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AN INITIATIVE BY
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The information in this magazine is intended to provide users with resources and information which they may find useful and of interest.

We take all reasonable steps to keep this information current and accurate, but errors can occur.

We express our gratitude to all our team members and thankful to all the advisors for making first step in publishing a small magazine.

Our Methodology for this Magazine

We have used official website pib.nic.in to collect important press release important for Exam

The topics has been categorised subject wise so that is is easy for aspirants to read in flow and relate the topics

Background information has been provided so static related to current can be covered

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An Initiative By Pradeep Kumar

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Index

HISTORY AND CULTURE 3

POCHAMPALLY SELECTED AS BEST TOURISM VILLAGE BY UNWTO 3
KONGTHONG VILLAGE TOURISM 3
6TH DHARMA DHAMMA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 4
THE CELEBRATION OF DESTINATION NORTHEAST INDIA AT NATIONAL MUSEUM 5
RANI GAIDINLIU TRIBAL FREEDOM FIGHTERS MUSEUM 5
'GANGA UTSAV 2021 – THE RIVER FESTIVAL' 6
JANJATIYA GAURAV DIWAS 6

POLITY & GOVERNANCE 7

TELE-LAW ON WHEELS 7
DRAFT MEDIATION BILL FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION 8

ECONOMY 8

THE MOU HAS BEEN SIGNED BETWEEN MOFPI AND DAHD 9
SPECIAL CREDIT LINKED CAPITAL SUBSIDY SCHEME (SCLCSS) 9
MOST PROFITABLE 3D PRINTING BUSINESS 10
PRIME MINISTER LAUNCHED TWO CUSTOMER-CENTRIC INITIATIVES OF RBI 11

SCIENCE & TECH 11

THE MONSTER BLACK HOLE 11
LITHIUM ION BATTERY TECHNOLOGY 12
SWARNAJAYANTI FELLOWSHIPS SCHEME 13
CYBER SURAKSHIT BHARAT INITIATIVE 13

HEALTH & MEDICINE 14

SICKLE CELL DISEASE AMONG TRIBALS 14
SWADESH, WORLD'S FIRST MULTIMODAL BRAIN IMAGING DATA AND ANALYTICS 15
AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD) 15

ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT 16

INDIA'S THIRD BIENNIAL UPDATE REPORT AT COP26 16
GREEN ENERGY COLLABORATION 17
THE USA BECOMES THE 101ST MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE 17
INDIA LAUNCHES E-AMRIT PORTAL ON ELECTRIC VEHICLES AT COP26 18
ENHANCING STEEL INTENSITY TOWARDS GREEN STEEL 19
CHANGE IN COURSE OF HIMALAYAN GLACIER 20

INTERNATIONAL RELATION 20

NITI – BMZ DIALOGUE 20
THE SYDNEY DIALOGUE 21
13TH ASEM SUMMIT 22
UNESCO CREATIVE CITIES NETWORK (UCCN) 22

SCHEME AND POLICIES 23

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GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR GRAM PANCHAYATS 23
INDIA YOUNG WATER PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMME 24
CENTRAL CONSUMER PROTECTION AUTHORITY (CCPA) 24
RIVER CITIES ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF URBAN RIVERS IN INDIA 25
BHARAT GAURAV SCHEME 25
THE REVIVAL OF NAMDA CRAFT 26
O– SMART SCHEME 27
PM MODI TRANSFERS THE 1ST INSTALMENT OF PMAY-G TO BENEFICIARIES OF TRIPURA 28
NUTRITION SMART VILLAGES 28
FIRST-EVER MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME FOR YOUNG INNOVATORS 29
PM GATI SHAKTI NATIONAL MASTER PLAN 30

DEFENCE & SECURITY 30

PROJECT – 75 30
GOA MARITIME CONCLAVE – 2021 31
NATIONAL MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX 32
ALL INDIA SURVEY ON DOMESTIC WORKERS 32
PM TO LAY THE FOUNDATION STONE OF DEDICATED WALKWAYS FOR 'PALKHI' 33
NATIONAL AYURVEDA DAY 2021 34
SWACHH SURVEKSHAN AWARD 2021 35
NATIONAL SPORTS AWARDS 2021 35
NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT SURVEY 2021 40

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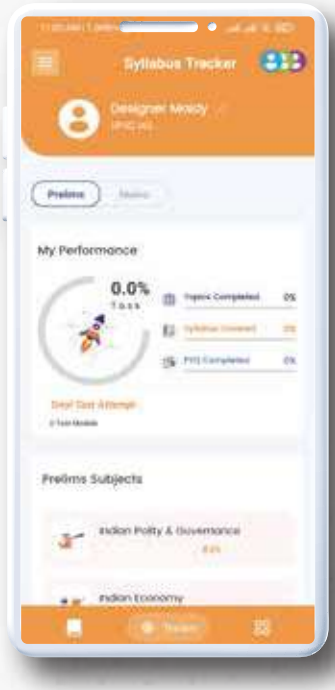

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History and Culture

Pochampally selected as Best Tourism Village by UNWTO

In news

- United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) selected Pochampally village in Telangana as one of the Best Tourism Villages.
- Award will be given on the 24th session of the UNWTO General Assembly on 2 December 2021 in Madrid, Spain.

Best Tourism Villages Initiative

- It aims to award those villages which are outstanding examples of rural destinations and showcase good practices in line with its specified nine evaluation areas.
- It is a Pilot initiative by UNWTO to highlight those villages where tourism preserves cultures and traditions, celebrates diversity, provides opportunities and safeguards biodiversity.
- It also aims to support villages to enhance their rural tourism potential through training and access to opportunities for improvement.
- However, only Pochampally was awarded as one of the best Tourism Villages by UNWTO. The other two villages were Kongthong in Meghalaya and Ladhpura Khas in Madhya Pradesh.

About Pochampally

- Pochampally is a town in Nalgonda district of Telangana.
- Pochampally is often referred to as the Silk City of India for the exquisite sarees that are woven through a unique style called Ikat.
- Ikat is a Malaysian, Indonesian word that means “Tie and Dye”. It is a dyeing technique used to create a distinct style of textile patterns. Ikat received a Geographical Indicator(GI) tag in 2004.
- Pochampally is also known as Bhoodan Pochampally to commemorate the Bhoodan Movement that was launched by Acharya Vinobha Bhave from this village on April 18th, 1951.

Currently, a two-room Vinobha Bhave Mandir exists within the village, which was earlier the place where Vinobha Bhave resided during his visit to the village.

United Nations World Tourism Organization

- It is the United Nations Specialized Agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.
- It was established in 1975 with headquarters in Madrid, Spain.
- UNWTO encourages the implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, to maximize tourism’s socio-economic contribution while minimizing its possible negative impacts.

Kongthong village tourism

In news

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has expressed gratitude to the people of Kongthong for a special tune in his honour and in appreciation of Government of India’s efforts in promoting the village as a prime tourism destination

Kongthong

- Kongthong village is located in the East Khasi Hills district, which is 60 km from Meghalaya's capital city Shillong.

- The villagers here call each other with a unique tune.
- People of this village have used whistling as a method of conveying their messages to their fellow villagers and that is why it is known as the **'whistling village'.**
- The villagers here call each other with a unique tune.
- Each of them has a unique tune for calling each other and this tradition has been going on for generations.
- The villagers have called this tune Jingrwai Lawbei which means mother's love song.
- The villagers have two names - one is a regular name and another is a song name.
- The song names are two versions - a long song and a short song and the short song is normally used at home.

Jingrwai lawbei, the tune-name tradition

- The beautiful village is renowned for its natural bounty and for its unique tradition 'Jingrwai lawbei'.
- Under this tradition, a mother gives a tune or lullaby to her child within a week of birth like Eeooow or Ooeeo, etc.
- This tune becomes the kid's identity.
- Not only this, the mother has to think of a different tune than the already existing ones to make sure the child's identity remains his own.
- Another interesting thing here is that villagers are habituated to talking through tunes.

6th Dharma Dhamma International Conference

Context:

The Vice President inaugurated the 6th Dharma Dhamma International Conference on Dharma Dhamma Traditions.

Aim

To bring together religious, political and thought leaders from Dharma-Dhamma traditions to ponder over building a philosophical framework for the emerging new world order.

Theme: *"Dharma-Dhamma Traditions in building the Post-Covid World Order".*

About Dharma-Dhamma Conference

- The 6th Dharma-Dhamma Conference was organised at Nalanda University in Bihar.
- Dharma – Dhamma Conference is an endeavour by India Foundation to revive the concept of dharma-dhamma traditions.
- The conference aims to make these traditions relevant in solving problems and developing policies for the state in the twenty-first century.
- In September 2012, the India Foundation's Centre for Study of Religion and Society (CSRS) hosted the First International Conference on Dharma-Dhamma in Bhopal.

Significance of the Dhamma-Dhamma Traditions

- For a peaceful existence, the Vice President emphasised the need of adhering to the Dharma-Dhamma traditions of Hinduism and Buddhism.
- The universal ideals of peaceful coexistence, collaboration, mutual care and sharing, nonviolence, friendliness, compassion, peace, truth, honesty, selflessness, and sacrifice have all been emphasised in dharmic ethical exhortations.
- The Dharma-Dhamma traditions can play an important role in moulding both individual lifestyles as well as politics and government.

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The Celebration of Destination Northeast India at National Museum

In news

- The celebration of ***"Destination Northeast India",*** under the Ministry of DoNER and Northeastern Council, forms an essential part of AzadikaAmritMahotsav as it pays tribute to the rich cultural heritage that can be witnessed in the northeast region of India.
- This defines the prominence of India's progressive journey of 75 years and glorifies the cultural spirit of its people.

About the celebration

- The celebration showcased various folk dances and music that presented the essence of Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim.
- Goalparia folk song was performed by Agragami dance and cineteam.
- Goalparia is a folk music of Assam and it consists of traditional lyrics in the Goalparia language. This music form is restored by the Koch rajbongshi community.
- Pung cholom, a type of stick dance that originates from Manipur, was exhibited.

Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum

In news

Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah laid the foundation stone for setting up of the Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum at Luangkao village in Manipur's Tamenglong district.

