) are found in the Al Hajar Mountains and their foothills, however.

9. There are many caverns in Oman. One of the largest in the world, **Teyq Cave**, is 250 meters (820 feet) deep and 300 cubic meters (10,595 cubic feet) in volume.

5. The **Gulf of Oman** desert runs south along the coast to the desert island of Masirah. The interior plains are young sedimentary rocks with salt flats and sand dunes.

6. The geography of Oman hosts a mixture of habitats including mangrove swamps, mudflats and lagoons on the coast, savannas and salt flats and vast mountain ranges.

2. **Al-Hajar Mountains** ("Oman Mountains") in northeastern Oman are the highest mountain range in the eastern Arabian Peninsula.

## □ Natural features divide the country into seven distinct areas

- ➔ Ruus al Jibal, including the northern Musandam Peninsula;
- ➔ the Al Batinah coastal plain;
- ➔ the Muscat-Matrah coastal area;
- ➔ the Oman interior, comprising Al Jabal al Akhdar (Green Mountain), its foothills, and desert fringes;
- ➔ the barren coastline south to Dhofar;
- ➔ Dhofar region in the south; and the offshore island of Masirah.

### Yemen

*Yemen is a desert country in the Middle East on the south-western portion of the Arabian Peninsula. The country is bounded in the west by the Red Sea, in the southwest by the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, and in the south by the Gulf of Aden. Yemen borders Saudi Arabia in the north and Oman in the east. The country also shares maritime borders with the African nations of Djibouti, Eritrea, and Somalia.*

1. **Ramlat al-Sab`atayn & Ramlat Dahm** is a desert region in central Yemen and the location of several ancient South Arabian cities like Kaminahu, Haram, and Qarnawu.

2. The **Western Highlands** with relatively fertile soil and sufficient rainfall support the cultivation of coffee, cereals like sorghum, and even tropical fruits.

3. The **Central Highland** is a plateau with elevations of about 2,000-3,200 meters, with rolling hills, small mountains, and some peaks.

4. The country's interior is dominated by mountains ranging from a few hundred meters up to the country's highest point, **Jabal An-Nabi Shu'ayb** at 3,666 m (12,028 ft).



4. An inland plateau falls away to the southwest of the Hajar Mountains into the great Rub' al-Khali ("Empty Quarter") desert. It is shared by **Saudi Arabia and Yemen.**

6. The Asir Mountains and their foothills dominate the western part of the country.

7. Yemen has no permanent rivers. The highland regions are interspersed with wadis, or river valleys, which run dry in the summer months.

5. The Mahra Mountains (Jabal Mahra, up to an elevation of 1300 m) are a mountainous region in central southeast.

8. Between the Red Sea and the mountains is the **Tihamah**, a narrow semi-desert coastal plain, part of the Arabian Peninsula's coastal fog desert eco-region.

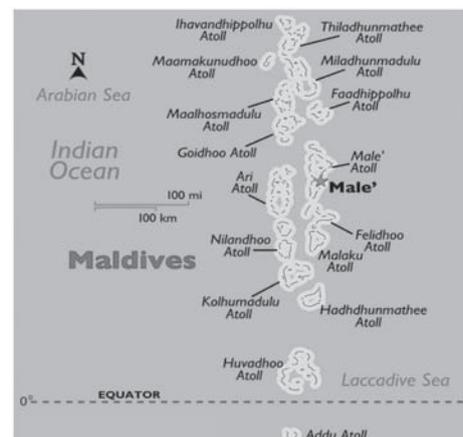
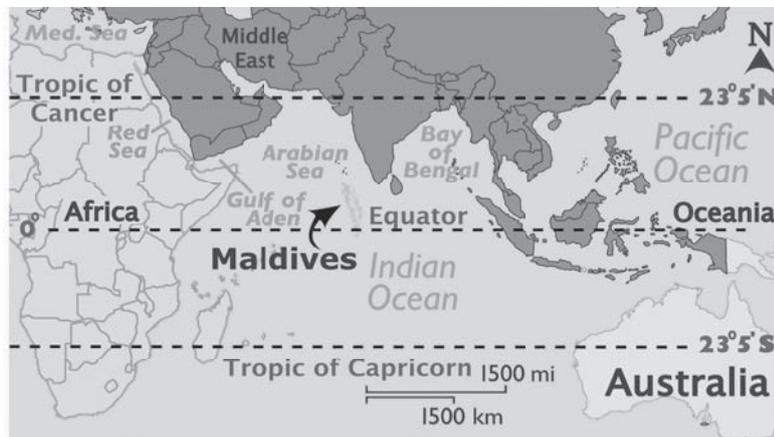
9. **Suqutra / Socotra** is an Island of the Republic of Yemen in the Indian Ocean, under the de-facto control of the UAE-backed Southern Transitional Council.

- ➔ **Greenland Official Name of Yemen** : Al Jumhuriyah al Yamaniyah (Republic of Yemen)
- ➔ **Capital City**: Sana'a
- ➔ **Government**: Presidential Republic
- ➔ **Unification of former south and north Yemen**: 22 May 1990.
- ➔ **Independency**: 1918 (from the Ottoman Empire); 1967 (South Yemen from the UK)
- ➔ **Constitution**: Adopted 21 May 1990 and ratified in May 1991.
- ➔ **Climate**: Temperate in the mountainous regions in the western part of the country.
- ➔ **Ethnic group**: Predominantly Arabs, minor Afro-Arabs, South Asians, and Europeans.
- ➔ **Religions**: Islam including Shaf'i (Sunni) and Zaydi (Shi'a), small numbers of Jews, Christians, and Hindus.
- ➔ **Languages**: Arabic.
- ➔ **Literacy**: About 50% overall, including 30% of females.
- ➔ **Natural Resources**: Oil, natural gas, fish and seafood, rock salt, minor deposits of coal and copper.
- ➔ **Exports - commodities**: Crude oil, coffee, dried and salted fish, liquefied natural gas.
- ➔ **Exports - partners**: China 24.5%, UAE 16.5%, South Korea 10%, Saudi Arabia 10%, Kuwait 9.1%, India 8.5% (2015)
- ➔ **Imports - commodities**: Food and live animals, machinery and equipment, chemicals
- ➔ **Imports - partners**: UAE 20.9%, China 14.3%, Saudi Arabia 9.9%, Kuwait 7.4%, India 4.6% (2015)
- ➔ **Currency**: Yemeni Rial (YER)

## Maldives

*The Maldives is a **nation of islands** in the Indian Ocean that spans across the equator. The country is comprised of 1192 islands that stretch along a length of 871 kilometers. While the country covers an area of approximately 90,000 square kilometers, only 298 square kilometers of that is dry land. The islands are grouped into a double chain of 26 atolls. The topography of each of the islands vary from mostly sand to marshy wetlands.*

1. The northernmost atoll is about 370 miles (600 km) south-southwest of the Indian mainland.
2. The central area, including the capital island of Male (Male'), is about 400 miles (645 km) southwest of Sri Lanka.
3. The double chain of atolls of Maldives lie across the Equator on both the Northern and Southern hemispheres of the Earth.
4. The atolls of Maldives sit atop a submarine ridge.
5. This ridge rises from the bed of the ocean and runs for 960 km (600 mi) in the north-south directions.
6. The atolls are composed of sand bars and live coral reefs.
7. Gan is the country's largest island and is located in the Laamu Atoll.
8. Its highest point, an unnamed point on Wilingili Island, is only 7.87 ft. (2.4 m); while its lowest is the Indian Ocean (0 m).



# MAINS

## ANSWER WRITING



**Q. What are the economic significances of discovery of oil in Arctic Sea and its possible environmental consequences?**

**A.** According to U.S. Geological Survey estimates Arctic sea has approx 97 billion barrels of oil and approx 50 billion barrels of natural gas liquids. There may also be significant reserves of coal, iron ore, zinc, lead, nickel, precious metals, diamonds and gemstones.

The discovery of oil in the Arctic Sea can have wide range of opportunities for the world from various angles such as:

1. Exploration of energy fuels will lead to **Energy Security** for world as world is facing resource scarcity.
2. Exploring these resource will cater to growing needs of world economy and may reduce the price of oil.
3. Oil exploration might add some revenue to arctic region.

However, discovery of these resources is likely to be associated with various environmental consequences such as:

1. **Oil spill** if occurs causes much damage to already fragile and vulnerable Arctic Ecosystem. This spill is impossible to clean up and takes much to recover because of factors like, lack of sunlight, high wind, low visibility and moving icebergs
2. Exploration of these resources would impact marine ecology as it is one of fragile regions in the world. Many wild life species like polar bears would be extinct once exploration starts. Toxics like Mercury, lead and arsenic could be released into arctic region.
3. Excessive oceanic noises during extraction process will cause damage to species like Whales which uses sound for navigation and hunting.
4. Once transportation linkages are established and with increase in human activity, it will lead to complete melt which could significantly impact sea levels across and could have impact on low lying coastal countries.

The solution may lie on increasing investments and knowledge flows towards renewable options that are abundant and un-perishing. Regulating the fragile Arctic Ecosystem exploitation therefore needs to be done based on cost benefit analysis.

**Q. While the Governor is the nominal executive authority, the Chief Minister is the real head of the state. In light of the above statement, discuss the role of Chief Minister in a parliamentary form of government.**

**A.** In the scheme of the parliamentary system of government provided by the Constitution, the Governor is the nominal executive authority and the Chief Minister is the real executive authority. The Governor is the head of the state while the Chief Minister is the head of the government. Thus, the position of the Chief Minister at the state level is analogous to the position of the Prime Minister at the Centre.

According to the **conventions** of the parliamentary system of government, the Governor appoints the leader of the majority party in the state legislative assembly as the Chief Minister. But, when no party has a clear majority in the assembly, then the Governor may exercise his personal discretion in the selection and appointment of the Chief Minister. In such a situation, the Governor usually appoints the leader of the largest party or coalition in the assembly as the Chief Minister and asks him to seek a vote of confidence in the House within a month.

**Constitutional provisions:**

- ➔ The Indian Constitution does not contain any specific procedure for the selection and appointment of the Chief Minister. Article 164 mentions that the Chief Minister shall be appointed by the Governor. However, it does not mean that the Governor is free to appoint anyone as the Chief Minister.

### Role of Chief Minister:

- ➔ The Governor appoints only those persons as ministers who are recommended by the Chief Minister.
- ➔ The CM can allocate and reshuffle the portfolios among ministers.
- ➔ The CM can ask a minister to resign or advise the governor to dismiss him in case of difference of opinion.
- ➔ The CM presides over the meetings of the council of ministers and influences its decisions.
- ➔ The CM guides, directs, controls and coordinates the activities of all the ministers.
- ➔ The CM can bring about the collapse of the council of ministers by resigning from office.  
Since the Chief Minister is the head of the council of ministers, his resignation or death automatically dissolves the council of ministers.
- ➔ The CM advises the governor with regard to the summoning and proroguing of the sessions of the state legislature.  
The CM can recommend the dissolution of the legislative assembly to the governor at any time.
- ➔ The CM announces the government policies on the floor of the house.
- ➔ The CM is the crisis manager-in-chief at the political level during emergencies.

### Conclusion:

Although every work in a state is carried under the Governor's name, the actual work is carried by Chief Minister along with his Council of Ministers in a parliamentary form of government. Thus, it can be said that the Chief Minister is the real head of a state as most of the work is performed by the office of the CM, in the name of the office of the Governor.

### Q. Though the Centre and the States are supreme in their respective fields, the Constitution places certain limitations on the territorial jurisdiction of the Parliament. Discuss the limitations on the territorial jurisdiction of the Parliament.

A. The Constitution of India, being federal in structure, divides all powers, i.e., legislative, executive and financial between the Centre and the States. The Constitution contains elaborate provisions to regulate the various dimensions of the relations between the Centre and the States. The Centre-State relations can be analyzed under three heads:

- ➔ Legislative relations.
- ➔ Administrative relations.
- ➔ Financial relations.

#### Limitation to the territorial Jurisdiction of the Parliament:

The Constitution defines the territorial limits of the legislative powers vested in the Centre and the States in the following way:

- ➔ The Parliament can make laws for the whole or any part of the territory of India. The territory of India includes the states, the union territories, and any other area for the time being included in the territory of India.
- ➔ A state legislature can make laws for the whole or any part of the state. The laws made by a state legislature are not applicable outside the state.
- ➔ The Parliament alone can make 'extra-territorial legislation'. Thus, the laws of the Parliament are also applicable to the Indian citizens and their property in any part of the world.  
However, the Constitution places some restrictions on the plenary territorial jurisdiction of the Parliament.
- There are some areas where laws of Parliament are not applicable:**
  - ➔ The President can make regulations under **Article 240** for the peace, progress and good government of the four Union Territories—the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.
  - ➔ A regulation, so made, has the same force and effect as an act of the Parliament. It may also repeal or amend any act of Parliament in relation to the Union Territories.
  - ➔ The Governor is empowered to direct that an act of Parliament does not apply to a Scheduled Area in the state or apply with specified modifications and exceptions.
  - ➔ The Governor of Assam may direct that an act of Parliament does not apply to a tribal area (autonomous district) in the state or apply with specified modifications and exceptions.
  - ➔ The President enjoys the same power with respect to tribal areas (autonomous districts) in **Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram (Sixth schedule).**

**Conclusion:**

It is obvious that the above provisions have been inserted in view of the backwardness of the specified areas to which the indiscriminate application of the general laws might cause hardship or other injurious consequences.

**Q. How far do you think cooperation, competition and confrontation have shaped the nature of federation of India? Cite some recent examples to validate your answer.**

**A.** Federalism means both the Centre and states have the freedom to operate in their allotted spheres of power, in coordination with each other. India is a federal system but with more tilt towards a unitary system of government. So it is sometimes considered as quasi-federal system.

The nature of federalism kept changing since Independence, there exists cooperation, competition and confrontation between the federal units in India.

**Cooperation**

In cooperative federalism both Centre-State and State-State shares a horizontal relationship and cooperate in the larger public interest. Cooperation federalism has emerged as one of the principle in Indian federalism.

**Centre – States**

- ➔ Cooperation during COVID Pandemic and solving migrant crisis shows cooperation between Centre and States.
- ➔ Establishment of NITI Aayog redefined the relationship between Centre and States. It enables States' participation in the formulation and implementation of national policies.
- ➔ Cooperation on implementation of various Central Sector Schemes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes.
- ➔ Implementation of Goods and Services Tax where the states have given up a significant part of taxation powers shows the cooperation between Centre and States.
- ➔ Constitution bodies like **Inter-State Councils (Article 263)** fosters cooperation.

**State - State**

- ➔ Statutory bodies like Zonal Councils are established to promote interstate cooperation and coordination. It aims to establish a climate of cooperation among the states for successful and speedy execution of development projects.

- ➔ States like Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh are coordinating and cooperating on the issues of Naxalism.

**Competition**

Competition between states emerged because states are competing among themselves to attract funds and investments, to get funds from Centre and incentives from Finance Commission on the basis of performance on various indicators. The idea of Competitive Federalism gained significance post economic reforms of 1991.

**State - State**

- ➔ NITI Aayog played an important role in promoting Competitive Federalism- ranking states on various socio-economic parameters –
  - ➔ Health Index- Healthy States, Progressive India Report
  - ➔ School Education Quality Index
  - ➔ SDG Index
  - ➔ Transformation of Aspirational District
  - ➔ State-wise Ease of Doing Business ranking helps to build a sense of competition among states to attract investments.

**Confrontation Centre-States**

- ➔ Imposition of Presidents rule on the states. Misuse of Article 356 for political reasons.
- ➔ Misuse of discretionary powers by Governor.
- ➔ Encroachment by the Centre on the State List. For example recent Farm acts encroach upon the State List because agriculture and markets are state subjects .
- ➔ GST Compensation to States on account of lower revenue.
- ➔ In 2019 Kerala has challenged Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019 in Supreme Court - shows confrontation between Centre and States.
- ➔ Imposition of Hindi Language on Southern States.

**States - States**

- ➔ Inter-State River water sharing disputes. For example Cauvery Water Dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, Mahanadi River dispute between Odisha and Chhattisgarh.

- ➔ Border disputes between states. For example Belgaum border dispute between State of Karnataka and Maharashtra.

### Conclusion:

To resolve the confrontation issues, there is a urgent need to implement the recommendation of **Sarkaria and Punchi Commission** in letter and Spirit. A diverse and large country like India requires a proper balance between the federal units which will help in realizing various socio-economic developmental goals.

### Q. Judicial Legislation is antithetical to the doctrine of separation of powers as envisaged in the Indian Constitution. In this context justify the filing of large number of public interest petitions praying for issuing guidelines to executive authorities.

- A. 'Judicial Legislation' can be defined as laws which are created by the pronouncements of a judge who departs from a strict interpretation of law according to the manifest intention of the legislature. Judicial legislation in context of Indian constitution is opposed to the doctrine of separation of power. The constitution of India provides the power to legislate only to Indian Parliament and **States Legislatures**. However, any judgment of Supreme Court and High Court regarding any legislation is considered as law in Indian context, which infringes the separation of power jurisdiction.

#### How is Judicial Legislation antithetical to the doctrine of separation of powers?

- ➔ The power of judicial review over legislative action vested in the **High Court under Article 226** and in the **Supreme Court under Article 32** of the Constitution.
- ➔ It is an integral and essential feature of the Constitution which constitutes part of its basic structure.
- ➔ It empowers the Supreme Court and High court to curtail any legislation which infringes fundamental rights of the citizens.
- ➔ But, a large number of public interest petitions praying for issuing guidelines to executive authorities under article 32 and Article 226 has called the courts to intervene in number of cases.

- ➔ These petitions are completely based on loopholes of different legislations citing need of court's intervention for social welfare and public interest.
- ➔ When the court intervenes in such conditions, it sometime pronounces changes in legislation which undermines the power of parliament.
- ➔ Further, some of the petitions are related to those subjects which do not come under any legislations.
- ➔ Under such circumstances the court legislates by judgments instead of directing the legislature to enact laws upon the aforesaid subject.

### Judicial legislations on different subject matters in recent past due to PILs

In recent past, judiciary has intervened in matters pertaining to subjects such as bonded labour matters, neglected children, non-payment of minimum wages to workers and exploitation of casual workers, and petitions from jails complaining of harassment, against police for refusing to register a case, harassment by police and death in police custody, against atrocities on women impact the lives of the marginalized and disadvantaged.

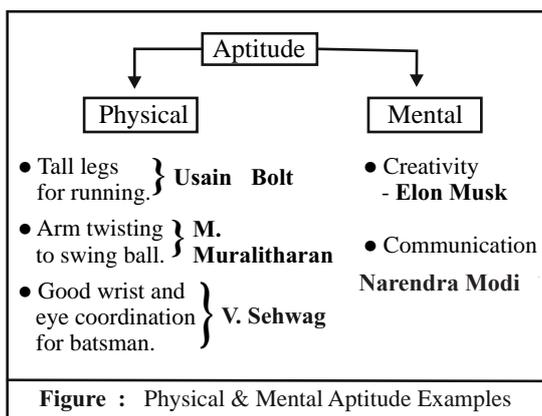
- ➔ In absence of any appropriate statutory arrangement for these subjects issuance of directives or guidelines by the judiciary is a clear case of judicial intervention.
- ➔ Although, these subjects are related to infringement of fundamental rights, but the judiciary should direct the central government for guidelines instead of its own guidelines.

### Conclusion:

Although judicial review is part of basic structure of the constitution, it provides for 'Checks' on government's legislative overreach rather than providing an instrument to judiciary to legislate. As '**Custodian of the Indian Constitution**', the apex court must limit the use of instruments such as '**Public Interest Litigations**'. It must maintain 'Separation of Powers' among different organs of the government i.e. Legislature, Executive and Judiciary by exercising instrument of '**Checks and Balances**'.



➔ This difference can be understood with some examples. For example, a banker should have the ability to deal in numbers, while an effective leader is one who is empathetic and honest. A thief, on the other hand, probably needs to be a good liar.



### Relationship of Aptitude with Other Qualities

#### ❑ Aptitude and Intelligence

- ➔ Aptitude is innate potential to do certain task in future, provided appropriate training is provided to the person. Intelligence’s key component is the ability to think rationally, act purposefully and deal effectively in one’s present environment. Intelligence has a wider scope as in it refers to general mental ability.
- ➔ Aptitude on the other hand has narrow scope- it is specific to work. It breaks down intelligence into several characteristics, referring to a specific ability of a person to do a task in future.
- ➔ Thus, aptitude is not same as intelligence. Two people with same intelligence quotation (IQ) may have different aptitudes e.g. one to become scientist and another novelist.

