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# Current Events

November 2022

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The Current Events are tailored to the latest RTs trends and requirements of UPSC. To optimize exam performance, focus on the following key points:

- Cover current events from the past 18 months only, up to the date of the exam. For periodic events, such as the Budget, Economic Survey, Nobel Prize, or Tournaments, refer to only the latest ones. For instance, for an April 2023 exam, study the 2023 budget, not the 2022 budget.
- The UPSC RT exam is factual, so don't delve into details or implications.
- The Return on Investment (ROI) for studying current affairs is generally low. Therefore, devote an appropriate amount of time to them while prioritizing other topics that have a higher ROI. For instance, studying 100 pages of current affairs may result in solving only 5 questions, while studying 100 pages of Polity could yield 14-15 questions.
- A few questions will always be unsolvable, no matter how much you've studied. Don't get discouraged by them, as they won't affect your selection.
- Based on experience, you can expect to answer approximately 60-70% of question in exam, from these concise current affairs booklets.
- Current affairs for UPSC RT exams are purely factual, so self-study is better than coaching classes. In fact, coaching classes are counterproductive, as a teacher may only cover 10 events in 60 minutes, while you can cover 35-40 events in the same time frame.

Finally, note that these files are specifically prepared for RT exams of UPSC and should not be used for Civil Services Preliminary exam (GS Paper 1).

If you want to report any correction/error/feedback, you are welcome at [contact@humanperitus.com](mailto:contact@humanperitus.com). We will check and respond within 1 working day.

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## November 2022

### 1. Sports and Games

#### **England wins ICC T20 World Cup 2022 held in Australia**

England Cricket Team has won ICC T20 World Cup 2022 hosted by Australia. The 2022 ICC Men's T20 World Cup Final was played at Melbourne Cricket Ground in Melbourne, Australia. It was played between England and Pakistan, with both the teams eyeing their second ICC Men's T20 World Cup title. Australia was the ICC T20 World Cup winner last time in 2021.

The ICC Men's T20 World Cup was first held in 2007 in South Africa. India won the inaugural edition in the final against Pakistan as cricket's 20-over format announced its arrival to the world. Since then, Pakistan, England, Sri Lanka, West Indies and Australia have gone on to lift the coveted T20 World Cup trophy.

#### **Suryakumar Yadav Becomes First Indian to Hit 1,000 T20I Runs in a Calendar Year**

Indian Cricketer Suryakumar Yadav has become the first-ever Indian batter to score 1000 runs or more in a calendar year during the 2022 season. He scored 1000<sup>th</sup> run when India was playing against Zimbabwe. Overall, he is the second batter in history to score 1000 runs in a year after Pakistan wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan.

Also, Indian Cricketer Virat Kohli has become the first batter to complete 4000 runs in T-20 Internationals during the second semi-final against England.

#### **IBA Women's World Boxing Championships 2023 will be hosted by India**

India will host the IBA Women's World Boxing Championship scheduled to be held in March 2023 in New Delhi. The competition will take place in 12 weight categories.

Besides this, India has also hosted the Women's Youth World Championships in 2017 in Guwahati. However, India has never conducted the men's world championship. The championship was started in 2001. Since then, the prestigious event has taken place twice in India previously in 2006 and 2018, both times in Delhi.

The *International Boxing Association* (IBA) is the worldwide governing body of boxing, established in 1946. The headquarter of International Boxing Association is in Lausanne, Switzerland.

#### **Arjun Babuta and Mehuli Ghosh wins Gold in Asian Airgun Championship 2022**

India's Arjun Babuta and Mehuli Ghosh has won the Gold Medal in the 10 meters Air Rifle Mixed Team event at the Asian Airgun Championship 2022 in Daegu, South Korea.

#### *Gold Medal winners from India:*

- Men's India Team Air Rifle - Arjun Babuta, Kiran Ankush Jadhav, Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil
- Women's India Team Air Rifle - Mehuli Ghosh, Elavenil Valarivan, Meghana Sajjanar
- Junior Men's India Team Air Rifle - Divyansh Singh Panwar, Sri Karthik Sabari Raj Ravishankar, Vidit Jain
- Junior Women's India Team Air Rifle - Tilottama Sen, Ramita, Nancy

#### **Mascots for Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games: The Phryges**

The Paris 2024 Organizing Committees has revealed the designs of the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games mascots. These mascots are 2 little Phrygian caps that embody the French spirit, French values and are a strong

symbol of France. The red Phrygian caps come in two versions – the Olympic and the Paralympic one – with a blade leg.



### **Novak Djokovic wins the Men’s Single ATP Finals (2022) Title**

Novak Djokovic (Serbia) has defeated Casper Ruud (Norway) to win a record-equalling 6<sup>th</sup> ATP Finals title. This was Djokovic's first title at the event since 2015 and the one that matches Roger Federer’s record. The 35-year-old Djokovic is the oldest player to win the title.

An *ATP Tour* refers to the professional Men's tennis tour, organized by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP). The tour includes a series of tournaments held throughout the year in different parts of the world, featuring the top-ranked male tennis players. The tournaments are classified into various categories based on their ranking points and prize money, such as Grand Slam tournaments, ATP Finals, ATP Masters 1000, ATP 500, and ATP 250.

## 2. Science and Technology

### **OpenAI introduces new chatbot – ChatGPT**

OpenAI has introduced a new chatbot called ChatGPT, which is a ‘conversational’ AI and will answer queries just like a human would. It is based on the company’s GPT 3.5 series of language learning models (LLM).

GPT stands for Generative Pre-trained Transformer 3 and this is a kind of computer language model that relies on deep learning techniques to produce human-like text based on inputs. The chatbot is also trained to use Reinforcement Learning from Human Feedback (RLHF).

### **Bluebugging**

Cybersecurity Experts have noted that apps that let users connect smartphones or laptops to wireless earplugs can record conversations and are vulnerable to hacks. This is done through a process called ‘bluebugging’, in which a hacker can gain unauthorized access to these apps and devices and control them as per their wish.

*Bluebugging* is a form of hacking that lets attackers access a device through its discoverable Bluetooth connection. Once a device or phone is blue bugged, a hacker can listen to the calls, read and send messages and steal and modify contacts. It started out as a threat for laptops with Bluetooth capability. Later hackers used the technique to target mobile phones and other devices.

### **India’s first national repository for life science data inaugurated at Faridabad, Haryana**

Government has set up ‘Indian Biological Data Bank’ at the Regional Centre for Biotechnology (RCB), Faridabad. Note that, Indian Biological Data Bank is better known as ‘Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC)’.

*Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC)* is the first national repository for Life Science data in India, where the data will not only be submitted from across India but can be accessed by researchers from across India.

‘*Biological data*’ means all information related to living organisms, including their nucleic acids, protein sequence, metabolites, and other molecular and functional characteristics. Examples include, DNA sequence data, Genotype data, Epigenomic data, Duration of Data, etc.

### **India’s first private rocket Vikram-S launched successfully from Sriharikota**

Vikram-S, India’s first privately built rocket, was launched from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. The flight was launched to prove avionics systems in Vikram series like telemetry, tracking, inertial measurement, GPS, on-board camera, data acquisition and power systems. The rocket was built using carbon composite structures and 3D-printed components. It is called Vikram-S, named after Vikram Sarabhai, the founder of India’s space programme.

Named ‘*Mission Parambh*’, it is India’s first private space mission. The rocket has been developed by Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace, a company that was started in 2018, founded by Pawan Kumar Chandana and Naga Bharat Daka. It was launched with support from ISRO and IN-SPACE (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre).

Some of the related organizations/ programmes are briefly explained below.

- Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (INSPACE)
- New Space India Limited (NSIL)
- Indian Space Association (ISpA)
- Antrix Corporation Limited

- Space Entrepreneurship & Enterprise Development (SEED)

### **James Webb Telescope unravels images of early Universe**

James Webb Space Telescope has given astronomers a glimpse of the early Universe with an image of star-forming region called NGC 3324 in the Carina Nebula. The telescope is designed and built to look back in time and see the first moments of the origin of the Universe. Called the ‘Cosmic Cliffs’, Webb’s seemingly 3-D picture looks like craggy mountains on a moonlit evening. The image is captured in infrared lights.

Some of the space-related terms are explained below.

- *Kuiper Belt*: A donut-shaped region of icy bodies beyond orbit of Neptune. It is a region of leftovers from the solar system’s early history.
- *Asteroid belt*: A region of space between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter where most of the asteroids in our Solar System are found orbiting the Sun.
- *Exoplanet*: Any planet beyond our solar system. Most orbit other stars, but free-floating exoplanets, called rogue planets, orbit the galactic centre and are untethered to any star.
- *Lagrange points*: At Lagrange points, the gravitational pull of two large masses precisely equals the centripetal force required for a small object to move with them.
- *Black hole*: It is a place in space where gravity pulls so much that even light cannot get out. The gravity is so strong because matter has been squeezed into a tiny space.
- *Gravitational lensing*: It occurs when a huge amount of matter, like a cluster of galaxies, creates a gravitational field that distorts and magnifies light from distant galaxies (that are behind it but in same line of sight). The effect is like looking through a giant magnifying glass. It allows researchers to study the details of early galaxies too far away to be seen with current technology and telescopes.
- *Nebula*: It is a giant cloud of dust and gas in space. Some nebulae (more than one nebula) come from gas and dust thrown out by explosion of a dying star, such as a supernova. Other nebulae are regions where new stars are beginning to form.

### **India’s Biggest Hyperscale Data Centre – Yotta D1 – inaugurated in U.P.**

India’s biggest hyperscale data centre (first in North India) ‘Yotta D1’ was inaugurated in Uttar Pradesh. It is situated at the upcoming Data Centre Park in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

The *National Informatics Centre (NIC)* has been set up National Data Centres (NDCs) at NIC Headquarters in Delhi, Pune, Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar and various small Data Centres in various State Capitals. The first Data Centre was launched in Hyderabad in 2008. These NDCs form the core of e-Governance Infrastructure in India by providing services to various e-Governance initiatives undertaken by the Government of India.

### **ISRO launches PSLV-C54 carrying an earth observation satellite – Oceansat-3**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched successfully PSLV-C54 carrying Oceansat-3 (also known as Earth Observation Satellite-6), and 8 nano-satellites.

The 8 nano-satellites include ISRO Nano Satellite-2 for Bhutan (INS-2B), Anand, Astrocast (4 satellites), and 2 Thybolt satellites. Notably, EOS-6 is the Oceansat series’ third-generation satellite.

### *Difference between PSLV and GSLV*

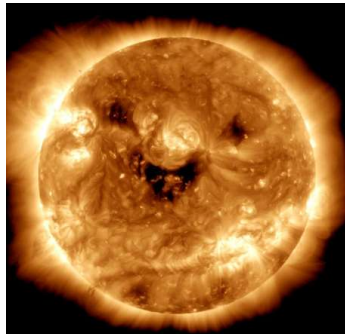
India has 2 operational launchers: Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV). PSLV was developed to launch low-Earth Orbit satellites into polar and sun synchronous orbits. It has since proved its versatility by launching geosynchronous, lunar and interplanetary spacecraft



successfully. On the other hand, GSLV was developed to launch the heavier INSAT class of geosynchronous satellites into orbit.

### **Coronal Holes**

NASA has shared an image of the sun seemingly ‘smiling’. The image was captured by the NASA Solar Dynamics Observatory and has dark patches on the sun’s surface resembling eyes and a smile. It was explained that the patches are called coronal holes, which can be seen in ultraviolet light but are typically invisible to our eyes.



*Coronal holes:* These are regions on the sun’s surface from where fast solar wind gushes out into space. Because they contain little solar material, they have lower temperatures and thus appear much darker than their surroundings. Here, the magnetic field is open to interplanetary space, sending solar material out in a high-speed stream of solar wind. Coronal holes can last between a few weeks to months.

### **Leap Seconds**

The world’s top metrology body – ‘CGPM’ – has decided to end the practice of adding ‘leap seconds’ to official clocks to keep them in sync with Earth’s rotation from 2035. The decision was taken in a meeting of global representatives at the General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) in Paris, France. This is because Experts is saying there is no convincing data that anything major would crop up if we don’t add leap second.

*Leap seconds* are a way of keeping Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), which is the standard time scale used worldwide, in sync with the Earth’s rotation. The Earth’s rotation is not constant, and its speed can vary due to a variety of factors, including changes in the distribution of the Earth’s mass and the effects of the Moon’s gravity. This means that the length of a day (the time it takes the Earth to rotate once on its axis) can vary by a few milliseconds over time.

### **World’s largest active volcano – Mauna Loa – erupts in Hawaii**

The world’s largest active volcano, Hawaii’s Mauna Loa, has erupted for the first time in almost 40 years.

Mauna Loa, located inside Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, covers half of the US state’s Big Island. Mauna Loa shares the Big Island with Mauna Kea, which is the tallest mountain in the world when measured from its underwater base nearly 20,000 ft below the ocean surface. The term "Mauna Loa" translates to “long mountain” in the native Hawaiian language.

### **Autonomous Vehicle**

Autonomous vehicle manufacturer Tesla is facing a series of lawsuits and a criminal case over its Autonomous vehicle in USA.

*Autonomous Vehicles:* A driverless car is a vehicle which can sense its surrounding environment and can navigate without human input. It combines multiple sensors and techniques to perceive their surroundings like radar, laser light, GPS, odometer, computer vision, etc.

There are 6 different levels of automation and, as the levels increase, the extent of the driverless car's independence regarding operation control increases.

- At *Level 0*, the car has no control over its operation and the human driver does all of the driving.
- At *Level 1*, the vehicle's ADAS (advanced driver assistance system) has the ability to support the driver with either steering or accelerating and braking.
- At *Level 2*, the ADAS can oversee steering and accelerating and braking in some conditions, although the human driver is required to continue paying complete attention to the driving environment throughout the journey, while also performing the remainder of the necessary tasks.
- At *Level 3*, the ADS (Advanced Driving System) can perform all parts of the driving task in some conditions, but the human driver is required to be able to regain control when requested to do so by the ADS. In the remaining conditions, the human driver executes the necessary tasks.
- At *Level 4*, the vehicle's ADS is able to perform all driving tasks independently in certain conditions in which human attention is not required.
- Finally, *Level 5* involves full automation whereby the vehicle's ADS is able to perform all tasks in all conditions, and no driving assistance is required from the human driver. This full automation will be enabled by the application of 5G technology, which will allow vehicles to communicate not just with one another, but also with traffic lights, signage and even the roads themselves.

### **Whitelisting**

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has formed a joint committee of financial regulators (such as SEBI, RBI) to effectively curtail the growing menace of phishing and cyber frauds through a process involving whitelisting. *Whitelisting* is a cybersecurity practice of allowing only authorized entities, programs, or devices to access a particular system or network, while denying access to all others. The process involves creating a list of approved items, such as email addresses, IP addresses, or software applications, and configuring the system to block access from any sources not on the list.