Details

- The museum is to be constructed at a cost of Rs 15 crore sanctioned by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.
- The museum would help preserve and exhibit artefacts related to the tribal freedom fighters, involved in different stages of the fight against the British colonial rule like the Anglo-Manipuri War, Kuki-Rebellion, Naga-Raj movements, among others.
- The proposed museum will be set up in Rani Gaidinliu's birthplace, Luangkao Village in the Tamenglong district.

About Rani Gaidinliu

- Rani Gaidinliu was born on January 26, 1915, in Luangkao Village now in Manipur, belongs to the Rongmei tribe.
- She met Jadonang at the age of 13 and became his lieutenant in his social, religious, and political movement.
- Following Jadonang's death, Gaidinliu assumed leadership of the movement.
- After the martyrdom of Jadonang, Gaidinliu launched a strong insurrection against the British, for which she was imprisoned by the British for 14 years until being freed in 1947.
- Recognizing her role in the fight against the British, she was referred to as "Rani ".

Heraka movement

- Jadonang, who was also a Rongmei, started the '**Heraka movement'**, based on ancestral Naga religion, and envisioned an independent Naga kingdom (or Naga-Raja).
- Heraka, which means "pure," is a monotheistic religion whose adherents worshipped TingkaoRagwang.
- It was founded by Jadonang to oppose the entrance of Christian missionaries as well as the British government's reforms.

- He observed the persecution by British officials, who forced tribals to work in difficult conditions and levied a large monthly revenue levy on every home.

'Ganga Utsav 2021 – The River Festival'

In news

The 5th edition of 'Ganga Utsav 2021 – The River Festival' was held in New Delhi from 1st to 3rd November 2021.

Details

- It's being inspired by the call of PM for **'Nadi Utsav'** i.e. celebrating rivers, the aim is to take Ganga Utsav to all the river basins in India.
- The River Festival will not only celebrate the glory of the river Ganga but all the rivers of the country.
- **Continuous Learning and Activity Portal (CLAP)** developed by NMCG in association with Tree Craze Foundation was also launched on the occasion.
- CLAP is an initiative by **Namami Gange**, created and executed by TREE Craze Foundation.
- CLAP is also funded and supported by World Bank.
- This is an interactive portal that is working towards initiating conversations and action around the rivers in India.

Ganga Mashaal

- The "**Ganga Mashaal"** has formally started its journey from Rishikesh and Haridwar in Uttarakhand.
- The Mashaal (torch) will travel to a total of 23 stations along River Ganga which will help in sensitization of the local people and Namami Gange volunteers.
- The contributions field volunteers like Ganga VicharManch, Ganga Dooth (NYKS), Ganga Praharis, Ganga Mitras were acknowledged and all others for their work and appealed to make Ganga Mashal a success.

Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas

In news

The Modi government has announced that Birsa Munda's birth anniversary – November 15 – will be celebrated as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas this year onwards.

Details

- The Prime Minister also inaugurated the Bhagwan Birsa Munda Memorial Udyan cum Freedom Fighter Museum at Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- The government also instituted the 'Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas' to commemorate the achievements and contributions of the various tribal freedom fighters from India.
- This day will be observed on November 15, the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda.
- The state Jharkhand was brought into existence by the Bihar reorganization Act on 15th November, 2000 - the birth anniversary of the legendary Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

Schemes launched on the occasion for the Janjatiya community

- **Ration Aapke Gram:** It is a door-to-door ration delivery scheme under which ration will be provided to the tribal community at the village level at a reasonable price. The people can avoid going to the Panchayat HQ to get their rations.

- **Madhya Pradesh Sickle Cell Mission: '**Madhya Pradesh Sickle Cell (Hemoglobinopathy) Mission' aims at spreading awareness among people about genetic disorders such as Sickle Cell Anaemia. The initiative aims at screening and managing patients suffering from sickle cell anaemia, thalassemia and other hemoglobinopathies. Genetic counselling cards were given to beneficiaries under the scheme.
- **Sickle Cell Anaemia:** Sickle cell anaemia is a common genetic blood illness that affects a person's normal development.It can become fatal if not diagnosed early.It is a genetic disorder. **Madhya Pradesh has the highest burden of sickle cell anaemia in India**

Birsa Munda

- Several movements by tribal communities such as Santhals, Tamars, Kols, Bhils, Khasis and Mizos to name a few strengthened India's freedom struggle.
- Tribal movements in different regions of the country against the British colonial rule got linked with the national freedom struggle and inspired Indians all over the country.
- One of those tribal leaders was Birsa Munda, often revered as 'Bhagwan' by tribal communities across the country.
- Born in the tribal belt of the undivided Bihar in 1875, Birsa Munda rallied tribals against the British colonial rule and conversion activities and died in 1900 in Ranchi jail.
- Birsa Munda fought bravely against the exploitative system of the British colonial government and spearheaded the movement against British oppression giving a call for 'Ulgulan' (Revolution).
- Munda led the tribals essentially to prevent land grabbing by the non-tribals ending them up as bonded labourers in their land.
- Though he lived for only 25 years, he awakened the tribal mindset and mobilised them in the little town of Chhotnagpur and was a terror for the British Rulers. He was also called 'Dharti Abba'.

Polity & Governance

Tele-Law on Wheels

In news

Department of Justice kicked-off the week- long "Tele-Law on Wheels" campaign from 8th to 14th November, 2021.

Aim

- Ensuring Justice for All by digital legal empowerment of the needy and disadvantaged.
- Encouraging those in need to seek legal advice and consultation through tele-and video conferencing facilities by urging them to visit their nearest Common Service Centers(CSCs) offering Tele-Law services

Details

- It is a one-week-long campaign to empower people through pre-litigation advice for rightfully claiming their entitlements and for timely redressal of their difficulties.
- During the week, the Citizens' **Tele-Law Mobile App** would also be launched.
- This App would connect the beneficiaries directly with Panel Lawyers offering legal advice and consultation.
- A special Login week is being organized throughout the country for encouraging those in need to seek legal advice and consultation through tele-and video conferencing facilities by urging them to visit their nearest Common Service Centers(CSCs) offering Tele-Law services.

- These CSCs have been branded as *Kanooni Salah Sahahyak Kendra* (कानूनी सलाह सहायक केंद्र ("for this purpose.
- The Tele-Law on Wheels Campaign is being conducted with aid of CSC e Governance which has a network of 4lakth + digitally enabled CSCs across the country.

Draft Mediation Bill for Public Consultation

In news

The Government of India, in order to expedite the process of dispute resolution, has come up with an appropriate draft bill on Mediation.

Objective

- To promote, encourage and facilitate mediation especially institutional mediation for resolution of disputes commercial and otherwise, enforce domestic and international mediation settlement agreements, provide for a body for registration of mediators,
- To encourage community mediation and to make online mediation as an acceptable and cost effective process and for matters connected therewith or incidental there to has been prepared

Details

- The draft bill on Mediation establishes a consolidated framework bringing the existing laws on mediation from various enactments under umbrella legislation.
- This bill ensures deep scrutiny of the interchangeability of the term's '**mediation'** and **'conciliation'.**
- Mediation is an alternate dispute redressal mechanism that offers an informal, simple, no adversarial approach to settle matters.

Why it is required?

- Since the laws on mediation are contained in several enactments, including Rules and Regulation, it was felt necessary to ascertain the present statutory framework on mediation and bring umbrella legislation including amendments in the existing laws.
- Besides, India is a signatory to the **Singapore Convention on Mediation**, so enacting a law on domestic and international mediation became necessary.

Features of the Bill

- The bill facilitates pre-litigation mediation and thereby protects the interests of litigants approaching the courts in matters where urgent relief is required.
- A Mediation Settlement Agreement (MSA), born out of the consensual agreement between the parties, is ensured as a successful outcome of the mediation with less challenge.
- The confidentiality of the mediation process will be assured.
- The state/district/taluk legal authorities will be entrusted with the registration of MSA within 90 days and maintenance of all the records of settlement.
- This bill envisages the creation of the Mediation Council of India and community mediation.
- Eventually, this draft bill, when provided with its proper legislative shape, will enable a faster resolution of disputes resulting in the restoration of faith of the litigants in the judicial and lawmaking arms of the government.

Economy

The MoU has been signed between MOFPI and DAHD

In news

MoU signed between Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MOFPI), the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying in order to work together for the betterment of the rural poor by extending the benefits of welfare schemes.

Details

- DAHD and MoFPI will work together to achieve the goal for income generation for sustainable development of the rural poor through extension of benefits of various schemes to the beneficiaries whenever they require credit support for establishment/ extension/ strengthening of quality control, dairy processing and its value addition, meat processing and value addition infrastructure, animal feed plant and technology assisted breed improvement farms without any limitation.
- There is shortage of milk quality testing infrastructure and Shortage of village cold chain infrastructure, which are affecting the huge export possibilities.
- Presently, the export of dairy products by India is 0.1% of world.
- The MoU will corroborate both MoFPI and DAHD to facilitate the beneficiaries to avail the benefits under the PM Kisan Sampada Yojana and PMFormalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises Scheme of the MoFPI and dairy development schemes of DAHD.

Objectives of the scheme

- To generate income.
- Providing financial assistance to the rural poor.
- Strengthening quality control of dairy and meat processing units and their value addition.
- Improving the infrastructure facilities of animal feed plant.
- Technology-assisted breed improvement farms.

Significance

- This will not only empower the beneficiaries of MoFPI and DAHD but also create awareness through their respective implementation support team on the benefits of various schemes being implemented by them at both the Central and State level.
- The convergence between MoFPI and DAHD will also encourage beneficiaries to avail benefits with facilitation for various activities which include Food Safety and Quality Assurance, dairy processing and value addition, meat processing & value addition, and animal feed, etc.

Special Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (SCLCSS)

In news

In order to offer impetus to the service sector, the **Special Credit Linked Capital Subsidy scheme** was launched by the Government.

Objective

- The scheme will help in **meeting the technology-related requirements** of enterprises in the services sector.
- It has a provision of 25% capital subsidy for procurement of plant and machinery and service equipment through institutional credit to the Scheduled Caste - Scheduled Tribe MSMEs without any sector-specific restrictions on technology up-gradation.