Aptitude vs Intelligence		
	Aptitude	Intelligence
(1)	Both physical and mental.	Only mental.
(2)	Specific to a particular field.	In general, can be in any field.
(3)	Can be judged on the basis of a number of characteristics.	Is calculated using IQ test.
(4)	It reflects strength and weakness of a person, strong personality.	Even high IQ score does not guarantee.

#### ❑ Aptitude and Attitude

- ➔ Aptitude is innate potential to do certain task in future, provided appropriate training is provided to the person.
- ➔ An attitude is a lasting, general evaluation of people (including oneself), objects or issues. It is a predisposition to behave in certain ways i.e. a tendency to respond positively or negatively towards a certain idea, object, person, or situation Attitude can be changed in certain ways, but aptitude can’t be developed if is not there, because it is innate potential.

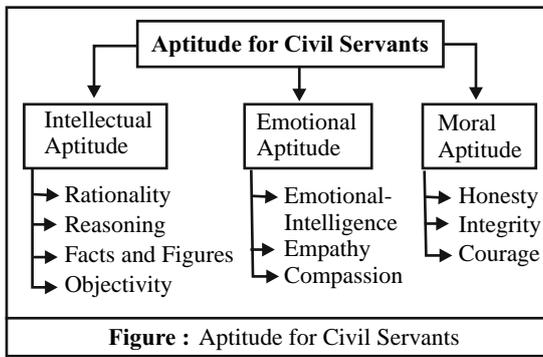
Aptitude vs Attitude		
	Aptitude	Attitude
(1)	Innate and inborn potential.	Positive and negative pre-disposition.
(2)	Associated with competence like reasoning, critical thinking.	Associated with traits like honesty, courage.
(3)	Both physical and mental.	Only mental.
(4)	It determines whether one will develop a skill required for the task.	It determines how one will perform the task.

#### ❑ Aptitude Realisation

- ➔ Firstly, one must identify his aptitude, for which he must search—
- ➔ What are his interests?
- ➔ What skill set as talent does possess?
- ➔ What is his passion?
- ➔ There are informal actors such as parents, teachers, relatives and friends who play an important role in identifying the right aptitude. On the other hand there are formal processes like 'career counselling' for choosing the right career based on aptitude.
- ➔ After identification, one must work to resolve issues and work to full potential to achieve excellence in life.

### Aptitude and Foundational Values for Civil Services

- ➔ The government is a public trust and civil service is a vocation. So, aptitude of a civil servant must be like an agent of a welfare state.



- ➔ The aptitude is ultimate reflection of values. For example, in United Kingdom, Nolan Committee recommended seven foundational values such as integrity, objectivity, accountability, honesty, openness, selflessness and leadership in 1996.
- ➔ However, Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) in its 10th report (Refurbishing personnel administration scaling new height) mentioned more foundational values like—
- ➔ Commitment to principles enshrined in the Constitution.
- ➔ Empathy and compassion for vulnerable and weaker sections.
- ➔ Adherence to the highest standard of probity, integrity in public conduct.
- ➔ Commitment to the citizen concerned and public good.
- ➔ Impartiality and non-partisanship.

### ❑ Aptitude and Values

- ➔ Values are different from aptitude in that, value denotes the degree of importance of some thing or action, with the aim of determining what actions are best to do or what way is best to live.
- ➔ Though values may be “positive” or “negative”, like empathy towards weaker section is positive while regarding one’s own caste to be highest is negative. But generally, they are taken for positive and desirable values.
- ➔ Thus, they deal with right conduct and living a good life, in the sense that a highly, or at least relatively highly, valuable action may be regarded as ethically “good”, and an action of low in value, or somewhat relatively low in value, may be regarded as “bad”.
- ➔ Hence, values can be defined as broad preferences concerning appropriate courses of action or outcomes. As such, values reflect a person’s sense of right and wrong or what “ought” to be. “Equal rights for all”, “Excellence deserves admiration”, and “People should be treated with respect and dignity” are representative of values.

- ➔ Values tend to influence attitudes and behavior. Types of values include ethical/moral values, doctrinal/ideological (religious, political) values, social values, and aesthetic values. In the next section we will discuss “Foundational Values for Civil Services.”

### ❑ Aptitude and Interest

- ➔ People have interests in many things, but this does not imply they have the aptitude for that. One may like cricket very much – but playing it on field is much different that a watching it on television.
- ➔ One may have the aptitude for good commentary or writing skills and then one may choose a profession where his/her interests and aptitude match- such as becoming a commentator or a sports journalist.

### ❑ Aptitude & Ability

- ➔ Aptitude is often considered to represent specific subsets of mental ability which provides useful information on an individual’s potential, particularly with regards to education and employment. Ability is much closer to intelligence. It is concerned with present.
- ➔ It is the combination of skills, habits and powers that an individual now has which enable him to do something.
- ➔ Aptitude indicates what an individual will be able to learn/do and ability presents evidence of what the individual is able to do now (or in future without additional training).
- ➔ From a practical standpoint, it is impossible to measure aptitude without the degree of training which an individual has already had. It is assumed that individuals have been exposed to certain experiences which enhance their aptitude when it is measured.

### ❑ Need of Foundational Values

- ➔ Constitutional values: Civil servants are given discretionary and wide-ranging powers under the laws, rules and in the absence of foundational values, there are chances of corruption and abuse of power defeating the objectives of the Constitution.
- ➔ Public interest : A welfare state can only be established when civil servants keep public interest priority and function upholding values such as objectivity, integrity, impartiality etc.
- ➔ Filling the gap: Actions of civil servants based on these values fill the gap left by the laws and make administration more effective.

# SHORT NEWS



## Persons in News

### Appointments

#### ❑ **Rajesh Gera**

- ➔ Scientist Rajesh Gera has been appointed as the Director-General, National Informatics Centre (NIC). (31 May, 2022)
- ➔ He is currently Deputy Director-General in the NIC.
- ➔ The National Informatics Centre is an Indian government organization under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- ➔ NIC was established in 1976.



#### ❑ **Dr Swati Dhingra**

- ➔ Dr Swati Dhingra has been named as the first Indian-origin woman to be appointed as an External Member of the Bank of England's interest rate-setting committee. (12 May, 2022)
- ➔ S. Dhingra is an Associate Professor of Economics at the London School of Economics (LSE).
- ➔ Dhingra will replace current external member, Michael Saunders.
- ➔ The Bank of England's independent MPC makes decisions about the operation of the monetary policy of the UK.
- ➔ It comprises the Governor of the Bank of England, its three Deputy Governors, one member of the Bank with responsibility for monetary policy and four external members who are appointed by the Chancellor.



#### ❑ **Natarajan Sundar**

- ➔ Former State Bank of India executive Natarajan Sundar joined **National Assets Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL)** as Managing Director and CEO. (May 30, 2022)



- ➔ Sundar is a banking veteran having served SBI for over 37 years and retired as Dy MD and Chief Credit Officer of the bank.

#### ❑ **Zulfiqar Hasan**

- ➔ Senior IPS officer, Zulfiqar Hasan has been appointed as the new Director-General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS). (31 May, 2022)
- ➔ He has been serving as the Special Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Delhi.
- ➔ Zulfiqar Hasan will serve the post till 31 October, 2024.



#### ❑ **S L Thaosen**

- ➔ A 1988-batch IPS officer S L Thaosen has been appointed as the new Director-General of the **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)**. (31 May, 2022)
- ➔ He, has been serving as the Special Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF).
- ➔ The Sashastra Seema Bal force guards the country's borders with **Nepal (1,751 km)** and **Bhutan (699 km)**.
- ➔ He will serve the office till 30 November, 2023.



#### ❑ **Sachin Tendulkar**

- ➔ Sachin Tendulkar will continue as **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) 'Goodwill Ambassador'** for a record 20th year, working for the welfare of underprivileged children.
- ➔ In 2003, he was chosen to take lead in the initiative to create awareness and promote polio prevention in India. (May, 2022)



#### ❑ **Javier Olivan**

- ➔ Javier Olivan, the current Chief Growth Officer at Meta Platforms (Facebook), will take over as the company's Chief Operating Officer



after Sheryl Sandberg stepped down from the post. (June, 2022)

- ➔ Olivian will be responsible for the advertising and business products while continuing to head infrastructure and corporate development.

### ❑ **Ashwani Bhatia**

- ➔ Ashwani Bhatia has taken charge as a whole-time member (WTM) at the market regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**. (1 June, 2022)
- ➔ Bhatia was previously the managing director of the state-owned State Bank of India (SBI).
- ➔ After Bhatia's joining, SEBI now has three WTMs.
- ➔ The government is yet to appoint the fourth member.
- ➔ Bhatia has been appointed for an initial period of three years from the date of assuming charge.



### ❑ **Swarup Kumar Saha**

- ➔ He assumed the charge as MD & CEO of **Punjab & Sind Bank**. (3 June, 2022)
- ➔ Saha, who is the executive director of Punjab National Bank (PNB), replaced S Krishnan, who also superannuated on May 31.
- ➔ Saha, a Graduate of Science from the University of Calcutta, Kolkata, started his career in banking in the erstwhile Oriental Bank of Commerce in the year 1990 as Probationary Officer.



### ❑ **A Manimekhalai**

- ➔ Ms. A Manimekhalai assumed charge as Managing Director of **Union Bank of India**. (3 June, 2022)
- ➔ Canara Bank executive director Manimekhalai replaced Rajkiran Rai G, who retired on May 31
- ➔ With this, Manimekhalai becomes the first woman Managing Director of Union Bank of India.



### ❑ **Alok Kumar Choudhary**

- ➔ Alok Kumar Choudhary has taken charge as the new Managing Director (MD) of **State Bank of India (SBI)**. (7 June, 2022)
- ➔ His appointment comes in the wake of the superannuation of Ashwani Bhatia as Managing Director on May 31, 2022.



- ➔ Choudhary was previously Deputy Managing Director (Finance) at the bank.

### ❑ **Satish Pai**

- ➔ **The International Aluminium Institute (IAI)**, the only body representing the global primary aluminium industry, has announced the appointment of Satish Pai as its new Chair. (6 June, 2022)
- ➔ He is the Managing Director of Hindalco Industries, one of the world's largest integrated producers of aluminium.
- ➔ Earlier serving as Vice Chairman, he succeeds Ben Kahrs, Chief Innovation Officer, Alcoa Corporation.



### ❑ **Ramkrishna Mukkavilli**

- ➔ For the first time in the world, an Indian has been named a **Global Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Pioneer for Water Stewardship** by the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC).
- ➔ The United Nations Global Compact has named ten new SDG Pioneers, who are corporate leaders who are excelling in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by implementing the UN Global Compact Ten Principles on human rights, environment, labour, and anti-corruption.



### ❑ **Virat Kohli**

- ➔ Indian cricket star Virat Kohli has crossed the 200 million followers mark on the social media site Instagram. (June, 2022)
- ➔ With this, he became the first Indian to have 200 million followers on Instagram.
- ➔ Kohli is also the third most followed sportsperson on Instagram.
- ➔ Portugal football star Cristiano Ronaldo tops the chart with more than 451 million followers, ahead of Argentina football captain Messi with 334 million followers.



### ❑ **Shreyas G Hosur**

- ➔ Creating a history of sorts, Shreyas G. Hosur, became the first officer from the Indian Railways to complete the gruelling **'Ironman' Triathlon**, considered to be the



toughest single-day sports event in the world. (5 June, 2022)

- ➔ This event includes 3.8 km of swimming, 180 km of cycling and 42.2 km of running.
- ➔ He completed the event in 13 hours and 26 minutes in Hamburg, Germany.
- ➔ Shreyas G. Hosur, is an Indian Railway Accounts Service (IRAS) officer of the 2012 Batch.

### ❑ AR Rahman

- ➔ Music Maestro, AR Rahman has been appointed as ambassador of the **Indo-UK Culture Platform, Season of Culture**, which marks the 75th anniversary of India's Independence. (7 June, 2022)



- ➔ It was officially launched, by Britain's Deputy High Commissioner to India Jan Thomson and Director (India) of the British Council Barbara Wickham.
- ➔ The Season of Culture aims to strengthen India-UK collaboration in the areas of arts, English and education.

### ❑ R Subramaniakumar

- ➔ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed R Subramaniakumar as the **MD & CEO of RBL (Ratnakar Bank Limited) Bank**. (23 June, 2022)



- ➔ He has been appointed at RBL for three years from the date of taking charge.
- ➔ Subramaniakumar took place of the RBL Bank's long-term MD and CEO Vishwvir Ahuja who was stepped down In December 2021.

### ❑ Anand Mahindra, Venu Srinivasan, Pankaj Patel, and Ravindra Dholakia

- ➔ The government has appointed industrialists Anand Mahindra, Pankaj R Patel and Venu Srinivasan, and former IIM (Ahmedabad) professor Ravindra H Dholakia as non-official directors on the **Central Board of the Reserve Bank**. (June, 2022)
- ➔ They are nominated for 4 years.
- ➔ RBI's affairs are governed by the Central Board of Directors.

### ❑ B S Patil

- ➔ Former Karnataka High Court judge, Bhimanagouda Sanganagouda Patil was sworn in as the **Lokayukta of Karnataka**. (15 June, 2022)
- ➔ Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot administered the oath of office to Justice Patil.



### ❑ Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai

- ➔ Former Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai assumed charge as the chairperson of the Press Council of India (PCI). (20 June, 2022)
- ➔ Justice Desai recently served as the chairman of the Delimitation Commission on Jammu and Kashmir, which was established to redesign the Union Territory's assembly constituencies.



### ❑ Ranjit Bajaj

- ➔ Entrepreneur Ranjit Bajaj has been named chairman of advisory committee to assist the **Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA)**. (20 June, 2022)
- ➔ CoA is running the day-to-day affairs of All India Football Federation (AIFF).
- ➔ He will be the chairman of the advisory committee and integrity matters.



### ❑ Dr D J Pandian

- ➔ New Development Bank (NDB) has appointed Dr D J Pandian as the Director-General of its India Regional Office in **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)**. (21 June, 2022)
- ➔ Pandian earlier served as the Vice President and Chief Investment Officer of the Beijing-based Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).
- ➔ India is the 2nd largest shareholder after China in AIIB.



### ❑ Ruchira Kamboj

- ➔ Senior Diplomat Ruchira Kamboj has been appointed **Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations at New York**. (21 June, 2022)
- ➔ She will succeed TS Tirumurti as the Indian ambassador to the United Nation.



### ❑ **Shanan Dhaka**

- ➔ Shanan Dhaka has secured the first rank in the examination for admission to the country's first women's NDA batch.
- ➔ Shanan has secured 10th position in Boys' examination and first position in Girls' examination across the country.
- ➔ She is from Rohtak, Haryana .



### ❑ **Dinkar Gupta**

- ➔ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed former Punjab (DGP), Dinkar Gupta as the **Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA)**. (June, 2022)
- ➔ Gupta will hold the post of NIA chief till March 31, 2024, that is the date of his retirement or till further orders, whichever comes earlier.
- ➔ **NIA Headquarters:** New Delhi.



### ❑ **S. S. Mundra**

- ➔ S.S. Mundra has appointed as the chairman of the **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)**.
- ➔ He replaced Justice Vikramajit Sen.



### ❑ **Parameswaran Iyer**

- ➔ Appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog. (24 June, 2022)
- ➔ He was appointed for 2 years.
- ➔ He will succeed Amitabh Kant.
- ➔ Kant was appointed as the CEO of the National Institution for Transforming India (Niti Aayog) on February 17, 2016, for a fixed two-year term.



### ❑ **Tapan Kumar Deka**

- ➔ The Central government has appointed senior IPS officer Tapan Kumar Deka as **Director of Intelligence Bureau**. (24 June, 2022)
- ➔ Tapan Kumar Deka, a 1988 batch Himachal Pradesh cadre IPS officer, was appointed for a tenure of two years from the date of assumption of the charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- ➔ Deka has succeeded Intelligence Bureau Director Arvind Kumar, whose tenure ends on June 30.
- ➔ **Intelligence Bureau HQ** - New Delhi.



### ❑ **Samant Kumar Goel**

- ➔ Samant Kumar Goel's contract as secretary of the intelligence agency's **Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)** was extended by the Centre on June 24 by another year.
- ➔ Goel is an IPS officer from the Punjab cadre class of 1984 and will hold the position of agency secretary through June 30, 2023.
- ➔ In June 2019, Samant Kumar Goel succeeded Anil Dhasmana as the Chief of RAW.



### ❑ **Anil Khanna**

- ➔ Anil Khanna has been appointed the acting **President of Indian Olympic Association (IOA)**. (24 June, 2022)
- ➔ The Delhi High Court has ordered that Narinder Dhruv Batra cannot continue as the President of the IOA and appointed Anil Khanna as Acting President.



### ❑ **Shreya Lenka**

- ➔ Odisha's girl Shreya Lenka is the first Indian woman to ever have a successful career as a K-pop performer.
- ➔ Along with a Brazilian woman named Gabriela Dalcin, the 18-year-old from Odisha is currently a member of the well-known South Korean girl group Blackswan.
- ➔ A programme run by DR Music to find and develop aspiring singers from all around the world selected Shreya, who goes by her stage name Sriya, and Gabriela (or Gabi).



### ❑ **Nitin Gupta**

- ➔ IRS officer Nitin Gupta has been appointed as the new **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) chairman**. (June, 2022)
- ➔ Gupta, an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer of the 1986 batch of the Income Tax cadre.
- ➔ He is serving as the Member (investigation) in the Board and is scheduled to retire in September next year.



### ❑ **Akash Ambani**

- ➔ Mukesh Ambani's eldest son Akash Ambani will take over as **chairman of Jio Infocomm's board**, the digital division of Reliance industries.
- ➔ Mukesh Ambani has resigned as the company director effective from 27 June, 2022



## Persons in News

### International Personalities

#### Major General Bajram Begaj

- ➔ Albania's parliament has elected a top military official, Major General Bajram Begaj as its new president (4 June, 2022)
- ➔ The outgoing President Ilir Meta signed the decree on Begaj's dismissal as Chief of General Staff of the AAF.
- ➔ Earlier, Bajram Begaj held the post of the Chief of General Staff of the Albanian Armed Forces (AAF).
- ➔ Bajram Begaj will take oath as the new president on 25th July 2022 to replace the current president 'Ilir Meta', who will remain in office until 22nd July 2022.
- ➔ **Albania Capital** : Tirana.



#### Krishna Srinivasan

- ➔ International Monetary Fund, Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva has announced the appointment of Indian national Krishna Srinivasan as **director of the Asia and Pacific Department (APD)** from (22 June 22).
- ➔ Srinivasan will succeed Changyong Rhee whose retirement from the Fund was announced on March 23.
- ➔ Mr. Srinivasan has more than 27 years of Fund experience, starting in 1994 in the Economist Program.
- ➔ **IMF Formation**: 27 December 1945.
- ➔ **IMF Headquarters**: Washington, D.C., United States.
- ➔ **IMF Member Countries**: 190.



#### Rabab Fatima

- ➔ Ambassador Rabab Fatima, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations has been appointed as High Representative for least Developed Landlocked Countries, Small Island Developing States United Nations. (9 June, 2022)
- ➔ Secretary General Antonio Guterres has announced the appointment of Ambassador Fatima.
- ➔ She succeeds Courtenay Rattray of Jamaica who was appointed as the Chef de Cabinet.
- ➔ Ambassador Rabab Fatima is the first woman diplomat from Bangladesh to be appointed to this post.



#### Arati Prabhakar

- ➔ US president Joe Biden has nominated Arati Prabhakar as the **Head of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)**. (June, 2022)
- ➔ She will succeed Eric Lander who left the role nine months after his appointment after he admitted to bullying his staff and creating a hostile work environment during his tenure.
- ➔ Arati would be the first woman and the first person of color to serve as science adviser to the President of the United States.



#### Hamza Abdi Barre

- ➔ Hamza Abdi Barre was appointed as the **Prime Minister of Somalia**. (15 June, 2022)
- ➔ The 48-year-old Hamza Abdi Barre replaced Mohamed Hussein Roble.
- ➔ **Somalia Capital**: Mogadishu.
- ➔ **Somalia Currency**: Somali Shilling.



#### Lisa Sthalekar

- ➔ Former Australia cricketer, Lisa Sthalekar has become the first female president of the **Federation of International Cricketers' Association (FICA)**, the sport's international player's association.
- ➔ Sthalekar joins a shortlist of former cricketers including Barry Richards, Jimmy Adams and Vikram Solanki to have held the post of FICA president.