In contrast to *blacklisting*, which blocks specific items that are known to be malicious or unauthorized, whitelisting allows only items that are explicitly authorized, which can be more effective at preventing unauthorized access or attacks. Whitelisting is commonly used in security solutions like antivirus software, firewalls, and access control systems to ensure that only trusted programs and devices can access sensitive information and systems.

### **A Gold-mushroom combo to ease drug delivery – Cordy Gold Nanoparticles**

Indian Scientists have developed a Cordy Gold Nanoparticles (Cor-AuNPs), which can make drug delivery in the human body faster and surer. Cordy Gold Nanoparticles (Cor-AuNPs) are derived from the synthesis of the extracts of *Cordyceps Militaris* and Gold Salts.

'*Cordyceps Militaris*' is a high value parasitic fungus, lab-grown at the Department of Biotechnology's Technology Incubation Centre (TIC) in Bodoland University, part of collaborative research on a fungus-powered biosynthesized nanogold particles that has received an international patent from Germany. Note that, Wild *Cordyceps* mushroom are found in the eastern Himalayan belt.

*Gold Salts* are ionic chemical compounds of gold generally used in medicine.

### **Researchers develop reusable, paper-based Lycopene Sensors**

A team of researchers from the Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), Mohali, has developed a nano-biosensor for detecting 'lycopene', a phytochemical with high commercial value.

*Lycopene* is a carotenoid (*responsible for giving colour*) found in tomatoes, grapefruit, watermelons and papaya. It is also synthesized by plants and microorganisms but cannot be synthesized by the human body and can only be obtained via diet. It is a potent antioxidant that helps prevent cancer (specifically prostate cancer) and heart diseases.

*Carotenoids* are a class of naturally occurring pigments synthesized by plants, algae, and photosynthetic bacteria. These richly colored molecules are the sources of the yellow, orange, and red colors of many plants.

### **Inaugural GeoSmart India 2022 Summit**

Inaugural GeoSmart India 2022 Summit was held in Hyderabad.

*Geospatial technology* is a rapidly growing field that deals with the collection, analysis, and interpretation of spatial and geographic data. It includes a range of tools and techniques for gathering, processing, managing, and analyzing geographical information, such as satellite imagery, GPS, GIS (Geographic Information Systems), and remote sensing. Technology is used in a wide variety of applications, including urban planning, environmental management, natural resource management, agriculture, transportation planning, defense and security, disaster response, and more.

### **NASA completes LOFTID technology demonstration designed to land humans on Mars**

NASA has completed the technology demonstration of its Low Earth Orbit Flight Test of an Inflatable Decelerator (LOFTID) Mission.

*LOFTID Mission* is a NASA mission to test inflatable reentry systems. It is the first such test of an inflatable decelerator from Earth-orbital speed. According to NASA, it has relied on rigid aeroshells parachutes and rockets to decelerate people, vehicles and hardware during their entry descent and landing onto a planet or other cosmic object with an atmosphere. The LOFTID orbital flight test was the next step of the NASA's Hypersonic Inflatable Aerodynamic Decelerator (HIAD) technology.

The *Hypersonic Inflatable Aerodynamic Decelerator (HIAD)* is a technology being developed by NASA to enable the safe reentry and landing of spacecraft at hypersonic speeds.

### **World's first Intranasal vaccine iNCOVACC gets DCGI approval for COVID-19 booster doses**

World's first Intranasal Vaccine iNCOVACC has received approval for COVID-19 booster doses from Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI).

*iNCOVACC*: The nasal vaccine is a recombinant replication-deficient adenovirus vectored vaccine with a pre-fusion stabilized spike protein.

### 3. Environment

#### **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism**

India has opposed Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) or carbon border tax proposed by European Union (EU) in 27th edition of Conference of Parties (COP) in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

*Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)* is a plan from the European Union (EU) to tax carbon-intensive products, such as iron and steel, cement, fertilizer, aluminium, electricity, and hydrogen, from 2026. Under the CBAM, EU importers will have to buy carbon certificates corresponding to the carbon price that would have been paid had the goods been produced under the EU's carbon pricing rules.

CBAM is part of the “Fit for 55 in 2030 package”, which is the EU's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels, in line with the European Climate Law. It aims to eliminate the difference in carbon price paid by companies subjected to the EU's Emissions Trading System (ETS) or its domestic compliance-based carbon market. The CBAM is also known as a carbon border tax or a carbon leakage instrument.

A *carbon border tax* is a tax on carbon emissions imposed on imported goods from countries with less strict climate policies. It aims to create a level playing field between imports and domestic production.

#### *Carbon Markets*

They are essentially a tool for putting a price on carbon emissions i.e., establish trading systems where carbon credits or allowances can be bought and sold. They are broadly of two types namely Voluntary and Compliance Market.

- **Voluntary Markets:** Emitters buy carbon credits to offset emission of one ton of CO<sub>2</sub> or equivalent greenhouse gases. Such carbon credits are created by activities which reduce CO<sub>2</sub> from the air, such as afforestation.
- **Compliance Markets:** They are set up by policies at national, regional, or international level and are officially regulated. They mostly operate under ‘cap-and-trade’ principle. Cap-and-trade is an idea that the limit on the total amount of greenhouse gas that could be emitted is set by policymakers, and the allowance corresponding to the level of emissions is freely traded.

#### **India ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the CCPI, 2023**

India was ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2023. It was ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in CCPI, 2022.

*Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)* has been published by Germanwatch, the New Climate Institute and the Climate Action Network annually since 2005. It is an independent monitoring tool for tracking the climate protection performance of 59 countries and the European Union. It aims to enhance transparency in international climate politics and enables comparison of climate protection efforts and progress made by individual countries.

#### **Govt. approves Terai Elephant Reserve in Uttar Pradesh**

Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has given its approval to the Terai Elephant Reserve (TER) in Uttar Pradesh. It will be the second Elephant Reserve in Uttar Pradesh. The area will also cover Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, Pilibhit Tiger Reserve, Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary, Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, Dudhwa buffer zone and parts of South Kheri Forest Division.

Asiatic Elephant (*IUCN: Endangered*) is recognized as a National Heritage Animal, protection under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Appendix I of CITES. India has the largest population of Asian Elephants.

## **27<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt**

The 27<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (CoP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. The Parties at the Conference came together to advance on global collective action on mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, climate finance, etc. with a view to achieve the goals under the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement.

COP 27 has been termed as an ‘Implementation COP’. The ‘Sharm El-Sheikh Implementation Plan’ inter-alia urges the developed countries to provide enhanced support, including through financial resources, technology transfer and capacity-building, to assist developing country. Parties with respect to both mitigation and adaptation, in continuation of their existing obligations under the Convention.

Climate Finance refers to local, national, or transnational financing—drawn from public, private and alternative sources of financing—that seeks to support mitigation and adaptation actions that will address climate change. The UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreement call for financial assistance from Parties with more financial resources (Developed Countries) to those that are less endowed and more vulnerable (Developing Countries). This is in accordance with the principle of “Common but Differentiated Responsibility and Respective Capabilities” (CBDR).

*Common but Differentiated Responsibility and Respective Capabilities (CBDR)* is a principle within the UNFCCC that acknowledges different capabilities and differing responsibilities of individual countries in addressing climate change. The principle of CBDR is enshrined in Earth Summit 1992, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Other Related terms:

*Carbon Budget:* The carbon budget is the maximum amount of cumulative net global anthropogenic  $CO_2$  emissions that would result in limiting global warming to a given level (1.5°C or 2°C ) with a given likelihood.

*Climate equity:* Climate equity ensures the just distribution of the benefits of climate protection efforts and alleviates unequal burdens created by climate change.

*Net Zero Target:* It is referred to as carbon neutrality, which does not mean that a country would bring down its emissions to zero. Rather, it is a state in which a country’s emissions are compensated by the absorption and removal of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. Further, absorption of the emissions can be increased by creating more carbon sinks such as forests.

India’s Initiatives for Climate Finance:

- 1. National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC):* NAFCC was established in 2015 to meet the cost of adaptation to climate change for the State and Union Territories of India that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.
- 2. National Clean Energy Fund:* The Fund was created to promote clean energy, and funded through an initial carbon tax on the use of coal by industries. It is governed by an Inter-Ministerial Group with the Finance Secretary as the Chairman. Its mandate is to fund research and development of innovative clean energy technology in the fossil and non-fossil fuel-based sectors.
- 3. National Adaptation Fund:* The Fund was established in 2014 with a corpus of Rs. 100 crores with the aim of bridging the gap between the need and the available funds. The fund is operated under the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

### **Global Offshore Wind Alliance (GOWA)**

Belgium, Colombia, Germany, Ireland, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the UK, and the US have joined the Global Offshore Wind Alliance (GOWA) during COP 27 in Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt.

The alliance, which is bringing together governments, the private sector, international organisations and other stakeholders to accelerate the deployment of offshore wind power, was launched in September by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the Government of Denmark, and the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC).

### **Just Energy Transition Partnership**

Indonesia has signed deals with international lenders and major nations that will bring funds to help the country increase its use of renewable energy and reduce its reliance on coal. The agreement was announced on the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit in Bali, Indonesia. The funding is provided under the initiative called as a 'Just Energy Transition Partnership', or JETP.

*Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP)* are climate finance agreements in which donor countries work together to accelerate the early retirement of high-emission infrastructure in partner countries and provide supports for investment in renewable energy and related infrastructure. First JTEP was announced in 2021 by South Africa and an International Partners Group (IPG) of France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and the European Union.

### **Global Carbon Budget, 2022 published at COP 27**

The Global Carbon Budget 2022 was published at COP27 in Egypt.

The Report was founded by the Global Carbon Project international science team to track the trends in global carbon emissions and sinks and is a key measure of progress towards the goals of the Paris Agreement. It's widely recognized as the most comprehensive report of its kind.

### **UNEP releases Adaptation Gap Report, 2022**

United Nations Environment Programme has released a latest edition of Adaptation Gap Report, 2022. According to it, the global efforts in adaptation planning, financing and implementation are not enough to prepare vulnerable communities around the world to adapt to the rising risks from the impacts of climate change.

UN Environment Programme (UNEP): It is an intergovernmental organization established in June 1972 as an outcome from the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Conference, 1972). It works under the umbrella of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, identifying and addressing the most relevant environmental issues of our time. It sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.

Headquarter: *Nairobi, Kenya*

### **CCAC and UNEP releases 'Global Methane Assessment: 2030 Baseline Report'**

Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have released a report titled – 'Global Methane Assessment: 2030 Baseline Report'. The Report was launched at Climate and Clean Air Ministerial Meeting at 27<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP27) to UNFCCC. The Report examines

baseline projections of methane emissions over the coming decade and implications for Global Methane Pledge (GMP) target.

Initiatives taken by India to reduce Methane Emissions:

- *Direct Seeded Rice*: The system reduces methane emissions as it does not involve raising nurseries, puddling and transplanting. Unlike transplanted paddy cultivation, standing water is not maintained in this system.
- *Crop Diversification Programme*: Methane emissions is avoided due to diversion of paddy to alternate crops like pulses, oilseeds, maize, cotton, and agroforestry.
- *GOBAR (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources) Dhan scheme*: It supports biodegradable waste recovery and conversion of waste into resources and reduction of GHG emissions.
- *National Livestock Mission*: It was implemented by Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying which aimed at promoting sustainable development of the livestock sector.
- *India GHG Program*: It is an industry-led voluntary framework to measure and manage Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. It builds a comprehensive measurement and management strategies to reduce emissions and drive more profitable, competitive, and sustainable businesses and organisations in India.

### **NITI Aayog releases report titled – Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage**

NITI Aayog has released the report titled ‘Carbon Capture, Utilisation, and Storage (CCUS) Policy Framework and its Deployment Mechanism in India’. CCUS Policy Framework aims to develop and implement a practicable framework to accelerate research and development on CCUS in India. It explores the importance of technology as an emission reduction strategy to achieve deep decarbonization from the hard-to-abate sectors like steel, cement etc.

CCUS encompasses technologies to remove CO<sub>2</sub> from flue gas and the atmosphere, followed by recycling the CO<sub>2</sub> for utilization and determining safe and permanent storage options. CO<sub>2</sub> captured using CCU technologies are converted into fuel (methane and methanol), refrigerants, building materials etc. Captured gas is used directly in fire extinguishers, pharma, food and beverage industries as well as the agricultural sector.

### **UNESCO releases World Heritage Glaciers Report**

UNESCO has released World Heritage Glaciers Report. The Report highlight the accelerated melting of glaciers in World Heritage sites, with glaciers in a third of sites set to disappear by 2050. Note that, 50 UNESCO World Heritage sites are home to glaciers representing almost 10% of the Earth’s total glacierized area.

The World Heritage Glaciers Report is jointly released by UNESCO and IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources).

### **MoEF&CC notifies E-waste Management Rules, 2022**

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has notified E-waste (Management) Rules 2022, in the exercise of the powers conferred by the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

#### *Key Provisions*

- Restricted the use of hazardous substances (such as lead, mercury, and cadmium) in manufacturing electrical and electronic equipment.
- Increased the range of electronic goods covered e.g., laptops, mobile, cameras etc.
- Producers of electronic goods have to ensure at least 60% of their electronic waste is collected and recycled by 2023 with targets to increase them to 70% and 80% in 2024 and 2025, respectively.

- Extended Producer Responsibility Certificates (similar to carbon credit mechanism): This will allow the offsetting of e-waste responsibility to a third party.
- ‘Environmental compensation’ to be provided by the companies that don’t meet their target.
- Role of Central Pollution Control Board: It shall conduct random sampling of electrical and electronic equipment placed on the market to monitor and verify the compliance of reduction of hazardous substances provisions.

‘E-Waste’ refers to all items of Electronic and Electrical Equipment (EEE) and its parts that have been discarded by their owner as waste without the intent of re-use. India is the third-largest e-waste generator in the world after China and the USA (Global E-waste Monitor 2020).

#### *Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022*

Note that, Government in August 2022, also notified Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022 to ensure environmentally sound management of waste batteries. The new rules replaced Batteries (Management and Handling) Rules, 2001.

#### **Right to Repair Policy of GoI**

The Government is reportedly planning to set up a unified portal for multi-brand gadget repair. It means consumers will soon be able to access repair policies and technical manuals of a variety of gadgets, electronic devices and home appliances through a unified national portal.

The single-point portal will roll out the Ministry of Consumer Affairs ‘Right to Repair (RTR)’ policy.

*Right to Repair* refers to a framework that requires manufacturers to disclose product details to customers so that they can repair devices by themselves or through third parties rather than relying on the original producers. It aims to cut down restrictive practices introduced by some manufacturers. Key sectors identified for RTR framework include – *Farming Equipment, Mobile Phones/ Tablets, Consumer Durables and Automobiles & Automobile Equipment*.

#### **MoEF&CC gives assent to diversion of forest for Great Nicobar Island Project**

Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has granted environmental clearance for diversion of some area of forest in *Great Nicobar Island* (GNI) for the multi-development projects that includes a transshipment port, an airport, a power plant and a greenfield township. The permission has been granted on the basis of the recommendations of the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) and its acceptance by the competent authority in the Ministry.