Need for technology upgradation

- A majority of the SSI units were operating with outdated technology, machinery, and plants.
- This was due to insufficient investment and the lack of awareness regarding the quality standards as well as lack of access to modern technology.
- It was tough for such SSI units to sustain the competition due to the liberalisation of the economy.
- Their survival was critically based on modernisation and technological upgradation.
- This could reduce the cost of production and let the SSI units remain competitive in terms of pricing in the market.

Significance

- It will facilitate technology up-gradation to MSEs, improvement in Quality of services by MSMEs, enhancement in productivity, waste reduction and shall promote a culture of continuous improvement.
- It will also promote the innovation, digital empowerment and design interventions of MSMEs.

Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme for Technology Upgradation

- The Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS) was launched on 1st October 2000
- The objective of the Scheme is to **facilitate technology up-gradation** in MSEs by providing an upfront capital subsidy of 15% (on institutional finance of upto Rs 1 crore availed by them) for induction of well-established and improved technology in the specified 51 sub-sectors/products approved.

The major objective is to **upgrade their plant & machinery** with state-of-the-art technology, with or without expansion and for new MSEs, which have set up their facilities with appropriate eligible and proven technology duly approved under scheme guidelines.

Most Profitable 3D Printing Business

In news

The Centre of Excellence in Additive Manufacturing (CoE AM) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has invited applications for a Grand Challenge for "Most Profitable 3D printing Business".

Aim

The aim of this challenge is to produce acceleration output for the research topic "Most profitable business case for Digital Toy using 3D printing in India".

About the challenge

- The challenge is divided into two parts: The first part includes the development of a 3D printed working prototype using **Fused Deposition Modelling (FDM)** or **Digital Light Processing (DLP)** for given specifications and the second part involves the preparation of a business case for the prototype in a given format.
- **Fused deposition modelling (FDM)** is a technology where the melt extrusion method is used to deposit filaments of thermal plastics according to a specific pattern.

3D printing

- The 3D printing process turns a whole object into thousands of tiny little slices, then makes it from the bottom-up, slice by slice.
- Those tiny layers stick together to form a solid object.
- Each layer can be very complex, meaning 3D printers can create moving parts like hinges and wheels as part of the same object.
- **Examples of 3D Printing:** 3D printing encompasses many forms of technologies and materials as 3D printing is being used in almost all industries you could think of.

- It is important to see it as a cluster of diverse industries with a myriad of different applications.

Prime Minister launched two customer-centric initiatives of RBI

In news

RBI came up with two customer-centric initiatives-**RBI Retail Direct Scheme** and the **Reserve Bank-Integrated Ombudsman Scheme.**

Aim

It is aimed at enhancing access to the government securities market for retail investors. It offers retail investors a new avenue for directly investing in the securities issued by the centre and the state governments.

RBI Retail Direct Scheme

- The scheme allows retail investors to buy and sell government securities (G-Sec) online, both in the primary and secondary markets.
- According to details provided by RBI, these small investors can now invest in G-Secs by opening a gilt securities account with the RBI.
- The account opened will be called Retail Direct Gilt (RDG) Account.
- Registered investors can access the secondary market transaction link on the online portal to buy or sell government securities through NDS-OM.

Reserve Bank-Integrated Ombudsman Scheme

- This will help in improving the grievance redress mechanism for resolving customer complaints against RBI's regulated entities.
- According to the PMO, the scheme is based on "One Nation-One Ombudsman" with one portal, one email, and one address for the customers to lodge their complaints.
- Customers will be able to file complaints, submit documents, track status, and give feedback through a single email address.
- There will also be a multilingual toll-free number that will provide all relevant information on grievance redress.
- The fundamental principle is based on **'One Nation-One Ombudsman'** involving one portal, one email and one address that ensures a simple, hassle-free and customer-friendly method of communication in resolving grievances.

Science & Tech

The Monster Black Hole

In news

Indian astronomers have found an active galaxy in a very bright state that gives out ten times more X-ray emission than normal, equivalent to more than 10 trillion suns.

Details

- This galaxy, located ***five billion light-years away***, could help probe how particles behave under intense gravity and acceleration to the speed of light.

- It could help study the role of strong gravity and acceleration of matter in the formation, interaction and evolution of galaxies in the early universe.
- Every galaxy in the universe is believed to host a supermassive black hole at its centre. In some galaxies, the black hole is actively devouring a large amount of material and shooting a jet of plasma almost at the speed of light towards us. These are called blazars.
- An active galaxy with X-ray emission 10 times brighter than the normal was observed and located 5 billion light-years away.
- The study unleashed the function of a strong gravity in the formation, interaction and evolution of the early universe.
- The astronomers monitored a black hole named OJ 287 which displayed repeated optical brightness that confirmed the presence of a binary black hole.

Lithium Ion Battery Technology

In news

The International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI) signs agreement to support Indigenisation of Lithium-Ion Battery Technology fabrication.

Aim

It aims at the introduction of the technology into electric scooters and solar street lamps which will be coordinated with Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

Agreement

- The Centre for Automotive Energy Materials, ARCI, has developed Li-ion battery technology and demonstrated its successful application in electric scooters and solar street lamps.
- The agreement between ACRI and Nsure Reliable Power Solution will allow the technology transfer and development of expertise in lithium ion processes.
- The R&D labs of ACRI were directed to look for alternative energy materials beyond lithium ion batteries as the electrode materials cost huge, increasing India's import dependency.
- Efforts will be made under the agreement to promote and indigenise lithium ion technology

Significance

This partnership will be an enabler to reduce the carbon footprint and play an essential role in tackling climate change.

Lithium Ion Batteries

- Lithium ion batteries are the most commonly used energy storage systems that contain lithium metal oxides in an electrolytic set-up.
- The electrolytic set-up consists of lithium salts dissolved in organic carbonates.
- This results in the storage of lithium ions in the positive electrode and carbon in the negative electrode.
- The batteries work by the transfer of lithium ions in two phases. While charging these ions move from positive to negative electrode and the reverse occurs when they are discharged.
- They do not require temperature monitoring for functioning.

International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI)

It was established in the year 1997, is an Autonomous Research and Development Centre of Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India with main campus at Hyderabad spread about 95 acres of land and with operations in Chennai and Gurgaon.

ARCI's mandate is

- Development of High Performance Materials and Processes for Niche Markets
- Demonstration of Technologies at Prototype / pilot scale
- Transfer of Technology to Indian Industry

Swarnajayanti Fellowships Scheme

In news

17 scientists from across India were awarded Swarnajayanti Fellowships.

Swarnajayanti Fellowship Scheme

- Government of India had instituted a scheme titled "SwarnaJayanti Fellowships" to commemorate India's fiftieth year of Independence.
- Under this scheme a selected number of young scientists, with excellent track record, are provided special assistance and support to enable them to pursue research in frontier areas of science and technology.

Benefits

- The fellowship is scientist specific and not institution specific, very selective and has close academic monitoring.
- Scientists selected for the award will be allowed to pursue unfettered research with a freedom and flexibility in terms of expenditure as approved in the research plan.
- The award consists of a Fellowship of Rs 25000/- per month in addition to the salary drawn from the parent Institute for a period of 5 years
- The fellows selected along with their projects will be considered for funding by the Science & Engineering Research Board (SERB) as per SERB norms, for fellowship, recurring and non-recurring heads.
- The duration of the fellowship along with the project will be for a period not exceeding five years.

About Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)

- It is a statutory body and is established through an Act of Parliament: SERB Act 2008, Government of India.
- The Organisation aims to uplift science and engineering in India, in a manner that it can contribute majorly in the economic growth of the country.
- It is the premier research funding agency in India.

Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative

In news

MeitY organises the 24th Chief Information Security Officers **(CISO)** Deep Dive Training program under the Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative

Cyber Surakshit Bharat

- This initiative was launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in 2018 in association with **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)** and industry partners to tackle the progressive spread of cyber-attacks in the country.
- This initiative is the first public-private partnership of its kind.
- Under this initiative, experts of the IT industry and MeitY collaborate with organizations like CDAC (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing), CERT-In (Indian Computer Emergency Response Team), NIC (National Informatics Centre) and STQC (Standardization Testing and Quality Certification) as knowledge partners in the training program.

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Deep Dive Training program

- The **Deep Dive Training program** under the Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative is aimed to prepare the CISOs and frontline IT officials to face challenges of cyber security and handle the cyber crisis.
- This type of training empowers them to secure their organisations from cyber threats and for smooth delivery of e-Gov services and functioning of production units.
- NeGD has been consistently organising such workshops with the primary goal of promoting a safe digital space among citizens.

Significance

- In a world with advancing technology, the emerging issue of cyber security is a major concern and initiatives like Cyber Surakshit Bharat play an exemplary role in promoting awareness on cyber security.
- In a country like India, awareness is an essential tool to resolve many challenges.
- This initiative offers guidelines and policies related to cyber security along with best practices to learn from successes and failures.
- A massive impetus is provided to the vision of **'Digital India'** that establishes an empowered and equipped ecosystem ensuring cyber security.

Health & Medicine

Sickle Cell Disease among Tribals

In news

Ministry of Tribal Affairs organizes a series of workshops on sickle cell disease among tribals as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav

About Sickle Cell Disease:

- Sickle Cell Disease (SCD), a genetic condition, is widespread among the tribal population in India where about 1 in 86 births among STs have SCD.
- It affects haemoglobin (responsible for carrying oxygen in the body) in red blood cells, which can result in morbidity and mortality via distinct pathways.
- Therefore, an early detection and treatment of SDC is of utmost importance for improved health conditions as a nation.
- It is ***common in the tribal population with a 10% tendency of tribals to carry the gene that triggers sickle cell conditions.***

Measures taken up by the Government:

- The Ministry attempted to bring together reputed institutes, renewed hematologists, medical practitioners and staff, teachers and students of Eklavya schools.
- Various state governments initiated screening programmes and realised the need to create a database and elimination plans for the disease.
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has launched the Sickle Cell Disease Support Corner to bridge the gap between patients and health care services in tribal areas.
- The Portal provides a web-based patient powered registration system which will collate all information related to SCD among tribal people in India, including proving them a platform to register themselves if they have the disease or the trait.
- The support corner envisioned as a one stop portal with information around SCD in Tribal Regions of India.