## Persons in News

### Obituary

#### Krishnakumar Kunnath (KK)

- ➔ Noted Bollywood singer KK (Krishnakumar Kunnath) who mesmerized music lovers for over three decades is died. (31 May, 2022)
- ➔ The 53-year-old singer died in Kolkata after a live performance.
- ➔ Krishnakumar Kunnath was an Indian playback singer.
- ➔ KK sang in Hindi, Bengali, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi and Assamese.



### ❑ Bhajan Sopori

- ➔ Santoor maestro and Padma Shri awardee, Bhajan Sopori has passed away at the age of 73. (2 June, 2022)
- ➔ The santoor player was born in Sopore in Kashmir Valley in 1948 and belonged to the Sufiana Gharana of Indian classical music.
- ➔ He was the great-grandson of S.C. Sopori who had developed the style popularly known as the 'Sufi Baaj' (style), based on Sufiana Qalam and Hindustani Classical music.
- ➔ Hailed as 'Saint of the Santoor' and the 'King of Strings', Sopori won the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1992 and the Padma Shri in 2004.
- ➔ In 2009 he was honoured with the Baba Allaudin Khan Award and M N Mathur award in 2011 for his contribution to Indian classical music.



### ❑ Anjalai Ponnusamy

- ➔ Freedom fighter Anjalai Ponnusamy, who fought for India's independence died, aged 102. (1 June, 2022)
- ➔ At the age of 21, Anjalai joined the Rani of Jhansi Regiment – the women's regiment of the Indian National Army – in the hopes of discarding the yoke of British colonialism from the Indian people.
- ➔ Indian National Army was founded by Subhash Chandra Bose in 1943.



### ❑ Nobuyuki Idei

- ➔ Nobuyuki Idei, who led Japan's Sony from 1998 through 2005, steering its growth in the digital and entertainment businesses, has died. (7 June, 2022)
- ➔ During his seven years as CEO from 1998, Mr Idei made an immense contribution to Sony's evolution as a global company.
- ➔ Tokyo-based Sony is among Japan's stellar brands, having brought the world the Walkman portable music player.



### ❑ Hari Chand

- ➔ Long distance runner great Hari Chand, a two-time Olympian and a double Asian Games gold medalist, passed away in Jalandhar. (13 June, 2022)
- ➔ Chand won the 5000 and 10,000m gold at the 1978 Bangkok Asian and also the 10,000m title at the 1975 Asian Championships in Seoul.



- ➔ Chand, who hailed from Ghorewaha village in Punjab's Hoshiarpur District, made waves with his barefoot running and broke the 10,000m national record at the 1976 Montreal Olympics which stood for 32 years before falling to Surendra Singh.

### ❑ Professor Gopi Chand Narang

- ➔ Renowned Urdu scholar, linguist, theorist, literary critic, and former Chairperson of Sahitya Akademi Professor Gopi Chand Narang has passed away at the age of 91 in North Carolina, USA. (15 June, 2022)
- ➔ He was a Professor Emeritus at the University of Delhi and Jamia Millia Islamia in Delhi.
- ➔ He has been honoured with the Padma Bhushan (2004) and Sahitya Akademi Awards (1995).
- ➔ He incorporated a range of modern theoretical frameworks including Stylistics, Structuralism, Post-Structuralism, and Sanskrit poetics.



### ❑ R. Raveendran

- ➔ Veteran photojournalist, R. Raveendran passed away at the age of 69. (19 June, 2022)
- ➔ He was the recipient of numerous photography awards and is known for his iconic photo of Rajiv Goswami setting himself on fire during the Mandal Agitation in the Capital.



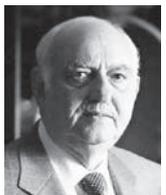
### ❑ Dr V Krishnamurthy

- ➔ Dr V Krishnamurthy, former chairman of public sector undertakings such as Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Steel Authority of India (SAIL) and Maruti Udyog (now Maruti Suzuki), passed away. (26 June, 2022)
- ➔ He served as Secretary of Industries for the Government of India, Member of the Planning Commission, and many other Prime Minister's Committees.
- ➔ He was conferred **Padma Shri**, **Padma Bhushan** and **Padma Vibhushan** for his services.



### ❑ Pallonji Mistry

- ➔ Renowned business tycoon Pallonji Mistry has passed away at the age of 93. (28 June, 2022)
- ➔ He was the Chairman of the



Shapoorji Pallonji Group, one of the largest business firms in India.

- ➔ He was honoured with the Padma Bhushan in 2016 for his contribution in the field of industry and trade.

### ❑ Chowalloor Krishnankutty

- ➔ In Kerala, noted lyricist, author and journalist, Chowalloor Krishnankutty passed away at the age of 86 in Thrissur. (26 June, 2022)
- ➔ Krishnankutty penned over 3000 devotional songs and authored more than 200 books.



### ❑ Varinder Singh

- ➔ Indian hockey stalwart Varinder Singh passed away at the age of 75 in Jalandhar. (28 June, 2022).
- ➔ V. Singh was part of the gold medal-winning Indian team at the 1975 men's Hockey World Cup in Kuala Lumpur.
- ➔ Singh was also part of the bronze medal-winning team at the 1972 Munich Olympics and silver medal at 1973 World Cup in Amsterdam.
- ➔ In 2007, Varinder was conferred with the prestigious Dhyana Chand Lifetime Achievement Award.



## Places in News

### World

#### ❑ Turkiye

- ➔ Turkey will now be known as Turkiye at the United Nations. (June, 2022)
- ➔ The process of re-branding the country's name started in December, 2021.
- ➔ Domestically, citizens refer the country as Turkiye, but its anglicised version 'Turkey' was adopted internationally.

#### ❑ Thailand

- ➔ Thailand becomes first Asian country to legalise Cannabis (Marijuana). (9 June, 2022)
- ➔ It is no longer a crime to grow and trade marijuana and hemp products or use parts of the plant for medical use.
- ➔ But the recreational use (including smoking) of the drug remains illegal.

#### ❑ Tasmania (Australia)

- ➔ Tasmania becomes third region in the world to achieve Net Negative Carbon Emissions (May, 2022)
- ➔ Till now, only two countries have successfully gone carbon negative – Bhutan and Suriname.

#### ❑ Singapore

- ➔ Asia's premier security summit, the IISS Shangri La Dialogue, took place in Singapore on 10-12 June, 2022.
- ➔ The Dialogue is a unique platform for debate among government ministers and senior officials, as well as business leaders and security experts, on Asia's developing security challenges.

#### ❑ Bokhtar (Tajikistan)

- ➔ The Indian envoy to Tajikistan handed over India - Tajikistan Friendship Hospital (ITFH) in Bokhtar to the Tajik authorities. (11 June, 2022)
- ➔ This full-fledged 50 bedded hospital has rendered free-of-cost valuable medical services for last 8 years to the armed forces and civilian population of Tajikistan, the energy-rich Central Asian Country.

#### ❑ Lake Sawa (Iraq)

- ➔ Iraq's 'Pearl of the South' Lake Sawa dries amid water crisis. (June, 2022)
- ➔ Formed over limestone rock and studded with gypsum formation, the lake has no inlet or outlet (an endorheic basin).
- ➔ It draws water from the Euphrate through a system of joint cracks and fissures which transport water to aquifers beneath it and also fed by rainwater.
- ➔ In 2014, Lake Sawa was named a Ramsar site.

#### ❑ Hans Island

- ➔ Denmark and Canada strike 'Peace' deal to end 50 year row over the Arctic island. (14 June, 2022)
- ➔ Both Canada and Greenland border is 18 km. away from Hans Island, allowing them to claim over it under international law.
- ➔ At present their maritime border run 2697 km, longest maritime border in the world.

#### ❑ Bahrain

- ➔ In a major boost to the export of mangoes, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) launched 8 day long **Mango Festival in the kingdom of Bahrain**. (13 June, 2022)
- ➔ 34 varieties of mangoes from eastern states of West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, UP and Odisha, are being displayed at 8 different locations of Al Jazira group supermarket.

- ➔ The mango show in Bahrain is part of APEDA's new initiatives to explore international market for Indian mangoes under the 'Mango Festival 2022'.
- ❑ **Kherson**
  - ➔ Children born after 24 February in an occupied part of Ukraine will no longer be considered Ukrainians at birth. (June, 2022)
  - ➔ Instead, they will be given Russian citizenship and considered part of the Russian population.
- ❑ **Gabon and Togo**
  - ➔ The commonwealth has admitted Gabon and Togo as its 55th and 56th members respectively. (25 June, 2022)
  - ➔ Both countries are former French Colonies.
  - ➔ Leaders accepted applications by the two West African countries at the closing session of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kigali, Rwanda.
  - ➔ Rwanda was the last country to join the commonwealth in 2009. (25 June)

## Places in New

### India

- ❑ **Kalol (Gujarat)**
  - ➔ Nano Urea (Liquid) plant built at IFFCO, Kalol has been inaugurated by P.M. Modi. (28 May)
  - ➔ This plant has a capacity of manufacturing 1.5 lakh bottles (500 ml) per day.
  - ➔ 8 more such plants will be established in India in the coming days.
- ❑ **Nainital (Uttarakhand)**
  - ➔ A Unique Liquid-Mirror Telescope Commissioned at Devasthal, Nainital, Uttarakhand
  - ➔ It is India's first and Asia's largest liquid mirror telescope has commissioned at Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) in Nainital. (May, 2022)
  - ➔ The telescope will help to observe galaxies and other astronomical objects.
- ❑ **Raxaul (Bihar)**
  - ➔ A National Food Laboratory (NFL) constructed by Food Safety and Standard Authority of India has been inaugurated at Raxaul. (5 June)
  - ➔ This NFL has been established under Indo-Nepal bilateral agreement to reduce the time in testing of imported food/fruit from Nepal.

- ❑ **Maghar (U.P.)**
  - ➔ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurates **Sant Kabir Academy and Research institute** at Maghar in sant Kabir Nagar district of U.P. (5 June)
  - ➔ Ram Nath Kovind is the second President of India to visit Maghar after APJ Abdul Kalam.
- ❑ **Manesar (Haryana)**
  - ➔ Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) has installed Asia's largest 20 Mega watt Peak (MWp) solar power plant at its production facility in Manesar. (6 June)
  - ➔ This solar plant will contribute 11.5% of total energy requirement of the facility.
- ❑ **Panaji (Goa)**
  - ➔ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated '**Dharohar**', the National Museum of Customs & GST in Goa. (11 June, 2022)
  - ➔ '**Dharohar**' housed in Panaji's famous Blue Building on the bank of river Mandovi.
  - ➔ During the Portuguese rule, it was known as Alfandega and has been standing at this place for more than 400 years.
- ❑ **Ahmedabad**
  - ➔ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE) headquarter in Ahmedabad. (10 June, 2022)
  - ➔ It is envisaged as the contact point for the private players to engage with the resources of ISRO.
- ❑ **IIT Gandhinagar**
  - ➔ The government has deployed an indigenously developed supercomputer '**Param Ananta**' at IIT Gandhinagar. (30 May, 2022)
  - ➔ The Param Ananta can process 838 lakh crore calculations per second (838 teraflops).
- ❑ **Dibang Valley (Arunachal Pradesh)**
  - ➔ The contentious 3097 MW Etalin Hydroelectric Project (EHEP) in Arunachal's Dibang Valley has sparked concerns over damage to ecology and threat of natural disaster. (4 June)
  - ➔ The conservationists have urged the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) to reject clearance for EHEP.
- ❑ **Bengaluru**
  - ➔ India's first centralised AC railway terminal in Bengaluru was made operational. (6 June, 2022)
  - ➔ The air-conditioned, ultra luxury Sir M. Visvesvaraya Railway Terminal is a Rs. 314 crore project.
  - ➔ It has solar rooftop panels and rainwater harvesting mechanism.

### ❑ IIT Madars

- ➔ IIT Madras has developed HomoSEP, a robot to eliminate the practice of manual scavenging in India. (9 June, 2022)
- ➔ A total of ten units are planned to be deployed across Tamil Nadu.
- ➔ Location in Gujarat and Maharashtra are also being considered.

### ❑ Chamoli (Uttarakhand)

- ➔ A rare carnivore plant, *Utricularia furcellata*, has been discovered in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district. (June, 2022)
- ➔ The plant was last seen in the country in Meghalaya in 1986.
- ➔ This is the first time that the plant has been spotted in Western Himalaya.

### ❑ Hyderabad (Telangana)

- ➔ World's largest innovation centre T-Hub 2.0 inaugurated in Hyderabad. (28 June, 2022)
- ➔ The T-shaped facility will support over 2000 startups under one roof.
- ➔ T-Hub will provide young Indians to launch their startups with a collaborative innovation ecosystem.

### ❑ Dimapur (Nagaland)

- ➔ Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated a Honey Testing Lab at Dimapur in Nagaland. (27 June, 2022)
- ➔ The Honey Testing Lab in Nagaland will help beekeepers and processors for testing the honey product.
- ➔ India is 8th largest producer and 9th largest exporter of honey in the world.

## Awards and Honours

### ❑ 22nd International India Film Academy (IIFA) Awards 200

- ➔ **Date** – 4 June, 2022
- ➔ **Place** – Yas Island in Abu Dhabi (UAE)
- ➔ **Winners** -

1. Best Picture	Shershaah
2. Best Director	Vishnu Varadhan (Shershaah)

3. Best Actor	Vicky Kaushal (Sardar Udham)
4. Best Actress	Kriti Sanon (Mimi)
5. Supporting Actor	Pankaj Tripathi (Ludo)
6. Supporting Actress	Sai Tamhankar (Mimi)
7. Best Debut Male	Ahan Shetty (Tadap)
8. Best Debut Female	Sharvari Wagh (Bunty Aur Babli 2)
9. Music Direction	A.R. Rahman (Atrangi Re)
10. Music Direction	Tanishk Bagchi, Jasleen Royal, Javed Mohsin, Vikram Montrose, B. Praak, Jaani (Shershaah)
11. Playback Singer Male	Jubin Nautiyal (Shershaah)
12. Playback Singer Female	Asees Kaur (Shershaah)
13. Best story-Original	Anurag Basu (Ludo)
14. Best story-Adapted	83 (Kabir Khan, Sanjay Puran Singh Chauhan)
15. Lyrics	Kausar Munir (83)
16. Cinematography	Avik Mukhopadhyaya (Sardar Udham)
17. Screenplay	Sandeep Shrivastava (Shershaah)
18. Editing	Chandrashekhar Prajapati (Sardar Udham)
19. Choreography	Vijay Ganguly (Atrangi Re)
20. Background Score	A.R. Rahman (Atrangi Re)
21. Special Effects	N.Y. VFXwala (Sardar Udham)

### ❑ Times Business Awards 2022

- ➔ **Winner** –  
Rashmi Sahoo (Director of Ruchi Foodline)

### ❑ UIC International Sustainable Railway Awards 2022

Category	Winner
Best Use of Zero-Carbon Technology (Planet)	Indian Railway (Project-Solar Energy directly feeding to 25 kvac traction system).
Best Climate Change adaptation and resilience (Prosperity)	Indian Railway (Project-Indian Railways Mission Electrification)

- ➔ The UIC International Sustainable Railway Awards promote and celebrate innovation in mobility that delivers social (people), environmental (planet) and economic (prosperity) sustainability.

### ❑ WHO award for PGI Chandigarh

- ➔ **Winner** – Resource Centre for Tobacco Control (e-RCTC)
- ➔ The e-RCTC at Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh, provide information related to tobacco control in India including circulars and orders, policies and legislations.

### ❑ District Skill Development Planning Awards 2022

- ➔ Top 30 district were awarded for their innovative best practices in skill development.
- ➔ 467 districts have been participated in the awards.

#### ➔ Top 10 Winners list

1. Rajkot (Gujarat)
2. Cachar (Assam)
3. Satara (Maharashtra)
4. Malappuram (Kerala)
5. Rudraprayag (Uttarakhand)
6. Sindhudurg (Maharashtra)
7. Gaya (Bihar)
8. Dantewada (Chhattisgarh)
9. Araria (Bihar)
10. Bahraich (Uttar Pradesh)

### ❑ UP in DSDP awards

- ➔ 4 districts of Uttar Pradesh awarded with DSDP award.
- 10. Bahraich
- 16. Ghaziabad
- 17. Chandauli
- 22. Sonbhadra

### ❑ Women's Prize for Fiction 2022

- ➔ **Winner** – Ruth Ozeki (The Book of Form & Emptiness) (American-Canadian author)
- ➔ The Women's Prize Trust (UK) is a registered charity championing women writers on a global stage.

### ❑ UN Public Service Awards 2022

- ➔ **Odisha's MO Bus Service** is among the 10 winners of the award.
- ➔ MO Bus (Bhubaneswar) The MO Bus is a public transport service incorporated with 'real-time technologies the live tracking, travel planner and e-ticketing along with CCTV surveillance.
- ➔ Launched in 2018, over 57% of the Bhubaneswar commuters are using MO bus now.
- ➔ MO E-ride is an e-rickshaw system that provides last mile feeder service.
- ➔ One of the most prestigious international awards, the UN Public Service Awards recognizes excellence in Public Services and rewards creative achievements.

### ❑ Golden Achievement Award 2021

- ➔ **Winner** – Vijay Amritraj
- ➔ The Golden Achievement Award is presented annually by the International Tennis Hall of Fame (ITHF) and International Tennis Federation (ITF).
- ➔ Vijay Amritraj was the first Indian player to turn professional on the ATP Tour.
- ➔ He was instrumental in India's advancement to the 1974 Davis Cup final against South Africa, which the Indian team boycotted as a protest to Apartheid.

### ❑ National MSME Awards 2022

- ➔ **Category** – States/UT for Outstanding contribution in the Promotion & Development of MSME sector.
- ➔ **Winner** –
  1. Odisha
  2. Bihar
  3. Haryana
- ➔ **Category** – To Aspirational district for outstanding contribution in the Promotion & Development of MSME sectors.
- ➔ **Winners** –
  1. Virudhunagar (Tamil Nadu)
  2. Karauli (Rajasthan)
  3. Kalahandi (Odisha)
- ➔ **Category** – To Banks for outstanding contribution in the Promotion & Development of MSME sector.
- ➔ **Winners** –
  1. State Bank of India
  2. Bank of Maharashtra
  3. Punjab National Bank

### ❑ Miss India Worldwide 2022

- ➔ **Winner** – Khushi Patel (UK)
- ➔ **Runner-up** – Vaidehi Dongre (US)
- ➔ Miss India Worldwide is the longest running Indian Pageant outside India.

### ❑ Transylvania Trophy 2022

21<sup>st</sup> edition of the Transylvania International Film Festival (TIFF) at Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

- ➔ **Winner** – Alejandro Loayza Grisi (Utama)

### ❑ Kempegowda International Awards 2022

- ➔ **Winners** – S.M. Krishna, N.R. Narayana Murthy and Prakash Padukone.
- ➔ S.M. Krishna is veteran politician from Karnataka who served as Chief Minister, 1999-2004 and as Union External Affairs Minister 2009-12.
- ➔ N.R. Narayana Murthy is Indian IT Pioneer from Karnataka and founder of Infosys.
- ➔ Prakash Padukone, a Badminton legend from Karnataka.
- ➔ This was the first edition of the Kempegowda International Award instituted by the Karnataka Government.
- ➔ Kempe Gowda 1st was 16th century Chieftain under Vijayanagar empire who founded the city of Bengaluru in 1537 AD.

### ❑ PM Yoga Awards 2021

- ➔ The Prime Minister's Award for Outstanding contribution towards the Development and Promotion of Yoga for year 2021 has been given to two individuals and two organizations.
- ➔ **Winners**
- ➔ **Individuals** –
  1. Bhikkhu Sanghasena, Leh (Ladakh)
  2. Marcus Vinicius Rojo Rodrigues, Sao Paulo (Brazil)
- ➔ **Organisations** –
  1. The Divine Life Society, Rishikesh, Uttarakhand
  2. British Wheel of Yoga, United Kingdom.

### ❑ Mumbai International Film Festival Awards 2022

- ➔ **Date** – 29 May - 04 June, 2022
- ➔ **Place** – Film Division Complex, Mumbai
- ➔ The oldest and largest film festival for non-feature films in South Asia.
- ➔ **Organised by** – Film Division, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India.

- ➔ It is an International Film Festival for Documentary, short fiction and Animation films.