The Project implementation agency is the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO).

*Great Nicobar Island (GNI)* is the southernmost last mass of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is the largest of the cluster of islands. Indira Point, earlier known as Pygmalion Point, lies at the tip of the Great Nicobar Island and is the southernmost point of the country. It is occupied by Shompen and Nicobarese tribes. It is home to a UNESCO World Heritage Site i.e. Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve. It covers tropical evergreen forest ecosystems.

*Compensatory Afforestation*: The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 provide that under compensatory afforestation, when forest land is diverted for non-forest use like mining or infrastructure, the project proponents



are required to provide funds to the state forest department to do afforestation in a non-forest land of equal size, or improve a degraded forest land of double the size of the diverted land.

The Government also enacted *Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act 2016* to provide a proper institutional mechanism for compensatory afforestation matters.

### **Global Forest Declaration Assessment Report, 2022 published**

The Global Forest Declaration assessment was published. It assesses progress towards halting deforestation and restoring 350 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.

The *Forest Declaration Assessment* is a comprehensive, civil society-led effort to assess collective progress toward global forest goals. The Assessment annually publishes rigorously researched and peer-reviewed progress assessment reports on the state of global forests. The information that the Forest Declaration Assessment collects and publishes every year supports planning to ensure that 2030 forests goals can be met through a coordinated and collaborative effort of governments, corporations, and civil society.

These goals are set through international manifestos. These include the New York Declaration on Forests (2014) and the Glasgow Leaders Declaration on Forests and Land Use (2021).

#### *Indian Initiatives for Deforestation:*

- Indian Forest Policy, 1952
- Forest Conservation Act, 1980
- National Forest Policy, 1988
- National Afforestation Programme.
- Wildlife Protection Act of 1972
- Environment Protection Act of 1986
- Biodiversity Diversity Act of 2002.
- Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

### **19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of CITES held in Panama City (CoP 19)**

The 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP 19) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was held at Panama City, Panama. In the Conference, India proposed for the induction of fresh-water turtle ‘Batagur kachuga’.

At CoP of CITES, also known as the World Wildlife Conference, all 184 Parties to CITES have the right to attend, to put forward proposals for the Conference to consider, and to vote on all decisions.

*CITES* is an international agreement to which States and regional economic integration organizations adhere voluntarily. Although CITES is legally binding on the Parties – in other words they have to implement the Convention – it does not take the place of national laws. Rather it provides a framework to be respected by each Party, which has to adopt its own domestic legislation to ensure that CITES is implemented at the national level.

*Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)* is a statutory multi-disciplinary body established by the Government of India under the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, to combat organized wildlife crime in the country. It is headquartered in New Delhi.

International trade in all wildlife species of India, including the species covered under CITES in particular, is regulated collectively through the provisions of the

- WildLife (Protection) Act of 1972,
- Export–Import Policy (EXIM Policy) under the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act of 1992 and
- Customs Act of 1962.

Also, 2 Indian turtle species – the red-crowned roofed turtles (*Batagur kachuga*) and Leith’s soft-shell turtle (*Nilssonina leithii*), have made it to Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The decision was made at the 19<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP19) in Panama City. The species were moved from Appendix II to Appendix I which means the species is threatened with extinction.

### **Biodiversity Heritage Sites**

Tamil Nadu Government has issued a notification declaring Arittapatti and Meenakshipuram villages in Madurai district the first biodiversity heritage site in State. *Nallur Tamarind Grove* in Bengaluru, Karnataka was the first Biodiversity Heritage Site of India, declared in 2007.

*Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHSs)*: They are well defined areas that are unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems. They are spread over terrestrial, coastal and inland and marine waters having rich biodiversity. BHS may be identified and notified as per the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act 2002.

### **NSO publishes EnviStats India, 2022**

The National Statistics Office (NSO) has released EnviStats-India 2022 Vol. I: Environment Statistics.

*Environment Statistics* aims at providing statistical information to improve knowledge of the environment. EnviStats brings together a large number of statistics bracketed in a single publication which is sourced from the coordination of multiple public institutions.

### **World Bank releases Climate and Development: An Agenda for Action**

World Bank has released a report titled – ‘Climate and Development: An Agenda for Action’. The Report compiles and harmonizes results from the World Bank’s ‘Country Climate and Development Reports’ (CCDRs).

CCDRs are new core diagnostic reports that integrate climate change and development considerations. They will help countries prioritize the most impactful actions that can reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and boost adaptation, while delivering on broader development goals.

### **UNODC releases paper on Illegal Wildlife Trade and Climate Change**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has released a paper on Illegal Wildlife Trade and Climate Change. Paper highlights cascading impacts of Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT), on ecosystem functions and processes that affect the climate.

*United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)* is a global leader in addressing problem of illicit drug use and transnational crime. It is mandated to assist Member States in their struggle against illicit drugs, crime and terrorism.

### **FSSAI approved Himalayan Yak as a ‘food animal’**

The Himalayan yak has been accepted as a ‘food animal’ by the scientific panel of Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI), after recommendation from Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD). The proposal was submitted by ICAR-National Research Centre on Yak.

*Food Animals* are animals that are raised and used for food production or consumption.

*ICAR-National Research Centre on Yak* is a premier research organization exclusively engaged in research and development of yak. It is situated in West Kameng District, Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh.

### **IVRI demands ban on using ‘Aceclofenac’ in cattle**

Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) has demanded a ban on using ‘Aceclofenac’ in cattle after a new study showed that the drug metabolizes into ‘Diclofenac’ in water buffaloes — as it does in cows. Such metabolisms pose a threat to vulture populations in the country.

Diclofenac, an anti-inflammatory drug, was banned for veterinary use by the Government of India in 2006. It was found to be the main cause of a dramatic decline (99 %) of the vulture population across Asia.

Vulture Action Plan 2020-2025 also mentions the drug as ‘toxic’, asking the Drugs Controller General of India (DGCI) to ban its veterinary use — along with other drugs such as Nimesulide and Ketoprofen.

### **Fujiwhara Effect**

With typhoon ‘Hinnamnor’ and another tropical storm called ‘Gardo’, Meteorologists observed a phenomenon called the Fujiwhara Effect.

The *Fujiwhara Effect* is any interaction between tropical storms formed around the same time in the same ocean region with their centres or eyes at a distance of less than 1,400 km, with intensity that could vary between a depression (wind speed under 63 km per hour) and a super typhoon (wind speed over 209 km per hour). The interaction could lead to changes in the track and intensity of either or both storm systems. In rare cases, the two systems could merge, especially when they are of similar size and intensity, to form a bigger storm.

### **A new South Asian Drought Monitoring System is being developed**

A next generation of South Asia Drought Monitoring System (SADMS) is being developed which aims at addressing the existing and potential challenges to drought management and at providing a framework for proactive drought mitigation measures across nations in South Asia. It is a new satellite-based drought-monitoring tool.

It will help farmers to obtain drought-tolerant seeds, develop supplementary irrigation and apply potassium nitrate (which helps seedlings cope better with dry conditions). This will also allow south Asian countries to plan for a common strategy on a region to harness the potential, synergize efforts and south-south cooperation.

*South Asia Drought Monitoring System (SADMS)*, established in 2014, is a weekly map of drought conditions that is produced and maintained at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI). IWMI is an international, research-for-development organization that works with governments, civil society and the private sector to solve water problems in developing countries and scale up solutions.

### **China Develops Perennial Rice Varieties**

Researchers in China’s Yunnan University have developed a rice variety (Perennial rice), which does not need to be planted every year. Once grown, it can be harvested for next eight seasons in 4 years.

Earlier, Indian Agricultural Research Institute also launched an herbicide-tolerant rice that can be directly sown into soil, cutting expenditure on water and farm workers.

### **Project Unnati**

Project Unnati, under the Ministry of Rural Development, has received a very less response. Accordingly, Ministry wants to link the performances of the States under the Project to its budget for the coming fiscal year.

*Project Unnati*, launched in 2020, is a skilling project designed to improve the livelihoods of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA beneficiaries by allowing them to transition from part-time to full time employment. It is intended to provide training for one adult member of a household (aged 18-45) who has completed 100 days of employment under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA in the preceding fiscal year. The selected candidate is eligible for wages on a par with that given under the MGNREGS during the period of the training.

### **Think Local Climate Action**

It was observed that if India has to achieve the set of goals enunciated in the ‘*Panchamrit*’ resolution of the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow 2021, it is necessary that Panchayati Raj Institutions, the third tier of government which are closest to the people are involved.

In recent years, many panchayats have come forward with the concept of carbon neutrality, a prominent example being Meenangadi gram panchayat in Kerala’s Wayanad district, which serves as a model to emulate. In 2016, the panchayat envisaged a project called ‘Carbon neutral Meenangadi’, the aim being to transform Meenangadi into a state of carbon neutrality.

### **Twin Transition**

The World Economic Forum (WEF) has stated that the ‘twin transition’ approach can help leaders bring the digital and sustainability agendas together to future-proof their organizations.

A ‘*twin transition*’ basically means including digital/technological improvements with the Environmental sustainability goals. The approach recognizes that there is a huge and largely untapped opportunity for technology and data to drive sustainability goals.

## 4. Schemes and Programmes

### **MNRE notifies National Bioenergy Programme**

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has notified the National Bioenergy Programme in November 2022. MNRE has continued the National Bioenergy Programme for the period from FY 2021-22 to 2025-26. The Programme has been recommended for implementation in 2 Phases.

The National Bioenergy Programme will comprise the following sub-schemes:

- Waste to Energy Programme (Programme on Energy from Urban, Industrial and Agricultural Wastes /Residues) to support the setting up of large Biogas, BioCNG and Power Plants.
- Biomass Programme (Scheme to Support Manufacturing of Briquettes & Pellets and Promotion of Biomass (non-bagasse) based cogeneration in Industries) to support setting up of pellets and briquettes for use in power generation and non-bagasse based power generation projects.
- Biogas Programme to support setting up of family and medium size Biogas in rural area.

‘*Bioenergy*’ refers to electricity and gas that is generated from organic matter, known as biomass.

*Biomass* is renewable organic material that comes from plants and animals. Biomass is the raw material to produce biogas. Major component of biomass is carbon. Biogas is a renewable fuel produced by the breakdown of organic matter such as food scraps and animal waste by microorganisms in absence of oxygen. Biogas is composed mostly of methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).

### **DEA notifies Scheme for Financial Support for Project Development Expenses of PPP Projects – ‘IIPDF Scheme**

Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance has notified the Scheme for Financial Support for Project Development Expenses of PPP Projects – India Infrastructure Project Development Fund Scheme (IIPDF Scheme). IIPDF was set up in 2007.

As a Central Sector Scheme, the India Infrastructure Project Development Fund Scheme (IIPDF Scheme) will aid development of quality PPP projects by providing necessary funding support to the project sponsoring authorities, both in the Central and State Governments, for creating a shelf of bankable viable PPP projects for achieving the vision of modern infrastructure for the country.

Note that, funding under IIPDF Scheme is in addition to the already operational Scheme for Financial Support to PPPs in Infrastructure (VGF Scheme) notified on in December 2020, through which infrastructure projects undertaken through PPP mode that are economically justified but commercially unviable are supported.

### **Govt. launches portal on National Mission on Natural Farming**

The Government has launched a portal on National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) for the benefit of the farming community. The portal has been developed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. It contains all the information about the mission, implementation outline, resources, implementation progress, farmer registration, which will help in promoting natural farming in the country.

*Natural farming* is an ecological farming approach where farming system works with the natural biodiversity, encouraging the soil’s biological activity and managing the complexity of living organisms to thrive along with food production system. It is chemical- free farming and livestock based. It aims at promoting traditional indigenous practices which is largely based on on-farm biomass recycling. Internationally, it is considered a form of regenerative agriculture which is a prominent strategy to save the planet.

In India, Natural farming is promoted as ‘Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati Programme (BPKP)’ under centrally sponsored scheme – Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY).

*Other initiatives taken by Government for Natural Farming*

- *Namami Gange Project*: Villages along the river Ganga in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal are being developed for Organic farming. The Ministry of Jal Shakti has identified 75 Sahakar Ganga villages for this purpose.
- *Large Area Certification (LAC)*: Large contiguous areas under traditional organic farming systems with no synthetic input / chemical input use history are declared certified Organic under LAC.

**MoHUA launches Toilets 2.0 Campaign**

Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched Toilets 2.0 campaign at Bengaluru on the occasion of World Toilet Day 2022 (19<sup>th</sup> November), with the aim to change the face of public and community toilets in urban India through collective action involving citizens and Urban Local Bodies.

The campaign has 5 thematic areas:

- ‘People for Toilets’ that will focus on cleaning and maintaining community and public toilets,
- ‘Partners for Toilets’ aimed at the adoption of public toilets,
- ‘Design Toilets’- to design convenient and low-cost toilets
- ‘Rate your Toilet’ for the promotion of user feedback to improve public toilets
- ‘My thoughts – Our Toilets’ that will seek to gather public opinion for toilets

**NCW launches 4<sup>th</sup> Phase of Digital Shakti Campaign**

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has launched the 4th phase of Digital Shakti Campaign, a pan-India project on digitally empowering and skilling women and girls in the cyberspace.

*Digital Shakti 4.0* is focused on making women digitally skilled and aware to stand up against any illegal/inappropriate activity online. NCW launched it in collaboration with CyberPeace Foundation and Meta.

Digital Shakti started in June 2018 to help women across the nation to raise the awareness level on the digital front, to build resilience, and fight cyber-crime in the most effective ways. In the third phase, a resource centre was also developed under the project to provide information on all the avenues of reporting in case a woman faces any cybercrime.

**Atal New India Challenge (ANIC)**

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has launched woman-centric challenges under Phase-II of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Atal New India Challenge (ANIC).

ANIC is an initiative by AIM, NITI Aayog targeted to seek, select, support and nurture technology-based innovations that solve sectoral challenges of national importance and societal relevance. through a grant-based mechanism of up to Rs. 1 crore.

**MoH&FW announces National Suicide Prevention Strategy**

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) has announced National Suicide Prevention Strategy.

In line with WHO’s South-East-Asia Region Strategy for suicide prevention, strategy calls for time-bound action plans and multi-sectoral collaborations to achieve reduction in suicide mortality by 10% by 2030 (from 2020 level). Strategy delineates ‘REDS’ path for suicide prevention and intends to:

- Reinforce leadership, partnerships, and institutional capacity.
- Enhance capacity of health services.
- Develop community resilience and societal support for prevention and reduce associated stigma.
- Strengthen surveillance and evidence generation.

### **CBDT launches Harit Aaykar Initiative**

Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has launched the HARIT Aaykar initiative on the occasion of National Unity Day.