SWADESH, World's First Multimodal Brain Imaging Data and Analytics

In news

DBT-National Brain Research Centre (DBT-NBRC) have recently developed project SWADESH, a unique brain initiative focusing on certified neuroimaging, neurochemical, neuropsychological data and analytics that are made accessible to researchers for managing brain disorders.

Highlight

SWADESH is the world's first multimodal brain imaging data and analytics developed by DBT – National Brain Research Centre.

Details

- This has been designed for the Indian population and to provide them with big data architecture for various diseases under one platform.
- SWADESH is facilitated by JAVA based programs and Python. Java is the most commonly used programming language that is used in big data and android development and it is also used in mobile computing, desktop computing and gaming.
- It has a powerful storage system that offers quality control, data analysis reports and data backups.
- It has data on healthy old people, healthy young people and patients with neurodegenerative disorders like Alzheimer's disease, Mild Cognitive Impairment and Parkinson's disease.

About DBT

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), under the Ministry of Science and Technology, promotes and improves biotechnology development in India through its development and implementation in agriculture, healthcare, animal sciences, the environment, and industry.

About NBRC

- National Brain Research Centre is the only institute in India dedicated to Neuroscience Research and Education.
- Scientists and students at NBRC come from diverse academic backgrounds, including biological, computational, mathematical, physical, engineering and medical sciences, and use multidisciplinary approaches to unravel secrets of the brain.
- NBRC is engaged in understanding brain functions in health and disease through basic and clinically oriented research.
- It is an autonomous institute funded by the department of biotechnology.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

In news

A group of Indian researchers have developed a compound called "6BIO" that can provide a better method to treat Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Details

- They have determined the potency of the compound in a pre-clinical mice model.
- This is the first compound that has been proved in pre-clinical evaluation to have the potential for improving daily activities like learning and recollecting new tasks in patients with ASD/ Intellectual disability (ID).

About the Disorder

- Autism Spectrum Disorder arises from impairment in brain development and it is accompanied by a series of symptoms and severity.
- This disorder impacts the behavioural patterns of the individuals, thus disturbing the potential to communicate and socialize.
- It includes conditions such as autism, Asperger's syndrome, childhood disintegrative disorder and pervasive developmental disorders.
- This is resulting in the rise of severe burden in the society as there is an unavailability of treatment and potent drugs for **Autism Spectrum disorder.**
- The existing treatments increase the adverse effects like epileptic seizures, sleep issues without addressing the root cause of the disorder.
- It does not have an appropriate pharmacological or genetic method to treat ASD/ID.

Outcome of research

- The researchers employ the usage of a compound called 6BIO that enables the **restoration of neuronal functions** to treat ASD/Intellectual Disability. This offers a better therapeutic value.
- The research showed that the 6BIO compound helps in the improvement of learning, memory, sociability and reduces epileptic seizures.
- Restoration of neural functions by the compound (6BIO), in the middle stage of brain development (between 7-11 years) has been observed in the study.
- Therefore, this research provides a better understanding and a proper line of treatment with enormous compassion to improving the lives of autistic children, and children with other disabilities who face social challenges.
- This study reveals the growing importance of rare disorders and their treatment

Ecology and Environment

India's Third Biennial Update Report at COP26

In news

The Government of India presented the third Biennial Update Report at the COP26 which was submitted early this year to the UNFCCC.

Key Highlights

- This presentation was made during the 11th Facilitative Sharing of Views (FSV).
- The achievement of 24 per cent reduction in emission intensity of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) over the period of 2005-2014, and the significant increase of its solar programme.
- The scientific advisor, on behalf of the Government of India, stated certain facts that determined India's approach in tackling the serious issue of climate change.
- It was stated that India represents 17% of the total world population and it accounts for only 4% of cumulative emissions.
- India's present greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) are about 5%.
- Moreover, it was put forth that India has been proactive in mitigating the challenges imposed by climate change and such measures move across the socio-economic spheres. For instance, decoupling of economic growth from greenhouse gas emissions has been of major importance.

- India's 15 per cent of total carbon dioxide emission in 2016 was removed from the atmosphere by the LULUCF (Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry).
- The importance of people's participation in dealing with climate change was also talked about.

Green Energy Collaboration

In news

UK has emerged as India's second largest international research and innovation partner.

Objectives of the Collaboration

- To increase cooperation between India and the UK in the areas of clean and green energies
- Promote the use of advanced batteries
- Use of carbon capture method to reduce air pollution and infusing better technology in this area
- Production of hydrogen-related fuels
- Encourage the affordability of biomaterials, improvement of livestock research

Highlights

- India will join G20 troika in few days from 1st December this year and will hold the G20 presidency from December 1, next year and India plans to convene the G20 leaders' summit in 2023 for the first time.
- It was rightly pointed out that the Newton – Bhabha MoU, which was signed between India and UK, took scientific cooperation to the next level and opened up avenues for research in energy security, food and agriculture, water, health, climate change. The present collaboration acts as a further boost to these areas of cooperation.
- India is assured to establish a One Health approach and put forth a Global Equitability for Health Infrastructure Development to counter pandemic-like situations.

India's flagship initiatives

- National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems(ICPS)
- Quantum Computing and Communication
- National Mission on Supercomputing
- Deep Ocean Mission
- Electric Mobility
- Green hydrogen etc.

The USA Becomes the 101st Member of the International Solar Alliance

In news

- The US Special Presidential Envoy, in the COP26 Summit, made a landmark declaration confirming the membership of the USA to the International Solar Alliance.
- U.S becomes the 101st country to sign the framework agreement of the ISA to catalyze global energy transition through a solar-led approach.

Background

Earlier at COP26, the United States also joined the Steering Committee of the GGI-OSOWOG comprising of 5 members – USA, Australia, France, the United Kingdom, and India — and endorsed the One Sun Declaration along with 80 countries.

About The International Solar Alliance

- The ISA is an intergovernmental treaty-based organization with a global mandate to catalyze solar growth by helping to reduce the cost of financing and technology.

- ISA is the nodal agency for implementing **One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG**), which seeks to transfer solar power generated in one region to feed the electricity demands of others.
- **OSOWOG** envisions building and scaling inter-regional energy grids to share solar energy across the globe, leveraging the differences of time zones, seasons, resources, and prices between countries and regions.
- It will also help decarbonize energy production, which is today the largest source of global greenhouse gas emissions.

India Launches E-Amrit Portal on Electric Vehicles at COP26

In news

The Government of India launched the E-Amrit web portal on electric vehicles at the COP26 Summit in Glasgow.

Aim

- The e-AMRIT portal aims at creating awareness about electric mobility in India.
  The e-AMRIT portal aims to accelerate the initiatives of the government on raising awareness of electric vehicles and sensitizing consumers on the benefits of adopting electric vehicles.
- The e-AMRIT portal aims to be an accelerator of change and influence millions of users and stakeholders to adopt electric vehicles.
- The portal has been built to address the needs and priorities of future electric vehicle users, early electric vehicle adopters, academia, government, industry, research community, and businesses.

Objective

- The important purpose of the E-Amrit portal is to increase awareness about electrical vehicles and encourage people to switch to such vehicles.
- To ensure the decarbonization of transport with the introduction of electric mobility that would assist in reducing the carbon footprint.
- Initiatives like the launch of the E-Amrit portal will play a pivotal role in increasing the pace of zero emission vehicle transition and also address the challenges.
- NITI Aayog intends to add more features and introduce innovative tools to make the E-Amrit portal more interactive and user-friendly.

Details

- E-Amrit is a one-stop destination for all information on electric vehicles—busting myths around the adoption of EVs, their purchase, investment opportunities, policies, subsidies, etc.
- The portal has been developed and hosted by NITI Aayog under a collaborative knowledge exchange programme with the UK government and as part of the UK–India Joint Roadmap 2030, signed by the Prime Ministers of the two countries.
- E-Amrit intends to complement initiatives of the government on raising awareness on EVs and sensitizing consumers on the benefits of switching to electric vehicles.

2030 Vision: India and the UK are committed to a partnership that delivers for both countries. Both nations recognize that the 2030 vision is for establishing revitalized and dynamic connections between its people. It aims at **strengthening collaboration on clean transport, including in the areas of e-vehicles, charging infrastructure and battery storage.**

Enhancing Steel Intensity towards Green Steel

In news

The Government of India decided to enhance Steel intensity in the Rural sector and move towards **"Green Steel" or "Low Carbon Steel"** manufacturing to make India a Manufacturing Hub.

Vision

The government is developing a long-term action plan and policies. Many targets have been set in the National Steel Policy 2017 vision to expand India's steel production capacity to 300 million tonnes by 2030-31, per capita steel consumption to 160 kg, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Objectives of the govt. move

- To achieve the roadmap of carbon neutrality by 2050
- To develop a multi-track approach
- Establish carbon recycling blast furnace and CCU (Carbon capture and utilization) and direct hydrogen ironmaking
- To promote industry-leading electric arc furnace technology
- Better R&D facilities by introducing new technologies.

Why there is, need to switch?

The iron and steel industry in India is the greatest single energy consumer and CO2 emitter in the industrial sector, it is imperative that the steel industry shift to **"Green Steel" or "Low Carbon Steel"** manufacturing to combat climate change.

Government Initiative

- To minimise the steel industry's reliance on coal, the government is working on projects such as coal gasification and the National Hydrogen Mission. This will not only reduce the steel industry's reliance on coal, but it will also aid in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Steel is a key component of our contemporary society, used in various things ranging from cutlery to bridges and wind turbines. However, the method of manufacturing by using coal has exacerbated climate change.

Green Steel

- Green steel is steel with the lowest carbon footprint currently possible, which varies from producer to producer and will continue to evolve over time.
- Steel-making requires stripping oxygen from iron ore to produce pure iron metal.
- In traditional steel-making, it is done by using coal or natural gas in a process that releases CO_2.
- In green steel production, hydrogen made from renewable energy replaces fossil fuels.

