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**OCT 2022**

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SEP 01

### **Cancer-fighting viruses can boost body's immune response**

- Oncolytic viruses (OVs) are viruses that selectively target and kill cancer cells while sparing normal ones. The study notes that these viruses also enhance the immune system's ability to recognise and terminate cancer cells.
- Although long theorised, the research into oncolytic virotherapy picked up only in the 1960s. Of late, there have been several trials looking at different viruses for cancer treatment.
- The latest study focused on the virus known as myxoma and it found that T-cells infected with myxoma virus can lead to a type of cancer cell death not previously observed.

### **Artemis I will send a rocket without a crew on a monthlong journey around the Moon.**

- The programme aims to increase women's participation in space exploration. In addition, the Artemis I mission will carry two mannequins designed to study the effects of radiation on women's bodies so that NASA can learn how to protect female astronauts better.
- The Greeks and Romans associated Artemis with the Moon, and she has also become a modern-day feminist icon.
- Artemis was a major deity in ancient Greece, worshiped at least as early as the beginning of the first millennium B.C., or even earlier.
- She was a daughter of Zeus, the chief god of the Olympians, who ruled the world from the summit of Mount Olympus. She was also the twin sister of Apollo, god of the Sun and oracles.
- Her independence and strength have long inspired women in a wide range of activities.
- As the goddess of animals and the wilderness, Artemis has also inspired environmental conservancy programs, in which the goddess is viewed as an example of a woman exercising her power by caring for the planet.

### **Over 20000 visitors on day one of Ganesh festival at Hubbali's Idgah ground**

- The Karnataka High Court has allowed Ganesh festival celebrations to go on at the grounds of the Hubbali-Dharwad Idgah, saying that unlike in the case of the Bengaluru Idgah, there is no dispute about the title. The Anjuman-e-Islam has challenged the order in the Supreme Court.
- The Idgah, one of three in Hubbali, is said to have been traditionally used by local Muslims to offer Ramzan and Bakrid prayers.
- The land was acquired by the Hubbali Municipality in the early years of the 20th century.
- Hubbali and Dharwad are twin cities in the Indian state of Karnataka.
- Hubbali-Dharwad form the second-largest municipality of Karnataka in terms of area, after capital Bangalore and second largest city after Bangalore. Hubbali-Dharwad makes up for the second largest urban agglomeration in the state after Bangalore.
- The cities have a single municipal corporation called Hubli-Dharwad Municipal Corporation (HDMC).

### **Anti-radiation pills help in case of a nuclear emergency in Ukraine**

- These are unplanned or accidental events that create radio-nuclear hazard to humans and the environment. Such situations involve radiation exposure from a radioactive source and require prompt intervention to mitigate the threat.
- Dealing with such an emergency also involves the use of anti-radiation tablets.
- Potassium iodide (KI) tablets, or anti-radiation pills, are known to provide some protection in cases of radiation exposure. They contain non-radioactive iodine and can help block absorption, and subsequent concentration, of radioactive iodine in the thyroid gland.
- The thyroid gland, which uses iodine to produce hormones to regulate the body's metabolism, has no way of telling radioactive

from non-radioactive iodine. Potassium iodide (KI) tablets rely on this to achieve 'thyroid blocking'.

### **Sonali Phogat was given recreational drug methamphetamine on the eve of her death**

- Methamphetamine — meth for short — is a powerful, highly addictive stimulant that affects the central nervous system, and is used to treat attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and narcolepsy, a sleep disorder.
- Crystal methamphetamine or crystal meth is a form of the drug that looks like glass fragments or shiny, bluish-white rocks. It is chemically similar to amphetamine.
- Methamphetamine can be smoked, swallowed in the form of a pill or tablet, snorted, and injected after dissolving the powder in water or alcohol.
- Methamphetamine can lead to myocardial infarction (heart attack); it can cause stroke. The drug can affect the heart, the brain, and the kidneys. It can result in the blood pressure shooting up suddenly. So, it is a very dangerous drug if there is an overdose.
- Meth raises the amount of dopamine in the brain. Dopamine, a natural chemical, plays a role in body movement, motivation, and reinforcement of rewarding behaviours.

### **Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant in Russia-Ukraine war zone**

- The Zaporizhzhia nuclear power station has been under Russian control since early March, but an escalation of the conflict in the town has raised the spectre of nuclear disaster.
- Ukraine has four nuclear power stations comprising 15 reactors. The plant at Zaporizhzhia has six reactors, which can together produce about 5,700 MW of electricity. Nuclear energy caters to about half of Ukraine's power demand.
- Safty of reactors
- Modern nuclear reactors are built to withstand considerable shock and impact. They have several layers of reinforced steel and concrete, and also elaborate fire security systems. Most of these reactors can survive earthquakes of magnitude 8 or higher.

They are also designed to shut down automatically when they sense major natural hazards.

SEP 02

### **Super Typhoon 'Hinnamnor', the strongest storm of 2022**

- As of September 1, 2022, the category 5 typhoon — the highest classification on the scale — was about 230 km away from Japan's Okinawa prefecture.
- one of the factors contributing to the Super Typhoon rapidly intensifying and expanding is the fact that it has started absorbing other local meteorological systems. Warm tropical waters and other pre-existing meteorological disturbances have also led to the system's escalation.

### **India-made HPV vaccine to cost ₹ 200**

- CERVAVAC, developed by SII, was approved by the Drug Controller General of India in July.
- CERVAVAC is a quadrivalent vaccine, meaning it is effective against at least four variants of cancer-causing Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), and resulted from a partnership of DBT's Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation that supported Serum's development efforts.
- Annually, about 1.25 lakh women are diagnosed with cervical cancer, and over 75,000 die from the disease in India. Close to 83% of invasive cervical cancers in India and 70% of cases worldwide are attributed to HPV-types 16 or 18.
- HPV transmission is influenced by sexual activity and age. Almost 75% of all sexually active adults are likely to be infected with at least one HPV type. A vast majority of the infections resolve itself.

### **UGC proposes clustering of colleges for multidisciplinary learning**

- The UGC will make public its “Guidelines for transforming higher educational institutions into multidisciplinary institutions”.
- These aim to help State governments and universities frame appropriate rules and policies. Promoting multidisciplinary institutions was a key recommendation of the National Education Policy, 2020.
- The UGC has suggested academic collaboration between institutions through “clusters” of higher education institutions (HEIs) in order to promote multidisciplinary education and research in online and offline modes.
- The cluster system will help single-stream institutions with poor enrolment due to lack of employment-oriented, innovative multidisciplinary courses and lack of financial resources and help such centres improve their grades in National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) accreditation.

### **Indian Army contingent participates in Ex Vostok-2022**

- The exercise also includes participation by the Chinese People’s Liberation Army.
- The exercise is aimed at interaction and coordination amongst other participating military contingents and observers. The exercise is scheduled to be held from Sept. 01 to 07.
- Russia has stated that Vostok-2022 will be conducted in two phases.
- Participating contingents include observers from the Collective Security Treaty Organisation, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and other partner states.

### **SC relaxes iron ore mining limit for Bellary, 2 other Karnataka districts**

- Earlier, on May 20, 2022, the apex court had relaxed the ban on sale outside the State and export of already excavated iron ore from mines in these three districts. Ten years after it clamped down on production and sale of iron ore in Karnataka, the Court has relaxed its own orders.



- In 2012, the SC banned export of iron ore pellets from Karnataka with an aim to prevent environmental degradation.
- Following the ban, the Supreme Court directed the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) to draw up a reclamation and rehabilitation plan to reverse the environmental damage caused by illegal mining.
- Taking cognisance of the course correction by the government, it relaxed its 2011 order since the situation had now “changed for the better”.

### **Effecting the ban on single-use plastics**

- In keeping with the spirit of the ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’, the country is taking steps to curb littered and unmanaged plastic waste pollution.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021 on August 12, 2021.
- In keeping with the spirit of the ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’, the country is taking steps to curb littered and unmanaged plastic waste pollution.
- Since July 1, 2022, India has banned the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale, and use of single-use plastic (SUP) items with low utility and high littering potential. India is a party to the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA).
- In all, 124 nations are party to the UNEA, and India has signed a resolution to draw up an agreement in the future that will make it legally binding for signatories to address the full life cycle of plastics, from production to disposal.

### **Assembly passes University Laws Bill, now govt to have upper hand in selecting VCs**

- While the Bill awaits the Governor’s assent, its passage will enhance the appointment age of Vice Chancellors to 65 years and increase the strength of the selection committee to five (from the existing three).
- The move comes amidst claims that the inclusion of the Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC) vice chairman as

convener of the committee, who could be perceived as linked to universities by way of his/her position, could be in violation of the University Grants Commission (UGC) regulations.

- Other members of the committee will include a nominee each of the State government, UGC, Chancellor and the university Senate.

SEP 03

**India and UAE reiterate commitment to achieve goal of 100bn of bilateral trade in next 5 yrs**

- Both countries have also noted the possibility of linking instant payment platforms, such as through the United Payment Interface of India.
- These issues were discussed in the 14th India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting which was co-chaired by External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and Foreign Minister of UAE Sheikh Abdulla bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi.
- Two MoUs were signed between both sides in the presence of the Ministers. One MoU was signed between the Wildlife Institute of India and the International Fund for Houbara Conservation for the Conservation of the Great Indian Bustard and the Lesser Florican.
- Another MoU was signed between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of UAE and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations on the establishment of the India-UAE Cultural Council Forum.

**Centre disburses ₹ 3,090 cr to defence pensioners in Aug via SPARSH**

- Defence Ministry has said that System for Pensions Administration - Raksha or SPARSH has disbursed more than three thousand ninety crore rupees to Defense Pensioners digitally in the month of August this year.

- In another milestone, more than five lakh sixty-two thousand Defence Pensioners migrated successfully on the digital platform of SPARSH in August.
- SPARSH is a web-based system processing pension claims and crediting the pension directly into the bank accounts of defence pensioners without any external intermediary.
- It has grown exponentially with more than 11 thousand 600 crore rupees disbursed in 2021-22, from just about 57 crore rupees in 2020-21.

### **Paddy cultivation sees decline**

- According to the data released by the Union Agriculture Ministry, the decrease in the area of paddy cultivation is 22.90 lakh hectares, 5.62% less than the area covered in 2021.
- States such as Jharkhand (decrease of 9.80 lakh hectares), Madhya Pradesh (6.32 lakh hectares), West Bengal (4.45 lakh hectares), Chhattisgarh (3.91 lakh hectares), Uttar Pradesh (2.61 lakh hectares) and Bihar (2.18 lakh hectares) are the major contributors for the decrease in the cultivated area of paddy in this kharif season.
- Meanwhile, States such as Telangana (increase of 4.71 lakh hectares), Haryana (0.94 lakh hectares), Nagaland (0.78 lakh hectares) and Gujarat (0.55 lakh hectares) showed an increase in the area of cultivation of paddy.
- The coverage of pulses too witnessed a marginal decrease.
- Increase in area in cultivation is reported from States such as Madhya Pradesh (4.08 lakh hectares), Uttar Pradesh (0.22 lakh hectares) and Assam (0.11 lakh hectares) while Maharashtra (decrease of 3.23 lakh hectares), Telangana (1.70 lakh hectares), Jharkhand (1.33 lakh hectares) and Karnataka (0.94 lakh hectares).
- Tur/arhar cultivation was down marginally at 44.86 lakh hectares as against 47.56 lakh hectares in 2021.
- Oilseeds have been cultivated in 188.51 lakh hectares in the country, slightly less than 189.66 lakh hectares of 2021. In the case of sugarcane, the cultivation is 55.65 lakh hectares, a slight

increase in the production as compared to 54.70 lakh hectares in 2021 kharif.

### **Centre approves 60-day special maternity leave in case of infant death**

- The DOPT said it had received several queries seeking clarification on grant of leave in case of death of a child soon after birth.
- Keeping in view the potential emotional trauma caused due to stillbirth or death of a child soon after birth, which has a far-reaching impact on the mother's life, it has now been decided to grant a special maternity leave of 60 days to a female Central government servant.
- The condition for death of a child soon after birth may be defined as up to 28 days after birth. A baby born with no signs of life at or after 28 weeks of gestation may be defined as stillbirth.
- The special maternity leave shall be given only to a woman Central government servant with less than two surviving children.

### **PM Modi flags off projects worth ₹ 3,800 cr in Mangaluru**

- He remotely dedicated to the nation mechanised Berth No.14 for container and other cargo at the New Mangalore Port Trust.
- He laid the foundation stone for the LPG and Bulk Liquid POL facility and storage tanks at the Port Authority. He also laid the foundation stone for a fishing harbour at Kulai.
- He remotely dedicated the BSVI Upgradation project and seawater desalination project of Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited.
- He also distributed Pradhan Mantri Kisan Cards to fishermen and symbolically handed over sanction letters for high-speed deep sea fishing vessels.

### **SC declines to entertain plea seeking uniform judicial code across India**

- There are currently no laid-down limits on the length of pleadings, but there are specifications regarding the paper, its size, and the typing, etc.
- Under Order VIII (Documents) of The Supreme Court Rules, 2013, “the officers of the Court shall not receive any pleading, petition, affidavit or other document, except original exhibits and certified copies of public documents, unless it is fairly and legibly written.
- These have to be certified by the Advocate-On-Record, who is registered to practise before the SC. Other lawyers, including a senior advocate, can appear before the court only on the instructions from the AoR.

### **PM Modi unveils new Naval Ensign Nishaan at Cochin Shipyard in Kochi**

- The new Naval Ensign bears the seal of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, whose navy gave his enemies sleepless nights.
- The new Ensign has the national flag on the upper canton (top left corner), and a blue octagon encompassing the National Emblem sitting atop an anchor. The anchor, depicting steadfastness, has been superimposed on a shield inscribed with the Navy's motto, Sam No Varunah, in Devanagari.
- The octagonal shape represents the eight directions, symbolizing the Navy's multi-directional reach and operational capability. The octagon, with a golden double border, has been inspired by the Raja Mudra — seal — of the Maratha emperor Shivaji, which was adopted when he was only 16 years old.
- The new Naval Ensign has replaced the one that carried the Saint George's Cross with the Tricolour in the canton.

SEP 04

**On what ground was Teesta Setalvad granted interim bail?**

- He was referring to a provision that says being a woman is a possible ground for granting bail, even when otherwise it cannot be considered.
- Section 437 of the CrPC deals with bail in case of non-bailable offences.
- It says a person shall not be released on bail if there is reasonable ground to believe that he has committed an offence punishable with death or life imprisonment; or, if he has been previously been convicted for an offence punishable with death, life imprisonment, or for a term of seven years or more; or been convicted on two or more occasions on other offences with a term between three and seven years.
- However, it also contains exceptions in a proviso that says the court may grant bail even in these cases, “if such person is under the age of 16 or is a woman or is sick or infirm”.
- There are several provisions in criminal law that give special consideration to women.
- For instance, when a police officer requires the attendance of any person who he believes is acquainted with a case under investigation, the person has to appear before the officer (Section 160).
- However, no woman shall be required to do so at any place other than the place in which she resides.

**Trade data flags testing time for goods exports**

- India's merchandise exports shrank 1.15% year-on-year in August to \$33 billion, while inelastic imports of petroleum and coal continued to climb, lifting imports above the \$60 billion mark for the sixth successive month.
- The country's goods trade deficit moderated slightly sequentially from the record \$30 billion in July, but remained the second

highest on record at \$28.68 billion, and widened sharply from the \$11.7 billion in August 2021.