*HARIT (Hariyali Achievement Resolution by Income Tax) Aaykar* initiative is launched by Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). Its objectives are to increase the green cover by planting trees and creating micro-forests in and around Income Tax Department's buildings and other public areas. The first of such micro-forests has been inaugurated near the Attari border in Punjab.

*Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT):* The Central Board of Direct Taxes is a statutory authority functioning under the Central Board of Revenue Act, 1963. The officials of the Board in their ex-officio capacity also function as a Division of the Ministry dealing with matters relating to levy and collection of direct taxes.

### **DPIIT's MAARG Portal**

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has invited start-up applications for registration on MAARG portal.

MAARG (Mentorship, Advisory, Assistance, Resilience and Growth) portal is to facilitate mentorship for startups across diverse sectors, functions, stages, geographies, and backgrounds.

*Objectives of portal:*

- Provide sector focused guidance, handholding, and support to startups.
- Facilitate efficient mentorship and a mechanism for timely tracking of mentor-mentee engagements.
- Provide customizable mentorship programs, recognition for contributing mentors etc.

### **Government launches India's first Centre of Excellence for Green Port & Shipping**

Government has announced India's first National Centre of Excellence for Green Port & Shipping (NCoEGPS), a major initiative by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping towards providing greener solutions.

The main objective of the proposed NCoEGPS is to provide support to Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways in developing and maintaining a policy and regulatory framework for a green alternative technologies road map for the shipping sector in India for its transition to carbon neutrality and CE principles. NCoEGPS will act as a technological arm of MoPSW for providing the needed support on Policy, Research and Cooperation on Green Shipping areas for Ports.

*Green shipping* is when people or goods are transported through ships using minimum resources and energy as possible, to protect the environment from the pollutants generated by the ships.

## 5. Polity

### **SC agrees to hear plea challenging First Amendment to Constitution**

The Supreme Court has agreed to examine a PIL challenging changes made to the right to freedom of speech and expression by the first amendment to the Constitution in 1951, with the petitioner contending that the amendment damages the basic structure doctrine.

The '*basic structure doctrine*' is a legal doctrine that the Constitution of a sovereign state has certain characteristics that cannot be erased by its Legislature. The Supreme Court of India put forward this doctrine in the Kesavananda Bharati case, 1973; where using its judicial review and powers as an apex court can declare any law that it finds unconstitutional void as well as declare any element as "basic structure".

The First Amendment was passed in 1951 by the Provisional Parliament, members of whom had just finished drafting the Constitution as part of the Constitutional Assembly.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> Law Commission constituted with Justice (Retd.) Rituraj Awasthi as Head**

Central Government has constituted the 22<sup>nd</sup> Law Commission of India with Justice (retd) Rituraj Awasthi, former Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court, at its Head. Note that, the tenure of the 21<sup>st</sup> Law Commission, which was headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice B.S. Chauhan, came to an end in August 2018.

The Law Commission of India is a non-statutory body that is constituted by a notification of the Government of India, with definite terms of reference to carry out research in the field of law. The Commission makes recommendations to the Government (in the form of Reports) as per its terms of reference. The Law Commission was first constituted in 1955 and has so far submitted 277 reports.

### **Justice D.Y. Chandrachud appointed as a 50<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice of India**

Justice D Y Chandrachud was appointed as the 50<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice of India (CJI). He as Chief Justice of India will have a term of 2 years until he completes the age of 65 years. Note that, his father, Y.V. Chandrachud, holds the distinction of being the longest serving CJI, who headed the judiciary from February 1978 to July 1985.

#### *Appointments*

- The CJI and the Judges of the Supreme Court (SC) are appointed by the President under Article 124(2) of the Constitution.
- As far as the CJI is concerned, the outgoing CJI recommends his successor.
- The Union Law Minister forwards the recommendation to the Prime Minister who, in turn, advises the President.
- SC in the Second Judges Case (1993) ruled that the senior most judge of the Supreme Court should alone be appointed to the office of the CJI.
- The SC collegium is headed by CJI and comprises four other senior most judges of the court.
- The collegium system is the system of appointment and transfer of judges that has evolved through judgments of the SC (Judges Cases), and not by an Act of Parliament or by a provision of the Constitution.

#### *Administrative Powers of CJI (Master of Roster)*

- It is common to refer to the office as *primus inter pares* – first amongst equals.
- Besides his adjudicatory role, the CJI also plays the role of the administrative head of the Court.
- In his administrative capacity, the Chief Justice exercises the prerogative of allocating cases to particular benches.



- CJI also decides the number of judges that will hear a case.
- Such administrative powers can be exercised without collegial consensus, and without any stated reasons.

In 2019, the Supreme Court ruled that the office of Chief Justice of India (CJI) comes under the purview of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005.

### **‘The Places of Worship Act 1991’**

The Supreme Court has given the Central Government more time to file an affidavit on the challenges to the Places of Worship Act of 1991. The law has been challenged on the ground that it bars judicial review, which is a basic feature of the Constitution, imposes an “arbitrary irrational retrospective cutoff date” and abridges the right to religion of Hindus, Jains, Buddhists and Sikhs.

The Act prohibits the conversion of any place of worship and stipulates that churches, temples, mosques, and other places of worship cannot be altered from as they stood on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947. However, it allows legal proceedings if the conversion of a place of worship’s religious nature occurred after the cut-off date. The Act does not apply to the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case or any related litigation, appeal or procedure.

### *Ayodhya Verdict*

In November 2019, the Supreme Court (SC) delivered its verdict on the long-running title suit at Ayodhya on appeals against the 2010 Allahabad High Court Judgment.

### **Gram Nyayalayas in India**

The Supreme Court has sought a response from all High Courts on a 2019 plea seeking a direction to the Central Government and all states' Government for taking steps to set up ‘Gram Nyayalayas’ under the supervision of the top court.

### *Gram Nyayalayas*

An Act passed by Parliament in 2008 provided for the setting up of ‘Gram Nyayalayas’ at the grassroots level for providing access to justice to citizens at the doorstep and to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to anyone by reason of social, economic or other disabilities. It shall be guided by the principle of natural justice (and not bound by rules of evidence provided in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872).

*Structure:* It shall be established for every Panchayat at intermediate level or a group of contiguous Panchayats at intermediate level in a district. The State Government, in consultation with the High Court, notifies the boundaries of the area under the jurisdiction of a Gram Nyayalaya. It can also alter such limits at any time. Gram Nyayalayas can also hold Mobile Courts in villages falling under its jurisdiction and the State Government shall extend all required facilities.

*Appointments:* The State Government shall appoint a Presiding Officer called Nyayadhikari for every Gram Nyayalaya in consultation with the High Court, who will be a person eligible to be appointed as a Judicial Magistrate of the First Class. Representation shall be given to the members of SC, ST, women and others.

*Jurisdiction, Powers and Authority:* Gram Nyayalaya shall exercise both civil and criminal jurisdiction. The judgment passed by a Gram Nyayalaya in Civil cases shall be deemed to be a decree.

### **Article 105 of the Indian Constitution**

Calling it a “constitutionally correct” principle, the Central Government backed the Supreme Court a 1998 ruling that shields MPs and MLAs from prosecution (under Article 105) if they accept bribes in lieu of their votes.

In 1993, 10 MPs belonging to the JMM, and the Janata Dal took bribes on the floor of the house to cast their votes to defeat a no-confidence motion moved in the Lok Sabha against the minority government of Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao. In 1998 by 3-2, the Supreme Court in the Narasimha Rao case held that MPs and MLAs were screened from prosecution in such cases under parliamentary immunity granted under Article 105(2) of the Constitution.

*Article 105(2)* of the Constitution states that no Member of Parliament (MP) shall be liable to any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said or any vote given by him in parliament or any committee thereof. A similar provision exists for MLAs under Article 194(2).

*Article 122* deals with the restrictions on courts not to inquire into proceedings of Parliament.

### **Madhya Pradesh notifies PESA Rule on Janjatiya Gaurav Divas – 15<sup>th</sup> November**

Madhya Pradesh has notified its PESA Rules on the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Divas on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

To bring the people residing in Fifth Schedule Areas into the mainstream, the Parliament, in terms of Article 243M(4)(b) of the Constitution, has enacted “the Provisions of the *Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996*” (PESA) to extend Part IX of the Constitution, relating to Panchayats, to the Fifth Schedule areas, with certain modifications and exceptions. States, having Fifth Schedule Areas, have been empowered to make Panchayat Laws for these areas. With the objective of effective implementation of PESA, Ministry of Panchayati Raj circulated Draft Model PESA Rules in 2009.

### **Right to Vote**

The Supreme Court has decided to examine a petition challenging a provision in the election law that imposes a blanket ban on under trials, persons confined in civil prisons and convicts serving their sentence in jails from casting their votes.

*Section 62(5)* of Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951 deprives prisoners of their right to vote. This restriction does not apply to a person under preventive detention.

The ‘*right to vote*’ is a constitutional right under Article 326 of the Constitution. This Article states that “the elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assembly of every State shall be on the basis of adult suffrage”, i.e., every person who is a citizen of India and who is not less than 18 years of age on such date as may be fixed in that behalf by or under any law made by the appropriate Legislature and is not otherwise disqualified under this Constitution or any law made by the appropriate Legislature on the ground of non-residence, unsoundness of mind, crime or corrupt or illegal practices, shall be entitled to be registered as a voter at any such election.

*National Voters’ Day* is celebrated every year on 25<sup>th</sup> January.

## 6. Governance

### **Govt. updates Aadhar Rules**

Government has amended Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Regulations.

As per it, Aadhaar number holders may, on completion of every 10 years from the date of enrolment for Aadhaar, update their supporting documents in Aadhaar, at least once, by submitting Proof of Identity (POI) and Proof of Address (POA) documents. This is to ensure “continued accuracy” of Aadhaar-related information in the Central Identities Data Repository (CIDR).

The *UIDAI* is a statutory authority established in July 2016 by the Government of India under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, following the provisions of the Aadhaar Act 2016. The UIDAI was initially set up by the Government of India in January 2009, as an attached office under the aegis of the Planning Commission. The UIDAI is mandated to assign a 12-digit unique identification (UID) number (Aadhaar) to all the residents of India.

*Central Identities Data Repository (CIDR)* means a centralized database in one or more locations containing all Aadhaar numbers issued to Aadhaar number holders along with the corresponding demographic information and biometric information of such individuals and other information related thereto.

### **World Justice Project releases Rule of Law Index, 2022**

Rule of Law Index was released by an international civil society organisation, World Justice Project (WJP). The index is prepared by examining 4 principles:

- (i) Fundamental Rights
- (ii) Civil Justice
- (iii) Criminal Justice
- (iv) Absence of Corruption

#### *Rankings:*

- India has been ranked 77 out of 140 countries with a score of 50 on the ‘Rule of Law Index’.
- Globally, India ranks 94 out of 140 as far as adherence to fundamental rights are concerned, 111 out of 140 in civil justice, 89 out of 140 in criminal justice and 93 out of 140 in absence of corruption.
- The top-ranked country was Denmark, followed by Norway (2), Finland (3), Sweden (4), and the Netherlands (5).

The *World Justice Project (WJP)* is an independent, multidisciplinary organization working create knowledge, build awareness, and stimulate action to advance the rule of law worldwide. It was founded by William H. Neukom in 2006 as a presidential initiative of the American Bar Association (ABA).

### **WDRA organizes seminar on e-Negotiable Warehouse Receipt**

Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) has organised a seminar on “e-Negotiable Warehouse Receipt – An Effective Tool for Promoting Pledge Financing”.

#### *Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (e-NWR):*

The Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (NWR) system was launched in 2011 allowing the transfer of ownership of a commodity stored in a warehouse without having to deliver it physically. These receipts are issued in negotiable form, making them eligible as collateral. This has been enabled by enabling the financing of warehouse receipts

through the Warehouse (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007. The Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) regulates the entire operation under NWR.

### **Govt. notifies decennial Census, NPR as Critical Information Infrastructure**

Government has notified that the websites and applications related to the decennial Census exercise and the National Population Register (NPR) will be “protected system” or “Critical Information Infrastructure” under the Information Technology Act, 2008. It means that any tampering or unauthorized access to data associated with Census applications, NPR database or data centres of Registrar General of India (RGI) will be punishable by 10 years imprisonment.

Note that, Section 70 of the Information Technology Act 2000 states that the appropriate Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare any computer resource which directly or indirectly affects the facility of Critical Information Infrastructure, to be a protected system.

*Critical Information Infrastructure* refers to a physical or cyber-based system, incapacitation or destruction of which shall have debilitating impact on national security, economy, public health or safety. Government, under Information Technology Act, 2000, has the power to declare any data, database, IT network or communications infrastructure as CII (or CI) to protect that digital asset.

#### *Measures taken to protect CII:*

- National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) is the nodal agency for taking all measures to protect CIIs.
- Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) is nodal agency for responding to computer security incidents.
- National Cyber Security Coordinator (NCSC) to coordinate with different agencies at the national level for cyber security matters.
- National Cyber Security Policy 2013 to build a secure and resilient cyberspace.

### **Govt. announces New Safety Tests for Electric Vehicles**

The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) has announced a list of safety tests that will be mandatory for Electric Vehicles manufacturers from April 2023 to receive subsidies under various EV promotion schemes.

These Schemes are:

- Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Automobiles and Auto Components.
- PLI Scheme for Advance Chemistry Cell (ACC).
- FAME (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles) II.

These tests enhance human safety by ensuring quality at the 3 levels – Cell level, Battery-pack level and battery Management System (BMS) level.

- The *Cell level* tests include impact test, temperature cycling, shock, vibration, fire exposure and altitude simulation.
- The *Battery pack level* tests include case stress, dro/free fall, immersion, crush, and imbalance charging.
- The *BMS level* tests include over current protection, communication interface, cell voltage for each series check, current sensors check, cell temperature check, MOS temperature check, charge MOS check, discharge MOS check, power rail check, fuse current check, and cell balance function check.

### **Govt. revises the guidelines for Satellite Television Channels**

Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has issued guidelines and specified new uplinking and downloading rules. Note that, Communication going from a satellite to ground is called downlink, and going from ground to a satellite it is called uplink.

#### *New Provisions:*

- Television channels will have to telecast content in the national interest or public service every day for 30 minutes. These obligations will not be applicable for sports, wildlife, and foreign channels.
- No prior Permission for Live Telecast of Events.
- LLPs / companies would be allowed to uplink foreign channels from Indian teleports which would create employment opportunities.

### **Govt. launches Green Energy Open Access Portal**

Government has launched Green Energy Open Access Portal.

The Portal will allow consumers to access green power easily through transparent and streamlined procedure. Any consumer with a connected load of 100 kW or above can get Renewable Energy (RE) through open access from any Renewable Energy Generating Plant. The open access has to be granted within 15 days. The application for open access can be made on this portal.

### **CBDT proposes common ITR – One nation One ITR Form**

Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), under the Ministry of Finance, has proposed a common Income Tax Return (ITR) form for all taxpayers. Currently, there are 7 types of ITR forms which are filed by different categories of taxpayers.