### ➔ **Winners** –

### ❑ International Awards –

- ➔ Best Documentary (Golden Conch) – **Turn Your Body to the Sun (Netherlands)**
- ➔ Best Short Fiction (Silver Conch) – **Saakshatkaaram (India) – Brother Toll (Faroe Island)**
- ➔ Best Animation Film (Silver Conch) – **Prince in a Pastry Shop (Poland)**
- ➔ Most Innovative/Experimental Film – **Closed to the Light (Italy)**

### ❑ National Awards –

- ➔ Best Documentary (Silver Conch) – **Admitted (India)** (Above 60 minutes)
  - Screaming Butterflies (India) (upto 60 minutes)
- ➔ Best Short Fiction (Silver Conch) – **Geru Patra**
- ➔ Best Animation Film (Silver Conch) – **Kandittundu**

### ❑ SkyTrax World Airport Awards 2022

#### Top 3 of Best 100 Airports—

1. Doha Hamad
2. Tokyo Haneda
3. Singapore Changi

#### ➔ **Indian Airports (4) listed in Best 100—**

37. Delhi, Indira Gandhi International (IGI)
61. Bengaluru, Kempegowda International Airport
63. Hyderabad, Rajiv Gandhi International Airport
65. Mumbai, Mumbai International Airport

#### ➔ **Indian Airport also awarded under—**

### ❑ Best Regional Airports in Asia 2002–

5. Bengaluru
6. Hyderabad

## Organisations/Institutes

### World

### ❑ World Trade Organization Ministerial Conferences

- ➔ The WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference (MC 12) took place at WTO headquarters in Geneva. (12 to 17 June, 2022)
- ➔ The conference was co-hosted by **Kazakhstan**.
- ➔ Ministerial conference is the topmost decision-making body of the WTO, which meets every two years.

➔ The Ministerial conference can take decision on all matters under any of the multilateral trade agreements.

➔ **World Trade Organisation** – WTO is the only global international organisation dealing with the rules of trade between nations.

➔ **Established** – 1 January, 1995 (replaced GATT)

➔ **Members** – 164

➔ **HQ** – Geneva, Switzerland

### ❑ **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)**

➔ India's exports to the GCC have increased by 58.26% in 2021-22. (June, 2022)

➔ The share of these six countries in India's export has goes up to 10.4% in 2021-22.

➔ The share of GCC members in India's total import rose to 18% in 2021-22.

➔ **Established** - 1981

➔ **Headquarters** - Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

➔ **Members** - 6 (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain & Oman)

### ❑ **Sustainable Development Solution Network (SDSN)**

➔ India ranked at 121 out of 163 countries in SDR Index ranking-2022, published by SDSN. (2 June, 2022)

➔ **Established** - 2012

➔ **Headquarters** - New York, USA

➔ **Members** - 1600 members across 137 countries.

➔ SDSN is an independent, non-profit organisation launched under the auspices of UN Secretary-General.

➔ In 2016, the SDSN create the SDG Academy to creates and curates free, open educational resources.

### ❑ **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**

➔ The FATF removed Malta from its list of Jurisdiction under increased monitoring and added Gibraltar. (17 June, 2022)

➔ **Established** - 1989 (by G-7)

➔ **Headquarters** – Paris, France

➔ **Mission** – To combat money laundering and its relates crimes including terrorism.

➔ **Type** - Intergovernmental organisation

➔ **President** – T. Raja Kumar (Singapore)

➔ **Members** – 39

### ❑ **Education Cannot Wait (ECW)**

➔ ECW release a new report that indicates the number of crisis impacted school aged children has grown from about 75 million in 2016 to 222 million. (21 June, 2022)

➔ These 222 million crisis-impacted children in need of urgent educational support.

➔ To respond, ECW launched the “#222 Million Dreams” resource mobilization campaign in Geneva.

➔ **Established** - 2016 (at world Humanitarian Summit)

➔ ECW is the UN global, billion-dollar fund for education in emergencies and protracted crisis.

### ❑ **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)**

➔ In EIU report the Global Liveability Index 2022, Austria's capital Vienna declared as most liveable city. (June, 2022)

➔ The Syrian Capital Damascus (172 Rank) is ranked at the bottom.

➔ Indian cities perform poor, New Delhi at 140<sup>th</sup>, Mumbai at 141<sup>st</sup>, Chennai 142<sup>nd</sup>, Ahmedabad 143<sup>rd</sup> and Bengaluru ranked 146 in the Index.

➔ The EIU is the research and analysis division of the Economist Group, providing forecasting and advisory services through research and analysis.

➔ **Established** - 1946

➔ **Headquarters** – London, UK

➔ **Managing Director** – Robin Bew

## Organisations/Institutes

### India

### ❑ **National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA)**

➔ The top 300 widely used drugs, identified by NPPA, will have the quick response (QR) codes.

➔ These codes ensure authenticity and traceability. (June, 2022)

➔ **Established** – 1997

➔ **HQ** – New Delhi

➔ **Concern Ministry** – Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemical & Fertilizer.

➔ **Task** – An Independent Regulator for Pricing of Drugs.

➔ **Chairman** – Kamlesh Kumar Pant

### ❑ National Tribal Research Institute (NTRI)

- ➔ Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurates the NTRI in New Delhi. (7 June, 2022)
- ➔ The NTRI will be the premier national institute for the promotion and preservation of tribal heritage and culture.
- ➔ It will be the nerve centre of tribal research issues and matters in academic, executive and legislative fields.

### ❑ Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)

- ➔ Biological E. Limited's Corbevax has been approved as a heterologous Covid-19 booster dose. (June, 2022)
- ➔ Fully vaccinated adults with Covishield or Covaxin can take Corbevax as booster shot.

**CDSCO** - National Regulatory Authority

**Headquarters** - New Delhi

**Headed by** - Drug Controller General of India (DCGI)

**Current DCGI** - Dr. V.G. Somani.

**Functions of CDSCO**

- a. Approval of New Drugs & Clinical Trials
- b. License approving of Blood Banks, LVPs, Vaccines, r-DNA products and some medical devices.
- c. Banning of drugs and cosmetics.
- d. Testing of New Drugs.
- e. Oversight and market surveillance.

### ❑ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)

- ➔ DAC on 6 June, 2022 the armed forces capital acquisition proposals for the military amounting Rs. 76,390 crore under Buy (Indian), Buy & Make (Indian) and Buy (Indian - IDDM) categories.
- ➔ This will provide substantial boost to the Indian Defence Industry and reduce foreign spending significantly.

**Established** - 2001

**Brought into effect** - 2002-03

**Chairman** - Defence Minister (Raj Nath Singh)

**Mandate** - To ensure expeditious procurement for the Armed Forces.

**Function** - DAC is entrusted with deciding on new policies and capital acquisitions for

1. Army, Navy & Air Force
2. Indian Coast Guard.

### ❑ Multi Agency Centre (MAC)

- ➔ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has sanctioned 138.48 crore to Intelligence Bureau (IB) to upgrade the MAC. (May, 2022)
- ➔ **MAC** –A common counter terrorism grid under IB.
- ➔ **Established** – 2001 (After Kargil war)
- ➔ MAC collects information from multiple agencies such as RAW, Armed forces and State police etc. and put in a common pool.
- ➔ The MAC's foundation was laid down by the present National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval in 2001, who was then an additional director in the IB.

### ❑ National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)

- ➔ The Ministry of Home Affairs has curtailed the tenure of the CEO of NATGRID Mr. Ashish Gupta and moved him to BSF. (June, 2022)
- ➔ **Established** - 2009 (After 2008 Mumbai Attack)
- ➔ **NATGRID** is one stop destination for security and intelligence agencies to access database related to immigration entry and exit, banking and telephone details of a suspect on a "secured platform".

### ❑ Salt Commissioner's Organisation

- ➔ Crisis in salt sector hits 5 lakhs people in Gujarat.
- ➔ Salt farmers demand MSP and workers want a proper system of wages and social security.
- ➔ Gujarat produces 80% of country's total salt production.
- ➔ Salt is a central subject listed in Union list of 7th Schedule (entry 58)
- ➔ Currently, Salt Industry is governed by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

➔ **Headquarters** – Jaipur (Rajasthan)

### ❑ ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL)

- ➔ The OVL has made an oil discovery in the recently drilled well, Urraca-IX in Llanos Basin, Colombia. (June, 2022)
- ➔ It is the wholly owned subsidiary and overseas arm of the **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)**.
- ➔ **Established** - 1965
- ➔ **Headquarters** - New Delhi.
- ➔ **MD & CEO** - Alok Kumar Gupta

## Important days

### ❑ National Statistics Day

- ➔ This day is observed in India on June 29 each year.
- ➔ The day is to recognise the contributions of Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in economic planning and statistics.
- ➔ The theme of National Statistics Day 2022 is ‘Data for Sustainable Development’.

### ❑ International Asteroid Day 2022

- ➔ The day is observed on June 30.
- ➔ The theme of Asteroid Day 2022 is “small is beautiful.”

### ❑ The International Day of Parliamentarism

- ➔ June 30 is observed as the International Day of Parliamentarism every year
- ➔ It was the date on which the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was founded.
- ➔ The Headquarters of Inter-Parliamentary Union is located in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ➔ The president of Inter-Parliamentary Union President is Saber Hossain Chowdhury.
- ➔ Inter-Parliamentary Union Founded in year 1889.
- ➔ **Theme :** Public Engagement

### ❑ The National Insurance Awareness Day

- ➔ The National Insurance Awareness Day is observed on 28 June.

### ❑ International Day of the Tropics

- ➔ **International Day of the Tropics** is observed globally on June 29.
- ➔ The inaugural State of the Tropics Report was launched on 29 June 2014.

### ❑ The International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

- ➔ It is observed on 26 June.
- ➔ The United Nations General Assembly on December 12, 1997, adopted a resolution to proclaim this day on 26 June.

### ❑ World Drug Day

- ➔ It is observed on June 26 annually.
- ➔ This year theme is **Addressing drug challenges in health and humanitarian crises.**

### ❑ The Day of the Seafarer

- ➔ The “Day of the Seafarer” is celebrated annually on June 25.
- ➔ The theme for this year is the “Your voyage – then and now, share your adventure.”.

### ❑ International Widows’ Day

- ➔ It is observed across the world on 23 June.
- ➔ This year’s theme is – “**Sustainable Solutions for Widows Financial Independence**”.

### ❑ United Nations Public Service Day

- ➔ It is celebrated on 23 June.
- ➔ The theme for this year’s event is “**Building back better from COVID-19: Enhancing innovative partnerships to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.**”

### ❑ World Music Day

- ➔ World Music Day is celebrated every year on June 21.
- ➔ The theme for World Music Day 2022 is “**Music on the intersections**”.

### ❑ International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice

- ➔ It is observed globally on 21st June.

### ❑ International Day of Yoga

- ➔ International Day of Yoga is celebrated world wide on 21st June
- ➔ It is celebrated since 2015.
- ➔ This year, the 8th edition of the International Day of Yoga has been observed.
- ➔ The theme for 2022 is ‘**Yoga for Humanity**’.

### ❑ The World Refugee Day

- ➔ World Refugee Day is celebrated every year on 20 June.
- ➔ The theme for this year is “**Whoever Whatever Whenever.**”

### ❑ The International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in conflict

- ➔ The International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence is celebrated on June 19 each year.
- ➔ The theme for this year’s is ‘**Prevention as Protection:** Enhancing structural and operational prevention of conflict-related sexual violence.’

### ❑ Sustainable Gastronomy Day

- ➔ Every year, the world observes Sustainable Gastronomy Day on **18 June**.

### ❑ International Day for Countering Hate Speech

- ➔ International Day for Countering Hate Speech falls on June 18.

### ❑ World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2022

- ➔ It is observed on **17 June** each year.
- ➔ The theme of 2022 Desertification and Drought Day is “**Rising up from drought together**”.

### ❑ The International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR)

- ➔ It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly
- ➔ It is observed on **16 June**.
- ➔ This year theme for International Day of Family Remittances is 'Recovery and resilience through digital and financial inclusion'.

### ❑ Global Wind Day 2022

- ➔ It is celebrated globally on **15th June**.
- ➔ It is based on the theme celebrate to enjoy the benefits of Wind energy and providing education to the individuals about the power and potential of wind energy to change the world.

### ❑ World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

- ➔ It is annually observed on **15 June**.
- ➔ This year theme of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2022 “**Combatting Elder Abuse**”.

### ❑ World Blood Donor Day

- ➔ It is observed globally on **14 June** every year.
- ➔ The host nation for World Blood Donor Day 2022 is Mexico.
- ➔ The global event will be held in Mexico City on June 14, 2022.
- ➔ The Theme for World Blood Donor Day 2022 is “**Donating blood is an act of solidarity. Join the effort and save lives**”.

### ❑ International Albinism Awareness Day

- ➔ It is observed by the United Nations on **June 13** every year.
- ➔ The theme for International Albinism Awareness Day 2022 is “**United in making our voice heard**”.

### ❑ NCPCR’s Elimination of Child Labour Week

- ➔ NCPCR’s Elimination of Child Labour Week is celebrated from 12-20 June 2022.
- ➔ NCPCR Founded in March 2007;
- ➔ The NCPCR Chairman is **Priyank Kanoongo**;
- ➔ NCPCR Headquarters’s located in **New Delhi, India**.

### ❑ World Day Against Child Labour

- ➔ World Day Against Child Labour 2022 observed on June 12 each year.
- ➔ This year theme is “**Universal Social Protection to End Child Labour**.”
- ➔ The International Labour Organization (ILO) launched the World Day Against Child Labour in 2002.

### ❑ World Brain Tumour Day

- ➔ World Brain Tumour Day is observed every year on **8 June**.
- ➔ The aim is to create awareness about brain tumours.
- ➔ In 2022, the theme of World Tumor Day is ‘**Together We Are Stronger**’.

### ❑ The World Oceans Day

- ➔ **The World Oceans Day** is celebrated on June 8 every year across the globe.
- ➔ This year the theme is “**Revitalization: collective action for the ocean**”
- ➔ The concept of World Oceans Day was first proposed by the UN in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

### ❑ World Food Safety Day 2022

- ➔ World Food Safety Day 2022 Observed on **7th June**.
- ➔ It is celebrated globally on June 7 every year as per the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ➔ This year, the theme is ‘**Safer food, better health**’.

### ❑ World Environment Day

- ➔ World Environment Day is observed globally on 5th June every year.
- ➔ The year 2022 marks the 50th WED.
- ➔ Sweden is the host this year and the theme is 'Only One Earth.'
- ➔ The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the nodal agency that organises and supports events across the world.

### ❑ World Bicycle Day 2022

- ➔ World Bicycle Day 2022 observed on 3rd June.

### ❑ World Milk Day 2022

- ➔ World Milk Day 2022 observed on 1st June
- ➔ The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations adopted June 1 as World Milk Day.

### Exercises

### ❑ Sampriti-X

- ➔ India-Bangladesh, a joint military training exercise Ex SAMPRITI-X is being conducted at Jashore Military Station in Bangladesh from 05 June to 16 June 2022.
- ➔ The aim of the exercise is to strengthen interoperability between the two armies and to understand each other's tactical drills and operational techniques.
- ➔ The Indian contingent of company strength is being represented by a Battalion of the DOGRA Regiment.

### ❑ Ex Khaan Quest 2022

- ➔ Indian Army participates in a multinational exercise "Ex Khaan Quest 2022" where 16 other countries also took part in Mongolia.
- ➔ President of Mongolia, Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh inaugurated the Exercise as the host.
- ➔ Indian Army is represented by a contingent from the **LADAKH SCOUTS**.
- ➔ The 14-day exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability, building military to military relationships, developing peace support operations and military readiness among participating nations.

### ❑ IND-INDO CORPAT

- ➔ The 38th India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) between the Indian Navy Units of Andaman & Nicobar Command (ANC) and Indonesian Navy is being conducted from June 13 to 24, 2022 in the Andaman Sea and Straits of Malacca.
- ➔ The 38th CORPAT is the first post pandemic Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) between the two countries.

### Books

Book	Authors
1. How to raise an Antiracist	Ibram X. Kendi
2. Gautam Adani : The Man who changed India	R.N. Bhaskar
3. Ashtang Yoga	Dr. Sonu Phogat
4. Bhartiya Samvidhan : Ankahi Kahani	Ram Bahadur Rai
5. The Final Strife	Saara El-Arifi
6. Business of Sports : The Wining Formula for Success	Vinit Karnik
7. The Book of Form and Emptiness	Ruth Ozeki
8. Loktantra Ke Swar : The Republican Ethic	Selected Speeches of the President Ram Nath Kovind, featuring 4th year of Presidency.
9. Horse	Geraldine Brooks
10. Start up Compass	Ujwal Kalra & Shobhit Shubhankar
11. Chemical Kichadi : How I Hack My Mental Health	Aparna Piralal Raje
12. Art of Focus : Through 40 yoga stories	Gauranga Das
13. The Power of Thoughts	Swami Mukundananda
14. Bittersweet	Susan Cain
15. The Life and Times of George Fernandes	Rahul Ramagundam

# SPORTS



## French Open 2022

- ➔ **Date** - 22 May to 5 June, 2022
- ➔ **Place** - Roland - Garros, Paris (France)



### Results -

#### Men's Singles

- ➔ **Winner** - Rafael Nadal (Spain)
- ➔ **Runner - up** - Casper Ruud (Norway)

#### Women's Singles

- ➔ **Winner** - Iga Swiatek (Poland)
- ➔ **Runner - up** - Coco Gauff (USA)



#### Men's doubles

- ➔ **Winners** - Marcelo Arevalo (El Salvador) & Jean - Julien Rojer (Netherlands)
- Runners-up** - Ivan Dodig (Croatia) & Austin Krajicek (USA)

#### Women's doubles

- ➔ **Winner** - Caroline Garcia & Kristina Mladenovic (Both France)
- Runners-up** - Coco Gauff & Jessica Pegula (Both USA)

#### Mixed doubles

- ➔ **Winners** - Ena Shibahara (Japan) & Wesley Koolhof (Netherlands)
- Runners-up** - Ulrikke Eikeri (Norway) & Joran Vliegen (Belgium)

- ➔ This is Nadal's 14th French Open and record extending 22nd Grand Slam title.
- ➔ Nadal, 36 becomes oldest French Open men's singles champion (Spain's Andres Gimeno, 34 years 10 months, 1972).
- ➔ World No.1 Iga Swiatek won her second French title with matching Venus Williams (2000) record of 35 wins on the trot.

## Khelo India Youth Games, 2021

- ➔ **Date** - 4-13 June, 2022
- ➔ **Host** - Haryana
- ➔ **Main Venue** - Panchkula, Haryana
- ➔ **Other Venues** - Shahabad, Ambala, Chandigarh and Delhi
- ➔ **Edition** - 3rd (If Khelo India School games, New Delhi, 2018 included, then it was 4th edition)
- ➔ **Inauguration** - Mr. Amit Shah, Home Minister
- ➔ **Mascot** - Dhakad (A bull), Vijaya (A Tiger) and Jaya (Black Buck) (Jaya and Vijaya are mascot for Khelo India youth games while Dhakad for Haryana)
- ➔ **Motto** - Kheloge Kudoge Banoge Lajawaab
- ➔ **Teams** - 36 (All States & UTs)
- ➔ **Sports** - 25
- ➔ **New Sports** - 5 Indigenous Sports (Mallakhamb, Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang-Ta and Yogasana)
- ➔ **Athletes** - About 4700 (2262 women)
- ➔ **Medal Tally** - Top 5 & Uttar Pradesh



State	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1. Haryana	52	39	46	137
2. Maharashtra	45	40	40	125
3. Karnataka	22	17	28	67
4. Manipur	19	4	5	28
5. Kerala	18	19	18	55
12. Uttar Pradesh	6	17	19	42

## Cricket

### Ranji Trophy 2021-22

- ➔ **Dates** - 17 February - 22 June, 2022
- ➔ **Place** - At 11 Venues across India.
- ➔ **Final match venue** - M.Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru
- ➔ **Edition** - 87th
- ➔ **Most Successful Team** - Mumbai (41 titles)

### ❑ Result -

- ➔ **Winner** - Madhya Pradesh (first title)

**Runner-up** - Mumbai

- ➔ Mumbai Played her 47th final.
- ➔ Captain of M.P.- Aditya Srivastava
- ➔ Captain of Mumbai - Prithvi Shaw

### ❑ Individual Awards -

- ➔ **Player of the tournament** - Sarfaraz Khan (Mumbai)
- ➔ **Player of the final match** - Shubham Sharma (Madhya Pradesh)
- ➔ **Most runs in Tournament** - Sarfaraz Khan, 982 runs (6 matches)
- ➔ **Most wickets** - Shams Mulani (Mumbai), 45 Wickets
- ➔ **Highest Individual Score** - Sakibul Gani (Bihar), 341 runs
- ➔ **Most centuries** - Chetan Bist (Nagaland), 5 Centuries in 4 Matches (Average - 311.50)
- ➔ **Fastest Century** - Abdul Samad (J&K), 68 balls
- ➔ **Prize Money** -
- ➔ **Winner** - 2 Crore (M.P.)
- ➔ **Runner-up**- 1 Crore (Mumbai)
- ➔ Sakibul Gani became the first cricketer in the world to score a triple century on debut in a first-class match.
- ➔ Sarfaraz khan become first India player to score more than 900 runs in consecutive two seasons of Ranji Trophy.
- ➔ Mumbai broke the world record for the highest margin of victory in the history of first class cricket i.e. defeating Uttarakhand by 725 run.
- ➔ Mumbai broke New south wales 92 year old sheffield shield record when they beat Queensland by 685 runs.