- Preliminary trade data for July had also shown a 0.8% dip in exports, which was revised to a 2.1% uptick. The last time India recorded a contraction in exports was in February 2021.
- Experts have attributed the dip in outbound shipments, which declined 9% sequentially, to a growing tendency among international buyers to seek deferrals in shipments of confirmed orders, as well as the gamut of measures taken by the government to try and curb elevated inflation.
- While goods exports have averaged \$38.5 billion a month between April and August, adding up to \$192.5 billion, Mr. Subrahmanyam forecast India's total outbound shipments in 2022-23 would touch \$470 billion, or at least \$450 billion in a 'worst case scenario'.

### **Nano urea fast-tracked for approval despite incomplete trials**

- Nano urea, a product developed by the Indian Farmers and Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) and heavily advertised by the Central government as a panacea to reduce farmer dependence on packaged urea, is yet to be fully tested despite having been fast-tracked for commercial application.
- Normally, three seasons of independent assessment by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is required for approving a new fertilizer, but in the case of nano urea this was reduced to two.
- Nano urea is a patented and indigenously made liquid that contains nanoparticles of urea, the most crucial chemical fertilizer for farmers in India. A single half-litre bottle of the liquid can compensate for a 45 kg sack of urea that farmers traditionally rely on, it is claimed.

### **ISRO successfully demonstrates Inflatable Aerodynamic Decelerator technology**

- Designed and developed by ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), IAD is a game-changer with multiple applications for future missions including to Mars and Venus.

- The IAD was successfully test flown in a 'Rohini' sounding rocket from Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station.
- Rohini sounding rockets are routinely used for flight demonstration of new technologies being developed by ISRO as well as by scientists from India and abroad.
- The IAD was initially folded and kept inside the payload bay of the rocket. At around 84 km altitude, the IAD was inflated and it descended through the atmosphere with the payload part of a sounding rocket.
- The IAD has systematically reduced the velocity of the payload through aerodynamic drag and followed the predicted trajectory.

### **Shumang Leela, the traditional form of theatre celebrated in All Manipur Shumang Leela Festival 2021-2022**

- Shumang Leela is a traditional form of theatre in Manipur and the roles of female artists are all played by male actors and male characters are played by female artists in case of female theatre groups.
- In 2017, Shougrakpam Hemanta was conferred with the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in recognition of his contribution in Shumang Leela. With this, he became the first person to receive the award for this art form.
- Shumang Leela Groups of the early stage attempted to preserve and promote humanism, tolerance, confidence, devotion, truth and justice through their performances.
- The present day Shumang Leelas have been trying to focus on the issues of moral values, unity and integrity. It has also been trying to strengthen the bond of brotherhood and friendship among various communities in the State.

### **Justice D.Y. Chandrachud appointed as the executive chairman of National Legal Services Authority**

- Justice DY Chandrachud was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 13th May 2016. Earlier, he served as Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court.



- National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA) was formed in 1995 under the authority of the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987.
- Its purpose is to provide free legal services to eligible candidates (defined in Sec. 12 of the Act), and to organize Lok Adalats for speedy resolution of cases.
- The Chief Justice of India is patron-in-chief of NALSA while the second senior-most Judge of the Supreme Court of India is the Executive-Chairman.
- There is a provision for similar mechanism at state and district level also headed by Chief Justice of High Courts and Chief Judges of District courts respectively.
- It was formed in 1995.
- It is headquartered in New Delhi.

### **Union Education Minister Calls For Strengthening Cooperation In Education And Skilling With Indonesia And Australia**

- Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has called for strengthening cooperation in education and skilling with Indonesia and Australia.
- Pradhan held a bilateral meeting with his Indonesian counterpart Nadiem Anwar Makarim in Bali. The Ministers had fruitful discussions on further expanding the academic and skill development partnerships and also realising the full potential of a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between both countries.
- Both the leaders explored opportunities for collaborations in education and skilling, especially in the areas of curriculum design, student exchange and research.
- Pradhan also held a bilateral meeting with the Minister for Early Childhood Education and Minister of Youth of Australia Dr. Anne Aly. They had productive conversations about deepening engagements in the field of early childhood and school education between both countries.
- Pradhan said, India and Australia enjoy vibrant cooperation in higher education, research and skill development.

### **India's First 'Night Sky Sanctuary' To Be Set Up In Ladakh**

- In a unique and first-of-its-kind initiative, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has undertaken to set up India's first-ever Night Sky Sanctuary in Ladakh. It will be completed within the next three months.
- The proposed Dark Sky Reserve will be located at Hanle in Ladakh as a part of Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary. It will boost Astro tourism in India and will be one of the world's highest-located sites for optical, infrared, and gamma-ray telescopes.
- A tripartite MoU was signed recently among the UT administration, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council LAHDC Leh and the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, IIA, for launching the Dark Space Reserve.

### **India set to become 3rd largest economy by 2029**

- A State Bank of India report said India will surpass Germany in 2027 and most likely Japan by 2029 at the current rate of growth.
- The report said that the country has undergone a large structural shift since 2014 and is now the 5th largest economy overtaking the United Kingdom.
- The path taken by India since 2014 reveals the country is likely to get the tag of 3rd largest economy in 2029, a movement of 7 places upwards since 2014 when India was ranked 10th, it said. The report is authored by Soumya Kanti Ghosh, group chief economic adviser, SBI.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, the International Monetary Fund's own forecasts show India overtaking the UK in dollar terms on an annual basis this year. This has put India, the Asian powerhouse, just behind the US, China, Japan and Germany.

SEP 05

## **Teachers' Day 2022**

- The day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of educationist and former President Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.
- President Droupadi Murmu will confer National Awards to 46 selected teachers for the year 2022 in New Delhi.
- The Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education has been organising a national level function on Teachers Day every year to confer the National Awards to best teachers of the country. The selection is done through a transparent and online three stage selection process.
- The purpose of National Awards to Teachers is to celebrate the unique contribution of teachers in the country and to honour those teachers who through their commitment and industry have not only improved the quality of school education but also enriched the lives of their students.

## **What is kurki, and why is it a big issue in Punjab?**

- Kurki means attachment of a farmer's land, already pledged to the money lending institution or individual, in case of a loan default. Apart from banks, private moneylenders, commission agents also get these decrees against farmers from time to time.
- Kurki orders are executed under Section 60 of Civil Procedure Code, 1908. The land which is pledged by the farmer to the bank or money lender gets registered in their name. In some cases, the land is auctioned as well.
- The process begins after the money lender moves court to get kurki orders in case the farmer is unable to pay back his loan. In kurki, attachment of farmer's land as well as his tractor can be done as per the Section 60.

## **Japan's government has "declared a war on floppy disks".**

- Decades after the unwieldy magnetic storage disks became obsolete and were phased out globally, Japan's digital ministry has announced that it will finally do away with floppy disks and other outdated technology in a bid to modernise its bureaucracy.
- Japan may be home to some of the world's leading tech giants, but the Japanese have always had an affinity for older technology. According to a BBC report, cassettes were still widely used in 2015.
- Popularly used between the 1970s and 1990s, a floppy disk is a removable disk storage device used to save computer data and programmes.
- The disk, first developed by IBM, is only able to store about 800 KB of data, which is about 0.0008 GB.
- To put that in perspective, today one can find hard drives with storage up to 20 TB (20,000 GB).

### **AG K.K. Venugopal Refuses Consent To Initiate Contempt Proceedings Against Sr. Adv. Kapil Sibal**

- Contempt is “the disobedience of an order of a court” and, “also conduct tending to obstruct or interfere with the orderly administration of justice”.
- According to The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, contempt of court can either be civil contempt or criminal contempt.
- Civil contempt means “wilful disobedience to any judgment, decree, direction, order, writ or other process of a court, or wilful breach of an undertaking given to a court”.
- Criminal contempt, on the other hand, is attracted by “the publication (whether by words, spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representations, or otherwise) of any matter or the doing of any other act whatsoever which:
  - scandalises or tends to scandalise, or lowers or tends to lower the authority of, any court; or
  - prejudices, or interferes or tends to interfere with, the due course of any judicial proceeding; or
  - interferes or tends to interfere with, or obstructs or tends to obstruct, the administration of justice in any other manner.”

### **CPM scuttled Ramon Magsaysay Award for KK Shailaja**

- The foundation wanted to honour her for the public service and community leadership during the Nipah outbreak and COVID-19 pandemic in Kerala. However, Ms. Shailaja felt she could not accept the offer extended to her as an individual since the effort was collective.
- The Ramon Magsaysay Award, widely considered to be Asia's equivalent to the Nobel Prize, recognises outstanding leadership and communitarian contributions in Asia.
- The prize was established in April 1957 by the trustees of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund based in New York City with the concurrence of the Philippine government.
- The Ramon Magsaysay Award is presented in formal ceremonies in Manila, Philippines on August 31st, the birth anniversary of the much-esteemed Philippine President whose ideals inspired the Award's creation in 1957.
- From 1958 to 2008, the Award was given in six categories annually: (1) Government Service, (2) Public Service, (3) Community Leadership, (4) Journalism, Literature, and Creative Communication Arts, (5) Peace and International Understanding and (6) Emergent Leadership.
- Starting in 2009, the Ramon Magsaysay Award is no longer being given in fixed Award categories, except for Emergent Leadership.

#### Indian winners on the list

- Prominent Indians who have won the award include Vinoba Bhave in 1958, Mother Teresa in 1962, Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay in 1966, Satyajit Ray in 1967, Mahasweta Devi in 1997.
- In recent years, Arvind Kejriwal (2006), Anshu Gupta of Goonj (2015), human rights activist Bezwada Wilson (2016), and journalist Ravish Kumar (2019) have won the award.

### **Home Minister Amit Shah unveils mascot of 36th National Games in Ahmedabad**

- The mascot is named as Savaj which means cub in Gujarati. The anthem is based on the theme of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.
- The National Games will be organised between 29th of this month to 12th of next month at six cities in the state namely Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot and Bhavnagar.
- The event also witnessed the closing of 11th Khel Mahakumbh. Winners of Khel Mahakumbh were given away prizes at the hands of Mr. Shah.

### SEP 06

#### **Preventive detentions in 2021 up by 23.7% compared to year before**

- Of these, 483 were detentions under the National Security Act, of which almost half (241) were either in custody or still detained as of 2021-end.
- Over 24,500 people placed under preventive detention were either in custody or still detained as of 2021-end — the highest since 2017 when the NCRB started recording this data.
- The number of persons placed under detention has been increasing since 2017 — to over 98,700 in 2018 and over 1.06 lakh in 2019 — before dipping to 89,405 in 2020.
- According to Section 151 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the police are empowered to make preventive arrests if they believe they must do so to prevent the commission of “any cognisable offence”. This detention can be extended beyond 24 hours if required “under any other provisions of this Code or of any other law”.

#### **Country witnesses reduction in pupil-teacher ratio over last one decade**

- According to Ministry of Education, in Primary Schools, the pupil teacher ratio which was at 43 in 2010-11 has come down to 26.3 in 2020- 21.

- While in Upper Primary schools, the pupil-teacher ratio has reduced from 33 in 2010-11 to 18.9 in 2020-21.
- The Pupil Teacher Ratio at different levels of education show availability of adequate number of teachers for teaching children enrolled at different grade.
- The increase in number of teachers in schools is contributing to focused delivery of education.

### **Entries invited from young film makers for '75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow '**

- The segment is an annual platform at the International Film Festival of India to identify, encourage and nurture young creative talents from across various aspects of filmmaking. The entries will be open till 23rd of this month.
- The initiative was launched last year, as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- It was conceptualised by Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur to provide a platform and connect young talent with the masters of industry from the media and entertainment sector.
- The initiative is also an another step in the direction of making India a content and post-production hub for the world, by identifying, nurturing and up-skilling young talent.
- The 75 creative minds will be shortlisted and selected on the basis of their submissions by an eminent jury, under the aegis of the National Film Development Corporation.
- This program identifies young budding film makers and provides them a platform to interact and learn from national as well as international film makers during the period of IFFI, Goa.

### **The ban on conversion therapy for the LGBTQIA+ community**

- The NMC was following a Madras High Court directive to issue an official notification listing conversion therapy as a wrong, under the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquettes and Ethics) Regulations, 2002.
- Conversion or reparative therapy is an intervention aimed at changing the sexual orientation or gender identity of an

individual with the use of either psychiatric treatment, drugs, exorcism and even violence, with the aim being to make the individual a heterosexual.

- The conversion therapy umbrella also includes efforts to change the core identity of youth whose gender identity is incongruent with their sex anatomy.
- Often, the therapy is offered by quacks with little expertise in dealing with the issue.

### **UGC launches five new research grants and fellowship schemes**

- They are Savitribai Jyotirao Phule Fellowship for Single Girl Child, Dr Radhakrishnan UGC Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Superannuated Faculty Members Fellowship, Research Grant for In-Service Faculty Members and Dr D S Kothari Research Grant for Newly Recruited Faculty Members.
- UGC has been giving research grants from time to time in different kinds of fellowship to enable the research ecosystem in the Universities across the country.

### University Grants Commission (UGC)

- UGC is a statutory body set up by the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education in accordance to the UGC Act 1956 and is charged with maintenance of standards of higher education in India.
- It provides recognition to universities in India, and disbursements of funds to such recognized universities and colleges.
- The headquarters are in New Delhi.

### **Nepal's President Bhandari confers honorary title to Indian Army chief Gen. Manoj Pande**

- The ceremony was part of the unique tradition between the two Armies. General Pande is on a four-day official visit to Nepal from 5th to 8th of this month. This is his first visit to Nepal as Chief of Army Staff.



- General Manoj Pande also handed over non-lethal military aids including Artillery Equipment, Mine Protected Vehicles, Medical Stores and Horses to Nepal Army, with the aim to enhance the Military Cooperation between the two Armies.
- Indian Army Chief's visit aims to provide an opportunity to enhance existing bilateral defence ties and strengthen cooperation in areas of mutual interest between the two countries.
- India - Nepal relations are historic, multi-faceted and marked by common cultural and civilisational ties, apart from mutual respect and trust. India attaches highest priority to its relationship with Nepal in accordance with its Neighborhood First policies.

### **Liz Truss formally becomes the U.K.'s prime minister**

- Liz defeated her rival, former Finance Minister Rishi Sunak by 81,326 votes to 60,399, after over a six-week-long grueling campaign.
- With the win, she becomes the third female Prime Minister of the United Kingdom after Theresa May and Margaret Thatcher. Truss takes over at a time when the UK is saddled with rising inflation and its worst cost-of-living crisis.
- Boris Johnson was forced to announce his resignation in July this year after months of scandal. Following the announcement, Mr Johnson will meet Queen Elizabeth to officially tender his resignation.
- A member of the Conservative Party, she has been Member of Parliament (MP) for South West Norfolk since 2010. She has served in various Cabinet positions under Prime Ministers David Cameron, Theresa May and Boris Johnson.

### **PM Modi announces PM-SHRI Scheme**

- These PM-SHRI schools will become model schools which will encapsulate the full spirit of National Education Policy. The PM-SHRI schools will have a modern, transformational and holistic method of imparting education.

- The new National Education Policy was launched in 2020. The NEP replaced the 34-year-old National Policy on Education framed in 1986 and is aimed at paving the way for transformational reforms in school and higher education systems.