According to the proposal, all taxpayers, barring trusts and non-profit organisations, can use the common ITR form, which also includes a separate head for disclosure of income from virtual digital assets.

#### *Key Points*

- Currently, of the seven types of ITR forms, ITR Form 1 (Sahaj) and ITR Form 4 (Sugam) are simpler forms, for small and medium taxpayers.
- Sahaj can be filed by an individual with income up to Rs 50 lakh, with earnings from salary, one house property/ other sources (interest etc).
- ITR-4 can be filed by individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) and firms with total income up to Rs 50 lakh from business and profession.
- ITR-2 is filed by people with income from residential property, ITR-3 by people with income as profits from business/ profession, ITR-5 and 6 by LLPs and businesses respectively, while ITR-7 is filed by trusts.

### **Ministry of Home Affairs asks States to appoint Child Welfare Police Officers**

The Ministry of Home Affairs has asked the States/UTs to appoint a Child Welfare Police Officer (CWPO) in every Police Station to exclusively deal with children as victims or perpetrators. Acting on an advisory issued by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, the Ministry referred to provisions under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, which calls for designating at least 1 officer, not below the rank of an Assistant Sub-Inspector, CWPO in every Police Station. The Ministry further stated that the Commission had further requested that a Special Juvenile Police Unit in each district and city headed by an officer not below the rank of a Deputy Superintendent of Police be established.

## 7. International Relations

### **India - Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement**

The Australian Parliament has approved the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA).

*Ind-Aus ECTA*: It is the first Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that India has signed with a major developed country in over a decade. The Agreement encompasses cooperation across the entire gamut of bilateral economic and commercial relations between the two friendly countries, and covers areas like:

- Trade in Goods, Rules of Origin
- Trade in Services
- Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)
- Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures
- Dispute Settlement, Movement of Natural Persons
- Telecom, Customs Procedures
- Pharmaceutical products, and Cooperation in other Areas

Also, under the Agreement, Indian graduates from STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) will be granted extended post-study work visas.

### **China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)**

Pakistan and China have decided to welcome any third country joining the multi-billion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The *China-Pakistan Economic Corridor* is the flagship project of the multi-billion-dollar ‘Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)’. The 3,000 km-long China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) consists of highways, railways, and pipelines. It eventually aims at linking the city of Gwadar in South-Western Pakistan to China’s North-Western region Xinjiang through a vast network of highways and railways. The proposed project will be financed by heavily subsidized loans that will be disbursed to the Government of Pakistan by Chinese banking giants such as Exim Bank of China, China Development Bank, and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China.

### **India Abstains on UNGA Resolution calling on Russia to Make Reparations to Ukraine**

India has abstained from the UNGA resolution calling for reparation to be paid to Ukraine by Russia.

*Reparations* are the act or process of making amends for a wrong through compensatory funding or other means.

*United Nations General Assembly Resolutions* are formal expressions of the opinion or will of UN organs. UNGA resolutions are non-binding and generally recommendatory. In contrast, resolutions by the UN Security Council are considered binding. UNGA is one of the 6 principal organs of the UN and represents all the members of the UN. Only 1 Indian (Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit in 1953) has been elected as the president of the General Assembly.

### **India-UK Extradition Treaty**

Extradition of Mr. Nirav Modi to India has been approved by the United Kingdom’s High Court. Nirav Deepak Modi is an Indian businessman and fugitive who was charged by Interpol and the Government of India for criminal conspiracy, corruption, money laundering, fraud, and embezzlement in August 2018.

Mr. Nirav Modi is the subject of two sets of criminal proceedings, with the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) case relating to a large-scale fraud upon PNB through the fraudulent obtaining of letters of undertaking (LoUs) or loan agreements, and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) case relating to the laundering of the proceeds of that fraud.

India-UK has an extradition treaty signed in 1992. In India, Extradition Act 1962 governs extradition laws and the Ministry of External Affairs is the central authority to handle all extradition cases. The request for extradition can be initiated even in cases of under-investigation, or under-trial, apart from a convicted criminal.

*Fugitive Economic Offender (FEO)*: A person against whom an arrest warrant has been issued for committing an offence listed in the Act and the value of the offence is at least Rs. 100 crores.

### **Govt. unveils the logo, theme and website of India's G20 Presidency**

Government has unveiled the logo, theme and website of India's G-20 Presidency. Starting from December 2022, India will preside over the G-20 Summit. The G20 or Group of 20 is an intergovernmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies. India is currently part of the G20 Troika (current, previous and incoming G20 presidencies) comprising Indonesia, Italy and India.

The G20 Logo draws inspiration from the vibrant colours of India's national flag – saffron, white and green, and blue. It juxtaposes planet Earth with the lotus, India's national flower that reflects growth amid challenges. The Earth reflects India's pro-planet approach to life, one in perfect harmony with nature. Below the G20 logo is "Bharat", written in the Devanagari script.



The theme of India's G20 Presidency – "*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*" or "*One Earth One Family One Future*" – is drawn from the ancient Sanskrit text of the Maha Upanishad. Essentially, the theme affirms the value of all life – human, animal, plant, and microorganisms – and their interconnectedness on the planet Earth and in the wider Universe.

### **UK-India Young Professional Scheme**

United Kingdom (UK) and India have decided to launch a Young Professionals Exchange in 2023. Under it, UK will offer 3000 degree-holding Indians in the 18 to 30 years age group places to work for up to 2 years. The scheme will commence in early 2023 and be on a reciprocal basis.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Norway-India Maritime Meeting held in Mumbai**

8<sup>th</sup> Norway-India Joint Working Group Maritime meeting was held in Mumbai. The discussion was held on use of alternative fuels like green ammonia and hydrogen for futuristic shipping. India-Norway is part of Green

Voyage 2050 project, both parties agreed on willingness, devotion, partnership and capacity building for achieving common goals. Also, India is a signatory to Hongkong Convention for Recycling of Ships.

The *GreenVoyage2050 Project* is a partnership project between the Government of Norway and International Maritime Organization (IMO) launched in May 2019 aiming to transform the shipping industry towards a lower carbon future. The global partnership is supporting developing countries, including Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), in meeting their commitment towards relevant climate change and energy efficiency goals, for international shipping, through supporting the Initial IMO GHG Strategy. IMO current Secretary-General is *Kitack Lim*.

### **MHA hosts 3<sup>rd</sup> Ministerial ‘Countering Financing of Terrorism - No Money for Terror (NMFT)**

Ministry of Home Affairs has hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ministerial ‘Countering Financing of Terrorism – No Money for Terror (NMFT)’ held in New Delhi.

The No Money for Terror (NMFT) was started in 2018 (in Paris) as an initiative of the French Government. It offers a platform for participating nations and organizations to deliberate on the effectiveness of the current international regime on Counter Financing of Terrorism. In 2019, the conference was held in Australia. It was to be held in India in 2020 but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Money Laundering*: It is the process of making the proceeds of criminal activity appear to have been legally obtained.

India’s national efforts against terror financing

- *National Investigation Agency (NIA)*: Federal agency established by the Indian Government to combat terror in India.
- *Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA)*: Anti-terror legislation that seeks to designate an individual as a “terrorist”.
- *National Intelligence Grid or NATGRID*: It has been conceived to enable intelligence sharing to enhance India’s counter-terror capabilities.
- India has proposed a *Permanent Secretariat* to coordinate bid to fight terror funding Overall approach of ‘*Beyond-Border Cooperation*’ is the basis for countering terror funding in the global level.

### **19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India summit held in Cambodia**

19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit was held in Phenom Penh, Cambodia. 2022 is being celebrated as ASEAN-India Friendship Year as the summit also marked 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India-ASEAN dialogue. The relationship between ASEAN and India has been elevated to comprehensive strategic partnership (CSP) level. For the first time, the Indian delegation was headed by the Vice President.

*Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)* was established in 1967 with signing of ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. It aims to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development through joint endeavours among Southeast Asian Nations.

### **Russia re-joins Black Sea Grain Initiative**

Russia has re-joined the Black Sea Grain Initiative.

The Black Sea Grain initiative endeavours to tackle escalating food prices emanating from supply chain disruptions because of Russian actions in the world’s ‘breadbasket’. The deal brokered by the United Nations



(UN) and Turkey, was signed in Istanbul in July 2022. Initially stipulated for a period of 120 days, the deal was to provide for a safe maritime humanitarian corridor for Ukrainian exports (particularly for food grains).

### **Friend-Shoring**

9<sup>th</sup> India-U.S. Economic Financial Partnership meeting was held in New Delhi. Citing deepening economic integration, USA pitched for ‘friend-shoring’ for India.

*Friend shoring* means forming economic partnerships with countries with whom you share the same values and strategic interests. It is pitched as a means to insulate global supply chains from external disruption or economic coercion. Over the past few years, world has experienced series of trade disruptions such as US-China trade war, COVID-19 pandemic, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, among others. Idea is for a group of countries with shared values to deploy policies encouraging companies to spread manufacturing within that group.

### **China convenes first China-Indian Ocean Region Forum**

China has convened a first “China-Indian Ocean Region Forum” bringing together 19 countries from the region. The forum was held in Kunming, China. The forum underlined China’s stepped-up diplomacy in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). It proposed to establish a marine disaster prevention and mitigation cooperation mechanism between China and countries in Indian Ocean region. It was organized by China International Development Cooperation Agency which is Beijing’s new development aid agency. Note that, India was not invited.

### **Currency Monitoring List**

USA has removed India along with Italy, Mexico, Thailand and Vietnam from its Currency Monitoring List of major trading partners that merit close attention to their currency practices and macroeconomic policies. India had been on the list for the last two years.

This is a label given by USA Government to countries it feels are engaging in “unfair currency practices” by deliberately devaluing their currency against dollar.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Summit of International Counter Ransomware Initiative (CRI) held**

The Second International Counter Ransomware Initiative Summit was held in Washington DC, USA. Throughout the Summit, CRI and private sector partners discussed and developed concrete, cooperative actions to counter the spread and impact of ransomware around the globe. CRI is a group of 36 nations and European Union.

India will establish a dedicated counter ransomware platform, *Malwarekosh*, “to support, analyse, share and collaborate on counter ransomware activities”.

### **India took over the Chair of Global Partnership on AI from France**

India has taken over the Chair of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) from France. The meeting for this was held in Tokyo, Japan.

*Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* is an international initiative to support responsible and human-centric development and the use of Artificial Intelligence. It is a congregation of 25 member countries, including the US, UK, European Union, Australia, Canada, France, Germany etc.

**Defence Exercises in News**

*Sea Vigil:* The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the ‘Pan-India’ Coastal Defence Exercise ‘Sea Vigil-22’ was conducted. This Exercise was conceptualized in 2018 to validate various measures that have been instituted towards enhancing maritime security since ‘26/11’.

*Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2022:* It is a Maritime Partnership Exercise involving Royal Australian Navy and Indian Navy.

*Garuda Shakti:* It is a bilateral joint training exercise between India and Indonesia amongst the Special Forces of both the sides. Garuda is a joint air force exercise between India and France.

*Harimau Shakti:* It is an annual training event between the Indian and Malaysian Army.

*Austra Hind 22:* The bilateral training exercise held between contingents of the Indian Army and the Australian Army.

## 8. Awards and Recognition

### **Collins Dictionary's word of the year for 2022 – 'Permacrisis'**

The Collins Dictionary's word of the year for 2022 is – "Permacrisis". It is a term that describes 'an extended period of instability and insecurity'. The word, most widely understood as a combination of "permanent" and "crisis", has been in use for a little longer from the COVID crisis to the Russia-Ukraine war.

### **e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project wins Gold Award under the National Awards for e-Governance**

e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (*e-Gram Swaraj and AuditOnline*) of Ministry of Panchayati Raj has won the Gold Award under the category "Excellence in Government Process Re-engineering for Digital Transformation" of the National Awards for e-Governance.

*AuditOnline*: It is an application developed as a part of Panchayat Enterprise Suite (PES) under the e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP) initiated by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR). It facilitates the financial audit of accounts at all the 3 levels of Panchayats viz., District, Block and Village Panchayats; Urban Local Bodies (ULB); and Line Department by Auditors.

### **National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) awarded India Agri-business Awards 2022**

National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad was awarded with "India Agribusiness Awards 2022" for the best Agri-business Award under Fisheries Sector.

### **Dr. Subhash Babu awarded Bailey K. Ashford Medal by FASTMH**

Indian Physician and Scientist Dr. Subhash Babu has received the prestigious Bailey K. Ashford Medal and the Fellow of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (FASTMH) award for 2022. It was awarded for his outstanding research and contributions to tropical medicine. Note that, in its 82-year history, the award has never been given to an Indian scientist or an Indian institution for work.

The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH), the largest scientific organization in tropical medicine in the world, present the medal annually to one or more mid-career researchers for distinguished work in tropical medicine.

*Tropical medicine* is the practice of medicine in the tropics between the tropic of Cancer and Capricorn. It includes common infections, such as HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, and various other neglected tropical diseases, and non-infectious causes, such as snakebites, cancers, malnutrition, and nutrient deficiencies. It also deals with diseases that are indirectly or directly caused by climate change, air, water, and soil pollution.

### **Dr. Purnima Devi Barman awarded UNEP's Champions of the Earth Award**

Indian Wildlife Biologist Dr Purnima Devi Barman was awarded the Champions of the Earth award, the UN's highest environmental honour. She won the award this year in the 'Entrepreneurial Vision' category, for her trail-blazing work in protecting the greater adjutant stork, called '*hargila*' in Assamese. Hargilas are five-foot-tall birds that dwell in wetlands in some parts of southeast Asia including India and Cambodia.

The *Champions of the Earth award* is the United Nations' highest environmental honor. It was first awarded in 2005 by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to recognize outstanding individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to environmental conservation and sustainable development. The award recognizes achievements in the following categories: Policy leadership, Entrepreneurial vision, Science and innovation, Inspiration and action and Lifetime achievement.

### **Gandhi Mandela Award 2022 conferred to Dalai Lama**

Gandhi Mandela Award 2022 was conferred to the Tibetan spiritual leader – Dalai Lama (14th). The leader is also the recipient of the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize. The Dalai Lama has developed his philosophy of peace based on the concept of universal responsibility embracing all mankind as well as nature.

The Gandhi Mandela Foundation is a Government of India registered Trust, NGO, has constituted an international prize - the Gandhi Mandela Award, on the 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary (2019) of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. The award is given to personalities who have carried forward the legacies of Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela by making significant contributions in the fields of Peace, Social Welfare, Culture, Environment, Education, Healthcare, Sports and Innovation.

### **President presented National Florence Nightingale Awards for the Year 2021**

The President of India has presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards for the year 2021 to the Nursing professionals.

The *National Florence Nightingale Awards* were instituted in the year 1973 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India as a mark of recognition for the meritorious services rendered by the nurses and nursing professionals to the society.