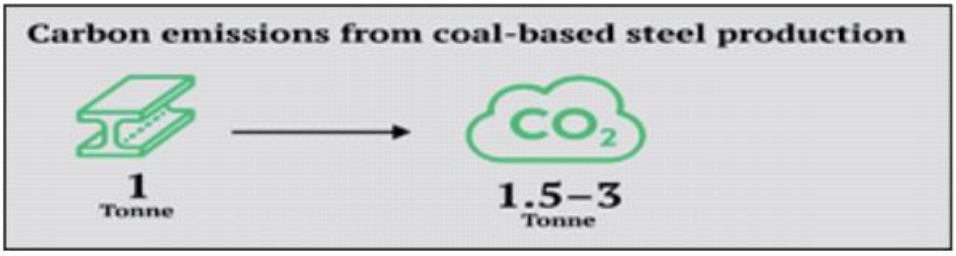

Fig: Steel production today accounts for 8% of total global CO_2 emissions

Change in Course of Himalayan Glacier

In news

Indian researchers studying an unnamed glacier in one of the less explored region in the upper Kali Ganga valley, Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand, India, have reported that the glacier had abruptly changed its main course.

Observations

- It is for the first time that such change in course has been reported from a Himalayan glacier, and the researchers have attributed this to the accumulated influence of both climate and tectonics.
- A team of scientists from Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG), Dehradun, Uttarakhand, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, found that the unnamed NE moving glacier had been abruptly truncated and forced to move towards SE.
- The WIHG team observed that the 5 km long unnamed glacier, which covered around 4 km^2 area in Kuthi Yankti valley (Tributary of Kali River), has abruptly changed its main course. It moved, truncated, and ultimately merged with the adjacent glacier named Sumzurkchanki as a result of tectonic forcing during the time between Last Glacial Maxima (19-24 ka) and Holocene.
- It is one of the unique behaviors of the glacier, and no such observation has so far been reported on this type of glacier kinematics.
- Remote sensing and an old survey map confirmed the active fault on the glacier.

Significance

- The abnormal behaviour of this unnamed glacier clearly suggests that not only is climate a controlling factor, but tectonics also plays an important role in glacial catchments.
- The recent disaster in Rishiganga is a latest example which suggests that the rock mass on which the glacier was sitting gradually became fragile (due to weathering, percolation of meltwater in joints, crevasses, freezing and thawing, snowfall, overloading, and gradually operating tectonic forces forcing rocks to mechanical disintegration) with due course of time and detached from the source rock.
- It clearly suggests that the Himalaya is an active mountain range and highly fragile where tectonics and climate play a critical role.

International Relation

NITI – BMZ Dialogue

In news

To promote cooperation between India and Germany on various areas of mutual interest, NITI Aayog and Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation & Development (BMZ) signed Statement of Intent (SoI) on November 23, 2021.

Key Highlight

- This SoI intends to establish an overarching mechanism as "NITI- BMZ Dialogue on Development Cooperation" to facilitate a common platform for periodic bilateral discussions, sharing of developmental policy experiences and means to have an overview of other ongoing bilateral programmes.
- NITI- BMZ Dialogue on Development Cooperation" would be a bi-annual Dialogue (once in two years) between the two sides to discuss and share insights on key issues being considered by NITI Aayog and BMZ.
- This dialogue intends to increase the India – Germany bilateral cooperation in the areas of Climate, SDGs, energy, emerging technologies and agroecology.

Aim

The NITI – BMZ dialogue aims at creating a common platform for bilateral discussions.

Objectives

- Exchanging the experiences of the developmental policies.
- To establish means to overview bilateral programmes.
- Carry out joint research for the progress of government policies and to tackle the multi-sectoral challenges.
- Involvement of think tanks, Government, Industry and Academia to analyse policy issues.

Significance

- The Index and Dashboard will ensure the implementation of data-driven decision making.
- It highlights the strengths and gaps of ULB-level data, monitoring, and reporting systems.
- Tools such as this index and dashboard will contribute to the creation of an ecosystem in which all stakeholders will be equipped to adopt and implement data-driven decision-making.

SDG Urban Index & Dashboard

- The SDG Urban Index & Dashboard (2021-22) was launched by the Government of India and BMZ to establish a robust SDG monitoring in the cities by improving the ULB- level data monitoring and reporting systems.
- The SDG Urban Index and Dashboard ranks 56 urban areas on 77 SDG indicators.

The Sydney Dialogue

In news

Prime Minister delivered the keynote at the inaugural Sydney Dialogue via video conferencing.

Five Important Transition taking place in India

- **World's most extensive public information infrastructure:** Over 1.3 billion Indians have a unique digital identity, and the world's most efficient payment infrastructure, the UPI.
- **Use of digital technology for governance, inclusion, empowerment, connectivity, delivery of benefits and welfare**. Examples- Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Common Services Centres (CSC) etc
- **India has the world's third-largest and fastest-growing Startup Eco-system:** ExamplesGovernment e-Marketplace (GeM), agri-startups
- **India's industry and services sectors, even agriculture, are undergoing massive digital transformation.**
- **Efforts are made to prepare India for the future:** India isinvesting in developing indigenous capabilities in telecom technology such as 5G and 6G.

Sydney Dialogue

- It is an initiative of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.
- It bring together political, business and government leaders to debate, generate new ideas and work towards common understandings of the opportunities and challenges posed by emerging and critical technologies.
- The Sydney Dialogue is an annual summit of cyber and critical technologies to discuss the fallout of the digital domain on the law and order situation in the world.

13th ASEM Summit

In news

The Vice President of India addressed the plenary session of the ASEM Summit and emphasized the importance of reforming the UNSC and other International Organizations restoring multilateralism.

Theme of the summit: "Strengthening Multilateralism for Shared Growth"

ASEM Summit

Aim

The ASEM summit is an Asian-European political dialogue that aims to increase the level of cooperation between the partners.

Objective

It is a biennial event with its firm objective of enhancing the collaboration between Europe and Asia in the areas of economics, politics, finance, education and culture.

Details

- The 13th Summit is being hosted by Cambodia as ASEM Chair.
- It was established in the year 1996 in Bangkok, Thailand having 15 member states of the EU and European Commission and 7 member states of the ASEAN along with China, Japan and South Korea.
- The 13th ASEM dialogue involved 21 countries from Asia and the ASEAN secretariat along with the EU and its 27 member states and Norway, Switzerland and the UK. It was an overall grouping of 51 member countries.
- India joined the ASEM group in 2006 and hosted the 11th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in 2013 at Delhi. Since then India has been actively involved in raising concerns in the multilateral platform and also provided proper solutions.
- The theme for the year 2021 is "Strengthening multilateralism for shared growth" and was hosted by Cambodia as the current chair of the group.

UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)

In news

Srinagar joins UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN).

Details

- The 49 cities were added to the network of 246 cities following their designation by UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay, in recognition of 'their commitment to placing culture and creativity at the heart of their development and to sharing knowledge and good practices
- Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, is among the 49 cities selected worldwide to join the UNESCO creative cities network (UCCN)
- UNESCO designates the creative cities in seven fields -**Craft, Folk Art, Media Arts, Film Design, Gastronomy, Literature and Music.**
- The **Srinagar city has been designated the creative city in the field of Crafts and Folk Arts -the only second city in India in this category after Jaipur.**

Other Indian cities that are in the network are

- Chennai and Varanasi – UNESCO cities of music
- Jaipur – UNESCO city of crafts and folk arts
- Mumbai – UNESCO city of film

- Hyderabad – UNESCO city of gastronomy

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network

- **It** is a project launched by UNESCO in 2004 to **"promote cooperation among cities which recognized creativity as a strategic factor in their urban development"**.
- According to UNESCO, the cities designated as creative cities work together towards a common objective of "**placing creativity and cultural industries at the heart of their development plans at the local level and cooperating actively at the international level".**

Importance of the tag

UCCN tag would not only give global recognition to the Srinagar city but also help it in international funding, tie-ups with craft universities and pitching craft as a product.

Scheme and Policies

Geographical Information System for Gram Panchayats

In news

Geographical Information System (GIS) plans for around 75% Gram Panchayats completed **Ridge-to-valley approach**: The systematic development of land, harnessing of rainwater following watershed principles.

GIS

- The GIS-based planning is an initiative of the Rural Development Ministry which helps the Gram Panchayats to ensure a scientific & holistic approach for planning at the Gram Panchayat level.
- The GIS is a computer-based tool for mapping and analyzing the geographic terrain and offers scientific choices of development works suitable to the area.
- This technology integrates common database operations such as query and statistical analysis with the unique visualization and geographic analysis benefits offered by the maps.
- GIS helps participatory planning at the implementation level. The Ministry has provided detailed training on the usage of GIS and Remote Sensing MGNREGA functionaries through the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.

Significance

- The systematic development of land, harnessing of rainwater following watershed principles (Ridge to Valley Approach) and creation of income-generating assets has become important aspect of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS works.
- The planning of works under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS are now carried out using advanced technologies viz. Geographical Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS).
- Leveraged for this purpose is the much acclaimed **'Bhuvan'** space technology solution from the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- To further facilitate Gram Panchayat level planning of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS activities across India, **Yuktdhara Geospatial Planning portal** has been developed on **Bhuvan Platform** by National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) under the guidance of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA division MoRD.

India Young Water Professional Programme

In news

The Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched the first edition of the India Young Water Professional Programme.

Aim

The Program will aim to achieve its objectives through the 70-20-10 framework, which states that three types of experience are required to learn:

- Experience 70% (learn and develop on the job);
- Exposure 20% (learn and develop through others); and
- Education 10% (learn and develop through formal training).

Objectives

- To improve the extent, reliability and accessibility of water resources information.
- To strengthen the capacity of targeted water resource management institutions in India.
- To facilitate the acquisition of reliable information efficiently which would pave the way for effective water resource development and management.

About the program

- This program comes under the National Hydrology Project, a Central Scheme of the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and supported by the Australian Water Partnership.
- It is focused on the Engaged Training and Learning Model. About 70% of the program is focused on project-based learning through Situation Understanding and Improvement Projects (SUIP).
- Additional focus is also on gender equality and diversity because sustainable water management can only benefit from the views and skills of all members of society.
- It is outcome-driven and the participants will be having certain tools and techniques by the time they are finished with the Programme.
- The seeds for this Program were sowed during a co-design workshop with National Hydrology Project (NHP) on 'Sustainable Water Management' in November 2019.
  National Hydrology Project: It was started in 2016 as a Central Sector Scheme by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and is supported by the World Bank.

Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)

In news

Central Consumer Protection Authority issued Notice to e-commerce entities offering for sale Pressure Cookers in violation of compulsory BIS Standards.

Background

- The CCPA has started a nationwide campaign to prevent tshe sale of spurious and counterfeit goods that violate
- Quality Control Orders released by the Central Government.
- The Authority has issued directions to the District Collectors to investigate unfair trade practices and violation of consumer rights concerning the manufacture or sale of such goods.
- The identified daily use goods are helmets, pressure cookers and cooking gas cylinders.

Central Consumer Protection Authority

- The Central Consumer Protection Authority was established in July 2020 as per provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
- The objective of the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) is to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers as a class.
- It investigates violations of consumer rights and institutes complaints/prosecutions, orders recall of unsafe goods/services, orders the discontinuation of unfair trade practices and misleading advertisements, and imposes penalties.

River Cities Alliance For Sustainable Management Of Urban Rivers In India

In news

Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched the River Cities Alliance (RCA), a dedicated platform for river cities in India to ideate, discuss and exchange information for sustainable management of urban rivers.

Participants

The alliance has been signed by 30 members across the country including the cities like Dehradun, Haridwar, Rishikesh, Srinagar, Begusarai, Bhagalpur, Aurangabad, Chennai, Bhubaneshwar, Hyderabad, Pune, Udaipur, Vijayawada.

Objective

To provide the member cities with a platform to discuss and exchange information on aspects that are vital for sustainable management of urban rivers such as minimizing their water footprint, reducing impacts on river and water bodies, capitalizing on natural, intangible, architectural heritage and associated services and develop self-sufficient, self-sustainable water resources through recycle, reuse strategy.

Significance

- The river alliance will be an embodiment of the people's movement, ensuring the engagement of the people with the natural resources and promoting the sense to conserve the resources.
- The key intention of the alliance is to improve the rivers and map them with urban planning and developmental programmes.
- This offers a platform where the cities can learn from each other's successes and failures with the assistance of municipal administrators.
- The alliance can significantly contribute towards minimizing the water footprint, preventing pollutants' entry into the water bodies and capitalizing on architectural heritage.
- Under this initiative, national policies with river-related directives can be adopted and facilitate a proper Urban River Management Plan. This will empower the governance of river cities and help in attracting external economic investment.

Bharat Gaurav Scheme

In news

The Bharat Gaurav scheme launched by Railways for private players

Objective

- To promote and attract tourism business
- Private players and run on theme-based circuits will operate it.

- Any entity can run these trains, including state governments, it is implied that the policy is targeted at tour operators.

What is the Bharat Gaurav policy?

- According to the Bharat Gaurav policy, any operator or service provider, or virtually anyone, can lease trains from Indian Railways to run on a theme-based circuit as a special tourism package.
- The tenure of the arrangement is a minimum of two years and maximum of the codal life of the coach.
- The operator has the freedom to decide the route, the halts, the services provided, and, most importantly, the tariff.
- The ***IRCTC runs such theme-based tourist trains, for instance, the Ramayana Express***, which goes on a tour of several places connected to Lord Ram.

The Revival of Namda Craft

In news

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launched two pilot projects in Jammu and Kashmir.

Pilot Projects launched

- Revive the traditional Namda craft under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 3.0.
- Upskilling the artisans and weavers of Kashmir under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) which is a component of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.

Aim

- To strengthen the local weavers and artisans of Kashmir with enhanced productivity through learning, assessments and certifications.
- To preserve the traditional crafts of the region.
- The Namda project aims to benefit many craftsmen across 30 clusters in Kashmir.
- Therefore, the major aim is to establish a linkage between industry and market that will empower micro-entrepreneurship in Kashmir.

Objective

The objective of these projects is to boost and preserve the traditional Namda craft of Kashmir and upskill the local weavers and artisans to enhance their productivity through RPL assessment and certification.

Namda Craft

- Namda is a rug made of wool by felting technique. It is a traditional craft in Srinagar, Kashmir.
- The history of the namda rug goes back to the eleventh century when a man named Nubi created a felted covering for Akbar's ill horse.
- The rugs are made from the wool of indigenous sheep in Kashmir which is felted not woven, giving it a unique texture.
- Namda is usually a sandwich of many layers of wool flattened over each other. After a layer is spread, it is sprinkled homogeneously with water and pressed with a tool known as ‘pinjra’ (woven willow wicker). Finally, the carpet is embellished either by patches of coloured felted wool or with Kashmiri aari embroidery.
- Due to low availability of raw material, lack of skilled manpower and marketing techniques, the export of this craft has declined almost 100 percent between 1998 and 2008.

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O– SMART Scheme

In news

Cabinet approves continuation of the umbrella scheme "Ocean Services, Modelling, Application, Resources and Technology (O-SMART)

The scheme encompasses seven sub-schemes

- Ocean Technology
- Ocean Modelling and Advisory Services (OMAS)
- Ocean Observation Network
- Ocean Non-living Resources
- Marine living resources and ecology
- Coastal research Operation and
- Maintenance of Research Vessels

O-SMART scheme

Ocean – Services, Modelling, Application, Resources, and Technology (O-SMART) is an umbrella scheme that was approved by the Cabinet Committee on 29 August 2018 for implementation during 2017-18 and 2019-20 at an overall cost of Rs. 1.623 crores.

Aim

Promoting ocean research and setting early weather systems

Objective

- It provides forecasts and services based on continuous oceanographic research activities.
- It promotes front-ranking research in ocean sciences.
- The scheme develops technologies and conducts exploratory surveys to harness ocean resources sustainably.

Significance

- The O-SMART scheme augments the capacity building of India in the oceanographic field at an international level through extensive research and technology development activities. .
- It further provides comprehensive coverage to deliver cutting edge technology in the next five years.
- The ongoing extensive research and technology development activities would augment the capacity building of the nation in the oceanographic field at the international level.
- The present decade has been declared as the **Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development** by the **United Nations (UN)** and the continuation of the scheme would strengthen our stand in the global oceanographic research and technology development.
- The continuation of the scheme would contribute significantly towards a national policy on the **blue economy**.
- It will help us in **achieving United Nations Sustainable Development Goal-14** to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources.
- A significant contribution to the national GDP is being made and to be continued through the ocean advisory services and technologies developed benefiting communities and several sectors working in the marine environment, particularly in the coastal states of India.
- It will provide a comprehensive coverage by strengthening the ongoing activities towards delivering innovative technology applicable for marine domain, forecast and warning services to various coastal stakeholders, understanding biodiversity towards conservation strategy for marine living organisms.

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PM Modi transfers the 1st instalment of PMAY-G to beneficiaries of Tripura

In news

Recently, the Prime Minister transferred the 1st instalment of PMAY-G to the beneficiaries of Tripura.

About the scheme

- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) Mission launched on 25th June 2015 which intends to provide housing for all in urban areas by year 2022.
- The Mission provides Central Assistance to the implementing agencies through States/Union Territories (UTs) and Central Nodal Agencies (CNAs) for providing houses to all eligible families/ beneficiaries against the validated demand for houses for about 1.12 cr.
- As per PMAY(U) guidelines, the size of a house for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) could be upto 30 sq. mt. carpet area, however States/UTs have the flexibility to enhance the size of houses in consultation and approval of the Ministry.

Housing for All Scheme

- The Housing for All scheme was an initiative of the Indian government to establish housing facilities for slum dwellers.
- It was introduced by the Indian government's Ministry of Housing and urban poverty Alleviation. This is also known as the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana**.
- It is for both people residing in urban and rural areas that fulfil certain criteria.
- Recently the union cabinet has approved the extension of the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G) beyond March 2021 until March 2024 to achieve the total target of 2.95 crore rural houses.

Nutrition Smart Villages

In news

The programme on '**Nutrition Smart Village'** has been initiated to strengthen India's fight against malnutrition.

Aim

This new initiative aims to reach out to 75 villages across India through the network of All India Coordinated Research Project on Women in Agriculture (AICRP-WIA) which is in operation at 13 centres in 12 States of India.

Objectives

- The major purpose of this programme is to make the villages malnutrition free. To achieve the goal of Malnutrition free villages, intensive awareness campaigns and field activities will be undertaken for focusing on the concept of Nutri-village / Nutri-food / Nutri-diet/ Nutri-thali etc. for strengthening the Poshan Abhiyan.
- To create awareness among the women farmers will also be created about their legal rights in all occupations.
- To create awareness about nutrition and bring behavioural change by educating farmwomen and schoolchildren in rural areas.
- The programme offers a platform for the exchange of **traditional methods to fight malnutrition.**

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- To implement **nutrition-sensitive agriculture** by **promoting homestead agriculture** and Nutrigarden and making use of technology.

Details

- The initiative is in line with the Prime Minister's call to adopt and transform 75 villages.
- This will also take the '**Poshan Abhiyan'** flagship scheme towards further progress.
- All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) centres and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research - Central Institute for Women in Agriculture (ICARCIWA), will adopt 75 villages.
- This initiative will lead to the betterment of the overall nutritional profile of women and children in the rural areas who are vulnerable to the implications of malnutrition.

Poshan Abhiyan

- It is also called National Nutrition Mission, was launched on International Women's Day on 8 March 2018.
- The Abhiyan targets to Reduce Stunting, undernutrition, Anemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively.
- It also targets to bring down stunting among children in the age group 0-6 years from 38.4% to 25% by 2022.

First-ever mentorship programme for young innovators

In news

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launches first-ever Mentorship Programme for Young Innovators to mark the 75th Year of India's Independence

DBT-Star College Mentorship Programme

- This is a pan India Scheme that envisages Star College in every district of the country supported by the Department of Biotechnology.
- The programme is meant to help in networking, handholding and outreach.
- The plan envisages organizing workshops, meetings per month; handhold at colleges particularly in the rural areas or lesser-endowed areas and conducting outreach activities with government schools.
- The Star Status Colleges will help in incorporating the vision of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) towards strengthening UG Science Courses throughout the country by mentoring newer colleges through handholding and peer learning and bringing them under the aegis of the Star College Scheme.