SEP 07

### **Rajpath all set to be renamed Kartavya Path**

- The avenue is part of the larger Central Vista project, where a new triangular Parliament Building, along with the Central Secretariat and several other Government offices are being rebuilt.
- Called Kingsway during British rule, it was built as a ceremonial boulevard by Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker, the architects of New Delhi, in around 1920.
- Running from Rashtrapati Bhavan on Raisina Hill through Vijay Chowk and India Gate, the avenue is lined on both sides by huge lawns, canals and rows of trees.
- Following the independence of India, the road was given its Hindi name of 'Rajpath' in place of its English designation. This represented a mere translation than a renaming since 'Rajpath' in Hindi broadly means king's way.
- The construction work for the Central Vista Redevelopment Project started in February 2021, with the new Parliament building and redevelopment of central vista avenue as its first phase.

### **Dr Mansukh Mandaviya lays foundation stone for NCDC branches in six states**

- The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) is an institute under the Indian Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- Currently, NCDC has eight branches in States with focus on one or few diseases, these will be repurposed and new branches are being added with the mandate for integrated disease surveillance

activities, dealing with Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR), multi-sectoral and entomological investigations etc.

### **Difficult to implement, The idea of climate reparation..**

- The demand for compensation for loss and damage from climate disasters is an extension of the universally acknowledged “Polluter Pays” principle that makes the polluter liable for paying not just for the cost of remedial action, but also for compensating the victims of environmental damage caused by their actions.
- In the climate change framework, the burden of responsibility falls on those rich countries that have contributed most of the greenhouse gas emissions since 1850, generally considered to be the beginning of the industrial age.
- Historical responsibility is important because carbon dioxide remains in the atmosphere for hundreds of years, and it is the cumulative accumulation of this carbon dioxide that causes global warming. A country like India, currently the third largest emitter, accounts for only 3% of historical emissions. China, which is the world’s biggest emitter for over 15 years now, has contributed about 11% to total emissions since 1850.
- The Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) for Loss and Damages, set up in 2013, was the first formal acknowledgment of the need to compensate developing countries struck by climate disasters.

### **India-Bangladesh trade, now set for CEPA boost**

- In 2021-22, Bangladesh has emerged as the largest trade partner for India in South Asia and the fourth largest destination for Indian exports worldwide. Exports to Bangladesh grew more than 66 per cent from \$9.69 billion in FY 2020-21 to \$16.15 billion in FY 2021-22.
- India is Bangladesh’s second biggest trade partner, and its largest export market in Asia. Despite Covid-19 related disruptions, bilateral trade grew at an unprecedented rate of almost 44 per cent from \$10.78 billion in 2020-21 to \$18.13 billion in 2021-22.

- India's main exports to Bangladesh are raw cotton, non-retail pure cotton yarn, and electricity, and its main imports from the country are pure vegetable oils, non-knit men's suits, and textile scraps.

### **Cincinnatus, the Roman emperor Boris Johnson compared himself**

- Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus (519 BC to 438 BC) was a Roman emperor whose name is invoked to refer to an honourable and principled figure.
- the story of Cincinnatus is about the Aequians, powerful enemies of Rome that were threatening to invade the city. Unable to deal with the crisis, the Roman Senate decided to bring in Cincinnatus to fight off the attack. He had been living a life away from power, and the senate was prepared to give him powers to exercise a dictatorship for securing a victory.
- when he learned of the call, Cincinnatus "left his plow standing in the field" and left to lead the Romans to victory against the Aequians. However, 15 days later when his goal was accomplished, he went back to his farm and let go of extraordinary power.

### **National Commission for Scheduled Castes, Vice-Chairman Arun Haldar directed bankers to meet the targets set by the Central Government**

- The National Commission for Scheduled Castes is an Indian constitutional body under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.
- It has been established with a view to provide safeguards against the exploitation of Scheduled Castes to promote and protect their social, educational, economic and cultural interests, special provisions were made in the Constitution.
- Article 338 of the Indian constitution deals with National Commission for Scheduled Castes.
- The first Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was set up in August 1978.

- Consequent upon the Constitution (Eighty-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2003 the erstwhile National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been replaced by
  - National Commission for Scheduled Castes and
  - National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.

### **Seat belts mandatory for all passengers in car, violators to be fined: Gadkari**

- The announcement was made only two days after former Tata Sons chairman Cyrus Mistry died in a car accident near Mumbai, and police probe later revealed that he was not wearing a seat belt.
- The Union minister said that a fine already is in place for those not wearing the seat belt while on the front seats. However, the new rule will impose a penalty on for not fastening the belt even if passengers are sitting on the rear (backside) seats in a vehicle.
- In February 2022, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways proposed that all the front-facing seats, including the rear-middle seat, must have a Y-shaped seat belt.

### **Bharat Biotech's intra-nasal COVID vaccine gets emergency use approval**

- Bharat Biotech's ChAd36-SARS-CoV-S COVID-19 (Chimpanzee Adenovirus Vectored) recombinant nasal vaccine has been approved by Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) for primary immunization against COVID-19 in 18+ age group for restricted use in emergencies.
- This is India's first intranasal vaccine for COVID-19.
- The product – iNCOVACC – is stable at 2-8°C for easy storage and distribution.
- iNCOVACC has the double benefit of enabling faster development of variant-specific vaccines and easy nasal delivery that enables mass immunisation to protect from emerging variants of concern. It promises to become an important tool in mass vaccinations during pandemics and endemics.
- iNCOVACC was developed in partnership with Washington University St. Louis, which had designed and developed the

recombinant adenoviral vectored constructs and evaluated them in preclinical studies for efficacy.

### **Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina holds talks with PM Modi to strengthen ties**

- The India-Bangladesh delegation level talks were led by both leaders. Issues related to connectivity, energy, water resources, trade and investment, border management and security, development partnership and regional and multilateral matters were on the agenda.
- Two leaders jointly unveiled Unit-I of the Maitree Super Thermal Power Project following bilateral and delegation level talks in Delhi. The project is being constructed under India's concessional financing scheme. It will add 1320 MW to Bangladesh's National Grid.
- Seven MoUs, including on water resources, railways, science and technology, space technology were exchanged following the talks. This includes an MoU between Prasar Bharati and Bangladesh Television on cooperation in the field of broadcasting.
- Prime Minister Modi announced that an important agreement on water sharing from the Kushiara River has been signed. This will benefit Southern Assam in India and Sylhet region in Bangladesh.

### **India & UK conducts Counter Ransomware Exercise for 26 Nations**

- The exercise has been conducted as part of the International Counter Ransomware Initiative- Resilience Working Group which is being led by India under the leadership of National Cyber Security Coordinator (NCSC).
- The theme of the exercise is based on Energy Sector in which the respective National Cyber Crisis Management Teams of the CRI Partner Nations will have to deal with a ransomware attack on multiple electricity distribution companies.
- The aim to organise this virtual Cyber Exercise on Ransomware Resilience is to simulate a large, wide-spread cyber security incident affecting organisations within a country.

- National Cyber Security Coordinator (NCSC) under National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) coordinates with different agencies at the national level for cyber security matters.

SEP 08

### **Deadline for Coal-Based Power Plants to Meet Emission Standards Extended Again**

- The Union Environment Ministry has for the third time extended the deadline by which coal plants must install pollution-control technologies to reduce emissions, drawing criticism from environment and clean-energy activists.
- The Ministry first specified emission norms for the control of sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) and mercury (Hg) from coal-fired power plants.
- However, non-compliance and limited progress by the plants led to a new extension following the recent notification pushing it to 2025.
- According to the latest notification, power plants within a 10-km radius of the NCR and in the vicinity of cities with a population of more than one million have until December 31, 2024, to meet the deadline.
- For power plants within a 10-km radius of “critically polluted” areas (as designated by the Environment Ministry), the deadline has been extended to December 31, 2025. Finally, for all other power plants across the country, the deadline stands at December 31, 2026.

### **India - Bangladesh Joint Statement during the State Visit of Prime Minister of Bangladesh to India**

- These include the conversion to dual gauge the Tongi-Akhaura line, supply of rolling stock, Kaunia-Lalmonirhat-Mogalhat-New Gitaldaha link and Hili-Birampur upgradation of track.

- Similar works are also on on the Benapole-Jashore and Burimari-Changrabandha lines.
- These multiple rail track projects will create a smooth flow of goods and people within Bangladesh overcoming infrastructure bottlenecks.
- India and Bangladesh have been in talks for the construction of an Inland Container Depot (ICD) at Sirajganj in the north-west of capital Dhaka and help in movement of bulk items.
- The leaders “agreed to expeditiously implement” projects to connect the power grids of both sides through the proposed high capacity 765 kV transmission line from Katihar in Bihar to Bornagar in Assam through Parbatipur in Bangladesh.
- In a separate event, Ms. Hasina awarded the Mujib scholarships to 200 descendants of the Indian soldiers who were martyred or injured in the 1971 war.

### **India, Bangladesh welcome panel on use of Ganga waters**

- The Ganga technical committee is one of the several initiatives, including several major connectivity and energy initiatives, that the two sides have announced.
- The leaders welcomed the formation of a joint technical committee to conduct a study for optimum utilisation of water received by Bangladesh under the provisions of the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty, 1996.
- The Ganga Water Sharing Treaty is a 30-year agreement which is expected to be reviewed or renewed in 2026.
- The Indian side also raised the “urgent” irrigation-related requirements in Tripura which can be addressed with the waters of the Feni, and urged Bangladesh for “early signing of the interim water sharing agreement” on the river.

### **FinMin to hold meeting with stakeholders to push overseas trade in rupee**

- On July 11 this year, the RBI issued a circular saying it had decided “to put in place an additional arrangement for invoicing, payment, and settlement of exports/ imports in INR”.



- The idea, the RBI said, was to “promote growth of global trade with emphasis on exports from India and to support the increasing interest of global trading community in INR”.
- While the move to allow trade settlements between India and other countries in rupees was seen to primarily benefit trading with Russia, it was also expected to help check dollar outflow and slow the depreciation of the rupee to a “very limited extent”.
- To settle trade transactions with any country, banks in India would open Vostro accounts of correspondent bank/s of the partner country for trading. Indian importers can pay for their imports in INR into these accounts.
- These earnings from imports can then be used to pay Indian exporters in INR.
- A Vostro account is an account that a correspondent bank holds on behalf of another bank — for example, HSBC Vostro account is held by SBI in India.

### **China's fully solar-powered, semi-satellite drone**

- With a wingspan of 164-ft, the drone is a large machine powered entirely by solar panels.
- The high-altitude, long-endurance (HALE) UAV can stay airborne for long durations.
- Named the Qimingxing-50, or Morning Star-50, this drone flies above 20-km altitude where there is stable airflow with no clouds.
- This helps these drones to make the maximum use of solar equipment to stay functional for extended durations.
- The fact that the drone can operate in near-space – 20 km to 100 km above the Earth’s surface – makes it capable of carrying out satellite-like functions.

### **PM Modi virtually addresses Plenary Session of Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, Russia**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that India is keen to strengthen its partnership with Russia on Arctic subjects.

- He said, along with energy, India has also made significant investments in the Russian Far East in the fields of pharma and diamonds.
- The Prime Minister said, in 2019, he had a chance to participate in this forum face-to-face and at that time he had announced the Act Far-East policy of India.
- Eastern Economic Forum is an international forum held each year in Vladivostok, Russia, for the purpose of encouraging foreign investment in the Russian Far East.
- It is held each year since 2015 in September, at the Far Eastern Federal University in Vladivostok, Russia.

### **Centre extends ceasefire with National Socialist Council of Nagaland faction**

- The MHA said that a ceasefire agreement was in operation between the Government of India and NSCN (K).
- “It was decided to extend the Ceasefire Agreement with the NSCN (K) Niki for a period of one year with effect from 08.09.2022 to 07.09.2023,” the MHA said in a statement.
- The MHA first signed the agreement in 2021.
- Sumi is wanted by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for allegedly planning the attack on an army convoy in Manipur’s Chandel district on June 4, 2015 in which 18 personnel were killed.

### **India-US 2+2 Inter-sessional meeting held in New Delhi**

- The officials also reviewed the outcomes of the 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue which was held in April 2022. The India-US 2+2 Inter-sessional meeting was led by senior officials from the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Defence and the US Departments of State and Defence.
- This is the sixth India-US 2+2 Intersessional Dialogue.
- Through these dialogues, the United States and India will advance an ambitious set of initiatives across the defence partnership ahead of the 2+2 ministerial next year, including in support of information-sharing, logistics, technology, and high-end navy cooperation.

- Notably, India is the centrepiece of the Joe Biden administration's Indo-Pacific strategy – Indian Foreign and Defence Ministers recently held the '2+2' meeting with their American counterparts.

### **Cabinet approves policy on long-term leasing of railway land**

- The Union Cabinet has approved policy on long term leasing of Railway Land for implementing PM Gati Shakti framework.
- The revised policy for railway land will allow leasing of such land for cargo use for longer periods at lower costs.
- The move is expected to enable integrated development of infrastructure and more cargo terminals, helping improve revenues for the Railways.
- As per the new policy, the land can be now leased for cargo-related activities for up to 35 years (as against five years earlier) at 1.5% of market value of land per annum, down from 6% earlier.
- Additionally, 300 cargo terminals would be developed over next five years and about 1.2 lakh employment would be generated.
- The existing entities using railway land for cargo terminals will have the option to switch to the new policy regime after transparent and competitive bidding process.

### SEP 09

### **India ranks 132 in UNDP's Human Development Index, amid a global fall**

- India ranks 132 out of 191 countries in the Human Development Index (HDI) 2021, after registering a decline in its score over two consecutive years for the first time in three decades.
- The drop is in line with the global trend since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic during which 90% of the countries have fallen backward in human development.

- The Index is part of the Human Development Report 2021-2022 released by the United Nations Development Programme.
- The HDI measures average achievement of a country in three basic dimensions of human development — a long and healthy life, education and a decent standard of living.
- It is calculated using four indicators — life expectancy at birth, mean years of schooling, expected years of schooling, and the Gross National Income (GNI) per capita.
- India's HDI score of 0.633 places it in the medium human development category, lower than its value of 0.645 in 2018, indicating a reversal in progress.
- Like global trends, in India's case, the drop in HDI from 0.645 in 2018 to 0.633 in 2021 can be attributed to falling life expectancy at birth — 70.7 years to 67.2 years.
- India's expected years of schooling stand at 11.9 years, and the mean years of schooling are at 6.7 years. The GNI per capita level is \$6,590.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has also exacerbated gender inequality, which increased 6.7% globally.

### **Spent nuclear fuel storage should be 'worked out': SC**

- The Supreme Court has said the problem of storing spent nuclear fuel from the Kudankulam nuclear power plant has to be “worked out”, possibly with the help of experts from the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) and officials at the highest level in the Tamil Nadu government.
- The Supreme Court asked Tamil Nadu government to come clear on the time schedule for the completion of public hearings by the State regarding the construction of an Away From Reactor (AFR) facility at the Kudankulam plant.
- The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) had sought an extension till July 2026 for the construction of the AFR facility. In 2018, the court had given the Corporation time till April 30, 2022.
- The AFR repository was supposed to be built in five years' time, but this has not been done. In 2013, the Supreme Court had granted five years' time to the NPCIL, till July 2018. In 2018, the

court gave an extension till 2022 and said this was the final extension of time to create the AFR storage. Now, they are again asking for an extension.