*Florence Nightingale* was a British Nurse, Statistician and social reformer, born in Florence, Italy (1820). Her effort during Crimean War (1854-56), by curing patients, calculating mortality data and showing how improvements made in sanitary methods would reduce the number of deaths, won her recognition. She is also known as "The Lady with the Lamp" and the founder of modern nursing. Notably, to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Florence Nightingale, WHO announced the year 2020 as the year of the Nurse and Mid-Wife.

### **Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development**

Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development of 2021 was awarded to Pratham, an NGO functioning in the field of education. The award recognizes Pratham's work in ensuring quality education for children, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **M T Vasudevan Nair chosen for Kerala's first highest state-level award**

M.T. Vasudevan Nair, a renowned Malayalam Author and Jnanpith Laureate, has been chosen to receive the inaugural Kerala Jyothi award, which was established by the State Government in the spirit of the Padma awards to recognize people who have made priceless contributions to society.

### **Order of Merit by Britain's King Charles III**

India-born Nobel laureate UK-based Molecular Biologist Professor Venki Ramakrishnan has been awarded the prestigious Order of Merit by Britain's King Charles III in recognition of his distinguished service to science.

Professor Venki received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2009 for his work on ribosomal structure and was knighted by the Queen in 2012. He was President of the UK's Royal Society from November 2015 until November 2020.

The Order of Merit is an exclusive mark of honour conferred by the British sovereign.

### **53<sup>rd</sup> edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) held in Goa**

Celebrated Spanish film Director Carlos Saura has been honoured with the prestigious Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement award at the 53<sup>rd</sup> edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa.

*List of award winners in IFFI Goa:*

- ‘Golden Peacock’ for the best film of the festival: I Have Electric Dream (Spain)
- Silver Peacock for Best Actor (Male): Vahid Mobaserri (No End)
- Silver Peacock for Best Actor (Female): Daniela Marin Navarro (I Have Electric Dreams)
- Silver Peacock Best Director: Nader Saeivar for No End (Iran)
- IFFI Indian Film Personality of the Year Award for 2022: Chiranjeevi Konidela

### **Table Tennis legend Achanta Sharath Kamal receives Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award**

Commonwealth Games Gold Medallist ‘Achanta Sharath Kamal’ has received the prestigious Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award in 2022.

*Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award* is India’s highest sporting honour given by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. It was rechristened from Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna to Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award last year. The award was inaugurated in 1991-92 and comprises a medallion, a certificate, and a cash prize of Rs. 25 lakhs.

Note that, the first recipient of the Khel Ratna was chess legend, Viswanathan Anand. Some of the winners in recent years include cricketer Rohit Sharma, wrestler Vinesh Phogat, women’s hockey team captain Rani Rampal, among others.

Some of the National Sports Awards in India

‘*Arjuna Award* for outstanding performance in Sports and Games’ is given for good performance over a period of previous 4 years and showing qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and a sense of discipline.

‘*Dronacharya Award* for outstanding coaches in Sports and Games’ is given to coaches for doing outstanding and meritorious work on a consistent basis and enabling sportspersons to excel in international events.

‘*Dhyan Chand Award* for Lifetime achievement in Sports and Games’ is given to honour sportspersons who have contributed to sports by their performance and continue to contribute to promotion of sports event after their retirement.

‘*Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar*’ is given to corporate entities (both in private and public sector), sports control boards, NGOs including sports bodies at the State and National level who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development.

Overall top performing university in inter-university tournaments is given *Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy*.

### **Excellence in Leadership in Family Planning (EXCELL) Awards-2022**

India is the only country to have received the Leadership in Family Planning (EXCELL) Awards 2022 in the ‘country category’ at the International Conference on Family Planning held in Pattaya city, Thailand.

The EXCELL Awards, for Excellence in Leadership for Family Planning, have been bestowed by the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) since the inception of the conference in 2009, as a way to publicly recognize extraordinary individuals, organizations and countries who have made significant contributions to the family planning field, and whose work deserves to be highlighted and used to inspire meaningful dialogue within the community.

**Ravi Kumar Sagar receives Dr. Abdul Kalam Seva Puraskar 2022**

Ravi Kumar Sagar (age 22), one of the youngest founders and CEO of RK'S INNO group, was conferred with the prestigious Dr. Abdul Kalam Seva Puraskar. The award was presented to him for his persistent service to society and is one of the youngest entrepreneurs in India. Ravi Kumar Sagar started his entrepreneurship journey by selling PPE kits, sanitizers, and face masks to medical stores and hospitals.

*Dr. Abdul Kalam Seva Puraskar* is hosted every year by Vandhe Bharat Foundation and LeadIndia Foundation to commemorate the birth anniversary of the late former President of India Dr. APJ Adul Kalam. The award is conferred to the deserving candidates on the birth anniversary of Dr. Kalam for recognizing various people who have been doing extraordinary work for society.

## 9. Social Development

### **WHO approves Mosquirix vaccine for Malaria**

The World Health Organization's (WHO) has approved Mosquirix (*also known as RTS, S/AS01*) developed by GlaxoSmithKline for immunizing children against malaria was a big milestone after decades of gradual progress.

Malaria is a parasitic infection caused by the Plasmodium parasite, which is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected Anopheles mosquitoes. The disease is a major public health concern, especially in tropical and subtropical regions of the world, where it is endemic.

### **FAO releases latest edition of State of Food and Agriculture Report, 2022**

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has released the latest edition of its annual "State of Food and Agriculture Report 2022".

The Report looked at how automation in our agrifood systems can contribute to achieving Sustainable Development Goals and offers recommendations to policy makers on how to maximize the benefits and minimize the risks.

FAO is a specialised agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. It is one of the UN food aid organisations based in Rome (Italy). Its sister bodies are the World Food Programme and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). World Food Day is celebrated every year around the world on 16<sup>th</sup> October. The day is celebrated to mark the anniversary of the founding of the FAO in 1945.

#### *Flagship Publications:*

- The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA).
- The State of the World's Forests (SOFO).
- The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI)
- The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO).

### **Govt. inaugurates latest edition of Vande Bharat Train**

The Government has inaugurated the latest edition of the Vande Bharat train.

The Vande Bharat Express/ Train 18 is a semi-highspeed, electric multiple units (no separate locomotive) trains launched in 2019. It was designed and manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai under the Make in India initiative. Superior features of this new-age train include – Reclining seats, automatic fire sensors, CCTV cameras, Wi-fi with on-demand content, etc. Note that, the first Vande Bharat Express train was flagged off in February 2019, on the New Delhi-Kanpur-Allahabad-Varanasi route.

### **UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage**

UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage team has visited India to witness state interventions which have helped reduce the prevalence of child marriage in the country.

*Child Marriage:* marriage solemnized between the 2 people where the female is below the age of 18 years' or the male is below the age of 21 years.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) – United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Global Programme to End Child Marriage works with many partners to advocate and support practical actions to end child marriage, and to promote gender equality and the empowerment of adolescent girls.

Also, UNFPA and UNICEF have jointly led the largest global programme to accelerate the elimination of female genital mutilation (FGM) since 2008.

### **Crowd Management**

Recent tragedies in Seoul, South Korea, and Morbi in Gujarat have put crowds and their management under the spotlight. Seoul crowd tragedy was a classic case of ‘*crowd crush*’ or collapse in which more than 150 people have died while celebrating Halloween.

*Crowd crush* can occur when too many people push into a confined area – either on the way in or trying to get out. Crowd Management means a public security practice in which crowds are managed to prevent the outbreak of crowd crushes, affrays, fights, riots, or in which an assembly, protest or demonstration is dispersed.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), headed by the Prime Minister of India, is the apex body for Disaster Management in India. Setting up of NDMA and the creation of an enabling environment for institutional mechanisms at the State and District levels is mandated by the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

### **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has reported that the human population across the globe touched 8 billion.

*United Nations Population Fund* is a subsidiary organ of the UN General Assembly and works as a sexual and reproductive health agency. The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) establishes its mandate. It was established as a trust fund in 1967 and began operations in 1969. In 1987, it was officially renamed the United Nations Population Fund but the original abbreviation, ‘UNFPA’ for the United Nations Fund for Population Activities was retained.

### **Govt. releases 2 report on School Education – UDISE+ and PGI**

Department of School Education and Literacy (Ministry of Education) has released 2 reports on school education. These are:

- (i) Unified District Information System for Education Plus report 2020-21, and
- (ii) Report on Performance Grading Index (PGI) for States/UTs for 2020-21.

#### *Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) Report 2020-21*

UDISE+ has a mandate of collecting information from all recognized and unrecognized schools imparting formal education from Pre-primary to XII. Information collected by UDISE+ is utilized for the planning, optimized resource allocation and implementation of various education-related programs and program assessments. In UDISE+ 2021-22, additional data on important indicators viz., digital library, peer learning, hard spot identification, number of books available in the school library, etc. have been collected for the first time to align with the NEP 2020.

#### *Report on Performance Grading Index (PGI) for States/UTs for 2020-21*

It is a tool to provide insights on the status of school education in States and UTs including key levers that drive their performance and critical areas for improvement. It pinpoints the gaps and helps States/UTs in prioritizing the areas for intervention to ensure that the school education system is robust at every level.



### **Mother Tongue Survey of India (MTSI)**

Ministry of Home Affairs has completed Mother Tongue Survey of India. According to the annual report of the Ministry of Home Affairs for 2021-22, it has been planned to set up a web archive at the National Informatics Centre (NIC) to preserve and analyse the original flavour of each indigenous mother tongue.

*Mother Tongue Survey of India (MTSI)* surveys the mother tongues, which are retained consistently across 2 and more Census decades and analyses their linguistic features. The report states that the NIC and the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) will be documenting and preserving the linguistic data of the surveyed mother tongues in audio-video files.

### **IPPB conducts Financial Literacy Camp – Niveshak Didi**

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), in collaboration with Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA), has conducted India's First Floating Financial Literacy Camp with an initiative called 'Niveshak Didi' to promote Financial Literacy '*By the women, for the women*', in Srinagar, J&K.

'Niveshak Didi' initiative is based on the ideology of women for women as in rural area women feel more comfortable sharing their queries with a female itself.

### **Permanent Commission for Women**

Supreme Court has ordered the Government to grant pension to women officers who fought for 12 years to get reinstatement and permanent commission in the Indian Air Force (IAF). Permanent Commission means a career in the army till the age of retirement. In Short Service Commission, the period of service is limited to 10 years (+ 4 years extension).

### **IM1B collaborates with National Education Society for Tribal Students to provide training at EMRSs**

IM1B Foundation has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), to train teachers and students at the Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs). The programme will skill teachers and students with Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) using AR-VR skills curriculum launched by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

*1 Million for 1 Billion (IM1B)*, is a Not-for-Profit company accredited to the United Nations with special consultative status to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and is associated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications and also is a registered credible organization with NGO Darpan Portal of NITI Aayog. It is a social innovation and future skills initiative aligned to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

*Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)* started in the year 1997-98 to impart quality education to ST children in remote areas in order to enable them to avail of opportunities in high and professional educational courses and get employment in various sectors.

### **WHO releases Global Vaccine Market Report 2022**

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has released 'Global Vaccine Market Report 2022'. This is the first report to capture the implications of Covid-19 for vaccine markets highlighting the issue of vaccine inequity.

### **Measles Disease**

WHO has pointed out through a release of Data that nearly 40 million children globally had missed a measles vaccine dose last year. As a result, there were an estimated nine million measles cases and 1,28,000 deaths in 2021.

*Measles*, also known as rubeola, is a highly contagious viral disease that primarily affects children. It is caused by the morbillivirus virus, which is spread through the air by coughing and sneezing and can also be transmitted by contact with surfaces contaminated with the virus. The disease is associated with high mortality in children less than 2 years of age. Measles can be prevented through vaccination with the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine, which is typically given to children in two doses.

### **UGC releases New Regulations for awarding Ph.D**

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has notified the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of PhD Degree) Regulations, 2022.

Some of the key changes in the legislation governing the award of PhDs:

- Waiving off the need to mandatorily publish a research paper in a peer-reviewed journal.
- Completely abolishing M.Phil., which has been a gateway for PhD programmes, in line with the recommendation in the National Education Policy 2020
- Candidate can register after completing a one-year master's degree programme after a four-year bachelor's degree programme or a two-year (or four-semester) master's degree programme after a three-year bachelor's degree programme with at least 55% marks or its equivalent grade.
- The UGC now also allows part-time PhDs, a practice that was disallowed under the 2009 and 2016 regulations.

## 10. Economy

### **RBI to launch Retail Digital Rupee also called – Central Bank Digital Currency**

The Reserve Bank has announced the launch of the first pilot for retail digital Rupee (₹-R) also called Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC). The first phase of a pilot project that will cover select locations and banks in a Closed User Group (CUG) where customers and merchants will be able to use the digital rupee (₹-R), or e-rupee.

RBI defines the CBDC as the digital form of currency notes issued by a central bank. It is a sovereign or entirely independent currency issued by the central bank (in this case, RBI), in accordance with the country's monetary policy. Once officially issued, CBDC will be considered as a medium of payment and legal tender by all three parties – citizens, government bodies, and enterprises. Being government-recognised, it can be freely converted to any commercial bank's money or notes. Cryptocurrencies like bitcoin or ethereum are 'private' in nature. Digital rupee on the other hand, will be issued and controlled by the RBI.

### **Network Readiness Index report released**

Network Readiness Index 2022 (NRI 2022) report was released. As per it, India has improved its position by six slots and is now placed at 61<sup>st</sup> rank. USA has taken the 1<sup>st</sup> spot from the Netherlands (4<sup>th</sup>) as the most network-ready society.

The *Network Readiness Index (NRI) Report* maps the network readiness landscape of 131 economies based on their performance in 4 areas: Technology, People, Governance, and Impact. The Report is prepared by the Portulans Institute, an independent non-profit, nonpartisan research and educational institute based in Washington DC.

### *India's Related Initiatives*

- National Broadband Mission
- National Digital Communications Policy, 2018.
- BharatNet
- Government's Digital India programme
- National AI Portal

### **National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC)**

Government is planning to increase the authorized share capital of the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) to Rs 2500 Cr (from presently 1500 Cr)

*Authorized share capital* is the number of stock units a company can issue as stated in its Memorandum of Association.

National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) is a 1989 non-profit company to provide loans through its Channelizing Agencies at concessional interest rates for self-employment & economic development activities to Scheduled Caste groups. NSFDC also sponsors skill/entrepreneurial training programmes to assist the unemployed members of scheduled castes in wage/self-employment. Examples - *Mahila Samridhi Yojana, Educational Loan Scheme, Stand-up India, Aajeevika Micro-Finance Yojana* etc.

### **NASSCOM releases Report on Gig Workers**

The National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) has released a report on the status of Gig Workers. The Report specifies that approximately two-thirds of organisations in the Indian technology sector are hiring gig workers as they respond to a changing business landscape.

The Code on Social Security, 2020 defines gig worker, platform worker and home-based worker.