About the Star College Scheme

- The Star College Scheme was initiated by DBT in 2008 to support colleges and universities offering undergraduate education to improve science teaching across the country.
- This Scheme was launched for improving critical thinking and encouraging 'hands on' experimental science at the undergraduate level in basic science subjects.
- It also aimed at encouraging more students to pursue higher education in science.
- Through this scheme, the Department identifies colleges with potential for excellence and provides support for developing infrastructure for academics and laboratory activities
- A total of 278 undergraduate colleges across India are currently being supported under the DBT Star College Scheme.
- The Star Status Colleges will help in incorporating the vision of DBT towards strengthening of UG Science Courses throughout the country by mentoring the newer colleges through handholding and peer learning and bringing them under the aegis of the Star College Scheme.
- It is going to help the research in India as there is a need for focusing on increasing numbers of beneficiaries in human resource-related schemes like **Star College Scheme,Skill Vigyan**

Programme(Skill Development Programme) in Biotechnology, **Biotech Industrial Training Programme** and **doctoral & post-doctoral** and **Re-entry Schemes & Fellowships**, and other similar schemes.

PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan

In news

GoI constitutes 20-member Empowered Group of Secretaries to monitor development and implementation of the PM Gati Shakti NMP.

Details

- The Empowered Group will be a monitoring mechanism for the development and implementation of the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP).
- The Cabinet Secretary will be its Chairperson.
- Members include Chairman, Railway Board; Secretaries of various departments/ministries such as Road, Transport & Highways; Ports, Shipping & Waterways; Civil Aviation; Petroleum & Natural Gas; Power; Telecommunications; Steel; etc.
- Secretariat to the Group: Logistics Division.

The Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS) shall have the following terms of reference

- Review and monitor implementation of the Plan to ascertain the logistics efficiency accruing thereof;
- Adopt framework and norms for undertaking any amendments in the Plan;
- Coordinate for any changes in the projects already included in the Plan, within the prescribed framework and norms;
- To set out a procedure and a definitive timeframe for synchronisation of various activities for construction of roads, rail, etc. along with all utility services in an area-based approach for development of infrastructure on pilot basis;
- Align various initiatives on development of a common integrated portal which serves the needs of all stakeholders;
- Issue appropriate directions for achieving the objectives and for compliance to guiding principles of the PM Gati Shakti NMP and in addressing demand side requirements of concerned Ministries.
- The EGoS will also look at the interventions required to meet the demand side, in efficiently transporting bulk goods based on the requirements of various Ministries like Steel, Coal, Fertilizer, etc.

PM Gati Shakti

- Gati shakti is a digital platform that will bring 16 ministries including railways and roadways together for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects.
- This will help in removing long-standing issues such as disjointed planning, lack of standardization, problems with clearances, and timely creation and utilization of infrastructure capacities.

Defence & Security

Project – 75

In news

The Indian Navy took delivery of the fourth `Scorpene' class submarine under Project-75 from Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)

Details

- They are being constructed at MDL in Mumbai and under the collaboration/Transfer of Technology from M/s Naval Group, France.
- Yard 11878, christened 'Vela', was launched in May 2019.
- This yard has been in the country's indigenous warship building programme and has constructed the newly inducted Vishakhapatnam class of Destroyers, Shivalik class Stealth Frigates, Khukri class Corvettes, Leander & Godavari class Frigates, Missile Boats, Delhi & Kolkata class Destroyers.

What is Project 75?

- Project 75 dates back to 1997 when a plan was approved by the Ministry of Defence for acquiring 24 submarines under it.
- Later in 2005, a contract between India and France was signed for building six Scorpene-class submarines with Mazagon Docks Limited on the Indian side and the Naval Group on the French side.
- Earlier, INS Kalvari, INS Khanderi, and INS Karanj were commissioned followed by INS Vela.

About 'INS Vela'

- INS Vela is the fourth submarine out of the six submarine series of Project – 75.
- These are scorpene class submarines built in India by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai in collaboration with the Naval Group, France.
- The scorpene class submarines are designed with stealth features and possess long range torpedoes as well as anti-ship missiles.
- They have state of the art SONAR (Sound Navigation and Ranging) and sensor suites that allow effective operation capabilities along with Permanent Magnetic Synchronous motor and propulsion motor.
- The hull, fin and hydroplanes enable reduced underwater resistance.
- The equipment in the pressure hull is housed on a shock-absorbing cradle.

Capabilities of Vela

- It is capable of indulging in offensive operations covering naval warfare in its entirety.
- Besides, it is capable of engaging in anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare, collecting intelligence data, mine laying and area surveillance.
- The diesel electric-powered submarine can perform sea denial and access denial warfare.

Goa Maritime Conclave – 2021

In news

The 3rd edition of Goa Maritime Conclave, successfully conducted from 07 to 09 November 2021 at Goa.

Theme: "Maritime Security and Emerging Non-Traditional Threats: A case for proactive role for IOR Navies".

Details

- The Goa Maritime Conclave – 2021 is an outreach initiative by the Indian Navy that renders a multinational platform to gather the valuable insights of experts in the field of maritime security and academia with the noble objective of culminating a maritime thought inclined towards progressive outcomes.
- The present trends in the geopolitical events encompassing the Indian Ocean Region create the necessity for a clear strategy for the administration and maritime security of the Indian Ocean Region.
- This involves the collaboration of chiefs and heads of maritime forces of the Indian Navy and 12 Indian ocean littorals comprising Bangladesh, Comoros, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- The participants of the conclave will be given exposure to listen to eminent personalities discussing various important issues in the IOR and carve out ways to broaden the interoperability of the region for the purpose of mitigating maritime challenges.

- GMC conclave is an outstanding arena to assist the participants and stakeholders in the profound understanding of dynamic concepts of maritime security.

Miscellaneous

National Multidimensional Poverty Index

In news

Under the Cabinet Secretary's Global Indices for Reforms and Growth (GIRG) initiative, the country's performance is being monitored across 29 global indices including Human Development Index (HDI), Global Hunger Index (GHI), Global Competitiveness Index (GCI), Human Capital Index (HCI), Global Innovation Index (GII), among others.

Aim

This exercise is aimed at leveraging the monitoring mechanism of important social, economic, and other internationally recognised indices, enabling the utilisation of these indices as tools for bringing about reforms to improve outcomes and correspondingly reflect them in India's performance in these indices globally.

Details

- Under this initiative, NITI Aayog is the nodal Ministry for the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).
- According to Global MPI 2021, India's rank is 66 out of 109 countries.
- The National MPI Project is aimed at deconstructing the Global MPI and creating a globally aligned and yet customised India MPI for drawing up comprehensive Reform Action Plans with the larger goal of improving India's position in the Global MPI rankings.

National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

- *Baseline Report* based on NFHS-4 (2015-16) has been developed by NITI Aayog in consultation with 12 Line Ministries and in partnership with State governments and the index publishing agencies –Oxford University's Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- **NFHS is conducted by the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.**
- The baseline report that was developed by the NITI Aayog included a thorough consultation with ministries, state governments and the publishing agencies like the Oxford Poverty and Human
- Development Initiative and UNDP (United Nations Development Programme).
- This intends to reduce the proportion of men, women, children of all ages living in poverty by half as envisaged by 1.2 of the SDG.

All India Survey on Domestic Workers

In news

Shri Bhupender Yadav flags off first ever All India Survey on Domestic Workers

Aim

The All India Survey on Domestic Workers is aimed to estimate the number and proportion of domestic workers at National and State level, percentage distribution of domestic workers with respect to Live-in/Live-out, formal/ Informal Employment, Migrant/Non-Migrant, their wages and other socio-economic characteristics.

Details

- Domestic workers (DWs) constitute a significant portion of total employment in the informal sector.
- But there is a lack of adequate data on their conditions of work and other details.
- Hence, the survey is being conducted to fill this information gap.
- This is expected to help in data driven policy and last-mile delivery of services.
- The survey would cover 37 States and Union Territories, covering 1.5 lakh households in 742 districts.

Objectives of the Survey

- Estimate the number/proportion of DWs at National and State level.
- Household Estimates of Live-in/ Live-out DWs.
- Average number of DWs engaged by different types of households.

Scope of the Survey

- All India States/UTs of India covered are 37 and Districts covered are742
- Unit of Enumeration is Villages as per Census 2011 and Urban Blocks as per latest phase of UFS.
- At the all-India level, a total number of 12766 First Stage Units (FSUs) i.e., 6190 villages and 6576 UFS blocks will be covered in the survey.
- 1,50,000 Households i.e., the Ultimate Stage Units (USU) will be covered.

Status of Domestic Worker

- Domestic workers are the third-largest category of workers after agriculture and construction.
- According to the latest data on the **e-Shram portal,** around 8.8% of the registered 8.56 crore informal sector workers fall in the category of domestic workers.
- India is a signatory of the International Labour Organization Convention C-189 (Domestic Workers Convention, 2011).

PM to lay the foundation stone of dedicated walkways for 'Palkhi'

In news

- PM lays foundation stone of four laning of key sections of Shri Sant Dnyaneshawar Maharaj Palkhi Marg and Shri Sant Tukaram Maharaj Palkhi Marg
- PM also dedicates to the nation multiple road projects for boosting connectivity to Pandharpur

About the project

- Dedicated walkways for **'Palkhi'** will be constructed on either side of these National Highways, providing hassle-free or safe passage to devotees.
- In an effort to facilitate the movement of devotees to **Pandharpur**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone for four-laning of five sections of **Shri Sant Dnyaneshwar Maharaj Palkhi Marg (NH-965)** and three sections of **Shri Sant Tukaram Maharaj Palkhi Marg (NH-965 G)**.

Background

- This Yatra is one of the world's oldest mass yatras and is seen as a people's movement, It is a symbol of India's eternal knowledge that does not bind our faith, but liberates" "The court of Bhagavan Vitthal is equally open to everyone.
- The same sentiment is behind Sabka Saath-Sabka Vikas-Sabka Vishwas" "From time to time, in different regions, such great personalities kept emerging and showing the direction to the country" "'Pandhari ki Wari' symbolizes equality of opportunity.