- Spent nuclear fuel, occasionally called used nuclear fuel, is nuclear fuel that has been irradiated in a nuclear reactor (usually at a nuclear power plant).
- It is no longer useful in sustaining a nuclear reaction in an ordinary thermal reactor and depending on its point along the nuclear fuel cycle, it may have considerably different isotopic constituents.

### **Rajpath, a symbol of slavery, erased forever: PM**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the redeveloped two-kilometre stretch from India Gate to Rashtrapati Bhavan that was renamed Kartavya Path.
- Modi also unveiled a statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose under the canopy at India Gate that during British rule had a statue of King George V.
- Modi said: “Kingsway, that is, Rajpath, the symbol of slavery, has become a matter of history from today and has been erased forever. Today, a new history has been created in the form of Kartavya Path”
- The iconic stretch had been closed to the public since January 2021 for redevelopment works as part of the larger Central Vista revamp. The ₹ 477-crore project is the first of the Central Vista works to be completed and opened to the public.

### **Chinese military confirms disengagement of troops of China and India from Gogra-Hotsprings PP 15 in eastern Ladakh**

- The move comes ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Uzbekistan next week, in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping are expected to participate.
- On September 08, 2022, according to the consensus reached in the 16th round of India China Corps Commander Level Meeting, the Indian and Chinese troops in the area of Gogra-Hotsprings

(PP-15) have begun to disengage in a coordinated and planned way.

- The consensus was reached at the Corps Commander level and the ground commanders on both sides had worked out the modalities which were now being implemented.
- The 16th round of talks was held on July 17 at the Chushul border personnel meeting point on the Indian side.

**Queen Elizabeth II, the UK's longest-serving monarch, has passed away after reigning for 70 years.**

- The Queen came to the throne in 1952 and witnessed enormous social change.
- Queen Elizabeth II's tenure as head of state spanned post-war austerity, the transition from empire to Commonwealth, the end of the Cold War and the UK's entry into - and withdrawal from - the European Union.
- Her reign spanned 15 Prime Ministers starting with Winston Churchill and including Ms Truss. She held weekly audiences with her Prime Minister throughout her reign.
- The Queen was born Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor, in Mayfair, London, on 21 April 1926.
- Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, was the husband of Queen Elizabeth II and served as the consort of the British monarch from her accession as queen on 6 February 1952 until his death in 2021.

**What is the 10-day Operation London Bridge that kicked off with Queen Elizabeth's death?**

- Queen Elizabeth II's death kicked off Operation London Bridge, a detailed plan, put in place in the 1960s, which meticulously lists the procedures that roll out moments after her death and culminate with her funeral 10 days later.
- Operation London Bridge (also known by its code phrase London Bridge is Down) is the name of a funeral plan for Queen Elizabeth II.
- The plan includes the announcement of her death, the period of official mourning, and the details of her state funeral. The plan

was first created in the 1960s and revised many times in the years before her death in 2022.

- As well as Operation London Bridge, there is an additional plan called Operation Unicorn, which details what would happen if the Queen were to die in Scotland.
- Running concurrently with Operation London Bridge is Operation Spring Tide, which addresses the accession of King Charles III to the throne and his first trip to the countries of the UK.

### **Uttarakhand panel seeks public inputs on Uniform Civil Code**

- The expert committee formed by the Uttarakhand government to examine ways for the implementation of a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) has launched a website, seeking public opinion on the plan.
- Headed by retired Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai (who is also the head of the Delimitation Commission), the committee has sought suggestions and recommendations from residents.
- The Committee will also prepare a report on implementing a UCC in Uttarakhand.
- Article 44 of the Constitution, lays down that the state shall endeavour to secure a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) for the citizens throughout the territory of India. The code would be applicable to all religious communities in matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption.

### **Devise policy in 3 months to open up job avenues for transgender persons: Supreme Court**

- The order was a fallout of a petition filed by Shanavi Ponnusamy, a transgender person from Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu, whose dream of flying high as an airline cabin crew member never took off.
- The court said the petitioner's case raised wider issues about the formulation of government policy to ensure the guarantee of non-discrimination against transgender people.

- The Supreme Court observed that the government has to comply with the enabling provisions of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act of 2019 in “letter and spirit”.
- The court detailed specific provisions of the Act which mandated that no person or establishment, whether government or private, should discriminate against a transgender person in matters of employment, including recruitment or promotion or in any other related areas.
- The court ordered the Department of Personnel and Training and the Social Justice Ministry to collaborate with the National Council for Transgender Persons, a body constituted under the Act, to consult stakeholders and prepare a “considered” policy for the community’s welfare and rights in the next three months.

### **Supreme Court fixes three key questions for examining EWS quota**

- The court will examine
  - whether the amendment breaches the Basic Structure by permitting the state to make special provisions, including reservation, based on economic criteria;
  - whether it violates the Basic Structure by allowing the state to make special provisions in relation to admissions to private unaided institutions, and
  - lastly, whether the Basic Structure is trampled upon by the constitutional amendment by excluding SEBC/OBC/SC/ST communities from the scope of the EWS quota.
- Chief Justice Lalit said the three questions of law would form the foundation of the court’s examination and lawyers could expand on them while arguing.

### **Orissa HC orders immediate satellite proofing of illegal prawn enclosures in Kendrapara**

- Bhitarkanika National Park is located in Kendrapara district in Odisha.
- The area has been designated as second Ramsar site of the State after the Chilika Lake.



- It is surrounded by Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary. Gahirmatha Beach and Marine Sanctuary are to the east, separating swamp region and mangroves from the Bay of Bengal.
- The national park and wildlife sanctuary is inundated by the rivers Brahmani, Baitarani, Dhamra, Pathsala.
- It is the second largest mangrove ecosystem in India.

SEP 10

### **Cyborg cockroaches to help in urban search-rescue missions**

- They claim that these insects, whose movements are controlled by tiny integrated circuits, will be able to conduct surveillance in procedures like urban search and rescue, environmental monitoring and inspection of areas dangerous to humans.
- The researchers claim that by equipping the cockroaches with small wireless control modules, handlers will be able to control the insect's legs remotely for long periods of time.
- The team used Madagascar cockroaches, which are not only the largest species of cockroaches, reaching an estimated 6 cm, but are also known for making hissing sounds when disturbed, which they make by expelling air from the openings on their back.

### **King Charles is now the monarch of 14 countries in addition to the UK following Queen Elizabeth's death**

- The Commonwealth of Nations, or simply the Commonwealth, is a group of 56 member countries, the vast majority of which are former British colonies.
- They are mostly in Africa, Asia, the Americas, and the Pacific. Three European nations are part of the Commonwealth: Cyprus, Malta, and of course, the UK itself.
- Fourteen of these 56 countries — along with the UK — constitute the “Commonwealth realms”.

- They are Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, The Bahamas, Belize, Canada, Grenada, Jamaica, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu.
- The British monarch — now King Charles III, the eldest son of Queen Elizabeth II — is the head of state of these countries.
- Of the remaining 41 member states of the Commonwealth, 36 are republics — this group includes India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. The other five — Brunei Darussalam, Lesotho, Malaysia, Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) and Tonga — have their own monarchs.

### **Government onboards 76 start-ups under India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-Up Challenge**

- A total of 76 startup have been selected out of 222 entries, which through their innovative ideas will help local civic bodies and water supply departments conserve water and resolve its scarcity.
- The Minister declared the results in City-Startup Partnership Summit for Water Scarcity organised by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in New Delhi.
- The Ministry extended this challenge under the name “Startup Gateway.” The Challenge aims at empowering startups in the water/ used-water sector to grow through innovation and design that will drive sustainable economic growth and generate employment opportunities.
- Hundreds of startups representatives, Cities officials, academia and students participated in City-Startup Partnership Summit for Water Scarcity.

### **PM Narendra Modi inaugurates World Dairy Summit in Greater Noida**

- India is organising the summit after almost a 48-year gap bringing together approximately 1500 participants from all over the world including CEOs and employees of dairy processing companies, dairy farmers, and other stakeholders.

- Remembering the “Father of White Revolution”, Dr Verghese Kurien, it must be pointed out that India currently is the largest milk producer in the world, contributing 21 percent of the total global milk production.
- It was under the guidance of former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri that the National Dairy Development Board was formed in 1965 in Gujarat with Dr Verghese Kurien as its first chairman.
- Operation Flood programme was implemented across country in various phases with a mandate to support the creation of the ‘Anand pattern’ of dairy cooperatives.
- The daily milk consumption in the country was 107 grams per person in 1970 which rose to 427 grams per person in 2020-21.

### **Railways floats tender to make 80,000 'Make in India' wheels every year**

- Under this move, the Railway will procure 80,000 wheels per year with a total cost of 6,00 crore rupees and manufacturing will take place in the country only.
- Manufacturing is expected to start within next 18 months and once India achieves high standard of manufacturing of wheels, it will eye at exporting wheels mostly to European countries.
- Trial and testing of Vande Bharat train have been completed and manufacturing is expected to start from October this year. This train can attain its speed from 0 to 100 kilometres per hour in just 52 seconds, three seconds less than bullet train's pickup speed.

### **Export policy of broken rice amended to ensure adequate domestic availability**

- This has been done in order to ensure adequate availability of broken rice for consumption by domestic poultry industry and for other animal feedstock and to produce ethanol for successful implementation of EBP (Ethanol Blending Programme).
- About 50-60 Lakh Metric Tonnes of broken rice is produced annually in India which is mainly used as poultry feed and feed for other animals.

- It is also used as a feedstock by the grain-based distilleries for producing ethanol which is supplied to Oil Marketing Companies for blending with petrol.

### **Disbursement approved in PLI scheme for large-scale electronics manufacturing**

- The Production-Linked Incentive scheme for Large-Scale Electronics Manufacturing is expected to make India a competitive destination for electronics manufacturing.
- It will also give a boost to Aatmanirbhar Bharat while creating more global champions.
- Padget Electronics Private Limited, a domestic company, is the first beneficiary approved by the Empowered Committee to receive incentive under mobile manufacturing based on its incremental investment and sales figures.
- NITI Aayog said, thirty-two beneficiaries had been approved under the PLI scheme for Large-Scale Electronics Manufacturing. Of which five global and five domestic companies were approved for mobile manufacturing.
- The PLI scheme on Large-Scale Electronic Manufacturing, which includes manufacturing of mobile phones and manufacturing of specified electronic components, was approved in March 2020, with a total outlay of Rs 38,645 crores.

### **PM Modi inaugurates Centre-State Science Conclave**

- The first of its kind Conclave will strengthen Centre-State coordination and collaboration mechanisms - in the spirit of cooperative federalism - to build a robust science, technology & innovation (STI) ecosystem across the country.
- The two day Conclave is being organised at Science City, Ahmedabad on 10-11 September 2022.
- It will include sessions on different thematic areas including STI Vision 2047; Future Growth Pathways and Vision for STI in States; Health - Digital Health Care for All; Doubling Private Sector investment in R&D by 2030; Agriculture - Technological interventions for improving farmers' income etc.

- The first of its kind Conclave will witness the participation of Gujarat CM, Union MoS Science & Technology (S&T), S&T Ministers and Secretaries of States & Union Territories, industry leaders, entrepreneurs, NGOs, young scientists and students.

**The President of India virtually launched the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan.**

- The Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan has been envisioned to bring together all community stakeholders to support those on TB treatment and accelerate the country's progress towards TB elimination.
- According to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, all nations have set the goal of eradicating TB by the year 2030. But the Government of India has set the target of eradicating TB by the year 2025.
- TB causes the largest number of deaths among all other infectious diseases in India. India has a little less than 20 percent of the world's population, but has more than 25 percent of the total TB patients of the world.

SEP 11

**King Charles III formally proclaimed UK's new monarch**

- Charles III is King of the United Kingdom and 14 other Commonwealth realms.
- He acceded to the throne on 8 September 2022 upon the death of his mother, Elizabeth II.
- As Duke of Cornwall and Duke of Rothesay from 1952 to his accession, he was the oldest and the longest-serving heir apparent in British history, and the longest-serving Prince of Wales, having held the title from 26 July 1958 until his accession.
- At 73 years of age, Charles was also the oldest person ever to assume the British throne.

- Plans have been made for their coronations under the code name Operation Golden Orb.

### **12-year-old girl dies of rabies despite taking 3 shots of vaccine**

- Rabies is a disease that is caused by a family of viruses called the lyssaviruses and found in a range of mammals. The virus targets the central nervous system and is nearly 100% fatal to the host animal if it succeeds in infecting it.
- Though many animals from cats to crocodiles can be transmitters of the virus, it is most likely to spread to people from the bite of an infected dog or a cat as they are the most common pets.
- Rabies is a disease that is caused by a family of viruses called the lyssaviruses and found in a range of mammals. The virus targets the central nervous system and is nearly 100% fatal to the host animal if it succeeds in infecting it.
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### **Exercise Parvat Prahar**

- Army chief General Manoj Pande visited the Ladakh sector to review Exercise Parvat Prahar. The exercise saw the deployment of all new major inductions of the Army.
- The exercise, which was held in the Ladakh plateau at an altitude of 14,000 feet, used newly inducted all-terrain vehicles transported by Chinook heavy lift helicopters and K9-Vajra howitzers, among others.
- The exercise comes as India and China are undertaking disengagement from Patrolling Point-15 in eastern Ladakh, as announced on September 8. Gen. Pande is scheduled to visit Siachen on Sunday.
- Simultaneously on the western front, Exercise Gagan Strike culminated with a fire power display of attack helicopters supporting deep operations by Strike Corps. Western Army Commander Lt. Gen. Nav K. Khanduri, who witnessed the

culmination, lauded the professional readiness of combat forces for contingencies on the western front, the Western Command said on Twitter.

### **1000 adoptions pending, but new rule sows confusion**

- There is confusion over the implementation of new adoption rules that require transfer of adoption petitions from courts to District Magistrates, and parents, adoption agencies and activists are worried that this could lead to further delays in a long and arduous procedure.
- Parliament passed the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2021, in July last year, which empowers DMs to give adoption orders.
- Ironically, the intent of the amendment was to prevent court-related delays during adoptions because of a large number of pending cases.
- The amendments came into effect from September 1.

### **Bird Flu Found in Dolphin in Florida and Porpoise in Sweden**

- A bottlenose dolphin found dead in a Florida canal in the spring tested positive for a highly virulent strain of bird flu, scientists said. A bottlenose dolphin found dead in a Florida canal in the spring tested positive for a highly virulent strain of bird flu, scientists said.
- This version of the virus, which has spread widely among North American and European birds, has affected an unusually broad array of species.
- But these findings represent the first two documented cases in cetaceans, a group of marine mammals that includes dolphins, porpoises and whales.
- This strain of bird flu is known as Eurasian H5N1.
- While experts emphasise that the risk to humans remains low, the spread of the virus to new species poses potential risks to wildlife and provides the virus with new chances to mutate and adapt to mammalian hosts.
- Besides birds, the virus has earlier turned up in foxes, bobcats, skunks, and seals.

### **India signs MoU with Gulf Cooperation Council to facilitate consultation**

- The External Affairs Minister is on a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia from 10-12 September. This is his first trip to the Kingdom as India's External Affairs Minister.
- The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, also known as the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is a regional, intergovernmental, political, and economic union comprising Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.
- The council's main headquarters is located in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- The Charter of the GCC was signed on 25 May 1981, formally establishing the institution.