### India - South Africa T20 International Series

- ➔ **Date** - 9 -19 June, 2022
- ➔ **Host** - India (5 T20I)
- ➔ **Result** - 2 -2 (Drawn)
- ➔ **Indian Captain** - Rishabh Pant

### ❑ Individual awards -

- ➔ **Player of the series** - Bhubaneshwar Kumar, 6 wickets
- ➔ **Most runs** - Ishan Kishan (India), 206 runs

### India - Ireland T20I Series

- ➔ **India** - Ireland T20I Series -
- ➔ **Date** - 26-28 June, 2022
- ➔ **Place** - Malahide, Dublin (Ireland)

- ➔ India won the 2 match series by 2 - 0.
- ➔ Sanju Samson and Deepak Hooda recorded a partnership of 176 runs for 2nd wicket in 2nd T20I.
- ➔ This was largest (176 runs) partnership for India in a T20 Internationals.
- ➔ **India Captain** - Hardik Pandya
- ➔ **Player of the series** - Deepak Hooda

## Hockey

### FIH Hero Asia Cup 2022

- ➔ **Date** - 23 May - 1 June, 2022
- ➔ **Place** - Jakarta (Indonesia)
- ➔ **Teams** - 8
- ➔ **Winner** - South Korea (5th Title)
- ➔ **Runner-up** - Malaysia
- ➔ India defeated the Japan to finished at number 3.

### FIH Hockey 5s Lausanne - 2022

- ➔ **Date** - 4 & 5 June 2022
- ➔ **Place** - Lausanne, Switzerland
- ➔ **Teams** - 5
- ➔ **Edition** - first
- ➔ **Hockey 5s** - Hockey 5s is a Super-fast, highly skilful, short format. it is an attacking game played with only 5 players each side.

### ❑ Men's Results -

- ➔ **Winner** - India
- ➔ **Runner-up**- Poland

### ❑ Awards

- ➔ **Top Scorer** - Raheel Mohammed, 10 Goals, India
- ➔ **Best Player of the tournament** - Raheel Mohammed (India)
- ➔ **Most goal scorer team** - India (25 goals)

### ❑ Women's

- ➔ **Winner** - Uruguay
- ➔ **Runner-up** - Switzerland

### ➔ Final Standing

Men's	Women's
1. India	1. Uruguay
2. Poland	2. Switzerland
3. Pakistan	3. South Africa
4. Switzerland	4. India
5. Malaysia	5. Poland

## FIH Pro league 2021-22

- ➔ **Date** - 16 October 2021 to 26 June, 2022
- ➔ **Place** - In all 9 participating countries.
- ❑ **Men's Result-**
- ➔ **Winner** - Netherlands
- ➔ **Runner-up** - Belgium
- ➔ Indian men's team secured 3rd position in the league.
- ❑ **Awards -**
- ➔ **Top Scorer** - Harmanpreet Singh, India, 18 Goals
- ➔ **Most goals (team)** - India, 62 goals.
- ❑ **Women's Result -**
- ➔ **Winner** - Argentina
- ❑ **Runner-up** - Netherlands
- ➔ Indian Women's hockey team finished the league at 3rd position.
- ❑ **Awards -**
- ➔ **Most goal Scorer** - Agustina Gorzelany (Argentina), 12 goals
- ➔ **Most goal (team)** - Argentina, 43 goals

## Golf

### International Series England 2022

- ➔ **Date** - 2 - 5 June 2022
- ➔ **Place** - Northumberland, England
- ❑ **Results**
- ➔ **Winner** - Scott Vincant (Zimbabwe)



### The Memorial Tournament (Golf) 2022 -

- ➔ **Date** - 30 May - 5 June, 2022
- ➔ **Place** - Ohio, USA
- ➔ **Winner** - Billy Horschel (USA)

### U.S. Open (Golf) 2022

- ➔ **Date** - 16-19 June, 2022
- ➔ **Place** - The Country Club, Brookline, USA
- ❑ **Results**
- ➔ **Winner** - Matthew Fitzpatrick (England)
- ➔ It is first major title of Fitzpatrick.
- ➔ He becomes second english golfer since Justine Rose in 2013 to win the US open.



## Badminton

### Indonesia Masters (Badminton) 2022

- ➔ **Date** - 07-12 June 2022
- ➔ **Place** - Jakarta, Indonesia
- ❑ **Results**
- ❑ **Men's Singles -**
- ➔ **Winner** - Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)
- ➔ **Runner-up** - Chou Tien Chen (Taiwan)
- ❑ **Wome's Singles -**
- ➔ **Winner** - Chen Yu fei (China)
- ➔ **Runner-up** - Ratchanok Intanon (Thailand)
- ❑ **Men's Doubles -**
- ➔ **Winners** - Fajar Alfian & Mh. Rian Ardianto (Both Indonesia)
- ❑ **Women's doubles -**
- ➔ **Winners** - Chen Qing chen & Jia Yi fan (Both China)
- ❑ **Mixed Doubles -**
- ➔ **Winners** - Zheng Si Wei & Huang Ya Qiong (Both China)



### Indonesia Open (Badminton) 2022

- ➔ **Date** - 14 - 19 June, 2022
- ➔ **Place** - Jakarta, Indonesia
- ❑ **Results**
- ❑ **Men's Singles -**
- ➔ **Winner** - Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)
- ➔ **Runner-Up** - Zhao Jun Peng (China)
- ❑ **Women's Singles -**
- ➔ **Winner** - Tai Tzu Ying (Taiwan)
- ➔ **Runner-up** - Wang Zhi Yi (China)

## Chess

### 13th Chennai Open International Grandmaster 2022

- ➔ **Date** - 19-26 June, 2022
- ➔ **Place** - Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- ❑ **Result**
- ➔ **Winner** - Savchenko Boris (Russia)
- ➔ **Runner-up** - Nitin Senthilvel (India)



### Norway Chess Open 2022

- ➔ **Date** - 3 - 10 June, 2022
- ➔ **Place** - Norway
- ❑ **Result**
- ➔ **Winner** - R. Praggananandhaa (India)

## Formula-1

### Azerbaijan Grand Prix - 2022

- ➔ **Date** - 12- June - 2022
- ➔ **Place** - Baku, Azerbaijan
- ➔ **Result - Winner** - Max Verstappen (Netherlands) - Red Bull Racing



### Canadian Grand Prix - 2022

- ➔ **Date** - 19-June- 2022
- ➔ **Place** - Montreal, Canada
- ☐ **Result** -
- ➔ **Winner** - Max Verstappen (Netherlands) - Red Bull Racing

## Squash

### PSA World Tour Finals, 2021-22

- ➔ **Date** - 21-26 June, 2022
- ➔ **Place** - Cairo, Egypt
- ☐ **Result** -
- ☐ **Men's Singles**
- ➔ **Winner** - Mostafa Asal (Egypt)
- ➔ **Runner-up** - Paul Coll (New Zealand)
- ☐ **Women's Singles** -
- ➔ **Winner** - Nour El Sherbini (Egypt)
- ➔ **Runner-up** - Nouran Gohar (Egypt)



## Archery

### Hyundai Archery World Cup, Stage 3 - 2022

- ➔ **Date** - 21 -26 June, 2022
- ➔ **Place** - Paris, France
- ➔ Indian archers won 3 medals, including 1 gold, at Archery World cup stage 3.
- ➔ **Indian Medal** - 1 Gold & 2 Silver

Events	Ind. Archers	Medal
1. Recurve Wome Team	Ankita Bhakat Simranjeet Kaur, Deepika Kumari	Silver
2. Compound Mixed Team	Abhishek Verma, Jyothi Surekha Vennam	Gold
3. Compound Women	Jyothi Surekha Vennam	Silver

## Basketball/Miscellaneous

### All India Basketball Tournament - 2022

- ➔ **Date** - 29 may - 3 June, 2022
- ➔ **Place** - Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu

### Men's (55th Nachimuthu Gounder Trophy)

- ☐ **Result** -
- ➔ **Winner** - Indian Navy
- ➔ **Runner-up** - Indian Railway

### Women's (19th CRI Pumps Trophy)

- ☐ **Result** -
- ➔ **Winner** - KSEB Thiruvananthapuram
- ➔ **Runner-up** - South Western Railways

## Shooting/Miscellaneous

### ISSF World Cup (Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun) Baku, 2022

- ➔ **Date** - 27 may - 7 June, 2022
- ➔ **Place** - Baku, Azerbaijan
- ☐ **Result**
- ➔ **Medal Tally. Top - 5**

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1. South Korea	5	0	3	8
2. USA	4	3	1	8
3. France	3	2	1	6
4. Ukraine	2	4	3	9
5. India	2	3	0	5

### Indian Medals -

1. Air Rifle (Women's Team)	Gold	Shreya Agrawal, Elavenil Valorivan and Ramita
2. 50 m Rifle 3 Positions (Mixed team)	Gold	Ashi Chouksey and Swapnil Kusale

## Shooting

### WSPS Parashooting World Cup- Chateauroux, 2022

- ➔ **Date** - 4-13 June, 2022
- ➔ **Place** - Chateauroux, France
- ➔ The Indian para shooters put up a commendable show at the world cup and placed 2nd in the medal tally with rich haul of 12 medals.

#### Medal Tally - Top 3

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1. China	10	3	3	16
2. India	6	5	1	12
3. France	5	3	3	11

#### Indian Gold medal winners -

1.	P5 Mixed 10m Air Pistol SH1	- Rahul Jakhar
2.	R2 Women's 10m Air Rifle SH1	- Avani Lekhara
3.	R4 Mixed 10m Air Rifle SH2	- Devaraddi Ramkrishna Sriharsha
4.	R8 Women's 50m Rifle 3 position SH1	- Avani Lekhara
5.	P5 Mixed team 10m Air Pistol SH1	- Rahul Jakhar Deepender Singh & Akash
6.	P6 Mixed team 10m Pistol SH1	- Rubina Francis & Manish Narwal

- ➔ Indian Woman Parashoots Avani Lekhara won a gold medal in R2 women's 10m Air Rifle SH1 with setting a new world record score.

## Players in News

### 1. Mithali Raj

- ➔ The Captain of Indian Women Cricket Team, Mithali Raj (39 year) announced her retirement from all formats of cricket on 8 June, 2022.



- ➔ International debut - 26 June, 1999, ODI, against Ireland, Scored 114 runs in her debut match,

#### Mithali's Career : At a glance -

Format	Matches	Runs	Highest score	Century	Half Century
Women Test	12	699	214	1	4
Women ODI	232	7805	125*	7	64
Women T20I	89	2364	97*	0	17

#### Records of Mithali

- ➔ Highest run scorer in world in women cricket ODI. (7805 runs)
- ➔ Leading run-crover in women's international Cricket (10868 runs in 333 matches)
- ➔ Appeared in 232 women ODI, a world record.
- ➔ Only Indian women cricketer to score a double century in a test.
- ➔ Only woman cricketer to played in six world cups. Third after Sachin Tendulkar and Javed Miadad (Pakistan).

#### Awards

- 2003 - Arjun Award
- 2015 - Padma Shri
- 2017 - Wisden Leading Woman Cricketer in the world.
- 2021 - Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award. (First Woman Cricketer)

### 2. Avinash Sable

India's Avinash Sable set 8th time a new national record in the 3000m Steeplechase with a timing of 8 : 12 :48 minutes at Rabat Diamond League (Morocco) on 5 June, 2022.

- ➔ Avinash finished the race at number 5th.



### 3. Rahul Srivatshav

- ➔ Chess Player Rahul Srivatshav of Telangana has become India's 74th Grandmaster on 11 June, 2022.
- ➔ He achieved the title after breaking the 2500 Elo points barrier in live FIDE rating.



### 5. Aishwarya Babu

- ➔ Karnataka's woman athlete Aishwarya Babu has set a New National Record (14.14m) in triple Jump event at Inter-State Athletic meet in Chennai on 13 June 2022.
- ➔ Aishwarya jumped 14.14m to break the national record of Mayookha Johny (2011), winning gold at the meet in Chennai.



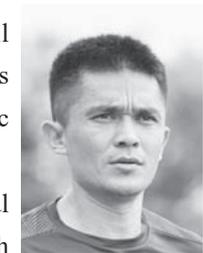
### 6. Neeraj Chopra

- ➔ India's ace Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra won gold Medal with 86.69 m effort at the Kuortane games 2022 in Finland on 18 June, 2022.
- ➔ Earlier on 14 June, he won silver by setting a New National Record of 89.30m at Paavo Nurmi games in Finland.
- ➔ Neeraj Chopra broke the national record again on 30 June, 2022 with 89.94m effort at Stockholm Diamond League 2022 (won silver).



### 7. Sunil Chhetri

- ➔ Indian Football Captain Sunil Chhetri equals the 84 goals record of Hungarian great Ferenc Puskas.
- ➔ Now he became 5th highest goal scorer in the world, jointly with Ferenc Puskas.
- ➔ He achieved this milestone against Hong Kong in AFC Asian cup 2023 qualifying match at salt lake stadium, Kolkata on 14 June 2022.



### 8. Preeti Maske

- ➔ The 45 years old, mother of two, Preeti Maske (Pune) set a Guinness world record as the first woman to cycle solo from Leh to Manali (430km) in 55 hours and 13 minutes.
- ➔ She also holds the record for the fastest woman cyclist on the Golden Quadrilateral (6000km) (25 June).



### 11. Skalzang Rigzin

- ➔ Skalzang Rigzin (Ladakh) became first Indian mountaineer to climb mount Annapurna peak (8091m) without supplemental Oxygen on 28 April, 2022.
- ➔ After a gap of 16 days, he climbed to Mt. Lhotse (8516m), the fourth highest peak in the world.
- ➔ Rigzin has set a record to summit two peaks without oxygen supplements. (11- June)



### 12. Poorna Malavath

- ➔ Telangana mountaineer Poorna Malavath has completed the 'Seven Summit Challenge'.
- ➔ Poorna climbed Mt. Denali (6190m), highest mountain in North America on 5 June, 2022.
- ➔ She has completed Mt. Everest (Asia), Mt. Kilimanjaro (Africa), Mt. Elbrus (Europe), Mt. Aconcagua (South America), Mt. Carstensz Pyramid (Oceania), Mt. Vinson (Antarctica) and Mt. Denali.
- ➔ She conquered the Mt. Everest at age 13 in 2014.



### 13. Adil Altaf Shah

- ➔ Adil Altaf Shah created history on 11 June 2022, as he won the first cycling gold medal for Jammu & Kashmir in the Khelo India Youth Games.
- ➔ Shah won this gold in 70Km road race event of Under-18 boys.



# BPS Pre Exam - 2022

## Paper I (General Studies) Solution

1. A person standing in front of a mirror finds his image larger than himself This implies that the mirror is

- (a) concave
- (b) plane
- (c) convex
- (d) cylindrical with bulging side outwards
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. a

### Explanation

A person standing in front of a mirror finds his image larger than himself. This implies that the mirror is concave. A spherical mirror, whose reflecting surface is curved inwards, that is, faces towards the centre of the sphere, is called a concave mirror. Concave mirrors are commonly used in torches, search-lights and vehicles headlights to get powerful parallel beams of light. They are often used as shaving mirrors to see a larger image of the face. The dentists use concave mirrors to see large images of the teeth of patients.

2. A fan produces a feeling of comfort during the hot weather because

- (a) fan supplies cool air
- (b) our body radiates more heat in air
- (c) conductivity of air increases
- (d) our perspiration evaporates rapidly
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. d

### Explanation

A fan produces a feeling of comfort because our perspiration or sweating evaporates rapidly. Our body tries to cool ourselves by releasing sweat through pores of our skin. And when we sit under the fan, the sweat of our body evaporates due to directed air upon us making our body cool.

3. Twinkling of stars in clear sky during nighttime can be explained with

- (a) refraction of light
- (b) reflection of light
- (c) polarization of light
- (d) interference of light
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. a

### Explanation

The twinkling of a star is due to atmospheric refraction of starlight. The starlight, on entering the earth's atmosphere, undergoes refraction continuously before it reaches the earth.

4. Hydrogen bomb is based on the principle of

- (a) controlled fusion reaction
- (b) uncontrolled fusion reaction
- (c) controlled fission reaction
- (d) uncontrolled fission reaction
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. b

### Explanation

Thermonuclear bomb, also called hydrogen bomb, or H-bomb, weapon whose enormous explosive power results from an uncontrolled self-sustaining chain reaction in which isotopes of hydrogen combine under extremely high temperatures to form helium in a process known as nuclear fusion. The high temperatures that are required for the reaction are produced by the detonation of an atomic bomb.

5. Food gets cooked faster in a pressure cooker because

- (a) water starts boiling at low temperature due to high pressure
- (b) water starts boiling at high temperature due to high pressure
- (c) water starts boiling at low temperature due to low pressure
- (d) water starts boiling at high temperature due to low pressure
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. d

### Explanation

Food gets cooked faster in a pressure cooker because water starts boiling at high temperature due to high pressure.

6. If the doors of a refrigerator are left open for few hours, then the room temperature will

- (a) decrease
- (b) increase
- (c) remain the same
- (d) decrease only in the area in the vicinity of the refrigerator
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. b

**Explanation**

A refrigerator is a heat engine it extracts heat from low temperature reservoir and transfer it to high temperature. If a refrigerator's door is kept open, then room will become hot, because then refrigerator exhaust more heat into the room than earlier. In this way, temperature of the room increases and room becomes hot.

7. **A piece of ice is floating in a beaker containing water up to its brim. When whole of the ice melts**
- the water will spill on the floor
  - the level of water will come down in the beaker
  - the level of water will first fall and then it will spill out of the beaker
  - the water level will not change
  - None of the above / More than one of the above

**Ans.** d

**Explanation**

If a piece or cube of ice is placed in a container containing water, some of its portion will remain out of the water level. As we know the fact that, the volume of ice is greater than that of the water so after melting the volume of the piece will decrease and the water level will remain the same.

8. **Which of the following is not correctly matched?**
- Voltmeter-Potential difference
  - Ammeter-Electric current
  - Potentiometer-Electromotive force
  - Galvanometer-Electric resistance
  - None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans.** d

**Explanation**

Galvanometer is an instrument for measuring a small electrical current or a function of the current by deflection of a moving coil. The deflection is a mechanical rotation derived from forces resulting from the current. Hence option (d) is not correctly matched. Rest are correctly matched.

9. **If a feather, a rubber ball and a wooden ball are falling freely simultaneously from the same height in vacuum, then**
- the feather will reach at the ground first
  - the rubber ball will reach at the ground first
  - the wooden ball will reach at the ground first
  - all the three will reach at the ground together
  - None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans.** d

**Explanation**

All three balls will fall with the same speed and reach the ground together, because there is no air resistance in the vacuum, and gravitational force acts same on all the objects. Hence in the vacuum, every object undergoes free fall with the same acceleration.

10. **When a soap film on the water is seen in the daytime, it shows beautiful colours. This phenomenon is due to**
- diffraction of light
  - refraction of light
  - polarization of light
  - interference of light
  - None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans.** d

**Explanation**

The beautiful colors you see on the soap film are due to interference patterns, created when light reflects off the two surfaces of the thin soap film. Interference patterns are created when two reflected waves line up in phase or out of phase.

11. **The mass number of a nucleus is**
- the sum of the numbers of neutrons and protons
  - the total mass of neutrons and protons
  - always more than the atomic weight
  - always less than its atomic number
  - None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans.** a

**Explanation**

The mass number also called atomic mass number or nucleon number, is the total number of protons and neutrons (together known as nucleons) in an atomic nucleus.

12. **Which of the following is the main ingredient of cement?**
- Limestone
  - Silica clay
  - Gypsum
  - Ash
  - None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans.** a

**Explanation**

Cement is manufactured through a closely controlled chemical combination of calcium, silicon, aluminum, iron and other ingredients. There are eight major ingredients of cement. Some of them are : Lime, Silica, Alumina, Magnesia, Iron oxide etc

**13. Isotopes of an element differ in**

- (a) the number of protons
- (b) the mass number
- (c) the number of electrons
- (d) the atomic number
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans.** b**Explanation**

Isotopes are atoms with different atomic masses which have the same atomic number. The atoms of different isotopes are atoms of the same chemical element, they differ in the number of neutrons in the nucleus.