- “*Gig worker*” as a person who performs work or participates in a work arrangement and earns from such activities outside of the traditional employer-employee relationship.
- “*Platform worker*” means a worker working outside of a traditional employer-employee relationship in which organisations or individuals use an online platform to access other organisations or individuals to solve specific problems or to provide specific services or any such other activities which may be notified by the Central Government, in exchange for payment.
- “*Home-based worker*” means a person engaged in, the production of goods or services for an employer in his home or other premises of his choice other than the workplace of the employer, for remuneration, irrespective of whether or not the employer provides the equipment, materials or other inputs.

### **Govt. decides to wind up National Anti-Profitteering Authority**

National Anti-profitteering Authority (NAA) has ended its tenure in November 2022.

The *National Anti-Profitteering Authority (NAA)* was set up in November 2017 under Section 171A of the GST law to check unfair profiteering activities by registered suppliers. The Authority's core function was to ensure that benefits of reduction in GST rates on goods and services and of the input tax credit are passed on to consumers by way of reduction in prices.

### **RBI allows opening up of 9 Vostro Accounts with two Indian lenders – UCO and IndusInd Bank**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed the opening of 9 special Vostro accounts (under Foreign Exchange Management (Deposit) Regulation, 2016) with two Indian lenders – UCO and IndusInd Bank – to facilitate overseas trade in rupee.

#### *Vostro, Nostro and Loro Account*

There are 3 types of International Current Account – Nostro Account, Vostro Account, Loro Account.

A Vostro Account is defined as an account that a correspondent bank holds on behalf of another bank. Vostro is a Latin word that means “your”, therefore, a vostro account implies that it is “your account”. In a vostro account, it is the correspondent foreign bank point of view, whereas in a nostro account, it is the point of view of the domestic bank.

Vostro accounts are maintained in the domestic currency whereas, nostro accounts in foreign currency.

A Loro account is a current account that is maintained by one domestic bank for another domestic bank in the form of a third-party account, unlike nostro and vostro which is bilateral correspondence.

Nostro Account: *Our money with you.*

Vostro Account: *Your money with us.*

Loro Account: *Their money.*

### **SEBI releases regulatory framework for Online Bond Platforms (OBP)**

Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has released the regulatory framework for Online Board Platforms (OBP) providers to regulate its activities and ensure transparency. Online Bond Platform Providers (OBPPs) would be companies incorporated in India and they should register themselves as stock brokers in the debt segment of the stock exchange, as per the framework that would be effective immediately.

*Online Bond Platforms (OBPs)* are electronic systems (*similar to stock exchanges*) on which debt securities can be transacted. It provides an avenue for investors, particularly non-institutional investors to access the bond market, however, their operations were outside SEBI's regulatory purview.

### **Govt. likely to cap non-basmati and basmati rice blending to 15%**

Government is planning to disallow the blending of more than 15% non-basmati rice with basmati rice for the product that is sold as blended 'Basmati' Rice. Reasons behind the move is to ensure that the purity of Indian Basmati Rice doesn't dilute due to excessive blending.

"*Basmati*" is long grain aromatic rice grown for many centuries in a specific geographical area, in the Himalayan foothills of the Indian sub-continent. It has characteristics of extra-long slender grains that elongate at least twice their original size. The areas of Basmati Rice production in India are the states of J & K, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttarakhand and western Uttar Pradesh. India is the leading exporter of Basmati Rice to the global market.

### **41<sup>st</sup> India International Trade Fair held in New Delhi**

Ministry of Ayush has showcased its initiatives and various achievements at 41<sup>st</sup> India International Trade Fair held in New Delhi. It was highlighted around the theme of "*Ayush for Global Health*". The fair was organized by India Trade Promotion Organization, a Government of India Enterprise.

Initiatives for AYUSH promotion:

- "*Create Your Own*" Ayush items like soap, gel, cream, goli, etc.
- Identification and matching of spices.
- "*Daadi se Pucho*" where one will be briefed about kitchen solutions that can be used for some of the health problems.
- Software based Prakriti Parikshan and Mizaj Parikshan.

*Ministry of Ayush* (formed in 2014) has been promoting entrepreneurship in Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy sector through India's agile startup ecosystem.

### **RBI releases a Report on Municipal Financing**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released a report on 'Municipal Financing'. The Report explores 'Alternative Sources of Financing for Municipal Corporations' as its theme.

The Report is a first ever comprehensive analysis of Municipal finances and covers 201 municipal corporations (MCs) across all States. The report also suggests some innovative ways to strengthen the financial capacity of municipalities.

The 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act 1992, through the Twelfth Schedule institutionalized the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) as the third tier of the Government to promote grassroots level democracy. The Act also provides an illustrative list of functions which the State Governments may assign to the municipalities, partly or wholly, through their municipal laws.

### **SEBI issues guidelines to standardize usage of rating scales used by CRAs**

Capital markets regulator SEBI has released the fresh guidelines in order to standardize the usage of rating scales used by Credit Rating Agencies (CRAs).

*Credit Rating:* Issuer rating or corporate credit rating indicates the degree of safety of the issuer or the rated entity with regard to timely servicing of all its debt obligations.

According to SEBI, rating symbols should have CRA's first name as prefix.

- Under this, issuers with 'AAA' rating symbols are considered to have the highest degree of safety regarding timely servicing of debt obligations. Debt exposures to such issuers carry lowest credit risk.
- While issuers with 'AA' and 'A' rating symbols are understood to have high and adequate degree of safety, respectively with regard to timely servicing of debt obligations. Debt exposures to such issuers carry very low to low credit risk.
- Issuers with 'BBB' rating is considered to have moderate degree of safety regarding timely servicing of debt obligations. Debt exposures to such issuers carry moderate credit risk.
- Those with 'BB', 'B' and 'C' ratings are considered to have 'moderate', 'high', 'very high' risk of default, respectively pertaining to timely servicing of debt obligations and issuers with D rating are in default or are expected to be in default soon.

#### *Rating Outlook and Rating Watch*

'Rating Outlook' indicates CRA's view on the expected direction of the rating movement in the near to medium term, whereas a 'Rating Watch' indicates a CRA's view on the expected direction of the rating movement in the short term.

#### **Ministry of Finance approves Sovereign Green Bonds (SGRB)**

Ministry of Finance has approved the final Sovereign Green Bonds (SGRB) framework of India. This approval aims to strengthen India's commitment towards its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) targets, adopted under the Paris Agreement, and help in attracting global and domestic investments in eligible green projects. The proceeds generated from issuance of such bonds will be deployed in Public Sector projects which help in reducing carbon intensity of the economy. Earlier, Union Budget 2022-23 announced the issue of Sovereign Green Bonds for mobilizing resources for green projects.

A *Green Bond* is a type of debt security created for funding or re-funding projects contributing positively to the climate and/or ecosystem. The significant difference between Green Bonds and ordinary bonds is that the funds raised are only used to support initiatives that have a good influence on the environment, such as green construction, renewable energy etc.

#### **Govt. awarded contract of building India's first Multi Modal Logistic Park to RIL**

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has awarded the contract of setting up India's first Multi-Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) near Chennai to Reliance Industries (RIL). The Model concession agreement for MMLPs is on a Design, Build, Finance, Operate, and Transfer (DBFOT) model. Under the '*PM GatiShakti National Master Plan*', the Government of India has announced that contracts will be awarded through PPP model for implementation of MMLPs.

A *Multi-Modal Logistics Park (MMLP)* is an inter-modal freight-handling establishment comprising of warehouses, dedicated cold chain facilities, freight or container terminals and bulk cargo terminals. It aims at easing and optimizing merchandise movement via road, rail, waterway and air, consequently, rationalizing the cost of logistics and improving the competitiveness of logistics.

*Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)* involve collaboration between a government agency and a private-sector company that can be used to finance, build, and operate projects, such as public transportation networks, parks, and convention centres.

### DCA unveils framework to curb fake reviews on e-commerce sites

The Department of Consumer Affairs have launched the framework titled Indian Standard (IS) 19000:2022 ‘Online Consumer Reviews — Principles and Requirements for their Collection, Moderation and Publication.’ The standards will be applicable to every online platform which publishes consumer reviews. The framework aims for safeguarding and protecting consumer interest from fake and deceptive reviews in e-commerce.

The standard will initially be voluntary for compliance by all e-commerce platforms. BIS will also develop a Conformity Assessment Scheme for the standard to assess compliance. Fake and misleading reviews violate a consumer’s right under Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

### BIS releases Drafts Standards National Action Plan

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has released Draft Standards National Action Plan (SNAP) 2022. SNAP proposes a set of actions that would enable BIS to fulfil its mandate as the National Standards Body and deliver standards according to the market needs in an efficient and timely manner.

World Standards Day: 14<sup>th</sup> October

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is a national standard body of India. It functions under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution. It is responsible for development of activities of standardization, marking and quality certification of goods etc. It got statutory backing with Bureau of Indian Standards Act 2016.

Certification	Details
ISI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used for standard industrial products in India.</li> <li>• It is mandatory for some products like electronics and voluntary for others.</li> <li>• Certified by BIS.</li> </ul>
AGMARK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applies to agricultural products.</li> <li>• Issued by Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare</li> </ul>
FPO MARK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandatory on all processed fruit products sold in India such as packaged fruit beverages, fruit-jams etc.</li> <li>• Issued by Ministry of Food Processing Industries</li> </ul>
BIS Hallmark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hallmarking system for the sale of precious metal like gold and silver jewellery which certify the purity of the metal.</li> <li>• It verifies that jewellery conforms to the standards set by BIS.</li> </ul>
Non-polluting Vehicle Mark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandatory certification mark required on all new motor vehicles sold in India.</li> </ul>
Indian Organic Certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark for organically farmed food products manufactured in India.</li> <li>• Issued by testing centres accredited by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.</li> </ul>

### WTO releases latest edition of Goods Trade Barometer

World Trade Organization has released the latest edition of Goods Trade Barometer. WTO’s Goods Trade Barometer index is a composite indicator for world trade, providing real-time information on merchandise trade trajectory relative to recent trends. Its baseline value is 100. A value greater than 100 suggests above trend growth while a value below 100 indicates below-trend growth.

### **Scheme for Procurement of Aggregate Power Launched**

Ministry of Power has launched scheme for Procurement of Aggregate Power of 4500 MW for 5 years under SHAKTI (Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala Transparently in India). SHAKTI scheme was launched to provide coal to stressed power units which lack coal supply. Scheme will help states that are facing power shortage and also help generation plants to increase their capacities. PFC Consulting Limited will be nodal agency of scheme.

### **Finfluencers**

SEBI is planning to release guidelines for financial influencers or presently termed as 'Finfluencers'.

'Finfluencers' (or financial influencers) are those who give advice to stock investors on various social media platforms like Twitter, Youtube, Instagram and Facebook.



## 11. Important Days

### **International Day for Biosphere Reserves – 3<sup>rd</sup> November**

From 2022 onwards, 3<sup>rd</sup> November has been designated to be celebrated as 'The International Day for Biosphere Reserves'.

*Biosphere Reserves* is an international designation by UNESCO for representative parts of natural and cultural landscapes extending over large areas of terrestrial or coastal/marine ecosystems or a combination of both. BR tries to balance economic and social development and maintenance of associated cultural values along with the preservation of nature. These are designated under the intergovernmental Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme by the Director-General of UNESCO following the decisions of the MAB International Coordinating Council (MAB ICC).

The MAB Programme is an intergovernmental scientific programme that aims to establish a scientific basis for enhancing the relationship between people and their environments.

### **Red Planet Day – 28<sup>th</sup> November**

Commemorating the day one of the most significant space missions to Mars was launched, 28<sup>th</sup> November is marked as Red Planet Day. On this day in 1964, the United States launched the space probe Mariner 4 on a course towards Mars. This was the first time that a spacecraft undertook the first flyby of the red planet, becoming the first-ever spacecraft to take close-up photographs of another planet.

### **National Constitution Day – 26<sup>th</sup> November**

Constitution Day is celebrated every year on 26<sup>th</sup> November. On the occasion, Government launched various new initiatives under the e-Court Project.

Brief description of the initiatives is given below.

- *Virtual Justice Clock* – Exhibits vital statistics at Court-level giving the details of the cases instituted, cases disposed and pendency.
- *JustIS Mobile App 2.0* – Tool for judicial officers for effective court and case management by monitoring pendency and disposal of cases.
- *Digital Court* – Initiative to make court records available to judge in digitised form to enable the transition to Paperless Courts.
- *S3WaaS Websites* – To generate, configure, deploy and manage websites for publishing specified information and services related to district judiciary.

### **National Press Day – 16<sup>th</sup> November**

India celebrates 16<sup>th</sup> November as National Press Day every year. The day is observed in honour of the Press Council of India (PCI). The PCI was founded on 16<sup>th</sup> November 1966. The day is meant to mark the presence of the free and responsible press in India.

### **National Milk Day – 26<sup>th</sup> November**

The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has celebrated National Milk Day” on 26<sup>th</sup> November to commemorate the 101<sup>st</sup> Birth Anniversary of the “Father of the White Revolution in India”, Dr Verghese Kurien. Dr. Verghese Kurien is credited with industrializing dairy production and founding the Amul brand. Due to his work, India surpassed the USA to become the world’s largest milk producer in 1998.

*Operation Flood* started in 1970, has assisted dairy farmers in managing their own development and taking ownership of the resources they produce. The goals of Operation Flood included:

- Increase milk production ('a flood of milk'),
- Augment rural incomes,
- Reasonable prices for consumers.

### **Guru Nanak Jayanti – 8<sup>th</sup> November**

The 553<sup>rd</sup> birth anniversary of Sikh Guru Nanak Dev is celebrated on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Guru Nanak is the founder and first Guru of Sikhism. He was born in 1469 at Talwandi Rai Bhoi (renamed later as Nankana Sahib) near Lahore. He believed that God is Formless (Nirankar), and there is 'One God' that dwells in every one of his creations, and that all human beings can have direct access to God without the need of any rituals or priests.

Guru Nanak founded and formalized the 3 pillars of Sikhism:

- Naam Japna: meditation on God through reciting, chanting, singing, and constant remembrance followed by deep study & comprehension of God's Name and virtues.
- Kirat Karni: to honestly earn by one's physical and mental effort while accepting both pains and pleasures as God's gifts and blessings.
- Vand Chakna: The Sikhs were asked to share their wealth within the community by practicing Vand Chakna- "Share and Consume together".

### **November 24<sup>th</sup> commemorates as Shaheedi Divas**

November 24 is commemorated as the Shaheedi Divas of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the 9<sup>th</sup> Guru of the Sikhs, who stood up against forcible conversions by the Mughals, and was executed on the orders of Aurangzeb in 1675.

Tegh Bahadur was born in Amritsar on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1621 to Mata Nanki and Guru Hargobind, the 6<sup>th</sup> Sikh guru, who raised an army against the Mughals and introduced the concept of warrior saints. He was only 13 when he distinguished himself in a battle against a Mughal chieftain. His bravery and swordsmanship in the battle earned him the name of Tegh Bahadur. After Guru Ram Das, the 4<sup>th</sup> Sikh Guru, the guruship became hereditary.