### **Third stealth frigate of project 17A 'Taragiri' launched**

- 'Taragiri', named after a hill range in Himalayas located at Garhwal, is the fifth ship of Project 17A Frigates.
- These ships are advanced version of the P17 Frigates (Shivalik Class) with improved stealth features, state of the art weapons and sensors and platform management systems.
- 'Taragiri' is the reincarnation of erstwhile 'Taragiri', the Leander Class ASW Frigate, which saw numerous challenging operations in its illustrious service to the nation spanning over three decades from 16 May 1980 to 27 Jun 2013.
- Under the P17A program, a total of seven ships, with 04 at MDL and 03 at GRSE are under construction. Four P17A Project ships (two each at MDL and GRSE) have been launched so far between 2019 and 2022.

### **India stays out of 'trade pillar' at Indo-Pacific meet**

- India stayed out of the joint declaration on the trade pillar of the U.S.-led Indo-Pacific Economic Framework ministerial meet in Los Angeles, with Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal citing concerns over possible discrimination against developing economies.



- India was the only one of the 14 IPEF countries, which include South East Asian countries, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea and Japan, not to join the declaration on trade.
- Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) is an economic initiative launched by United States President Joe Biden on May 23, 2022.
- IPEF has fourteen member states: Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United States and Vietnam.
- The four themes of the proposed IPEF are:
  - Fair and resilient trade
  - Supply chain resilience
  - Infrastructure, clean energy, and decarbonization
  - Tax and anti-corruption

SEP 12

### **India issues guidelines to students wish to study medicine in China**

- Embassy of India in China said that prospective Indian students who wish to seek admission for undergraduate clinical medicine programme in China are required to obtain a license to practice medicine in China before they appear for the Foreign Medical Graduates Exam (FMGE) in India.
- The Indian Embassy said that such prospective Indian students are also required to clear the NEET-UG (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Under Graduate) exam, which is the entry examination for undergraduate medical education in India, as a prerequisite to pursue medical education abroad.
- Only such students - after completing their degree program - can appear in FMGE which is required to pursue clinical medical practice in India.
- The advisory was issued in response to several queries from prospective Indian students and their parents with respect to

seeking admission to undergraduate clinical medicine programme in China.

- More than twenty thousand Indian students mostly enrolled in medical courses in different Chinese universities are waiting to return to China for more than two and half years due to COVID-related restrictions and a ban on direct flights to and from India.
- China has now started giving visas but due to non-availability of direct flights, it is very costly affair to travel to China through transit route.

### **PM Modi pays tribute to Vinoba Bhave on birth anniversary**

- Vinayak Narahari also known as Vinoba Bhave (1895 – 1982) was an Indian advocate of nonviolence and human rights. Often called Acharya, he is best known for the Bhoodan Movement.
- He is considered a National Teacher of India and the spiritual successor of Mahatma Gandhi.
- He was an eminent philosopher. The Gita has also been translated into Marathi language by him with the title Geetai (meaning 'Mother Gīta' in Marathi).

### **Prime Minister Modi recalls Swami Vivekananda's iconic speech at Chicago**

- There have been several meetings referred to as a Parliament of the World's Religions, the first being the World's Parliament of Religions of 1893, which was an attempt to create a global dialogue of faiths.
- Swami Vivekananda represented India and Hinduism at the Parliament of the World's Religions (1893).
- This was the first World's Parliament of Religions, and it was held from 11 to 27 September 1893. Delegates from all over the world joined this Parliament.

### **Two-day National Defense MSME Conclave and Exhibition begins in Kota, Rajasthan**

- The two-day National Defense MSME Conclave and Exhibition began in Kota, Rajasthan.

- Defense equipment including T-90 and BMP-2 tanks, artillery guns, various types of sniper and machine guns and military bridges are being displayed in the exhibition.
- Youth innovating in the defense sector, start-ups and MSMEs are also displaying their products.
- More than 50 companies, start-ups and MSMEs working in the defense sector are participating in the event.
- The conclave was formally inaugurated by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

### **Rajasthan gets urban employment guarantee scheme**

- The Indira Gandhi Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme has rolled out in Rajasthan with the objective of providing economic support to the poor and needy families living in the cities through work to be provided on demand for 100 days in a year.
- The Congress government has touted it as the country's biggest scheme to give guaranteed jobs to the people residing in cities, on the lines of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for villagers started by the UPA government at the Centre in 2006.
- Those in the age group of 18 to 60 years residing within the limits of urban local bodies are eligible to demand and get employment in the identified segments.
- There is no income limit, though the poor and destitute people, especially those who lost their livelihood during the pandemic, will be given preference.
- More than 3.5 lakh people across the State have got themselves registered under the scheme so far and job cards have been issued to 2.25 lakh of them.

### **Russia gives up key northeast towns as Ukrainian forces advance**

- Izuim had fallen to the Russians on April 1, and has been recaptured over six months later.
- Iziium is considered the gateway to Donbas region, a Russian-speaking area whose complete capture has been Russia's key war aim since the beginning of the conflict. It is considered a

passage to the Black Sea, and thus referred to as the Iziun passage by the Russians.

- With this, Ukraine is back in control of two key logistics centres. Kupiansk was the major railway station supplying Iziun formations.

### **Supreme Court to take up CAA challenge: where does the case stand?**

- The Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 seeks to grant citizenship to a class of migrants belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi or Christian communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan.
- The Act was passed on December 12, 2019 and was notified on January 10, 2020.
- While the government claimed the amendment was sympathetic and inclusionary, critics said it was unconstitutional and anti-Muslim. The law provoked widespread protests in the country.
- The law, an amendment to the Citizenship Act, 1955, was challenged before the Supreme Court under Article 32 of the Constitution.
- The challenge rests primarily on the grounds that the law violates Article 14 of the Constitution that guarantees that no person shall be denied the right to equality before law or the equal protection of law in the territory of India.

SEP 13

### **Adoption Procedure for Resident Indians**

- The instructions come despite concerns raised over jurisdiction of DMs in civil matters such as inheritance and succession, as well as delays likely to be caused in cases where the court has already passed orders since September 1 or is likely to pass them shortly after having spent several months on the proceedings.

- There are concerns that the Centre has also not yet notified Adoption Regulations, 2022 detailing the process to be followed by the DMs.
- Parliament passed the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2021 last year in order to amend the Juvenile Justice Act (JJ Act), 2015.
- These authorise District Magistrates and Additional District Magistrates to issue adoption orders under Section 61 of the JJ Act by striking out the word “court”.
- This was done in order to ensure speedy disposal of cases and enhance accountability.
- The amendments to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016, were notified on September 1 and require all adoption cases to be transferred to the DM with immediate effect.

### **Health Ministry announces nation-wide voluntary blood donation drive starting September 17**

- The drive hopes to create a database of donors who can be called upon at times of emergency.
- The Ministry has sent a letter to all the States and the Union Territories, stating that the drive would continue till October 1, the National Voluntary Blood Donation Day (NVBDD).
- Registrations for blood donation can be done on the Aarogya Setu portal under Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav which calls people to donate blood and be a part of Prime Minister's mission for humanity.
- A live dashboard will be operationalised on the e-RaktKosh web portal for tracking the number of blood units donated/collected in each State and Union Territory.

### **BDS curriculum to be revamped**

- The decision by the Dental Council of India, which falls under the Union Health Ministry, is aimed at bringing the undergraduate course on a par with global standards, while making it more job-oriented and up to date.

- At present the BDS is a five-year course, which comprises four-year academics and one year of internship.
- The proposed credit-based curriculum will be a five-and-a-half-year course, which consists of four-and-a-half years of academics and one year of rotational internship.
- The exam pattern will shift from yearly to semester system where the student has the option to pick from the 50 to 60 elective subjects offered alongside.

### **Supreme Court declines plea to study link between porn watching, sex crimes**

- It said child sex abuse was a crime by itself. Investigation into individual cases by the police would reveal whether or not viewing of pornography had triggered the crime. That aspect would be part of evidence of each individual case.
- “Seeking a judicial declaration from the Supreme Court that porn on the Internet has led to child sex crimes would be equal to giving a go-ahead to online surveillance,” it said.
- The selling and distribution of pornographic material is illegal in India under section 292 of IPC.
- Child pornography is illegal and strictly prohibited across the country under section 67B of the Information Technology Act, 2000.
- however, viewing sexually explicit material in private spaces is not illegal. The Supreme Court had also orally remarked back in July 2015 that it cannot stop an adult from exercising his fundamental right to personal liberty to watch porn within the privacy of his room.

### **SC collegium discusses judges' appointment**

- If the government agrees with the Collegium, the judicial strength in the Bombay High Court will rise to 68 out of a total sanctioned strength of 94 judges.
- The Indian Judicial collegium system, where existing judges appoint judges to the nation's constitutional courts, has its genesis in, and continued basis resting on, three of its own

judgments made by Supreme Court judges which are collectively known as the Three Judges Cases.

- Following are the three cases:
  - P. Gupta v. Union of India - 1981 (also known as the Judges' Transfer case)
  - Supreme Court Advocates-on Record Association vs Union of India - 1993
  - In re Special Reference 1 of 1998

### **Retail inflation inches up to 7% in August led by food price rise**

- This is the eighth successive month that retail inflation has stayed above the central bank's upper tolerance threshold of 6% inflation for the economy, and constitutes a setback to households' spending power among the poorer sections.
- Rural inflation that was at 6.8% in July, saw a sharper rise than urban inflation in August, rising to 7.15%. Urban consumers' inflation rate moved up from 6.49% in July to 6.72%.
- The uptick in inflation was largely driven by "a broad-based rise across the food segment", with a higher inflation in cereals, pulses, milk, fruits, vegetables and prepared meals and snacks.

### **The G7's price cap on Russian oil begins to take shape**

- The G7 wealthy nations – the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada – and the EU are hammering out details of the plan. The G7 wants to enlist other countries, including India and China, which have been snapping up heavily-discounted oil from Russia since its Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine
- Russia has managed to maintain its revenues through those increased crude sales to India and China. But even if India and China don't join, a cap could help force down prices for Asia and other consumers.

### **Supreme Court refuses to consider plea of no-debate in Parliament as ground to challenge EWS quota**

- A five-judge Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) U U Lalit decided to examine the following three key issues to ascertain the validity of the amendment:
  - “Whether the 103rd Constitution Amendment can be said to breach the basic structure of the Constitution by permitting the state to make special provisions, including reservation, based on economic criteria”;
  - “Whether it (the amendment) can be said to breach the basic structure...by permitting the state to make special provisions in relation to admission to private unaided institutions”;
  - “Whether the basic structure is violated by “excluding the SEBCs (Socially and Educationally Backward Classes)/ OBCs (Other Backward Classes)/ SCs (Scheduled Castes)/ STs (Scheduled Tribes) from the scope of EWS reservation”.
- The 103rd Amendment inserted Articles 15(6) and 16(6) in the Constitution to provide up to 10 per cent reservation to EWS other than backward classes, SCs, and STs in higher educational institutions and initial recruitment in government jobs.

### **Gyanvapi case**

- A Varanasi district court dismissed an application filed by the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee challenging the maintainability of the suit filed by five Hindu women seeking the right to worship Hindu deities within the Gyanvapi mosque (located in Banaras, Uttar Pradesh) premises all year round.
- District judge A.K. Vishvesha ruled that neither the Places of Worship Act, 1991, nor the Waqf Act, 1995, nor the U.P. Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple Act, 1983, bar the suit and that the “plaintiffs will have right to prove their averments by cogent evidence”. The next hearing is slated for September 22.
- The suit, filed by Rakhi Singh and four other women, claimed Hindus had been worshipping Maa Shringar Gauri, Lord Ganesha and other visible and invisible deities daily at the said property till as recently as 1993, after which the Uttar Pradesh government restricted the worship to one day a year.



- The court noted that the suit filed by the Hindu women “is limited and confined to the right of worship as a civil right and fundamental right as well as customary and religious right”.
- The court emphasised that the suit neither sought a declaration or injunction over the property in question, nor did it seek the conversion of the mosque into a temple.

### **Keeping Big Tech in check: ‘Safe harbour’ under lens in US, India**

- The areas range from competition; privacy; youth mental health; misinformation and disinformation; illegal and abusive conduct, including sexual exploitation; and algorithmic discrimination and lack of transparency.
- These principles are in line with global scepticism around the influence of social media platforms as countries around the world, including India, look to check the dominance of these platforms.
- One of the key principles listed by the White House is to remove special protection available to social media platforms under Section 230 of the US’ Communications Decency Act (CDA).
- This section is similar to Section 79 of India’s Information Technology Act, 2000, (IT Act) which classifies social media platforms as intermediaries and broadly shields them from legal action based on content users post on their platform.

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### **JIMEX 2022: India-Japan joint naval drills in the Bay of Bengal begins**

- The Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) ships are being led by R Adm Hirata Toshiyuki, Commander Escort Flotilla Four, and Indian Naval ships by R Adm Sanjay Bhalla, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet.

- JIMEX 22 involves two Phases; exercises at sea and a harbour phase at Visakhapatnam.
- This edition marks the 10th anniversary of JIMEX, which began in Japan in 2012.
- It also coincides with the 70th anniversary of establishing of diplomatic relations between India and Japan.
- JIMEX 22 seeks to consolidate the high degree of interoperability that exists between maritime forces of the two countries, through complex exercises in the surface, sub-surface and air domains.

### **EXERCISES KAKADU**

- INS Satpura and a P8 I Maritime Patrol Aircraft of the Indian Navy reached Darwin in Australia on 12 September 2022, for participation in the multinational Exercise Kakadu – 2022, hosted by the Royal Australian Navy.
- The two week-long Exercise, both in harbour and sea, involves ships and maritime aircraft from 14 navies. During the harbour phase of the exercise, the ship's crew will engage in operational planning interactions and sports activities with participating Navies.

### **Annual Flagship Event's theme for this year is 'Gati Shakti vision for 5G & Beyond'**

- The Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Railways, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw will be the Chief Guest at Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA) Annual Flagship Event 2022.
- The Minister of State for Communications, Shri Devusinh Chauhan will be the Guest of Honour.
- DIPA, an apex industry body of digital infrastructure providers is all set to host its Annual Flagship Event with new theme for this year, "Gati Shakti vision for 5G & Beyond".
- The event is said to be the biggest event of Telecom industry of year 2022.
- The event's theme is "Gati Shakti vision for 5G & Beyond", is fully in line with PM Modi's Gati Shakti National Master Plan

which has helped country's telecom infrastructure to be more stable.

- DIPA acknowledges Department of Telecommunications (DoT) as the supporting partner of DIPA's Annual Flagship Event 2022.

### **Shri Piyush Goyal chairs the first meeting of the newly reconstituted Board of Trade**

- The Board of Trade meeting focused on export target setting, the new Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) (2022-27), and the strategies and measures to be taken in order to take forward domestic manufacturing and exports.
- Board of Trade (BOT) has been constituted by merging Council for Trade Development and Promotion with Board of Trade vide notification No. 11/2015-20 dt 17th July 2019.
- The Board of Trade, inter alia, advises the Government on policy measures connected with the Foreign Trade Policy in order to achieve the objectives of boosting India's trade.