**14. The temperature point at which solid, liquid and gaseous states may stay together is known as**

- (a) boiling point
- (b) melting point
- (c) freezing point
- (d) triple point
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans.** d**Explanation**

The temperature point at which solid, liquid and gaseous states may stay together is known as triple point. In thermodynamics, a substance's triple point is the unique combination of temperature and pressure at which the solid phase, liquid phase, and gaseous phase can all coexist in thermodynamic equilibrium.

By international agreement, the triple point of water has been assigned a value of 273.16 K (0.01 °C; 32.02 °F) and partial vapor pressure of 611.66 pascals (6.1166 mbar; 0.0060366 atm).

**15. The most important ore of aluminum**

- (a) bauxite
- (b) calamine
- (c) calcite
- (d) galena
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans.** a**Explanation**

Bauxite is the most common aluminum ore. Approximately 98% of primary aluminum production is based on bauxite.

**16. Which among the following solutions has pH value more than 7?**

- (a) Buffer solution
- (b) Basic solution
- (c) Acidic solution
- (d) Neutral solution
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans.** b**Explanation**

pH is a measure of how acidic/basic water is. The range goes from 0 - 14, with 7 being neutral. pH value of less than 7 indicate acidity, whereas a pH of greater than 7 indicates a Alkaline (basic).

**17. Which among the following is an incorrect option?**

- (a) Atom is electrically neutral due to presence of protons and electrons inside the nucleus
- (b) Electrons are negatively charged and have negligible mass.
- (c) Atomic number is the number of protons in an atom of an element.
- (d) Isotopes are useful as nuclear fuel, in medical field, in carbon dating, etc.
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans.** a**Explanation**

An atom consists of a positively charged nucleus, surrounded by one or more negatively charged particles called electrons. The positive charges equal the negative charges, so the atom has no overall charge, it is electrically neutral.

**18. Select the incorrect statement out of the following**

- (a) Cotton is suitable for use as clothing in summer because it absorbs moisture
- (b) Polycarbonate is used for making CDs.
- (c) Acrylic is also called artificial silk as it is prepared from cotton but has shine like silk.
- (d) Teflon is used for coating non-stick Kitchenwares.
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans.** c**Explanation**

Rayon is soft, lustrous and absorbent which exactly copy the characteristics of a silk. It is suitable for women garments and dresses. Rayon appears and feels like silk. Hence, Rayon is called artificial silk. Fibre obtained by chemically treating wood pulp is called rayon or artificial silk.

**19. Which of the following statements about graphite and diamond is true?**

- (a) They have the same crystal structure.
- (b) They have the same hardness.
- (c) They have the same electrical conductivity
- (d) They can undergo the same chemical reaction.
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans.** d**Explanation**

Carbon is the seventeenth most abundant element by mass in the earth's crust. It is widely distributed in nature in free as well as in the combined state. In elemental state it is available as coal, graphite and diamond. Graphite and Diamond can undergo the same chemical reaction.

20. Which of the following is the major constituent of the liquefied petroleum gas?

- (a) Methane
- (b) Ethane
- (c) Propane
- (d) Butane
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. d

**Explanation**

LPG is composed hydrocarbons containing three or four carbon atoms. The normal components of LPG are propane (C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>8</sub>) and butane (C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>10</sub>). Small concentrations of other hydrocarbons may also be present.

21. Water passes from the soil into the roots by a physical process called

- (a) diffusion
- (b) transpiration
- (c) absorption
- (d) osmosis
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. d

**Explanation**

Osmosis is the term used to refer specifically to the diffusion of water across a differentially- or selectively permeable membrane. Osmosis occurs spontaneously in response to a driving force. Water will move from its region of higher chemical potential (or concentration) to its region of lower chemical potential until equilibrium is reached.

22. Biodegradable wastes can usually be converted into useful substance with the help of

- (a) bacteria
- (b) viruses
- (c) nuclear proteins
- (d) radioactive substances
- (e) None of the above / More than one of the above

Ans. a

**Explanation**

Bio-degradation is defined as the biologically catalyzed reduction in complexity of chemical compounds. Bio-degradation is the process by which organic substances are broken down into smaller compounds by living microbial organisms(bacteria). Hence, Biodegradable wastes can usually be converted into useful substance with the help of bacteria .

23. In the nighttime, it is advised not to sleep under trees because

- (a) they liberate less amount of oxygen
- (b) they liberate harmful gases at night
- (c) they liberate carbon dioxide
- (d) they liberate carbon monoxide
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. c

**Explanation**

At night, since photosynthesis does not occur, oxygen is not being produced by the trees. In addition to this, the trees continue respiring thereby causing the amount of carbon dioxide to be increased and the amount of oxygen to be reduced.

24. Insectivorous plants grow in soil deficient in

- (a) water
- (b) magnesium
- (c) nitrogen
- (d) calcium
- (e) None of the above / More than one of the above

Ans. c

**Explanation**

Insectivorous plants grow in nitrogen deficient soil and fulfill their nitrogen requirement by trapping small insects. Insectivorous plant are any plant especially adapted for capturing and digesting insects and other animals by means of ingenious pitfalls and traps.

25. Stem of a plant helps in distributing food to all parts of the plant. It also helps in

- (a) storing the food
- (b) shaping the plant
- (c) respiration
- (d) photosynthesis
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. a

**Explanation**

A stem provides structure to the plant. It transports food from the roots to all the parts of the plants and stores the food made by the leaves. This is the part of the plant that bears leaves, flowers, fruits, thus helping in their vegetative reproduction.

26. In transfusion, blood must be compatible not only in blood type but also in

- (a) Rh factor
- (b) the number of white cells
- (c) the number of red cells
- (d) race of donor and recipient
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. a

**Explanation**

Blood is a special connective tissue consisting of a fluid matrix, plasma, and formed elements. The Rh antigen similar to one present in Rhesus monkeys (hence Rh), is also observed on the surface of RBCs of majority (nearly 80 per cent) of humans. Such individuals are called Rh positive (Rh+ve) and those in whom this antigen is absent are called Rh negative (Rh-ve). An Rh-ve person, if exposed to Rh+ve blood, will form specific antibodies against the Rh antigens. Therefore, Rh group should also be matched before transfusions.

**27. Pituitary gland is located in**

- (a) intestine
- (b) liver
- (c) kidney
- (d) brain
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. d**

**Explanation**

The pituitary gland is located in a bony cavity called sella tursica and is attached to hypothalamus by a stalk. It can be said the pituitary gland is located in brain.

**28. Which of the following rays/waves are used to know the growth of fetus in the womb?**

- (a) X-rays
- (b) Microwaves
- (c) Ultrasonic waves
- (d) Ultraviolet rays
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. c**

**Explanation**

Ultrasound is sound waves with frequencies higher than the upper audible limit of human hearing. This limit varies from person to person and is approximately 20 kilohertz (20,000 hertz) in healthy young adults. Ultrasound devices operate with frequencies from 20 kHz up to several gigahertz. Ultrasound relies on sound waves to produce images of internal organs, soft tissue, and blood vessels, as well as to observe developing fetuses in the womb.

**29. The universal acceptor blood group is**

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) AB
- (d) O
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. c**

**Explanation**

AB blood group people are considered as universal recipients because this blood group has no anti-bodies hence it can receive blood from all groups. Type O blood is called the universal donor because it has neither A nor B surface antigens on the red blood cells.

**30. Pneumonia is an infection of**

- (a) nerve
- (b) blood
- (c) skin
- (d) lungs
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. d**

**Explanation**

Pneumonia is an infection of lungs. Pneumonia is an infection that inflames the air sacs in one or both lungs. The air sacs may fill with fluid or pus (purulent material), causing cough with phlegm or pus, fever, chills, and difficulty breathing.

**31. Covishield, the COVID vaccine of India which is approved by WHO, is manufactured by**

- (a) Serum Institute
- (b) Bharat Biotech
- (c) Panacea Biotech
- (d) Zydus Cadila
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. a**

**Explanation**

Covishield, the COVID vaccine of India which is approved by WHO, is manufactured by Serum Institute. Serum Institute of India Pvt. Ltd. is now the world's largest vaccine manufacturer by number of doses produced and sold globally (more than 1.5 billion doses) which includes Polio vaccine, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Hib, BCG, r-Hepatitis B, Measles, Mumps, Rubella as well as Pneumococcal and Covid-19 vaccines.

**32. What is the length of the Atal Tunnel, Rohtang, Himachal Pradesh?**

- (a) 8.02 km
- (b) 9.02 km
- (c) 1002 km
- (d) 1102 km
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. b**

**Explanation**

The Atal tunnel is 9.02 km long, that runs under the 'Rohtang Pass' was constructed on the Manali - Leh Highway. Construction of this tunnel has reduced the distance on Manali - Sarchu road by 46 km and travel time by four to five hours, providing all-weather connectivity on the Manali - Leh axis. Atal Tunnel has officially been certified by World Book of Records, as the 'World's Longest Highway Tunnel above 10,000 Feet'.

**33. In which year was the Railway Budget merged with the General Budget in India?**

- (a) 2015
- (b) 2016
- (c) 2017
- (d) 2018
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. c**

**Explanation**

In 2017, the Railway Budget was merged with the Union Budget, ending a practice that began in 1924 under the British.

**34. What is the purpose of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019?**

- (a) To remove Bangladeshi illegal immigrants
- (b) To identify genuine Indian citizens
- (c) To check border infiltration by foreigners
- (d) To grant citizenship to persecuted minority groups of Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. d**

**Explanation**

The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 seeks to make illegal migrants who are Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, eligible for citizenship.

**35. The Central Vista Project refers to the**

- (a) construction of an IT park in New Delhi
- (b) construction of a new Parliament, the Prime Minister and Vice President's residences along with a common Central Secretariat
- (c) construction of a commercial area in New Delhi
- (d) construction of residences for all ministers
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. b**

**Explanation**

The Central Vista Project refers to the construction of a new Parliament, the Prime Minister and Vice President's residences along with a common Central Secretariat. The Redevelopment of Central Vista Master Plan was conceived in September 2019.

**36. Which Union Territory formed after division of Jammu and Kashmir State does not have a legislature of its own?**

- (a) Jammu
- (b) Kashmir
- (c) Ladakh
- (d) Both Kashmir and Ladakh
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. c**

**Explanation**

On 5 August, 2019, Jammu and Kashmir has become a union territory with legislature and Ladakh has become a union territory without a legislature, which means J&K and Ladakh will now have separate Lieutenant Governors.

**37. Which Indian footballer who won the All India Football Federation (AIFF) Men's Player of the Year Award for 2021?**

- (a) Suresh Singh Wangjam
- (b) Sandesh Jhingam
- (c) Aniket Jadhav
- (d) Arindam Bhattacharya
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. b**

**Explanation**

Blue Tigers defender Sandesh Jhingam won the AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year 2020-21, with midfielder Suresh Singh Wangjam being named the winner of the AIFF Men's Emerging Footballer of the Year 2020-21 Award.

**38. On which date was the Pradhanmantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana started?**

- (a) 1 November, 2017
- (b) 1 January, 2018
- (c) 1 February, 2019
- (d) 1 April, 2020
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. c**

**Explanation**

The Government with a view to augment the income of the farm families is implementing a Central Sector Scheme, namely, "Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)". The Scheme is in effect from 01.12.2018. The scheme was officially launched on 24th February, 2019.

**39. In which game was the Gold Medal for India won in the Olympics, 2021?**

- (a) Gymnastics
- (b) Javelin Throw
- (c) Boxing
- (d) Shooting
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. b**

**Explanation**

Javelin Throw was the game at which India won Gold Medal in the Olympics, 2021. It was Neeraj Chopra, who won the men's javelin throw gold medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

**40. How many medals have been won by India in the Tokyo Paralympics, 2021?**

- (a) 19
- (b) 21
- (c) 22
- (d) 18
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. a**

**Explanation**

19 medals have been won by India in the Tokyo Paralympics, 2021 with -five gold, eight silver and six bronze--making it one of the best campaigns in India's sporting history.

**41. On which date did India take over the Chairmanship of the UN Security Council?**

- (a) 1 January, 2021
- (b) 1 March, 2021
- (c) 1 April, 2021
- (d) 1 August, 2021
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. d**

**Explanation**

India took over the Presidency of the UN Security Council on August 1, 2021. The UN Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote.

**42. When the US evacuated its troops from Afghanistan, who was the last American soldier to leave Kabul?**

- (a) General Frank McKenzie
- (b) David Brunnstrom
- (c) Major General Chris Donahue
- (d) Ross Wilson
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. c**

**Explanation**

The last soldier to leave Afghanistan on the day the U.S. concluded its 20-year war has been identified as Major General Chris Donahue, commander of the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division, XVIII Airborne Corps. Donahue was one of the commanders on the ground leading the evacuation mission.

**43. Which French company supplied Rafale fighter jets to India?**

- (a) LH Aviation
- (b) Dassault Aviation
- (c) Isoire Aviation
- (d) Humbert Aviation
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. b**

**Explanation**

French company Dassault Aviation supplied Rafale fighter jets to India. They delivered 36 'Rafale' fighter jets to the Indian Air Force (IAF).

**44. When did the clash between the soldiers of India and China take place in the Galwan Valley?**

- (a) December 2019
- (b) April 2019
- (c) January 2020
- (d) June 2020
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. d**

**Explanation**

In June 2021, Ladakh's Galwan Valley witnessed a violent clash between the Armies of India and China. The clash, in which 20 Indian soldiers were killed, was one of the worst in 45 years.

**45. In which country, the Pegasus spyware has been developed?**

- (a) Israel
- (b) Brazil
- (c) Russia
- (d) China
- (e) None of the above/ More than one of the above

**Ans. a**

**Explanation**

Israel's NSO Group, has developed Pegasus spyware, the world's most invasive spyware. It can find a route into a target's device that is unknown to the developer of the device and its software, and without requiring the target to take any action such as clicking a link.

**46. On which date did India begin its two-year term as a Non-Permanent Member of the UN Security Council**

- (a) 1 October, 2020
- (b) 1 November, 2020
- (c) 1 January, 2021
- (d) 1 July, 2021
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. c**

**Explanation**

On January 1, 2021, India begin its two-year term as a Non-Permanent Member of the UN Security Council. The UN Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote.

**47. Which country exported Sputnik V COVID vaccine to India?**

- (a) America
- (b) Russia
- (c) UK
- (d) France
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. b**

**Explanation**

Sputnik V or Gam-COVID-Vac is an adenovirus viral vector vaccine for COVID-19 developed by the Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology in Russia. It is the world's first registered combination vector vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19, having been registered on 11 August 2020 by the Russian Ministry of Health. Russia exported Sputnik V COVID vaccine to India.

**48. Joe Biden has assumed office as the**

- (a) 46th President of America
- (b) 47th President of America
- (c) 48th President of America
- (d) 49th President of America
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. a**

**Explanation**

Joe Biden has assumed office as the 46th president of the United States. A member of the Democratic Party, he served as the 47th vice president from 2009 to 2017 under Barack Obama and represented Delaware in the United States Senate from 1973 to 2009.

**49. Who was the foreign Chief Guest in the Republic Day parade in 2021?**

- (a) Boris Johnson
- (b) Vladimir Putin
- (c) Barack Obama
- (d) Sheikh Hasina
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. a**

**Explanation**

For the 2021 Republic Day parade, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson was invited to be the chief guest. The announcement of his invitation was made in December 2020 during the visit of the British foreign secretary. But, it was cancelled in the first week of January, when COVID-19 cases in the UK were shooting up.

**50. Who is the Permanent Representative of India in the UN?**

- (a) Tarun Bajaj
- (b) T. S. Tirumurti
- (c) Ajay Seth
- (d) Harsh Vardhan Shringla
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. b**

**Explanation**

T. S. Tirumurti was the Permanent Representative of India in the UN May 2020 to June 2022. In June 2022, Ruchira Kamboj, currently Indian ambassador to Bhutan, has been appointed as the next Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations.

**51. According to 2011 Census, which district of Bihar has more women than men?**

- (a) Gopalganj
- (b) Begusarai
- (c) Patna
- (d) Siwan
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. a**

**Explanation**

In 2011, Gopalganj had population of 2,562,012 of which male and female were 1,267,666 and 1,294,346 respectively. In 2001 census, Gopalganj had a population of 2,152,638 of which males were 1,075,710 and remaining 1,076,928 were females.

52. In which year was the first sitting of the Bihar Legislative Council convened?

- (a) 1911
- (b) 1913
- (c) 1914
- (d) 1919
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. b

**Explanation**

The first sitting of the Council was convened on 20 January 1913 at Patna College Bankipore. In 1920 Bihar and Orissa declared governor province, as per Government of India Act 1919. As per Government of India Act 1935 Bihar and Orissa was split into separate provinces of Bihar and Orissa.

53. Rashmi Kumari from Bihar is a/an

- (a) international cricketer
- (b) international carrom champion
- (c) football player
- (d) chess player
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. b

**Explanation**

Rashmi Kumari is India's most accomplished female carrom player. Rashmi Kumari, a two-time World Champion, has won her third Federation Cup title in Varanasi following victories in 2012 and 2010. Rashmi Kumari has won the World Cup twice, the ICF Cup twice, the SAARC Cup four times and the Asian Cup three times.

54. The 'Digital India Award, 2020' was given to the Bihar Government for

- (a) establishing technical institutes in Bihar
- (b) bringing IT revolution in Bihar
- (c) facilitating e-administration in Bihar
- (d) providing services to people stranded outside Bihar during COVID-19 lockdown
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. d

**Explanation**

Bihar government's efforts and services rendered to the people, who were stranded outside the state and those who had returned in the state during the corona induced lockdown, were acknowledged and awarded with the "Digital India Award 2020" by President of India Ram Nath Kovind.

55. How many seats are reserved for the SC candidates in the Bihar Legislative Assembly?

- (a) 38
- (b) 40
- (c) 44
- (d) 46
- (e) None of the above / More than one of the above

Ans. a

**Explanation**

Total number of reserved assembly Constituencies for SC is 38 and the total number of reserved assembly Constituencies for ST and others is 2. The strength of the Bihar Legislative Assembly is 243 members.

56. In which year was 50% reservation to women in Panchayat bodies provided in Bihar?

- (a) 2005
- (b) 2006
- (c) 2009
- (d) 2014
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. b

**Explanation**

In the year 2006, Bihar government provided 50% reservation to women in Panchayat bodies through Panchayat Raj Act (BPRA), 2006 .

57. In which year was Bihar divided to create Jharkhand?

- (a) 2000
- (b) 2001
- (c) 2004
- (d) 2005
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. a

**Explanation**

In the year 2000, Bihar was divided to create Jharkhand. Jharkhand ("The land of forest") is a state in eastern India, created on 15 November 2000, from what was previously the southern half of Bihar. The state shares its border with the states of Bihar to the north, Uttar Pradesh to the northwest, Chhattisgarh to the west, Odisha to the south and West Bengal to the east. It has an area of 79,710 km<sup>2</sup> (30,778 sq mi). It is the 15th largest state by area, and the 14th largest by population.

58. The new ministry proposed in the Bihar Budget for the year 2021-22 focuses on

- (a) child care
- (b) women empowerment
- (c) infrastructure development entrepreneurship
- (d) skill and development
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. d

**Explanation**

The new ministry proposed in the Bihar Budget for the year 2021-22 focuses on skill and development. In the Budget 2021-22, the Finance minister of Bihar proposed to create a separate department for skill and entrepreneurship.

**59. How many departments are covered under the Human Development Sub-Mission in Bihar?**

- (a) 6
- (b) 7
- (c) 8
- (d) 10
- (e) None of the above / More than one of the above

**Ans. b**

**Explanation**

Seven departments are covered under the Human Development Sub-Mission in Bihar. These are- Health Department, Education Department, Social Welfare Department, Schedule Caste & Schedule Tribe Welfare Department, Backward Class & Extreme Backward Class Welfare Department, Minority Welfare Department and Disaster Management Department.

**60. From which district of Bihar was the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan launched by the Prime Minister in 2020?**

- (a) Patna
- (b) Banka
- (c) Madhepura
- (d) Khagaria
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. d**

**Explanation**

Prime Minister of India launched a massive employment -cum- rural public works Campaign named 'Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan' to empower and provide livelihood opportunities in areas/ villages witnessing large number of returnee migrant workers affected by the devastating COVID-19. The Abhiyaan was flagged off from village Telihar, Block Beldaur, district Khagaria, Bihar on June 20, 2020.