### **Janjatiya Gaurav Divas – 15<sup>th</sup> November**

Government of India celebrates 15<sup>th</sup> November as the Janjatiya Gaurav Divas on the occasion of tribal leader Birsa Munda's Birth Anniversary. The Day was declared by the Government of India in the year 2021 to celebrate the contributions of tribal communities to Indian culture.

Birsa Munda, also known as Bhagwan Birsa Munda or '*DhartiAaba*', was born in Munda tribe at Khunti district of Chhotanagpur Plateau region (Jharkhand). He fought against the exploitation of local tribes from British and Zamindars, also known as *Dikus* or outsiders. He started a movement called 'Ulgulan', or 'The Great Tumult' against the exploitation and discrimination against tribals by the local authorities. It resulted into passing of Chotanagpur Tenancy (CNT) Act, 1908.

Birsa Munda started the faith of '*Birsait*'. He wanted to reform the tribal society and so, he stressed on the importance of prayer, staying away from alcohol, having faith in God and observing a code of conduct. He died of cholera on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1900.

### **National Education Day – 11<sup>th</sup> November**

Since 2008, India has been celebrating National Education Day on 11<sup>th</sup> November, the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad to honour his contributions to education in India. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad served as the first Minister of Education of independent India. He was the pioneer for the establishing of the Indian

Institutes of Technology (IIT) and the foundation of the University Grants Commission (UGC). He was awarded Bharat Ratna posthumously in 1992 for his contributions towards the field of education.

Theme for the year 2022: “*Changing Course, Transforming Education*”

#### **World Science Day for Peace and Development – 10<sup>th</sup> November**

World Science Day for Peace and Development is celebrated every year on 10<sup>th</sup> November every year to highlight the important role of science in society and the need to engage the public on emerging scientific issues.

The theme for the year 2022: “*Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development*”

#### **National Legal Services Day – 8<sup>th</sup> November**

National Legal Services Day is celebrated every year on 8<sup>th</sup> November. The Day is celebrated to make people aware of the various provisions under the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 and the right of the litigants. The aim of celebrating this day is to offer free of charge, proficient and legal services to the people belonging to weaker sections of society.

#### **World Toilet Day – 19<sup>th</sup> November**

World Toilet Day is celebrated every year on 19<sup>th</sup> November. The official convener of the World Toilet Day is the UN-Water. World Toilet Day 2022 focuses on the impact of the sanitation crisis on groundwater.

Theme for the year 2022: “*Making the invisible visible*”

#### **World Children’s Day – 20<sup>th</sup> November**

World Children’s Day is celebrated each year on 20<sup>th</sup> November to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.

20<sup>th</sup> November is an important date as it is the date in 1959 when the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. It is also the date in 1989 when the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Since 1990, World Children’s Day also marks the anniversary of the date that the UN General Assembly adopted both the Declaration and the Convention on children's rights.

The theme for the year 2022: “*Inclusion, for every child*”

#### **World Fisheries Day – 21<sup>st</sup> November**

World Fisheries Day is celebrated on 21<sup>st</sup> November every year to demonstrate solidarity with all fisherfolk, fish farmers and concerned stakeholders throughout the world. It started in 1997 where the “World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers” met at New Delhi leading to the formation of the World Fisheries Forum with representatives from 18 countries and signed a declaration advocating for a global mandate of sustainable fishing practices and policies.

#### **Constitution Day – 26<sup>th</sup> November**

Constitution day which is also known as the *Samvidhan Divas* is celebrated every year on November 26 to mark the day on which the Constitution of India was adopted. While the adoption of the Constitution took place on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1949, it came into effect on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1950.

## 12. Culture

### Telangana's Bonalu Festival

Indian National Congress Leader Mr. Rahul Gandhi, during the Congress's Bharat Jodo Yatra, has joined Telangana's traditional Bonalu festival and picked up a heavy rope and whipped himself as he donned the avatar of 'Potharaju'.

*Bonalu Festival* is a traditional Hindu festival centred on the Goddess Mahakali from Telangana. During Bonalu, women walk in procession to temples led by 'Potharaju' who violently dances to loud drumbeats and whips the crowd with his ropes. Potharaju is considered to be the brother of seven sister goddesses – different forms of the goddess Mahankali.

### Sangai Festival of Manipur

Sangai Festival is the biggest annual cultural festival of Manipur, organized every year in November. The Festival is named after State animal, 'Sangai', brow-antlered deer found only in Manipur.

### Raja Ram Mohan Roy

The Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation of the Ministry of Culture has organized a dance drama program titled 'Yugpurush Raja Rammohun Roy' based on the theme 'Nari Samman.' Note that, a 1-year-long celebration was launched by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022, on the occasion of the 250<sup>th</sup> Birth anniversary of Raja Rammohun Roy, as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

*Raja Ram Mohan Roy:* He is popularly remembered as the father of Indian renaissance. He was born on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1772 in Radhanagar (Bengal Presidency). He represented Akbar Shah II (19<sup>th</sup> Mughal Emperor) in England where he pleaded for his pension and allowances. Akbar II awarded him the title 'Raja'.

### Social Contributions

- He stood against the practice of the Abolition of Satis Act, 1829, which was a result of R.R Mohan Roy's efforts.
- He pleaded for the right of inheritance and property for women.
- He fought against polygamy and child marriage which were prevalent back then.
- He supported women education as he believed that only education would fetch women equal social status with men.
- In collaboration with David Hare and Alexander Duff, Raja Ram Mohan Roy established Hindu College at Calcutta.

### Organisations he is associated with:

- Started Atmiya Sabha in 1814 in order to crusade against idol worship, meaningless rituals and superstitious beliefs. He spreaded the monotheistic ideals.
- In 1817, along with David Hare, he founded the Hindu College at Calcutta.
- The Calcutta Unitarian Committee, jointly founded by William Adam and Rammohun Roy in September 1821, sought to bring together prominent Brahmins who were friends of Roy's and supporters of his agenda for the promotion of religious monotheism and social reform.
- He created the 'Brahma Sabha' in 1828 (*set up with Debendranath Tagore*).
- In 1822, he set up the Anglo-Hindu school which taught mechanics and Voltaire's philosophy.
- In 1825, he started the Vedanta college where Indian learning, as well as the Western social and physical sciences, were taught.
- In 1830, he assisted Alexander Duff to set up the General Assembly's Institution, which later became

the Scottish Church College.

*Literary Contributions:* Brahmanical Magazine (1821), Sambad Kaumudi, [a Bengali weekly, started in 1822], Mirat-ul-Akbar, [a Persian journal], Tuhfat-ul-Muwahhidin (1804), Vedanta Gantha (1815), Translation of an abridgement of the Vedanta Sara (1816), Kenopanishads (1816), Ishopanishad (1816), Kathopanishad (1817).

### **Birth Anniversary of Tipu Sultan – 20<sup>th</sup> November**

The birth anniversary of Tipu Sultan was observed on 20<sup>th</sup> November (born in 1750).

#### *Key Points related to Tipu Sultan*

- Tipu Sultan was Haidar Ali's son and also known as the Tiger of Mysore.
- He was a well-educated man fluent in Arabic, Persian, Kanarese and Urdu.
- Mysore had grown in strength under the leadership of powerful rulers like Haidar Ali (ruled from 1761 to 1782) and his son Tipu Sultan (ruled from 1782 to 1799).
- He introduced a number of administrative innovations during his rule, including his coinage, a new Mauludi lunisolar calendar, and a new land revenue system which initiated the growth of Mysore silk industry.
- Embracing western military methods like artillery and rockets alongside traditional Indian weapons including war elephants, he ensured his forces could overwhelm his Indian rivals and match the British armies sent against him.
- Anglo-Mysore War: Four wars were fought with Mysore.
  - 1767-69: Treaty of Madras.
  - 1780-84: Treaty of Mangalore.
  - 1790-92: Treaty of Seringapatam.
  - 1799: Subsidiary Alliance.
- Only in the last – the Battle of Seringapatam – did the Company ultimately win a victory. Tipu Sultan was killed defending his capital Seringapatam.
- After that, Mysore was placed under the former ruling dynasty of the Wodeyars' and a Subsidiary Alliance was imposed on the State.
- He was also a patron of science and technology and is credited as the 'pioneer of rocket technology' in India. He wrote a military manual (*Fathul Mujahidin*) explaining the operation of rockets.
- He was a great lover of democracy. He himself became a member of the Jacobin Club and allowed himself to be called Citizen Tipu. He planted the Tree of Liberty at Seringapatam.

*Subsidiary Alliance:* In 1798, it was introduced by Lord Wellesley in India, the ruler of the allying Indian state was compelled to pay a subsidy for the maintenance of British army in return for getting protection from the British against their enemies.

### **Wangala Dance**

The opening ceremony of the Rising Sun Water Fest-2022 was conducted amidst the pristine surroundings of Umiam Lake (*man-made reservoir*) at Meghalaya. Members of the Garo tribal community perform Wangala dance on the occasion of 'The Rising Sun Water Fest-2022'.

The *Wangala* is also known as the Festival of Hundred Drums and is celebrated with different forms of dances on the tunes of folk songs played on drums and primitive flute made of buffalo horns. The festival is celebrated in honour of the Sun God and marks the end of the long harvest season. The celebration also signifies the end of a long toil period in the field for the Garo tribe before the start of the winters. For the Garo Tribe in Meghalaya,

the festival is a way to preserve and promote their cultural identity and they exhibit their tradition in their celebrations.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> National Tribal dance Festival held in Raipur, Chhattisgarh**

African-origin Siddi Tribe (who came to India 850 years ago) have performed their cultural dance form at the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Tribal Dance Festival held in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. It is one of Chhattisgarh's grand festivals which celebrates diverse tribal communities and their culture not just in India but from across the globe.

Some major tribal/folk dances of India:

- Bagurumba, Bhortal Dance – Assam
- Bardo Chham – Arunachal Pradesh
- Raut Nacha – Chhattisgarh
- Fugdi – Goa
- Nati – Himachal Pradesh
- Ras Leela – Haryana
- Dumhal – Jammu and Kashmir
- Duffmuttu, Margamkali – Kerala
- Grida dance – Madhya Pradesh, etc.

### **PM unveils Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Statue at Bengaluru Airport**

Prime Minister of India has unveiled the 108-foot bronze statue of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda (credited to be the city's founder) installed at the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru. The Statue is also termed as the "Statue of Prosperity." The structure has been termed the "first and tallest bronze statue of a founder of a city" by the World Book of Records.

*Nadaprabhu Kempegowda*, a 16<sup>th</sup> century chieftain (or nada prabhu) of the Vijayanagara empire, is credited as the founder of Bengaluru. It is said that he conceived the idea of a new city while hunting with his minister, and later marked its territory by erecting towers in four corners of the proposed city.

### **UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2022 announced**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2022 has been announced which included four winners from India.

India's Performance:

- Award of Excellence: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, Mumbai
- Award of Distinction: Stepwells of Golconda, Hyderabad
- Award of Merit: Domakonda Fort, Telangana, and Byculla Station, Mumbai

*UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation* programme started in 2000. It recognizes the efforts of private individuals and organisations in restoring, conserving and transforming structures and buildings of heritage value in the region.

### **Prime Minister of India gifts to G20 leaders showcase India's rich cultural diversity**

Prime Minister of India has gifted the Heads of States different craft pieces from India at the G20 summit in Bali, Indonesia.

- *Pahari Miniature Painting (Kangra style)*: It is a style of miniature painting and book illustration that developed in the independent states of the Himalayan foothills in India. Characteristic features of the

Kangra style are delicacy of line, brilliance of colour and minuteness of decorative details. Most popular themes that were painted were the Bhagvata Purana, Gita Govinda, Nala Damayanti, Bihari Satsai, Ragamala and Baramasa.

- *Mata Ni Pachedi*: It means 'behind the mother goddess' and is a cloth that constitutes a temple of the goddess. Mata ni Pachedi is also called the Kalamkari of Gujarat due to its resemblance to the art of Kalamkari from South India and the same method of painting, namely using a pen (kalam) made out of bamboo.
- *Pithora Paintings*: The Pithora paintings trail back long into history and find their roots in the cave paintings, thousands of years old. The Pithora paintings are done by the Rathwa, Bhil, Nayak and Tadi tribes of Gujarat, parts of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Pithora paintings are characterized by the seven horses representing the 7 hills that surround the area where the Rathwas reside. Pithora paintings are more of a ritual than an art form.
- *Agate Bowls*: Agate or 'akik' is the semiprecious stone is found in underground mines of Rajpipla and Ratanpur in riverbeds and extracted to produce a variety of ornamental objects such as these bowls. Agate is also said to have healing properties for balancing energies either within a person or even in the surroundings.
- *Patan Patola*: The ancient art of double ikat or Patola is woven in pure silk and dates back to the 11th century. The Patola fabrics bear an equal intensity of colours and design on both sides.
- *Kinnauri Shawl*: These are famous shawls from Himachal Pradesh. Its geometric designs are heavily influenced by the Central Asian culture and consists of motifs that usually symbolize religions and cultures.

### **Pakistan gives visas to Indian Pilgrims to visit Shadani Darbar**

Pakistan Authorities have issued visas to Indian pilgrims to allow them to participate in 314<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary celebrations of Sant Shadaram Sahib. Under Pakistan-India Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines of 1974, pilgrims from both countries are allowed to travel to some shrines across every year.

*Shadani Darbar* temple is located in Pakistan's Sindh province and is a sacred place for Hindu devotees from across the globe. It was founded in 1786 by Sant Shadaram Sahib who is believed to be descendent of Lord Ram's son, Lav, and also an avatar of Lord Shiva.

### **Morbi bridge collapse in Gujrat**

Colonial-era cable bridge was collapsed in Morbi town of Gujrat. It was known locally as the "*jhoolta pool*," or swinging bridge. The structure was inaugurated in 1879 during British rule. It was built over Machchu river. The bridge was made during the reign of Sir Waghji Ravaji, the Thakur Sahib of Morbi.

### **Dadabhai Naoroji**

2022 marks the 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the election of Dadabhai Naoroji to the House of Commons (first person of Indian origin to be elected to the House of Commons).

Dadabhai Naoroji, of Bombay Parsee origin, was the first Indian to be elected to Parliament in Britain.

*Key Points related to Dadabhai Naoroji:*

- Dadabhai Naoroji was among the key proponents of the 'Drain Theory', disseminating it in his 1901 book 'Poverty and Un-British Rule in India'.
- He was the founder-editor of the journal RAST GOFTAR in Bombay in 1851.
- He was Congress President thrice, in 1886, 1893, and 1906.
- He helped found The London Indian Society and The East India Association.

- He played a pivotal role in mentoring future moderate INC leaders, such as Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, and Gandhi.
- He is known as the Grand Old Man of India.