### **Union Health Minister releases NLEM 2022: Check list**

- 384 drugs have been included in this list with addition of 34 drugs, while 26 from the previous list have been dropped. The medicines have been categorized into 27 therapeutic categories.
- The following criteria are followed for inclusion in NLEM:
  - be useful in diseases which is a public health problem in India
  - be licensed/ approved Drugs Controller General (India) (DCGI)
  - have proven efficacy and safety profile based on scientific evidence
  - be comparatively cost effective
  - be aligned with the current treatment guidelines
  - recommended under National Health Programs of India. (e.g. Ivermectin part of Accelerated Plan for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis 2018).
  - when more than one medicine are available from the same therapeutic class, one prototype/ medically best suited medicine of that class to be included.

- price of total treatment is considered and not the unit price of a medicine
- fixed dose combinations are usually not included
- vaccines as and when are included in Universal Immunization Program (e.g. Rotavirus vaccine).

### **CRISPR technology to cure sickle cell disease**

- CRISPR is short for Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats, which is a reference to the clustered and repetitive sequences of DNA found in bacteria, whose natural mechanism to fight some viral diseases is replicated in this gene-editing tool.
- Its mechanism is often compared to the 'cut-copy-paste', or 'find-replace' functionalities in common computer programmes.
- A bad stretch in the DNA sequence, which is the cause of disease or disorder, is located, cut, and removed — and then replaced with a 'correct' sequence. And the tools used to achieve this are not mechanical, but biochemical — specific protein and RNA molecules.
- The technology replicates a natural defence mechanism in some bacteria that uses a similar method to protect itself from virus attacks.

### **Who was Arattupuzha Velayudha Panicker, on whose life Malayalam movie Pathonpatham Noottandu is based?**

- It is based on the life of Arattupuzha Velayudha Panicker, a social reformer from the Ezhava community in Kerala who lived in the 19th century.
- Born into a well-off family of merchants in Kerala's Alappuzha district, Panicker was one of the most influential figures in the reformation movement in the state.
- He challenged the domination of upper castes or 'Savarnas' and brought about changes in the lives of both men and women.
- The social reform movement in Kerala in the 19th century led to the large-scale subversion of the existing caste hierarchy and social order in the state.

- Panicker is credited with building two temples dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva, in which members of all castes and religions were allowed entry.
- In 1858, he led the Achippudava Samaram strike at Kayamkulam in Alappuzha. This strike aimed to earn women belonging to oppressed groups the right to wear a lower garment that extended beyond the knees.
- In 1859, this was extended into the Ethappu Samaram, the struggle for the right to wear an upper body cloth by women belonging to backward castes.

**Who was activist-author Annabhau Sathe, whose statue Devendra Fadnavis unveiled in Moscow?**

- Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis is in Moscow to unveil the statue of Lok Shahir (balladeer) Annabhau Sathe at the All-Russia State Library for Foreign Literature. An oil painting of Sathe, who passed away in 1969, will also be unveiled at the Moscow's Indian consulate.
- Sathe's work was immensely inspired by the Russian revolution and the Communist ideology. He was a member of the Communist Party of India (CPI), and featured among the selected authors from India whose work was translated in Russian.
- Tukaram Bhaurao Sathe, who later came to be known as Annabhau Sathe, was born in a Dalit family on August 1, 1920 in Maharashtra's Wategaon village in Satara district.
- Sathe belonged to the Matang community among Dalits.
- He formed Dalit Yuvak Sangh, a cultural group and started writing poems on workers' protests, agitations.
- In 1939, he wrote his first ballad 'Spanish Povada'.
- In 1943, he along with Amar Sheikh and Datta Gavhankar, formed the Lal Bawta Kala Pathak.

**What are the instant loan apps, and their link to China?**

- The arrest of a Chinese national by the Chandigarh Police for allegedly blackmailing and extorting money from people through instant loan mobile applications has raised several concerns.

- The racket of luring people to take instant loans via mobile apps and then extorting money from them gained momentum during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- These mobile applications provide small amounts in instant loans at a higher interest rate, ranging from 15 per cent to 20 per cent. These applications do not follow the strict procedures followed by banks before giving out loans, such as customer verification.
- A person who installs the application and wants a loan has to fill out an online form.
- To get the loan, the mobile user has to allow the application to access the contacts, photos, videos and all other digital content of the mobile phone.
- Many mobile applications provide the loan amount after deducting the interest from the principal amount. Some of the applications even recover the interest on a daily or weekly basis.

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### **Bhutan king Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck meets PM Modi**

- India and Bhutan share a unique and time-tested bilateral relationship, characterized by utmost trust, goodwill, and mutual understanding.
- The special relationship has been sustained by a tradition of regular high-level visits and dialogues between the two countries.
- India is Bhutan's largest trading partner. In 2018, total bilateral trade between the two countries stood at over 9000 crore rupees.

### **India launches joint whitepaper on 'Urban Wastewater Scenario in India' with Denmark at World Water Congress and Exhibition 2022 in Copenhagen**

- India has launched a joint whitepaper on 'Urban Wastewater Scenario in India' with Denmark at World Water Congress and Exhibition 2022 in Copenhagen.
- Shekhawat said that India has committed investments of more than 140 Billion dollars by 2024 in the water sector. The minister informed, with the help of community-centric approach, at least 10 percent of the funds are contributed by community in every program ensuring community ownership and participation.
- The whitepaper aims at holistically capturing the current status of wastewater treatment in India and potential pathways for future treatment structures, co-creation, and collaborations.
- This whitepaper is a result of the Indo-Danish Bilateral Green Strategic Partnership, which is focused on green hydrogen, renewable energy, and wastewater management.

### **India, France agree to expand cooperation on Indo-Pacific body**

- Indo-Pacific trilateral development cooperation would facilitate development projects, especially in the framework of the International Solar Alliance.
- The Indo-Pacific trilateral would also provide a platform for Indian innovations and startups to demonstrate their relevance to the requirements of other societies.
- International Solar Alliance now has formed projects in three countries which shows the impact that India and France make together in Bhutan, Papua New Guinea and Senegal.
- The Minister added that India and France are launching a scheme for the exchange of young professionals in the age group of 18 to 35 years as a follow-up to the migration and mobility partnerships.

### **Union Cabinet approves signing of guarantees for hosting FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup 2022**

- FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022 is scheduled to be held in India between 11th and 30th October 2022.
- The seventh edition of the biennial youth tournament will be the first-ever FIFA women's competition to be hosted by India.

- The FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup is the world championship for female players under or upto the age of 17, organized by FIFA. The event started in 2008 and is traditionally held in even-numbered years.
- The 6th edition of the event was held in Uruguay from 13th November to 1st December, 2018. Spain is the current champion of FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup.
- FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022 will be the 7th edition of the tournament in which 16 teams, including India, will participate.

### **PM Modi greets the nation on the occasion of Engineers Day.**

- Every year India celebrates National Engineer's day on September 15 to recognise and honour the achievements of the great engineer Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya.
- Along with India, Visvesvaraya's great works are also celebrated in Sri Lanka and Tanzania on September 15 as Engineer's day.
- Popularly known as Sir MV, he undertook several complex projects and delivered remarkable infrastructural results during his engineering career.
- He patented and installed an irrigation system with water floodgates at the Khadakvasla reservoir near Pune to raise the food supply level and storage to the highest levels known as 'block system' in 1903.
- The irrigation system was later installed at Gwalior's Tigra Dam and Mysuru's Krishnaraja Sagara (KRS) dam, the latter of which created one of the largest reservoirs in Asia at the time.

### **Union Cabinet approves inclusion of tribes of five States in ST category**

- Among the states whose tribes have been included in the list are Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh.
- The Hattee community of Himachal Pradesh's Sirmour district was granted the status of ST in the latest decision by the Cabinet.



- The Cabinet approved the proposal of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the inclusion of 'Gonds' along with its five sub-castes in the Bhadohi (earlier Sant Ravidas Nagar) District of the State of Uttar Pradesh in the Scheduled Tribes list of Uttar Pradesh.
- It also approved the proposal of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the inclusion of 'Narikoravan along with the Kurivikkaran' community in respect of the State of Tamil Nadu through the introduction of a Bill in Parliament to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.
- The Cabinet also approved the proposal for the inclusion of the 'Betta-Kuruba' community as a synonym of 'Kadu Kuruba' in respect of the State of Karnataka through the introduction of a Bill in Parliament to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.
- As many as 12 caste communities of Chhattisgarh were included in the Scheduled Tribes.

### **ECI launches BLO e-Patrika**

- The Election Commission of India released a new digital publication 'BLO e-Patrika' at an interactive session held with BLOs spread across the States in India. This event was a first-of-its-kind direct interaction by the Commission with the BLOs across the country.
- BLOs are the direct link of the Commission with the people. BLOs are the primary source of information for every voter across the length and breadth of the country.
- The intent behind introducing BLO E-Patrika is to ensure a cascading information model for a better informed and motivated Booth Level Officer.
- The themes of the bimonthly e-Patrika will include subjects like EVM-VVPAT training, IT applications, Special Summary Revision, Minimum SVEEP Activities at polling booths, Postal Ballot facility, accessible elections, Electoral Literacy Clubs, unique voter awareness initiatives and National Voters' Day.

### **Union Minister Jitendra Singh launches Swachhata Portal for Special Campaign 2.0**

- Developed by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) in the Union Ministry of Personnel, the Portal- [www.pgportal.gov.in/scdpm22](http://www.pgportal.gov.in/scdpm22) is dedicated to Swachhata and reducing pendency of work in Government offices.
- Dr Jitendra Singh informed that during the first phase of Special Campaign in October, 2021, about 12 lakh sq. ft. of space was freed up in offices for productive use and Rs.62 Crore earned from disposal of scrap.
- The Special Campaign 2.0 will focus more on field/outstation offices in addition to the Ministries/ Departments and their attached/subordinate offices and the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) will oversee implementation of the Special campaign 2.0.

### **The National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) inks historic MOU with NTPC and REC for development of sports in India**

- The National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) was established in 1998 under the Charitable Endowments Act 1890 and was notified by the Government of India in November, 1998.
- The purpose of the fund is to impart momentum and flexibility to assisting the cause of sports in India.
- It helps sportspersons excel by providing them with varied opportunities to train under coaches of international repute, provide financial assistance for development of infrastructure and other activities for promotion of sports.

### **NITI Aayog Celebrates One-Year Anniversary of Shoonya Campaign**

- Shoonya is a consumer awareness campaign to reduce air pollution by promoting the use of electric vehicles (EVs) for ride-hailing and deliveries.
- The campaign has 130 industry partners, including ride-hailing, delivery and EV companies.
- The National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Energy Storage (Part III) report was also launched during the event.

- The report highlights that India's \$2.5-billion Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) energy storage is critical for meeting the projected cumulative battery demand of 106–260 GWh by 2030 to successfully realize the country's vision for EV adoption and grid decarbonisation. Read the report here.

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### **Centre signs peace accord with tribal outfits, Shah says important day for Assam**

- The agreement was signed to end decade old crisis of tribal groups and tea garden workers in Assam.
- The tribal groups which have signed the agreement include, Birsa Commando Force, Adivasi People's Army, All Adivasi National Liberation Army, Adivasi Cobra Military of Assam and Santhal Tiger Force.
- The agreement will prove to be another milestone in the direction of making North East region extremism free by 2025.
- Shah said, several agreements have been signed to ensure peace and development in the North Eastern region in the last three years. He said, NLFT agreement in 2019, BRU-REANG and Bodo accord in 2020, Karbi Anglong agreement in 2021 and Assam-Meghalaya inter-state boundary agreement this year has resolved around 65 per cent of border disputes.

### **Govt constitutes expert committee to examine and suggest appropriate measures to address regulatory and other issues**

- The government has constituted an expert committee to examine and suggest appropriate measures to address regulatory and other issues to enable scaling up investments by venture capital and private equity investment.:
- Finance Ministry said the six-member panel will be headed by former SEBI chairman M Damodaran. The committee will

suggest measures to further accelerates investment into start-ups and sunrise sectors.

- In her Budget speech 2022-23, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed to set up an expert committee to examine and suggest appropriate measures to scale venture capital and private equity investments in India.

### **BSF's first female camel riding squad is ready to be deployed along the India-Pakistan border**

- The squad will participate for the first time in the BSF Raising Day Parade on 1ST December. This Squad will be the first of its kind in the world.
- The Border Security Force (BSF) is India's border guarding organisation on its border with Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- It is one of the seven Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) of India, and was raised in the wake of the 1965 war on 1 December 1965.
- It comes under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

### **Delay in PM Modi government's flagship rural housing scheme to invite penalty**

- Pulling up the States for the delay in completion of the NDA government's flagship rural household scheme — Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin) — the Union Ministry of Rural Development has come up with a set of penalties that the State governments will have to bear for any further delay.
- Opposition-ruled West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Odisha, along with BJP-ruled Assam, are the leading four States who are far behind their targets.
- This is the first time, since the scheme started in April 2016 with a target of constructing 2.95 crore houses, that the Union Government has introduced a penalty clause.
- The initial deadline for the scheme was March 2022, which owing to the COVID-19 pandemic was extended by another two years till March 2024.
- Under the scheme, the government has set itself a target of 2.95 crore houses. This number was deduced from the Socio-

Economic Caste Survey, 2011. As per the statistics available with the Union Ministry of Rural Development, till August 2022, 2.02 crore houses have been constructed.

### **Centre cites law to deny seats to Ukraine-returnees**

- The Government of India told the Supreme Court that the law does not allow undergraduate medical students, who fled the “war-like situation” in Ukraine, to be accommodated in Indian medical colleges.
- The affidavit from the Health Ministry was in response to petitions filed by students, in their first to fourth year of undergraduate medical studies in Ukraine, seeking transfer to colleges in India to continue their semesters here.
- So far as such students are concerned, there are no provisions either under the Indian Medical Council Act of 1956 or the National Medical Commission Act 2019 as well as the Regulations to accommodate or transfer medical students from any foreign medical institutes/colleges to Indian medical colleges.
- Till now, no permission has been given by the National Medical Commission to transfer or accommodate any foreign medical students in any Indian medical institute/university, the Health Ministry said.

### **'Triple dip' La Nina and its impact on India's monsoon**

- The Australian Bureau of Meteorology on September 13 confirmed the occurrence of La Niña phenomenon for the third consecutive year in the Pacific Ocean.
- The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) on August 31 had stated that the oceanic and atmospheric phenomenon would last until at least the end of the year, and for the first time this century, span three consecutive northern hemisphere winters to become a ‘triple dip’ La Nina.
- El Nino and La Nina, which mean ‘the boy’ and ‘the girl’ in Spanish, are mutually opposite phenomena, during which an abnormal warming or cooling of sea surface temperatures is

observed in the Pacific Ocean along the equator, off the coast of South America.

- Together they constitute what is known as the El Niño-Southern Oscillation system, or ENSO for short.
- ENSO conditions can alter both temperatures and rainfall globally, due to their strong interference on global atmospheric circulations.
- It is a recurring phenomenon and the change in temperature is accompanied by changes in the patterns of upper and lower level winds, sea level pressure, and tropical rainfall across the Pacific Basin.
- Normally, El Niño and La Niña occur every four to five years. El Niño is more frequent than La Niña.