**61. Which one of the following Harappan sites is in Gujarat?**

- (a) Lothal
- (b) Dabarkot
- (c) Kalibangan
- (d) Rakhigarhi
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. a**

**Explanation**

The archaeological remains of the Harappa port-town of Lothal is located along the Bhogava river, a tributary of Sabarmati, in the Gulf of Khambat (Gujarat). Lothal means 'the mound of the death. It was famous for dockyard.

**62. Who was the founder of the Chola Dynasty?**

- (a) Vijayalaya
- (b) Karikala
- (c) Aditya I
- (d) Rajaraja I
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. a**

**Explanation**

After the decline of the Sangam period, the Cholas became feudatories in Uraiyur. They became prominent in the ninth century and established an empire comprising the major portion of South India. Their capital was Tanjore. The founder of the Imperial Chola line was Vijayalaya.

**63. Who was the President of the First Buddhist Council?**

- (a) Vasumitra
- (b) Mahakashyapa
- (c) Sangharaksha
- (d) Parshvaka
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. b**

**Explanation**

The First Buddhist council convened at the Sattapanni caves in Rajgriha (400 B.C). It was held under the patronage of King Ajatashatru. It was presided by Monk Mahakasyapa. The Agenda of the First Buddhist council was to preserve the teachings (Sutta) of the Buddha and the monastic discipline and guidelines for monks (Vinaya). It was held just after the death of the Buddha.

**64. Who wrote the book, Kiratarjuniya?**

- (a) Bhatti
- (b) Shudraka
- (c) Kalidasa
- (d) Bharavi
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. d**

**Explanation**

Kiratarjuniya is an epic poem by Bharavi, considered to be the most powerful poem in Sanskrit. It was believed to have been composed in the 6th century or earlier, it consists of eighteen cantos describing the combat between Arjuna and Lord Shiva (in the guise of a kirāta, or "mountain-dwelling hunter") at Indrakeeladri Hills in present-day Vijayawada.

**65. The Qutub Minar was completed by**

- (a) Iltutmish
- (b) Qutb-ud-din Aibak
- (c) Ulugh Khan
- (d) Raziya Sultana
- (e) None of the above/ More than one of the above of the

**Ans. a**

**Explanation**

Qutab-ud-din Aibak, the first Muslim ruler of Delhi, commenced the construction of the Qutab Minar in 1200 AD, but could only finish the basement. His successor, Iltutmush, added three more storeys, and in 1368, Firoz Shah Tughlaq constructed the fifth and the last storey. The first three storeys are made of red sandstone; the fourth and fifth storeys are of marble and sandstone.

**66. Who was the founder Vijayanagara Empire?**

- (a) Deva Raya I
- (b) Krishnadeva Raya
- (c) Harihara-Bukka
- (d) Vira Narasimha Raya
- (e) None of the above/ More than one of the above

**Ans. c**

**Explanation**

Harihara and Bukka are the founders of the Vijayanagar City in 1336 A.D. on the southern banks of Tungabhadra. They made Hampi as the capital city.

**67. During the time of which Mughal Emperor did Sir Thomas Roe come to India?**

- (a) Babur
- (b) Akbar
- (c) Jahangir
- (d) Shah Jahan
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. c**

**Explanation**

An English Diplomat, Sir Thomas Roe represented England in the Mughal Empire. In September 1665, he arrived at the Surat port as the ambassador of the English King, James I to Mughal Emperor Jahangir's court. Sir Thomas Roe's arrival in Jahangir's court was a significant event in modern Indian history as it was the first step towards establishing the British East India Company as a paramount power in the Indian subcontinent.

**68. Ain-I-Akbari was written by**

- (a) Abdul Qadir
- (b) Akbar
- (c) Khwaja Nizamuddin
- (d) Abul Fazl
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. d**

**Explanation**

Ain-i-Akbari is a 16th century document. It was written by Akbar's court historian Abu'l Fazl in Persian language. It deals with the administration of Mughal Emperor Akbar.

**69. The Ryotwari system was first implemented in**

- (a) Gujarat
- (b) Madras
- (c) Bombay
- (d) Orissa
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. b**

**Explanation**

Ryotwari System was introduced by Thomas Munro in 1820. This was the primary land revenue system in South India. Major areas of introduction include Madras, Bombay, parts of Assam and Coorg provinces of British India. In Ryotwari System the ownership rights were handed over to the peasants. British Government collected taxes directly from the peasants. The revenue rates of the Ryotwari System were 50% where the lands were dry and 60% in irrigated land.

**70. The Uprising of 1857 was described as the 'First Indian War of Independence' by**

- (a) V. D. Savarkar
- (b) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- (c) R. C. Majumdar
- (d) Dada bhai Naoroji
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. a**

**Explanation**

V.D. Savarkar stated in his book "The Indian War of Independence of 1857" that it was a well-planned revolt against British. He called the revolt as the first war of Independence.

71. The first woman President of the Indian National Congress was

- (a) Sarojini Naidu
- (b) Annie Besant
- (c) Kasturba Gandhi
- (d) Aruna Asaf Ali
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. b

**Explanation**

Annie Besant was the first woman President of Indian National Congress. She presided over the 1917 Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress. In 1916 she helped launch the Home Rule League to campaign for democracy in India and dominion status within the Empire.

72. Who started the journal, Bahishkrita Bharat?

- (a) Jyotiba Phule
- (b) Karsandas Mulji
- (c) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- (d) Baba Saheb Ambedkar
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. d

**Explanation**

On 3 April 1927, Ambedkar launched the Marathi fortnightly 'Bahishkrit Bharat'.

73. The Forward Bloc was founded by

- (a) Sardarsinhji Rana
- (b) Subhas Chandra Bose
- (c) Jayaprakash Narayan
- (d) Lakshmi Sahgal
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. b

**Explanation**

Forward Block was founded by Subhash Chandra Bosh in 1939 after he resigned from the presidentship of tripuri congress session.

74. Who was the Finance Minister in the Interim Government?

- (a) Liaquat Ali Khan
- (b) Sardar Patel
- (c) M. A. Jinnah
- (d) Jawaharlal Nehru
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. a

**Explanation**

On 2nd September 1946, the Interim Government of India was formed to oversee the transition of the country from a British colony to an independent republic. Liaquat Ali Khan was finance minister in this government.

75. Who took the lead of the Santhal Rebellion of 1855 AD?

- (a) Sidhu and Kanhu
- (b) Budhu Bhagat and Teja Bhagat
- (c) Mulu Manck and Jodha Manek
- (d) Madari Pasi and Sahadev
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. a

**Explanation**

In June 1855, two Santhal rebel leaders, Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu, mobilized Santhals and declared a rebellion against the East India Company. Sidhu Murmu had accumulated about ten thousand Santhals to run a parallel government during the rebellion.

76. Who invited Gandhiji to come to Champaran?

- (a) Raj Kumar Shukla
- (b) Rajendra Prasad
- (c) Jayaprakash Narayan
- (d) Krishna Sahay
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. a

**Explanation**

Raj Kumar was the person who convinced Gandhiji to visit Champaran. He briefed the latter about the issues being faced by the farmers of the district and as to how were they exploited by the British colonial authorities. It was due to his efforts that farmers were freed from the forced Indigo cultivation.

77. Who had attained enlightenment in Bodh Gaya?

- (a) Mahavira Swami
- (b) Gautama Buddha
- (c) Simandhar Swami
- (d) Parshvanath Swami
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. b

**Explanation**

Gautama Buddha has attained enlightenment in Bodh Gaya ,Bihar.

78. Who established a branch of Anushilan Samiti in Patna in 1913 AD?

- (a) Ramananda Sinha
- (b) Satish Jha
- (c) Sachindra Nath Sanyal
- (d) Bipin Jha
- (e) None of the above / More than one of the above

Ans. c

**Explanation**

Sachindra Nath Sanyal established a branch of Anushilan Samiti at Patna in 1913.

79. Who had formed the Bihar Socialist Party in 1931 AD?

- (a) Phulan Chand Tiwari and Rajendra Prasad
- (b) Phulan Prasad Varma and Jay Prakash Narayan
- (c) Raj Kumar Shukla and Swami Agnivesh
- (d) Swami Sahajananda and Swami Yogananda
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. b

**Explanation**

Bihar Socialist party was formed in 1931 within congress by ideologies of Marxist-Leninist socialists. This was formed by Phulan Prasad Varma under the leadership of JP Narayan.

80. Where is Sher Shah's tomb located?

- (a) Sasaram
- (b) Maner
- (c) Sitamarhi
- (d) Pavapuri
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. a

**Explanation**

The tomb of Sher Shah Suri is in the Sasaram town of Bihar state, India. The tomb was built in memory of Emperor Sher Shah Suri, who defeated the Mughal Empire and founded the Suri Empire in northern India.

81. Geodesy is the science that deals with

- (a) dating of terrestrial rock
- (b) measurement of dimension of the earth
- (c) measurement of elevation and depression of the earth
- (d) recording of the changes undergone by the crust
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. c

**Explanation**

Geodesy is the science of accurately measuring and understanding three fundamental properties of the Earth: its geometric shape, its orientation in space, and its gravity field—as well as the changes of these properties with time.

82. The theory of continental drift was developed by

- (a) J. J. Wilson
- (b) A. Wegener
- (c) Du Toit
- (d) H. Hess
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. b

**Explanation**

The theory of continental drift is most associated with the scientist Alfred Wegener.

83. Sunda Trench lies parallel to the island of

- (a) Java
- (b) Maldives
- (c) Sumatra
- (d) Mauritius
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. e

**Explanation**

Sunda Trench is a deep submarine depression in the eastern Indian Ocean that extends some 2,000 miles (3,200 km) in a northwest-southeast arc along the southwestern and southern Indonesian archipelago. It is located about 190 miles (305 km) off the southwestern coasts of the islands of Sumatra and Java, stretching eastward south of the western Lesser Sunda Islands.

84. An effective Coriolis force results from

- (a) solar system
- (b) earth rotation
- (c) interior of the earth
- (d) Colorado and Gulf Streams
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. b

**Explanation**

The coriolis force is caused due to rotation of the earth. Due to coriolis force objects in the Northern Hemisphere are deflected to the right, while objects in the Southern Hemisphere are deflected to the left.

85. Which of the following countries does not have a land border with the Dead Sea?

- (a) Lebanon
- (b) Jordan
- (c) Israel
- (d) Palestine
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. e

**Explanation**

Dead Sea is a landlocked salt lake between Israel and Jordan in southwestern Asia.

86. Ilmenite, which is widely distributed along the Indian coastline, is a mineral of

- (a) tungsten
- (b) titanium
- (c) gallium
- (d) tin
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. b

**Explanation**

Ilmenite ( $\text{FeTiO}_3$ ), an important and most abundant mineral of titanium, occurs in India along the coastal beach sands.

**87. Compare the Himalayan river with the Peninsular river based on the following comparisons :**

1. Most of the Himalayan rivers are perennial, whereas most of the Peninsular rivers are rain fed.
2. The gradient of the Himalayan river is steeper than the Peninsular river.
3. The Peninsular river causes more erosion on its way in comparison to the Himalayan river,

Choose the correct answer from the options given below,

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. a**

**Explanation**

The rivers of the Himalayan region rise in the glaciers and they are perennial. The peninsular rivers do not have their sources in glaciers and most of them are rainfed. The gradient of the Himalayan river is steeper than the Peninsular river as the slopes of the Himalayan rivers is very steep on the upper reaches. That is one reason that they erode and transport huge amounts of sediments. Further, the landforms over these rivers flow is also young. On the other hand, the peninsular rivers have not very steep gradient and they flow on already eroded old topography. Further, the hard rocks of the peninsular region are not as susceptible to erosion as those of the Himalayan region.

**88. Ganga Plain has been described as a**

- (a) pediplain
- (b) peneplain
- (c) geosyncline
- (d) karst plain
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. c**

**Explanation**

Geosyncline is an obsolete concept which means linear trough of subsidence of the Earth's crust within which vast amounts of sediment accumulate. Ganga Plain can be best described as a geosyncline. Peneplain means a more or less level land surface produced by erosion over a long period. Pediplain is a broad, relatively flat rock surface formed by the joining of several pediments. Pediplains are usually formed in arid or semi-arid climates and may have a thin veneer of sediments. Karst plain can be best described as limestone plain.

**89. Which of the following is a freshwater lake?**

- (a) Chilika
- (b) Sambhar
- (c) Wular
- (d) Loktak
- (e) None of the above / More than one of the above

**Ans. e**

**Explanation**

Wular Lake is freshwater lake in India and lies in the Kashmir Valley. Chilika Lake is the largest brackish water lake with estuarine character that sprawls along the east coast of India. The Sambhar Salt Lake, India's largest inland salt lake, is located in Sambhar Lake Town, Jaipur district of Rajasthan. Loktak lake is also fresh water lake in Manipur.

**90. Which of the following planets has the least density?**

- (a) Earth
- (b) Mars
- (c) Venus
- (d) Saturn
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. d**

**Explanation**

Saturn has least density among the given planets.

**91. What is the most famous feature of Chiria located in West Singhbhum?**

- (a) Iron Ore Mining
- (b) Dam
- (c) Bird Sanctuary
- (d) National Park
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. a**

**Explanation**

Chiria located in West Singhbhum is famous for Iron Ore Mining.

**92. Pattiseema Project is associated with the integration of which of the following rivers?**

- (a) Krishna and Kaveri
- (b) Krishna and Godavari
- (c) Godavari and Mahanadi
- (d) Ganga and Brahmaputra
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. b**

**Explanation**

Pattiseema Lift Irrigation Project is a river interlinking project which connects Godavari River to Krishna River.

93. Which of the following statements are concerned with eskers and drumlins?

1. Eskers are ridges of crudely bedded gravels and sands.
2. Drumlins are constituted mostly of boulder and clay.
3. Basket of eggs topography is the characteristic of terrains with eskers
4. While eskers are built by glacier streams, drumlins result from glacier action.

Choose the correct answer from the options given below.

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 1, 2 and 4
- (c) 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1 and 2 only
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. b

**Explanation**

The term 'basket of eggs' topography refers to Drumlins which is a depositional landforms formed by glaciers. They are forms of rounded hummocks resulting from the deposition of glacial till which look like inverted boat or spoon. Hence option 'B' is correct.

94. Combustion of underground coal occurs in the State of

- (a) West Bengal
- (b) Bihar
- (c) Jharkhand
- (d) Odisha
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. c

**Explanation**

Jharia coal mine of Jharkhand is known for its combustion of underground coal leading to fire.

95. Which district of Bihar has mica deposits?

- (a) Rohtas
- (b) Patna
- (c) Gaya
- (d) Saran
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. c

**Explanation**

Gaya district of Bihar has mica deposits.

96. The confluence of the rivers Son and Ganga is located in which district of Bihar?

- (a) Buxar
- (b) Patna
- (c) Bhojpur
- (d) Nalanda
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. b

**Explanation**

The confluence of the rivers Son and Ganga is located in Maner, Patna district of Bihar.

97. The rivers Damodar, Koel and Subarnarekha originate from which of the following?

- (a) Deccan Plateau
- (b) Central Highland
- (c) Chhota Nagpur Plateau
- (d) Meghalaya Plateau
- (e) None of the above / More than one of the above

Ans. c

**Explanation**

Damodar, Koel and Subarnarekha originate from Chhota Nagpur Plateau in Jharkhand.

98. Which is the first Ramsar Site in Bihar?

- (a) Kaimur Range
- (b) Kharagpur Lake
- (c) Kanwar Lake
- (d) Rajgir Hill
- (e) None of the above/ More than one of the above

Ans. c

**Explanation**

Kanwar lake in the district of Begusarai is first Ramsar site in Bihar.

99. Brahmayoni Hill is located in which district of Bihar?

- (a) Gaya
- (b) Rohtas
- (c) Nalanda
- (d) Nawada
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. a

**Explanation**

Brahmayoni Hill is located in Gaya district of Bihar

100. Which agro climatic region of Bihar has the highest number of districts?

- (a) Northern East
- (b) Northern West
- (c) Southern East
- (d) Southern West
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. b

**Explanation**

Bihar has 13 district in Northern West Zone which is highest.

101. Which of the following is not a part of the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution?

- (a) Libraries
- (b) Fuel and Fodder
- (c) Rural Sports
- (d) Technical Training
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. c

**Explanation**

11th Schedule contains the provisions that specify the powers, authority and responsibilities of Panchayats. This schedule was added by the 73rd Amendment Act of 1992. It has 29 matters that does not include Rural Sports.

**102. How many (number) 'Demands for Grants' are put before the Parliament as a part of the Annual Budget in pursuance to Article 113 of the Constitution?**

- (a) 98
- (b) 96
- (c) 104
- (d) 109
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. e**

**Explanation**

Article 113 of the Constitution requires that any proposal or estimate seeking withdrawal of money from the Consolidated Fund of India should be presented to the Lok Sabha in the form of a demand for grants. Generally, one demand for grant is presented in respect of each ministry or department. However, for large ministries and departments, more than one demand is presented.

**103. In which year was the 'National Extension Service' launched?**

- (a) 1953
- (b) 1957
- (c) 1960
- (d) 1972
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. a**

**Explanation**

The National Extension Service program was launched in 1953. It was formed after the Indian government realized that the Community Development Programme, which was formed in 1952, cannot be implemented all over India due to a shortage of funds.

**104. The members of a State Legislative Council are not chosen by which of the following categories of persons?**

- (a) Members of the local bodies/ Panchayats
- (b) Teachers
- (c) Graduates
- (d) Industrialists
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. d**

**Explanation**

One-third of the MLCs are elected by the state's MLAs, another 1/3rd by a special electorate comprising sitting members of local governments such as municipalities and district boards, 1/12th by an electorate of teachers and another 1/12th by registered graduates. The remaining members are appointed by the Governor for distinguished services in various fields namely, literature, science, art, cooperative movement and social service.

**105. The split system in the Indian administration relates to**

- (a) Audit/Accounts
- (b) Union/States
- (c) Policy/Implementation
- (d) All India Services/ Central Services
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. c**

**Explanation**

The split system in the Indian administration relates to policy/implementation.

**106. Which of the following is a Parliamentary Committee relating to delegation of power to make rules and regulations to the Executive?**

- (a) Committee on Executive Legislation
- (b) Committee on Subordinate Legislation
- (c) Committee on Administrative Legislation
- (d) Committee on Delegated Legislation
- (e) None of the above / More than one of the above

**Ans. b**

**Explanation**

Parliamentary Committee relating to delegation of power to make rules and regulations to the Executive is Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

**107. Article 300 of the Indian Constitution deals with**

- (a) suits and proceedings
- (b) government contracts
- (c) Attorney General
- (d) restrictions on trade and commerce
- (e) None of the above More than one of the above

**Ans. a**

**Explanation**

Article 300 of the Indian Constitution deals with Suits and Proceedings of union government.

**108. Judicial process in India is based on**

- (a) the Constitution
- (b) the due process of routine law
- (c) conventions
- (d) the procedure established by law
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. e**

**Explanation**

Judicial process in India is based on procedure established by law, constitution, conventions as well as the due process of routine law.

**109. The first 'Lokayukta' was established in which of the following States?**

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Punjab
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. c**

**Explanation**

Maharashtra was the first state to introduce the institution of Lokayukta through The Lokayukta and Upa-Lokayuktas Act in 1971.

**110. Which of the following posts was held by A. S. Anand in late 1990's?**

- (a) Comptroller and Auditor General
- (b) Chief Justice of India
- (c) Chief Vigilance Commissioner
- (d) Attorney General
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. b**

**Explanation**

Adarsh Sein Anand was the 29th Chief Justice of India, serving from 10 October 1998 to 31 October 2001

**111. Who among the following is not a member of the 15th Finance Commission?**

- (a) Ashok Kumar Lahiri
- (b) Sudipto Mundle
- (c) Ramesh Chand
- (d) Ajay Narayan Jha
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. b**

**Explanation**

The commission's chairman is Nand Kishore Singh, with its full-time members being Ajay Narayan Jha, Ashok Lahiri and Anoop Singh. In addition, the commission also has a part-time member as Ramesh Chand.

**112. In the recent Union Budget, the FM has increased the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit in the insurance sector from the existing one to**

- (a) 50%
- (b) 62%
- (c) 74%
- (d) 100%
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. c**

**Explanation**

FDI in the insurance sector was increased to 74% from the existing 49%.

**113. As per the Union Budget, 2021, the fiscal deficit is estimated to be how much percent of the GDP in 2021-22**

- (a) 88%
- (b) 7.8%
- (c) 7.6%
- (d) 6.8%
- (e) None of the above / More than one of the above

**Ans. d**

**Explanation**

As per the Union Budget, 2021, the fiscal deficit is estimated to be 6.8 percent of the GDP in 2021-22.