Sant Dnyaneshwar

- Sant Dnyaneshwar was a Marathi saint, poet, philosopher, and yogi of the Nath Vaishnava school who lived in the 13th century.
- Dnyaneshwar's thoughts are based on the **non-dualistic Advaita Vedanta philosophy**.
- His work called **Dnyaneshwari** is a commentary on the Bhagavad Gita that served as the core of Maharashtra's Bhakti philosophy.
- Sant Dnyaneshwar wrote Dnyaneshwari on the orders of his Guru Shri Nivruttinath.
- He also wrote, "Amritanubhava" (immortal experience), based on Upanishad philosophy, and "Haripath," a hymn praising Hari (Vishnu).

Sant Tukaram

- Sant Tukaram is a 17th-century poet-saint who was a contemporary of Shivaji Maharaj, Eknath and Ramdas.
- His poetry was dedicated to Vithoba or Vitthala, an incarnation of Vishnu, the Hindu God.
- He is well-known in Marathi for his Abangas (dohas).
- Abangas are a rich tradition of devotional poetry.
- Sant Tukaram emphasised community-based worship via spiritual melodies known as Kirtans.
- They were also crucial for laying the groundwork for **Parmaratha.**
- He promoted the virtues of piety, forgiveness, and inner tranquilly

National Ayurveda Day 2021

In news

In 2021, Ayurveda Day is being observed on 02 November 2021. The Ayurveda Day celebrations are being held under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav initiative.

Theme: '**Ayurveda for Poshan'**.

About National Ayurveda Day

- The National Ayurveda Day is celebrated every year on the occasion of Dhanwantari Jayanti (Dhanteras) since 2016.
- Prevention of disease and promotion of health is the main aim of Ayurveda.
- **Lord Dhanvantari** is considered a divine propagator of Ayurveda. He is conferred with the virtues of granting health and wealth.
- As per Hindu mythology, Lord Dhanvantari, who is a physician of the gods, appeared before the Devas and the Asuras during Samudra Manthan. He held in his hands Amrita, or the nectar of immortality and also the text called Ayurveda.
- Therefore, Dhanvantari Jayanti was preferred for the celebration of Ayurveda Day to nationalize this system of medicine which can prove to be a cornerstone for its ultimate globalization.

Objectives

- An attempt to further promote Ayurveda into mainstream
- Focus on the strengths of Ayurveda and its unique treatment principles.
- Reduce the burden of disease and related morbidity and mortality by utilizing the potential of Ayurveda.
- Exploring the potential of Ayurveda to contribute towards National health policy & National Health programmes.
- Create a sense of awareness in today's generation and promote Ayurvedic principles of healing in society.

Swachh Survekshan Award 2021

In news

The President of India presented the Swachh Survekshan Awards which was a part of the Swachh Amrit Mahotsav organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Highlight

This event echoed the fundamentals of Gandhian doctrine, ***"cleanliness is next to godliness"***.

About The Event

- This event intended to acknowledge the laudable work done by the towns, cities, States and Union Territories under the initiatives such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Urban, Swachh Survekshan 2021 and Safaimitra Suraksha challenge.
- There were certifications for garbage free star rating for cities and 300 awards have been given under various categories.
- ***Indore was felicitated as the cleanest city*** under Swachh Survekshan,***Surat and Vijayawada occupied the second and third positions respectively*** for 1 lakh population category.
- Varanasi was awarded as the Best Ganga Town whereas Ahmedabad Cantonment was regarded as India's cleanest Cantonment. ***The city of Hoshangabad (Madhya Pradesh) won the Fastest Mover City award.***
- The Star Rating Protocol introduced by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. Indore, New Delhi Municipal Council, Surat, Ambikapur, Noida, Mysuru, Vijayawada and Patan were certified as Five Star Cities.

Awards for States

- Chhattisgarh emerged as the cleanest state in the category of more than 100 Urban Local Bodies
- Jharkhand was awarded as the cleanest state in the category of less than 100 ULBs.
- Karnataka became the fastest mover state in the category of more than 100 ULBs.
- Mizoram became the fastest mover state in the category of less than 100 ULBs.

Significance

- 6 States and 6 UTs have shown overall improvement (ranging between 5 – 25%) in their overall ground level performance over last year
- more than 1,100 additional cities have started source segregation;
- nearly 1,800 additional ULBs have started extending welfare benefits to their sanitation workers;
- more than 1,500 additional ULBs have notified ban on the use, sale and storage of non-biodegradable plastic bags; in all, more than 3,000 ULBs have notified this ban.
- all North East states have shown significant improvement in their citizens' feedback – yet another testimony to how the Missions is reaching out to every citizen, including in far flung areas.

National Sports Awards 2021

In news

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced the National Sports Awards

About the Awards

- The National Sports Awards are given every year to recognize and reward excellence in sports.
- ***Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award***
  - It is given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of the previous four years.

- 12 people have been declared winners of this award including Tokyo Olympics Gold medallist Neeraj Chopra.

- ***Arjuna Award***
  - It is given for outstanding performance in Sports and Games' is given for good performance over a period of previous four years and showing qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and a sense of discipline.
  - 35 people have been selected for the award.
- ***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***
  It is given 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 Puraskar***
  It is given to corporate entities (both in private and public sector), sports control boards, NGOs including sports bodies at the State and National levels who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development.

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

Major Dhyan Chand KhelRatna Award 2021

S. No.	Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
1.	Neeraj Chopra	Athletics
2.	Ravi Kumar	Wrestling
3.	LovlinaBorgohain	Boxing
4.	Sreejesh P.R	Hockey
5.	AvaniLekhara	Para Shooting
6.	SumitAntil	Para Athletics
7.	PramodBhagat	Para Badminton
8.	Krishna Nagar	Para Badminton
9.	Manish Narwal	Para Shooting
10.	Mithali Raj	Cricket
11.	Sunil Chhetri	Football
12.	Manpreet Singh	Hockey

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Arjuna Awards for outstanding performance in Sports and Games 2021

S. No.	Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
1.	Arpinder Singh	Athletics
2.	SimranjitKaur	Boxing
3.	ShikharDhawan	Cricket
4.	Bhavani Devi Chadalavada Anandha Sundhararaman	Fencing
5.	Monika	Hockey
6.	VandanaKatariya	Hockey
7.	SandeepNarwal	Kabaddi
8.	HimaniUttamParab	Mallakhamb
9.	AbhishekVerma	Shooting
10.	AnkitaRaina	Tennis
11.	Deepak Punia	Wrestling
12.	Dilpreet Singh	Hockey
13.	Harman Preet Singh	Hockey
14.	Rupinder Pal Singh	Hockey
15.	Surender Kumar	Hockey
16.	AmitRohidas	Hockey
17.	BirendraLakra	Hockey
18.	Sumit	Hockey
19.	Nilakanta Sharma	Hockey

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20.	Hardik Singh	Hockey
21.	VivekSagar Prasad	Hockey
22.	Gurjant Singh	Hockey
23.	Mandeep Singh	Hockey
24.	Shamsher Singh	Hockey
25.	Lalit Kumar Upadhyay	Hockey
26.	Varun Kumar	Hockey
27.	Simranjeet Singh	Hockey
28.	YogeshKathuniya	Para Athletics
29.	Nishad Kumar	Para Athletics
30.	Praveen Kumar	Para Athletics
31.	SuhashYathiraj	Para Badminton
32.	SinghrajAdhana	Para Shooting
33.	Bhavina Patel	Para Table Tennis
34.	Harvinder Singh	Para Archery
35.	Sharad Kumar	Para Athletics

Dronacharya Award for outstanding coaches in Sports and Games 2021

A. **Life-Time Category:**

S. No.	Name of the Coach	Discipline

1.	T. P. Ouseph	Athletics
2.	SarkarTalwar	Cricket
3.	Sarpal Singh	Hockey
4.	Ashan Kumar	Kabaddi
5.	Tapan Kumar Panigrahi	Swimming

B. **Regular Category:**

S. No.	Name of the Coach	Discipline
1.	Radhakrishnan Nair P	Athletics
2.	SandhyaGurung	Boxing
3.	PritamSiwach	Hockey
4.	Jai PrakashNautiyal	Para Shooting
5.	Subramanian Raman	Table Tennis

Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime achievement in Sports and Games 2021

S.No.	Name	Discipline
1.	Lekha K.C.	Boxing
2.	AbhijeetKunte	Chess
3.	Davinder Singh Garcha	Hockey
4.	Vikas Kumar	Kabaddi
5.	Sajjan Singh	Wrestling

Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2021

S. No.	Category	Entity recommended for RashtriyaKhelProtsahanPuraskar, 2021
1.	Identification and Nurturing of Budding and Young Talent	ManavRachna Educational Institution

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2.	Encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility	Indian Oil Corporation Limited

National Achievement Survey 2021

In news

The Government of India has introduced a sample-based programme called the **National Achievement Survey (NAS).**

Objective

To provide structured feedback on student learning levels at District, State, and national levels. These inputs are used for policy planning and designing pedagogical interventions to improve quality and ensure equity in learning.

About National Achievement Survey

- It is a nationwide survey to assess the learning outcomes and health of the education system. The survey was last conducted in 2017 and was scheduled to take place in 2020.
- However, due to the Covid situation, it was postponed until this year (2021).
- It is the largest, nationwide, sample-based education survey conducted across India.
- **The Ministry of Education undertakes it.**
- The **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) conducted NAS 2021.**
- The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) designed an assessment framework and tools for NAS-2021.
- It provides a system-level reflection on the effectiveness of school education.
- It collects information on relevant background variables such as school environment, teaching processes, and student home and background factors.
- It covers the whole spectrum of schools including Government schools (both State and Central government), Government-aided schools, and Private schools across India.

Significance

- The findings of NAS 2021 will help in diagnosing a systematic understanding of the consequences that prolonged closure of schools has had on the learning of students in terms of their socioemotional and cognitive development.
- Through its diagnostic report cards, NAS findings help in capacity building for teachers, officials involved in the delivery of education.
- Language education and also be imparted with requisite skill sets.