### **Tamil Nadu's new breakfast scheme in schools**

- The scheme covers around 1.14 lakh students in 1,545 schools which include 417 municipal corporation schools, 163 municipality schools and 728 taluk and village panchayat-level schools.
- A sum of ₹ 33.56 crore has been set apart for the scheme. The inauguration of the scheme marks an important milestone in the State's history of providing free meals to school students.
- Anaemia is a major health problem in Tamil Nadu, especially among women and children, says the 2019-21 National Family Health Survey-5's report.
- Those in charge of the meal programme can enhance the component of nutrition to those children having specific problems. The latest Breakfast Scheme is a step in this direction.

### **Pratap Pawar elected Audit Bureau of Circulations chairman**

- Pawar, a Padma Shri awardee, is former president of The Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture, Pune and he is on the Board of several organisations.
- The Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) of India is a non-profit circulation-auditing organisation.
- It certifies and audits the circulations of major publications, including newspapers and magazines in India.

- ABC is a voluntary organisation initiated in 1948.
- It is headquartered in Mumbai.

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### **70 years after extinction, PM Modi releases 'India's guests' to MP's Kuno National Park**

- The big cats were flown in on a modified passenger B-747 Jumbo Jet, which took off from Hosea Kutako International Airport in Windhoek and landed in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior.
- The cheetahs will be released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on the occasion of his birthday, at Kuno National Park.
- On board the jet were eight Namibian wild cheetahs, five females and three males.
- A plan to reintroduce cheetahs in India that was endorsed in 2009 by then Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh was shot down by the Supreme Court in 2013.
- The idea was revived in 2017 by the Narendra Modi government, and the SC cleared the move in 2020 "on an experimental basis".
- This is the first time in the world that a large carnivore will be relocated from one continent to another.

### **Keen to upgrade free-trade deal with India, says Sri Lanka President**

- Sri Lanka will revive its Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India and upgrade it to a "a comprehensive economic and technological partnership", President Ranil Wickremesinghe has said, signalling Colombo's willingness to revisit a stalled pact.
- The current Indo-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISFTA) came into effect in 2000 and several rounds of bilateral discussions later, Colombo and New Delhi are yet to reach an agreement on its upgraded version.

- Wickremesinghe, as Prime Minister between 2015 and 2019, attempted to sign an upgraded trade pact with India, but was unsuccessful.

### **IAF to fly AN-32 on blended biodiesel for 200 hours**

- The aircraft took flight on biodiesel blended with aviation turbine fuel (ATF) for the first time in December 2018.
- A second aircraft, a Dornier, was now undergoing ground tests after it had been cleared by the original manufacturer of the engine, Honeywell, for use of 50% biofuel.
- The global aviation industry is one of the biggest emitter of greenhouse gases that cause global warming. The fuel consumption of the IAF for 2021-22 was 6.2 lakh kilo litres, which contributed 15 lakh tonnes of carbon dioxide.
- On the civil aviation front, an official from aircraft manufacturer Airbus said it had plans to offer 100% sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) compatibility on its commercial aircraft latest by 2030.

### **Kedarnath temple to get a 'golden' makeover**

- A Mumbai-based businessman will fund the facelift of Kedarnath temple's sanctum sanctorum, which will now be gold-plated. Currently the sanctum sanctorum of one of the famous Char Dham temples is covered with 230 kilograms of silver.
- Kedarnath Temple is a Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva. The temple is located on the Garhwal Himalayan range near the Mandakini river, in the state of Uttarakhand.
- The temple is one of the four major sites in India's Chota Char Dham pilgrimage of Northern Himalayas and is the first of the Panch Kedar pilgrimage sites.

### **PM Modi attends 22nd SCO Summit at Samarkand; Says, SCO needs to focus on bringing diversified, resilient supply chains**

- Besides leaders of SCO member states, observer states, Secretary General of the SCO, Executive Director of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), President of Turkmenistan and other invited guests attended the meet.



- India has been working closely with Uzbekistan towards the success of their Chairship.
- On the side-lines of the SCO Summit, Prime Minister Modi held informal meetings with a number of leaders on matters of mutual interest. He also took part in bilateral meetings held after the summit with Russia, Uzbekistan and Iran.
- The SCO Summit 2022 was first held in Shanghai in June 2002. There are eight members, out of which six are founding members. The last two countries – India and Pakistan – joined as full members in 2017.
- Member countries are: China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan.

### **Samarkand Declaration of the Council of Heads of State of Shanghai Cooperation Organization**

- Samarkand is located in the Zarefshan River valley in the Southeastern region of Uzbekistan.
- Samarkand is the country's cultural capital and has always been an intrinsic part of the world culture for more than two and a half millennia.
- In central Asia, it is one of the oldest cities to be inhabited. Inhabitation in Samarkand started almost in 1500 BC.
- Samarkand is a central point for trade due to its easy route access to China and the Mediterranean areas.
- The name Samarkand is derived from the Sogdian civilisation, where Samar means stone or rock and Khand means fort. Thus, Samarkand means a town or fort of rock or stone. The city of Samarkand is a storehouse of natural resources spanning Central Asia.
- Since ancient times, Samarkand has been famous for its craft production with a castle and robust defence. Like the entire region of Uzbekistan, the official language of Samarkand is Uzbek. However, the second official language is Russian.

### **India to host 9th Session of Governing Body of the ITPGRFA from 19-24th September**

- The Treaty is a legally binding comprehensive agreement adopted in November 2001 at Rome during the 31st session of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which entered into force in June 2004.
- During the event an extensive deliberation on how to preserve, conserve and maintain the germplasm, biodiversity, and food and agriculture will be held. Deliberation will also be held on how to exchange and share the tolerant germplasm through a multilateral system.
- The event will also witness a discussion on farmers' and breeders' rights.
- Representatives of nearly 262 countries are expected to participate in this seven-day-long event.

**Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh presents 'INSPIRE' awards to 60 Start-Ups, financial support to over 53,000 students**

- The award is instituted by the Department of Science and Technology and these innovators will be extended complete incubation support for their entrepreneurship journey.
- During the year 2020-21, while the country was battling with the severe impact of COVID-19, the annual INSPIRE Awards - MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge) competition attracted an unprecedented 6.53 Lakh ideas and innovations from all States.
- The scheme aims to help build a critical human resource pool for strengthening, expanding the science and technology system and increase the research & development base.

**Varanasi nominated as the first-ever SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital at the 2022 SCO Summit**

- The nomination of Varanasi as the first ever SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital will promote tourism, cultural and humanitarian exchanges between India and the SCO member Countries.
- It also underlines country's ancient civilizational links with Member States of SCO especially the Central Asian Republics.

- Under the framework of this major cultural outreach program, a number of events will be hosted in Varanasi during 2022-23, for which guests will be invited to participate from SCO Member States.
- Varanasi is a city in Uttar Pradesh on the Ganga river. The city is still widely known by its earlier name Banaras and its ancient name Kashi.

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### **Why HC sentenced popular YouTuber 'Savukku' Shankar to six months in jail**

- According to the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, Criminal contempt means the publication (whether by words, spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representations, or otherwise) of any matter or the doing of any other act whatsoever which
  - scandalises or tends to scandalise, or lowers or tends to lower the authority of, any court; or
  - prejudices, or interferes or tends to interfere with, the due course of any judicial proceeding; or
  - interferes or tends to interfere with, or obstructs or tends to obstruct, the administration of justice in any other manner.
- Contempt of court may be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with a fine of maximum Rs 2,000, or with both.

### **Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav**

- India scripted a new world record of maximum number of blood donations in a single day on the occasion of the 72nd birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi under 'Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav'.

- This was the largest country-wide Blood Donation Drive. The campaign was aimed at increasing awareness regarding regular non-remunerated voluntary blood donations and ensure that blood or its components are available, accessible, affordable and safe.
- As per 2021 statistics, India's annual requirement is around 1.5 crore units.
- In India, the regulatory framework for blood donation and blood bank management rests with the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation, while technical bodies like the National Blood Transfusion Council and National AIDS Control Organisation formulate guidelines and recommendations for transfusion medicine and blood bank management.

**Minister of Commerce and Industry, Anupriya Patel, attended East Asia Summit Economic Ministers' Meeting in Siem Reap City of Cambodia.**

- The meeting saw representation from all 10 ASEAN countries as well as eight partner countries including Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia and the US.
- The East Asia Summit (EAS) is the Indo-Pacific's premier forum for strategic dialogue.
- The EAS has 18 members - the ten ASEAN countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) along with Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States. ASEAN leads the forum, and the chair position rotates between ASEAN Member States annually.
- The EAS calendar culminates in the annual Leaders' Summit, which is usually held alongside ASEAN Leaders' meetings in the fourth quarter of every year.
- In addition to the Leaders' Summit, meetings of EAS Foreign Ministers and Economic Ministers are held annually.

**International Day of Democracy - the United Nations**

- It was established through a resolution passed by the UN General Assembly in 2007, encouraging governments to strengthen and consolidate democracy.
- This year, the Day will focus on the importance of media freedom to democracy, peace, and delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals.
- On the 15th anniversary of the Democracy Day, UN Secretary General António Guterres said that democracy is backsliding across the World.
- **Background:** In September 1997 the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) adopted a Universal Declaration on Democracy. That Declaration affirms the principles of democracy, the elements and exercise of democratic government, and the international scope of democracy.

### **International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer**

- This year's theme is "**Montreal Protocol@35: Global Cooperation Protecting Life on Earth**" which recognises the wider impact the Montreal Protocol has on climate change.
- In 1994, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 16 September the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, commemorating the date of the signing, in 1987, of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.
- **Montreal Protocol** is an international treaty designed to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the production of numerous substances that are responsible for ozone depletion.
- It was agreed in 1987 and entered into force in 1989.
- Due to its widespread adoption and implementation, former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan hailed it as perhaps the single most successful international agreement.

### **National Logistics Policy is PM Modi's latest move to turn India into a global factory**

- The policy is aimed at bringing down the time & cost of transportation of industrial products. It will also prevent damage to agricultural products by providing faster transportation.

- The Unified Logistics Interface Platform will bring all digital services related to the transportation sector into a single portal, freeing the exporters from a host of very long and cumbersome processes.
- Under the policy, a new digital platform - Ease of Logistics Services - has also been started.
- PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan will work in tandem with the National Logistics Policy.
- The Policy, which focuses on re-engineering, digitisation and multimodal transport, will further boost 'ease of doing business' for all industries and stakeholders.

### **The significance of Ethereum Merge and its impact on blockchain architecture**

- The revamp, known as 'The Merge,' will cast aside the need for crypto miners and gigantic mining farms, who had previously driven the blockchain under a mechanism called 'proof-of-work' (PoW).
- Instead, it has now shifted to a 'proof-of-stake' (PoS) mechanism that assigns 'validators' randomly to approve transactions and earn a small reward.
- The move to PoS will reduce ethereum's energy consumption by nearly 99.95 per cent.
- Ethereum is still a decentralised platform, but under the new concept, it would not need miners and mining farms to authenticate transactions anymore.
- Instead, a validator will be randomly assigned using an algorithm from a pool of people who 'stake' their coins, which essentially means pledging at least 32 Ethereum tokens on the network.
- This would entirely eliminate the need for miners on the Ethereum network.

### **19 people rescued as ship sinks off Ratnagiri coast**

- Within minutes of receiving the distress call, the Indian Coast Guard's Marine Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) in Mumbai swung into action.

- Parth was a 102 metres-long vessel that was made in 2008. It was carrying 3,911 metric tonnes of Asphalt Bitumen and travelling from New Mangalore in Karnataka to Khor Fakkan on the Gulf of Oman in the UAE when there was an ingress of water in one of its compartments.
- The fishing ministry has cautioned fishermen from Malvan to Deogad in Maharashtra to look for marine pollution as the vessel was carrying a lot of fuel. Besides, bitumen is also a substance hazardous to ocean life.
- The shipping ministry said it will now put markers on charts for all vessels to be alert in the area about the sunk vessel.

### **What are the 'colour revolutions' that China's Xi Jinping has warned against?**

- Colour revolutions refer to a series of uprisings that first began in former communist nations in Eastern Europe in the early 2000s, but are also used in reference to popular movements in the Middle East and Asia.
- Most have involved large-scale mobilisation on the streets, with demands for free elections or regime change, and calls for removal of authoritarian leaders.
- **Orange Revolution:** It refers to a series of protests that occurred in Ukraine between November 2004 and January 2005.
- **Tulip Revolution:** Also called the First Kyrgyz Revolution, the movement led to the ouster of Kyrgyzstan's President Askar Akayev in early 2005.
- **Jasmine Revolution:** The popular uprising that occurred between December 2010 to January 2011 in Tunisia was in response to the underlying corruption, unemployment, inflation and lack of political freedoms in the country.

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**Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh is leading the Joint Indian Ministerial Delegation of Power, New and Renewable Energy and Science and Technology to America to take part in Global Clean Energy Action Forum**

- Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh will lead the Joint Indian Ministerial official delegation of the Ministry of Power, New and Renewable Energy and Ministry of Science and Technology on a five-day visit to USA to participate in the Global Clean Energy Action Forum and also to interact with eminent academicians as well as the Indian diaspora.
- The coveted joint convening of the Clean Energy Ministerial CEM13 and Mission Innovation MI-7 will take place from 21st to 23rd of this month at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, USA.
- The event is expected to bring together thousands of clean energy leaders from across the world, including CEOs, innovators, young professionals, civil society and ministers from over 30 countries to accelerate clean energy innovation and deployment.

**Net direct tax kitty crosses ₹ 7 lakh crore**

- Net direct tax collections as on Saturday stood at ₹ 7,00,669 crore, compared with ₹ 5,68,147 crore as of September 17, 2021, with corporate taxes constituting little over a half of the kitty at ₹ 3,68,484 crore.
- The personal income tax and the securities transaction tax (STT) have yielded ₹ 3.3 lakh crore.
- Advance tax collections stood at ₹ 2,95,308 crore, 17% higher than the corresponding period of 2021-22, with corporate tax contributing a little over ₹ 2.29 lakh crore and personal income tax bringing in the rest of the ₹ 66,176 crore.
- The Ministry said there had been a “remarkable increase in the speed of processing of income tax returns filed during the current financial year” with almost 93% of the duly verified ITRs having been processed till September 17.



### **Lumpy skin disease virus different from 2019 version**

- The lumpy skin disease (LSD) virus that has killed at least 50,000 cattle in India this year may be structurally different from the version of the virus prevalent in India in 2019, raising questions on whether the new vaccine being developed for safeguarding cattle may be adequately protective.
- Scientists at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB) and the State Disease Diagnostic Centre, Jaipur, analysed five animals with symptoms of the disease and compared genomes of the virus extracted from them.
- Six genomes (there were multiple genomes from a single animal) showed that it had “little similarity to global genomes” when compared with genetic sequences from earlier outbreaks of the disease.
- The analysis of the genomes revealed 177 unique variants, none of which were found in four genome sequences from India belonging to the 2019 outbreak of the disease deposited in GenBank, a popular database.
- This is significant as Lumpi-ProVacInd, a vaccine developed by the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research's (ICAR) National Research Centre on Equines is based on LSD virus samples from cattle in Ranchi afflicted in the 2019 outbreak.

### **NSCN(I-M) to resume peace talks with Centre**

- The Nagaland Peace Accord is a peace treaty, signed, on 3 August 2015, between the Government of India, and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN), to end the insurgency in the state of Nagaland in Northeast India.
- The decision follows a meeting between the 11 representatives of the NSCN(I-M) and the 22-member Core Committee on Naga Political Issue comprising MPs and MLAs of Nagaland at Chumoukedima near the State's commercial hub, Dimapur.