**114. The best index of economic development is provided by**

- (a) growth in national income at current prices
- (b) growth in per capita real income from year to year
- (c) growth in savings ratio
- (d) improvement in balance of payments position
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. b**

**Explanation**

The best index of economic development is provided by growth in per capita real income from year to year.

**115. The second phase of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) is to be implemented during which time period?**

- (a) 2020-21 to 2022-23
- (b) 2020-21 to 2023-24
- (c) 2020-21 to 2024-25
- (d) 2020-21 to 2025-26
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. c**

**Explanation**

The Centre has launched the second phase of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) - SBM(G) Phase-II on 4 March 2020. It will be implemented from 2020-2021 to 2024-2025 in a mission mode with an outlay of 1,40,881 crore rupees.

116. Who among the following is not a part of the National Development Council?

- The Secretary of the NITI Aayog
- The Secretary of the Planning and Programme Implementation Ministry
- The Vice Chairman of the NITI Aayog
- The Chairman of the Finance Commission of India
- None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. e

#### Explanation

The National Development Council comprises the following members –

- ▶▶ Indian Prime Minister
- ▶▶ All the Union Cabinet Ministers
- ▶▶ Chief Ministers of all States or their substitutes
- ▶▶ Representatives of the union territories and the members of the NITI Aayog (erstwhile Planning Commission).
- ▶▶ Reports of the Planning Commission were executed and approved by National Development Council whereas at present, Niti Ayog has its own governing council, so there is not any clearly defined relation between these two.

117. Match List – I with List – II

List – I	List – II
a. Sarkaria Commission	1. To Review the Methodology for Measurement of Poverty
b. C. Rangarajan Committee	2. Infrastructure Financing
c. Parekh Committee	3. Central State Relationship
d. Narasimham Committee	4. Banking Sector Reforms

Choose the correct answer from the options given below.

- |     |   |   |   |   |
|-----|---|---|---|---|
|     | a | b | c | d |
| (a) | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| (b) | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| (c) | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| (d) | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. a

#### Explanation

Commission	Objective
Sarkaria Commission	Central State Relationship
C. Rangarajan Committee	To Review the Methodology for Measurement of Poverty
Parekh Committee	Infrastructure Financing
Narasimham Committee	Banking Sector Reforms

118. Consider the following States:

- Punjab
- Uttar Pradesh
- Andhra Pradesh
- West Bengal

Choose the correct sequence of the above in ascending order as rice producing States in India.

- West Bengal, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh
- West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab
- Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Punjab
- Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal
- None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. e

#### Explanation

Correct sequence is West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab (as per economic survey 2021-22)

119. With reference to the Finance Commission of India, consider the following statements

- The Finance Commission is a statutory body
- The Finance Commission was set up under Article 280 of the Constitution
- The recommendations made by the Finance Commission are only advisory in nature.
- The first Finance Commission was set up in 1950.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- 1 and 4 only
- 3 and 4 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 2 and 4 only

Ans. c

#### Explanation

The First Finance Commission was constituted under the chairmanship of Shri K.C. Neogy on 6th April, 1952. It is not a statutory body but a constitutional body. It was established under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution and its recommendations are only advisory in nature.

**120. With reference to the Bare Necessities Index (BNI), consider the following statements**

1. The Economic Survey has come up with the Bare Necessities Index at rural and urban levels.
2. The BNI has been created for all States for 2018 only.
3. The BNI is based on 26 indicators
4. The BNI consists of six dimensions

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 4 only
- (d) 2 and 4 only
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. a**

**Explanation**

The Economic Survey has come up with the Bare Necessities Index at Rural and Urban levels. It has been created for all states for 2012 and 2018, having 26 indicators and five dimension.

**121. Which type of banks is proposed to be established for agriculture and rural development in Bihar?**

- (a) Krishi Vigyan Banks
- (b) Krishi Yantra Banks
- (c) Krishi Vikas Banks
- (d) Krishi Utthaan Banks
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. b**

**Explanation**

In October 2021, Bihar Government has launched a flagship scheme Krishi Yantra Banks in 13 districts of Bihar under Rabi Mahabhiyan. The Bihar Government will establish 328 agricultural machinery banks which will provide financial help to the farmers for buying agricultural machinery.

**122. The value of Human Development Index of Bihar in 2019 was**

- (a) 0.641
- (b) 0.613
- (c) 0.596
- (d) 0.574
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. d**

**Explanation**

This is a list of Indian states and union territories by Human Development Index as of 2019-

Kerala	0.782(Highest)
Bihar	0.574(Lowest)
Uttar Pradesh	0.596(Second Lowest)
Chandigarh	0.776

**123. The fiscal deficit in Bihar during 2021-22 is estimated as**

- (a) 22,511 crores
- (b) 27,617 crores
- (c) 20,011 crores
- (d) 21,543 crores
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. a**

**Explanation**

Fiscal deficit in 2021-22 is estimated to be Rs 22,511 crore (2.97% of GSDP). As per revised estimates, in 2020-21, fiscal deficit is estimated to be 6.77% of GSDP, which is significantly higher than the budget estimate of 2.97% of GSDP.

**124. Under Digital Bihar Programme, which students will receive computer education and training from 2021-22 onwards?**

- (a) All students of Class V
- (b) All students of Class VI
- (c) All students of Class VII
- (d) All students of Class VIII
- (e) None of the above / More than one of the above

**Ans. b**

**Explanation**

Under Digital Bihar Program, all students of Class VI and above will receive computer education and training from 2021-22 onwards. The state will take steps towards implementing the National Education Policy 2020 and increasing the gross enrollment ratio in higher education to 50% by 2035.

**125. According to the 15th Finance Commission's recommendations, how much share will Bihar receive in divisible pool of Central taxes from 2021-26?**

- (a) 4.12 percent
- (b) 4.23 percent
- (c) 4.89 percent
- (d) 4.06 percent
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. e**

Explanation					
14th Finance Commission		15th Finance Commission		Devolution for FY 2020-2021	
State	Share out of 42%	Share in divisible pool	Share out of 41%	Share in divisible pool	(In Rs crore)
Andhra Pradesh	1.81	431	1.69	4.11	35,156
Arunachal Pradesh	0.58	1.38	0.72	1.76	15,051
Assam	1.39	3.31	1.28	3.13	26,776
Bihar	4.06	9.67	4.13	10.06	86,039

126. Where was the Gadar Party established?

- (a) Germany
- (b) United States of America
- (c) France
- (d) England
- (e) None of the above / More than one of the above

Ans. b

**Explanation**

Ghadar Party was established by the Punjabi Sikhs of the United States and Canada in June 1913. The main aim of the party was to free India from the British Rule. Ghadar Party was also known as the Hindi Association of the Pacific Coast. The original headquarters of the Ghadar Party are in San Francisco. (USA)

127. Who established the Servants of India Society in 1905 AD?

- (a) Surendranath Banerjee
- (b) Bipin Chandra Pal
- (c) Mahadev Govind Ranade
- (d) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
- (e) None of the above / More than one of the above

Ans. d

**Explanation**

Servants of India Society founded by Gopal Krishna Gokhale in 1905 to unite and train Indians of different ethnicities and religions in welfare work. Surendranath Banerjee founded the Indian Association in 1876 to oppose the unjust policies of the British.

128. Who has written the book, Unhappy India?

- (a) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- (b) Annie Besant
- (c) Lala Lajpat Rai
- (d) A. O. Hume
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. c

**Explanation**

Lala Lajpat Rai has written the book "Unhappy India". In this book Lala Lajpat Rai compared Indian society with contemporary USA and Britain. This book is really helpful in understanding India and world society of 1928.

129. Who participated in all the three Round Table Conferences?

- (a) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
- (b) Madan Mohan Malaviya
- (c) B. R. Ambedkar
- (d) Mahatma Gandhi
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. c

**Explanation**

Round Table Conference, (1930–32), in Indian history, a series of meetings in three sessions called by the British government to consider the future Constitution of India. The conference was held in London. There were three Round Table Conferences from 1930 to 1932. B. R. Ambedkar participated in all the three Round Table Conferences.

130. Who established Indian Association in 1876 AD?

- (a) Surendranath Banerjee
- (b) Chittaranjan Das
- (c) W. C. Banerjee
- (d) Aurobindo Ghosh
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. a

**Explanation**

Indian association was founded in Bengal in 1876 by Surendranath Banerjee and Ananda Mohan Bose. It soon displaced the Indian League, which had been founded the year before, and rivaled the long-standing British Indian Association, which it regarded as a reactionary body of landlords and industrialists.

**131. In which country was the honorific 'Netaji' applied to the name of Subhas Chandra Bose?**

- (a) India
- (b) Italy
- (c) Germany
- (d) Japan
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. c**

**Explanation**

The honorific Netaji was first applied to Bose in Germany. The Indian soldiers of the Indische Legion and the German and Indian officials in the Special Bureau for India in Berlin honoured him with the title Netaji. He was elected president of the Indian National Congress in 1938 and 1939.

**132. Who is related to 'Chittagong Armoury Raid'?**

- (a) Rash Behari Bose
- (b) Chandra Shekhar Azad
- (c) Batukeshwar Dutt
- (d) Surya Sen
- (e) None of the above/ More than one of the above

**Ans. d**

**Explanation**

Chittagong armoury raid, also known as the Chittagong uprising, was an attempt on 18 April 1930 to raid the armoury of police and auxiliary forces from the Chittagong armoury in the Bengal Presidency of British India (now in Bangladesh) by armed Indian independence fighters led by Surya Sen.

**133. In Anandamath of Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, which revolt is mentioned?**

- (a) Sannyasi
- (b) Kuka
- (c) Santhal
- (d) Neel (Indigo)
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. a**

**Explanation**

Anandamath is a Bengali fiction, written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and published in 1882. It is inspired by and set in the background of the Sannyasi Rebellion in the late 18th century. It is considered one of the most important novels in the history of Bengali and Indian literature. Its first English publication was titled "The Abbey of Bliss".

**134. Which of the following events happened first?**

- (a) Quit India Resolution
- (b) Arrival of the Cripps Mission
- (c) Arrival of Lord Wavell as the Governor General
- (d) Arrival of the Cabinet Mission
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. b**

**Explanation**

Arrival of the Cripps Mission-March 1942  
Quit India Resolution-August 1942  
Arrival of Lord Wavell as the Governor General-October 1943  
Arrival of the Cabinet Mission-February 1946

**135. Who was the President of Lahore Session of the Indian National Congress held in 1929 AD?**

- (a) Vallabhbhai Patel
- (b) Motilal Nehru
- (c) Jawaharlal Nehru
- (d) Rajendra Prasad
- (e) None of the above / More than one of the above

**Ans. c**

**Explanation**

Jawaharlal Nehru was chosen as the President of Lahore Session of the Indian National Congress held in 1929 AD. On 19 December 1929, The Indian National Congress passed the historic 'Purna Swaraj'(total independence) resolution at its Lahore session. A public declaration was made on 26 January 1930, a day which the Congress Party urged Indians to celebrate as 'Independence Day'.

**136. Who is not related to the Champaran Satyagraha of 1917 AD?**

- (a) J. B. Kripalani
- (b) Raj Kumar Shukla
- (c) Rajendra Prasad
- (d) Ram Manohar Lohia
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. d**

**Explanation**

Raj Kumar Shukla, a local leader in Champaran appealed to Gandhiji to visit Champaran and protect the farmers from British exploitation. Rajendra Prasad, J.B. Kripalani, Mazharul Haque were associates of Gandhiji.

137. One of the leaders of the Revolt of 1857 AD, Kunwar Singh was related to which place?

- (a) Gwalior
- (b) Jagdishpur
- (c) Jhansi
- (d) Meerut
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. b

**Explanation**

Important leader Associated with the Revolt of 1857

Place	Leader
Barrackpore	Mangal Pandey
Delhi	Bahadur Shah II, General Bakht Khan
Lucknow	Begum Hazrat Mahal, Birjis Qadir, Ahmadullah
Jhansi	Rani Laxmibai
Bihar (Jagdishpur)	Kunwar Singh, Amar Singh

138. During Quit India Movement, who among the following escaped from the Hazaribagh Jail?

- (a) Sachchidananda Sinha
- (b) Jayaprakash Narayan
- (c) Jagjivan Ram
- (d) Rafi Ahmed Kidwai
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. b

**Explanation**

Hazaribagh Central Jail housed many leaders of the Indian freedom movement, including Dr. Rajendra Prasad. Jayaprakash Narayan was put under arrest in this jail during the Quit India Movement of 1942. In November 1942 he escaped from the high-security Hazaribagh jail. The support he received from the local people is one of the legends of the Indian Independence movement.

139. Who was the President of Gaya Session of the Indian National Congress held in 1922 AD?

- (a) Chittaranjan Das
- (b) Hakim Ajmal Khan
- (c) Mahatma Gandhi
- (d) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. a

**Explanation**

Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das presided over the Gaya conference of INC in 1922. A lawyer by profession, he was a leading member of the Indian National Movement and a founding leader of the Swaraj Party in Bengal. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was the president of INC's Belgaum session in 1924.

140. What portfolio Rajendra Prasad held in the interim Government established in 1946 AD?

- (a) Finance
- (b) Defence
- (c) Home
- (d) Food and Agriculture
- (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. d

**Explanation**

On 2nd September 1946 the Interim Government of India was formed. This temporary government was formed from the Constituent Assembly of India (which was then newly elected)

The interim cabinet after October 1946 was as follows:

**Finance:** Liaquat Ali Khan

**Home Affairs, Information and Broadcasting:** Vallabhbhai Patel

**Agriculture and Food:** Rajendra Prasad

**Defence:** Baldev Singh

141. How many numbers between 200 and 600 are divisible by 4, 5 and 6?

- (a) 4
- (b) 5
- (c) 6
- (d) 8
- (e) None of the above/ More than one of the above

Ans. c

**Explanation**

LCM of 4,5,6 =  $2 \times 2 \times 5 \times 3 = 60$

So each numbers between 200 and 600 are exactly divisible by 60

Such numbers are 240,300,360,420,480,540

Hence, there are 6 numbers between 200 and 600 are exactly divisible by 4,5,6.

142. If  $n$  is any positive integer, then  $(34n - 43n)$  is always divisible by

- (a) 7  
 (b) 17  
 (c) 112  
 (d) 145  
 (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. b

**Explanation**

Given that  $n$  is a positive integer

$\Rightarrow$  Let the value of  $n$  be 1.

$\Rightarrow (3^{4n} - 4^{3n}) = (3^{4 \times 1} - 4^{3 \times 1})$

$\Rightarrow (3^4 - 4^3) = (81 - 64) \Rightarrow 17$

Hence, the  $(3^{4n} - 4^{3n})$  is always divisible by 17.

143. The difference between the squares of two numbers is 256000 and the sum of the numbers is 1000. The numbers are

- (a) 600, 400  
 (b) 640, 360  
 (c) 628, 372  
 (d) 650, 350  
 (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. c

**Explanation**

Let the two number be  $x$  and  $y$  then,

$$x + y = 1000 \quad \dots(i)$$

$$x^2 - y^2 = 256000$$

$\Rightarrow$  Using identify  $x^2 - y^2 = (x - y)(x + y)$

$$(x + y)(x - y) = 256000 \quad \dots(ii)$$

$$1000(x - y) = 256000$$

$$x - y = 256 \quad \dots(iii)$$

Now, solving equation (i) & (iii)

$$x + y = 1000$$

$$\underline{x - y = 256}$$

$$2x = 1256$$

$$x = 628$$

Substituting the value of  $x = 628$  in equation (1)

$$y = 1000 - 628 = 372$$

144. The value of  $\log_{\sqrt{2}}(32)$  is

- (a)  $5/2$   
 (b) 5  
 (c) 10  
 (d)  $1/10$   
 (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. c

**Explanation**

$$\log_{\sqrt{2}} 32 \Rightarrow \frac{\log 32}{\log \sqrt{2}} = \frac{\log 2^5}{\log 2^{1/2}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{5 \log 2}{\frac{1}{2} \log 2} \quad (\because \log x^n = n \log x)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{5}{\frac{1}{2}} = 5 \times 2 = 10$$

145. By selling 45 lemons for ₹40, a man loses 20%.

How many should he sell for ₹24 to gain 20% in the trans action?

- (a) 16  
 (b) 18  
 (c) 20  
 (d) 22  
 (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. b

**Explanation**

By selling 45 lemons for Rs. 40, he losses 20%

$\Rightarrow$  80% of cost price = Rs. 40  $\Rightarrow$  cost price of 45 lemons = Rs. 50

To get 20% profit, selling price of 45 lemons =  $50 \times 1.2 = ₹ 60$

$$\frac{24}{60} = \frac{x}{45} \Rightarrow x = \frac{24 \times 45}{60} = 18$$

146. A train 110 m long is travelling at a speed of 58 kmph. The time in which it will pass a passerby walking at 4 kmph in the same direction is

- (a) 6 seconds  
 (b)  $7 \frac{1}{2}$  seconds  
 (c)  $7 \frac{1}{3}$  seconds  
 (d) 8 seconds  
 (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

Ans. c

**Explanation**

Length of train = 110 m

Speed of train = 58 km/h

Passer speed = 4 km/h

Relative speed =  $58 - 4 = 54$  km/hr

$$= 54 \times \frac{5\text{m}}{18\text{s}} = 15 \text{ m/s}$$

$$\therefore \text{Time taken} \Rightarrow \frac{110\text{m}}{15\text{m/s}} = 7\frac{5}{15} \text{ sec.} = 7\frac{1}{3} \text{ sec.}$$

**147. The perimeter of a rhombus is 52 m and its shorter diagonal is 10 m. The length of the longer diagonal is**

- (a) 12 m  
 (b) 18 m  
 (c) 10 m  
 (d) 24 m  
 (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. d**

**Explanation**

Perimeter of a Rhombus = 52m

Perimeter of the Rhombus is =  $4a$

Hence,  $4a = 52$

$$a = 13 \text{ m}$$

$\Rightarrow$  Length of shorten diagonal is  $\Rightarrow 10\text{m}$

Then the length of the longer diagonal will be—

$$\Rightarrow 2 \times \sqrt{13^2 - \left(\frac{10}{2}\right)^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow 2 \times \sqrt{169 - 25}$$

$$\Rightarrow 2 \times 12 = 24 \text{ m}$$

**148. In a 100 m race, A runs at 8 kmph. If A gives B a start of 4 m and still beats him by 15 seconds, what is the speed of B?**

- (a) 5 kmph  
 (b) 5.76 kmph  
 (c) 6 kmph  
 (d) 6.34 kmph  
 (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. b**

**Explanation**

Distance = 100 m, speed of A = 8 km/hr

$$\text{Time taken by A} = \frac{100}{8 \times \frac{5}{18}} \Rightarrow 45 \text{ sec.}$$

Time taken by B =  $45 + 15 = 60$  sec.

$$\text{Speed of B} = \frac{96}{60} \times \frac{18}{5} \Rightarrow 5.76 \text{ km/h}$$

**149. A clock is set right at 8 am. The clock gains 10 minutes in 24 hours. What will be the true time when the clock indicates 1 p.m. on the following day?**

- (a) 12 noon  
 (b) 48 minutes past 12 noon  
 (c) 1 p.m.  
 (d) 2 p.m.  
 (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. e**

**Explanation**

Time duration between 8 am on a day to 1 pm on the next day is 29 hours.

Now, 24 hrs. 10 m of this clock = 24 hrs of the correct clock

or,

$$24 \text{ hrs } 10 \text{ m} = 24 + \frac{10}{60} = \frac{145}{6} \text{ hrs.}$$

$$\frac{145}{6} \text{ hrs} = 24 \text{ hrs of the correct clock.}$$

$$\Rightarrow 1 \text{ hr} = (24 \times 6)/145$$

So, 29 hrs of the clock =  $(24 \times 6 \times 29)/145$  hrs of the correct clock.

$$\Rightarrow 28 \text{ hrs } 48 \text{ m of the correct clock.}$$

So, the correct time is 8 am + 28 hrs 48 m = 12.48 pm

**150. The value of the continued fraction**

$$2 - \frac{1}{2 - \frac{1}{2 - \frac{1}{\dots}}}$$

- (a) 1  
 (b) -1  
 (c) 2  
 (d) 0  
 (e) None of the above/More than one of the above

**Ans. a**

**Explanation**

$$2 - \frac{1}{2 - \frac{1}{2 - 1}} \Rightarrow \left( 2 - \frac{1}{2 - 1} = x \right)$$

$$\text{Then } 2 - \frac{1}{x} = x \Rightarrow 2 = x + \frac{1}{x}$$

Hence,  $x = 1$  will be right.