- There are reports that a Central team has been working on a new set of “formulation papers” for packaging a set of offers, along with the old, to facilitate the final peace deal soon.

### **Fazilka district is known for the best-quality kin**

- The harvest of kinnows, the citrus fruit, a hybrid between king (Citrus nobilis) and willowleaf (Citrus deliciosa) mandarins, is likely to witness a drop of about 50% due to many issues, including the early summer that hit Punjab in March.
- Fazilka in Punjab is known for the best-quality kinnow.
- The fruit is grown on about 2.5 lakh acres in the district. Trees and orchards on about 50,000 acres have been estimated as destroyed in the district alone. The trees and orchards have dried up in this area. The reason is polluted canal water. Groundwater cannot be used for kinnow.
- Canal water is polluted with chemicals from factories.

### **District Disability Rehabilitation centres (DDRCs) were inaugurated by Dr. Virendra Kumar Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment**

- District Disability Rehabilitation centres (DDRC) spread across the country are providing effective rehabilitation services to the persons with disabilities for last two decades.
- These centres are run jointly by District Management Team headed by DM/Collector and a reputed NGO (Usually Indian Red Cross Society).
- To upscale their services, a MODEL DDRC has been conceptualised by the Department of Empowerment of Persons With Disability in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Government of India.
- Nine such model DDRCs, namely- Badaun, Pilibhit, Barielly, Balaghat, Golaghat, Ahmedabad, Amravati , Kullu and Rampur have been upgraded to MODEL DDRC level in the first phase and these 09 model DDRCs were virtually inaugurated by Dr. Virendra Kumar, Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India.

### **State level institution on lines of NITI Aayog to be established in Maharashtra**

- It will help to bring drastic changes in sectors like agriculture, health, education, employment, environment etc. in the state.
- Chief executive officer of NITI Aayog and other experts made a presentation on how Maharashtra will be assisted by the Aayog for bringing about changes in various sectors.
- Maharashtra government is planning to achieve target one trillion dollar economy by 2030, but with more hard work it can be achieved by 2027.
- 'Asset monetization' is important factor tabled by the NITI Aayog and the new constructed Samruddhi Mahamarg in the state is the best example of asset monetization.

### **Jaishankar arrives in New York for hectic diplomatic week at UNGA high-level session**

- The theme of the 77th UNGA is 'A Watershed Moment: Transformative Solutions to Interlocking Challenges'.
- In keeping with India's strong commitment to reformed multilateralism, the Minister will host a Ministerial meeting of the G4 - India, Brazil, Japan, and Germany - as well as participate at the High Level Meeting of the L-69 Group on 'Reinvigorating Multilateralism and Achieving Comprehensive Reform of the UN Security Council'.
- The L-69 Group consists of developing countries from Asia, Africa, Latin America, Caribbean and Small Island Developing States, focused on reforms of the UN Security Council.

### **India emerge as largest bilateral lender for Sri Lanka, overtaking China**

- In the past five years from 2017-2021, China has been the largest bilateral lender to Sri Lanka.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has been the largest multilateral lender in the past five years and disbursed funds amounting to 610 million dollars in 2021.

- India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ruchira Kamboj had said that India had provided nearly 4 billion dollars in food and financial assistance to Sri Lanka. On August 22, India handed over 21,000 tonnes of fertilizer to crisis-ridden Sri Lanka.
- India has been at forefront of extending economic assistance to Sri Lanka as per their requirements and is one of the countries that have provided the maximum amount of assistance in time of need. Since the beginning of 2022, Sri Lanka has experienced an escalating economic crisis and the government has defaulted on its foreign loans.
- Sri Lanka is battling a severe economic crisis with food and fuel scarcity affecting a large number of the people in the island nation.

**Indian companies spent more than one trillion rupees in CSR till March this year: Anurag Thakur**

- He said, the areas of investment is poverty alleviation, healthcare, education and the environment among other. Mr Thakur said this while giving away the Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award India 2022 in New Delhi.
- On April 1, 2014, India became the first country to legally mandate corporate social responsibility.
- The rules in Section 135 of India's Companies Act make it mandatory for companies of a certain turnover and profitability to spend 2% of their average net profit for the past three years on CSR.

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**Ministry of Tourism to organise National Conference of State Tourism Ministers from 18th to 20th September 2022 in Dharamshala**

- The conference is being organised by the Ministry of Tourism from September 18-20 to discuss issues related to development of tourism in the country, officials said.
- The conference in Dharamshala will be attended by central ministers, tourism ministers from various states and UTs, governors, administrators and seniors officials of the central government, state governments and heads of tourism and hospitality associations.

**Shri Piyush Goyal concludes fruitful visit to Saudi Arabia**

- The Strategic Partnership Council was instituted in October, 2019 during the visit of the Prime Minister of India to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and has two main pillars i.e. Political, Security, Social and Cultural Committee and the Committee on Economy and Investments.
- Streamlining efforts to realize the announcement made by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman, during his visit to India in February 2019, of investments worth USD 100 Billion in India.
- Endorsement of the 41 areas of cooperation identified by the technical teams under the 4 broad domains of Agriculture & Food Security; Energy; Technology & IT; and Industry & Infrastructure.
- Agreement to undertake implementation of the priority projects in a time bound manner. Priority areas of cooperation include:
  - Collaboration in digital fintech sector through operationalization of UPI and Rupay Card in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
  - Re-affirmation of continued cooperation in joint projects including the West coast refinery, LNG infrastructure

investment and development of strategic petroleum storage facilities in India

### **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal launches multiple projects for development of Bogibeel, Assam**

- The Two floating jetties at Bogibeel in Dibrugarh district and Guijan in Tinsukia district will be constructed as state-of-art terminals using the most advanced & updated technology.
- Both the jetties are being constructed by IWAI over the National Waterways - 2 (NW-2), popularly known as River Brahmaputra.
- He also inaugurated Bogibeel Riverfront Passenger Jetty which has been developed by the Northeast Frontier Railways (NFR) as part of Riverfront Development near the Bogibeel bridge.
- The Bogibeel Bridge is a combined road and rail bridge over the Brahmaputra River in the northeastern Indian state of Assam between Dhemaji district and Dibrugarh district.

### **FAO Side Event on International Year of Millets 2023 Held During the Ninth Session**

- The side event on IYOM-2023 focussed on celebrating Millets' farmers.
- To bring back millets and create domestic, and global demand and to provide nutritional food to the people, the Government of India decided to mark the National Year of Millets in 2018.
- In 2021, India proposed to United Nations for declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets (IYOM).
- The proposal of India got support from 72 countries and United Nation's General Assembly (UNGA) declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets.

### **Typhoon lashes central Japan, killing at least two**

- Typhoon Nanmadol, one of the biggest storms to hit Japan in years, killed at least two people and brought ferocious winds and record rainfall to the west of the country, causing transport disruptions and forcing manufacturers to suspend operations.

- Nanmadol made landfall near Kagoshima city late on Sunday before battering the western island of Kyushu and roaring onto the main island of Honshu on Monday morning.
- A typhoon is a mature tropical cyclone that develops between 180° and 100°E in the Northern Hemisphere.
- This region is referred to as the Northwestern Pacific Basin, and is the most active tropical cyclone basin on Earth, accounting for almost one-third of the world's annual tropical cyclones.

### **Numaligarh Refinery Limited plans to invest over Rs 35,000 crore in the next five years**

- The Numaligarh Refinery is located at Morangi, Golaghat district, Assam.
- Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) is a Category-I Mini Ratna PSU of Government of India.
- It is a group company of Oil India Limited (earlier subsidiary of BPCL) and the present shareholding pattern of NRL is OIL- 80.16%, Govt. of Assam (GoA)-15.47% and Engineers India Ltd (EIL) – 4.37%.
- In 2019, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved plans to increase the refinery's capacity to 9 million metric tonnes per year.

### **GeM surpassed milestone of One Lakh Crore rupees of procurement value in last fiscal**

- The GeM Seller Samvad has been held in Mumbai wherein numerous beneficiaries spoke about how their business has grown overwhelmingly with the help of the online portal.
- The Government e Marketplace is an online platform for public procurement in India. The initiative was launched in 2016 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- GeM has facilitated over one crore transactions valued at over 3.02 Lakh Crore Rupees. Notably, the portal had surpassed the milestone of One Lakh Crore rupees of procurement value in the last fiscal.
- The portal has 62 thousand registered government buyers and 50.90 lakh sellers, from large conglomerates to MSMEs and

women Self Help groups. Currently, GeM has about 300 service categories and over ten thousand product categories.

### **The controversy over NAAC's system for assessing higher education**

- The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), which carries out quality checks or assessments of Indian Higher-level Educational Institutions (HEIs), courted controversy recently over the rating of the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda and allegations of bribery in the process.
- The NAAC, an autonomous body under the University Grants Commission (UGC), assesses and certifies HEIs with gradings as part of accreditation.
- Through a multi-layered process, a higher education institution learns whether it meets the standards of quality set by the evaluator in terms of curriculum, faculty, infrastructure, research, and other parameters. The ratings of institutions range from A++ to C. If an institution is graded D, it means it is not accredited.
- There are 1,043 universities and 42,343 colleges listed on the portal of the All India Survey on Higher Education.
- As per the latest data from June 21, there were 406 universities and 8,686 colleges that were NAAC-accredited.
- Among the states, Maharashtra accounts for the highest number of accredited colleges at 1,869 – more than twice as many as Karnataka's 914, the second highest. Tamil Nadu has the most accredited universities at 43.

### **Govt to set up panel to study status of Scheduled Castes converts to Christianity and Islam**

- Under Article 341 of the Constitution, the President may “specify the castes, races or tribes or parts of or groups within castes, races or tribes which shall...be deemed to be Scheduled Castes”.
- The first order under this provision was issued in 1950, and covered only Hindus. Following demands from the Sikh community, an order was issued in 1956, including Sikhs of Dalit origin among the beneficiaries of the SC quota. In 1990, the



government acceded to a similar demand from Buddhists of Dalit origin.

- Ranganath Misra Commission, which submitted its report in May 2007, recommended that SC status should be “completely de-linked...from religion and...Scheduled Castes [should be made] fully religion-neutral like...Scheduled Tribes”. Its recommendation was not accepted.

### **To curb use of chemical fertilisers, Govt to give nod to PM PRANAM**

- The proposed scheme intends to reduce the subsidy burden on chemical fertilisers, which is expected to increase to Rs 2.25 lakh crore in 2022-2023, which is 39% higher than the previous year's figure of Rs 1.62 lakh crore.
- The scheme will not have a separate budget and will be financed by the “savings of existing fertiliser subsidy” under schemes run by the Department of fertilisers.
- Further, 50% subsidy savings will be passed on as a grant to the state that saves the money and that 70% of the grant provided under the scheme can be used for asset creation related to technological adoption of alternate fertilisers and alternate fertiliser production units at village, block and district levels.
- The remaining 30% grant money can be used for incentivising farmers, panchayats, farmer producer organisations and self-help groups that are involved in the reduction of fertiliser use and awareness generation.

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### **Election Commission seeks limits on cash donations to political parties**

- In a letter to Law Minister Kiren Rijiju, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar has suggested some amendments in the Representation of the People Act to increase transparency and accountability.
- The poll body has proposed to decrease the limit of anonymous political donations from 20 thousand rupees to two thousand rupees and sought to restrict cash donations at 20 percent or at maximum of 20 crore rupees out of the total funds received by a party.
- The Commission has also suggested that every candidate should open a separate bank account for election purposes, route all expenses and receipts through this account and furnish these details in their account of election expenditure.
- Currently, maintaining a separate bank account for poll expenditure is part of instructions, but the poll panel wants it to become part of Conduct of Election Rules.
- The proposals are aimed at bringing reforms and transparency in donations received by political parties and also the expenditure incurred by candidates.

### **AIBD Unanimously Extends India's Presidency For One More Year**

- This was unanimously decided by the AIBD member countries at the two-day General Conference held in New Delhi. Currently, Chief Executive Officer of Prasar Bharati and Director General of Doordarshan Mayank Kumar Agrawal is the President of AIBD.
- The Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) was established in 1977.
- It is a unique regional inter-governmental organisation of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) in the field of electronic media development. AIBD currently has 26 countries as full members represented by 43 organizations and 52 affiliate members.

## **India and Egypt agree to identify expanding cooperation between their defence industries**

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held bilateral talks with his Egyptian counterpart General Mohamed Zaki in Cairo.
- Both sides discussed steps to strengthen defence ties and reached a consensus to enhance conduct of joint exercises and exchange of personnel for training especially in the field of counter-insurgency.
- They also signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of defence to pave the way for enhancing defence cooperation across all sectors of mutual interest.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also invited his Egyptian counterpart to the India-Africa Defence Dialogue and IOR Defence Ministers' Conclave scheduled to be held as part of 12th Defence Expo in Gandhinagar next month.

## **RBI removes Central Bank of India from Prompt Corrective Action framework**

- The Prompt Corrective Action norm is a supervisory tool and is imposed when a bank breaches certain regulatory thresholds on capital to risk weighted assets ratio (CRAR), net NPAs, and return on assets (RoA).
- The RBI imposed PCA norms on the bank in June 2017 due to its high net NPA and negative return of assets (RoA). After reviewing the performance of the Central Bank of India, RBI decided to remove the restrictions on the bank.
- The bank has provided a written commitment that it would comply with the norms of minimum regulatory capital, net NPA, and leverage ratio on an ongoing basis.

## **Congress mentions Indian Express investigation, hits out at Govt over ED 'misuse'**

- The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) is a law enforcement agency and economic intelligence agency responsible for enforcing economic laws and fighting economic crime in India. It is part of the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.

- The ED's aggression has been largely on account of its current Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra (since 2018) and his predecessor Karnal Singh (2015-18) leveraging the massive powers bestowed on the agency by the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.
- Unlike laws governing other agencies, particularly the CBI, the PMLA allows the ED to take cognizance of any offence under its wide-ranging schedule across the country, with or without the consent of state governments.
- While the National Investigation Agency (NIA) too has powers to take suo motu cognizance of offences across the country, the schedule of the NIA Act — that is, the types of offences that it can investigate — is limited to about a dozen offences.
- The schedule of the PMLA on the other hand, has increased from just six offences in 2002 — when the law was enacted — to 30 groups of offences encompassing over 147 provisions now.
- The ED's sweeping ambit extends from serious crimes such as terrorism to the hunting of wild animals, and from the infringement of copyright to false trademarks.

### **SECI celebrates 11th Foundation Day**

- Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd. (SECI) is a company of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, established to facilitate the implementation of the National Solar Mission (NSM).
- It is the only Central Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) dedicated to the solar energy sector.
- The company's mandate has been broadened to cover the entire renewable energy domain and the company will be renamed to Renewable Energy Corporation of India (RECI).
- The SECI was registered as Section 25 under the Companies Act, 1956 (now Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013) in 2011.

### **RBI flags concerns over digital lending apps**

- This included a spate of complaints regarding usurious interest rates, unethical recovery practices and data privacy issues and emphasised the need for the fintech industry to focus on

governance, business conduct, regulatory compliance and risk mitigation to ensure that customers were protected even as their needs were served.

- He said robust internal product and service assurance frameworks, together with fair and transparent governance, would go a long way to safeguard the interests of customers and ensure long-term sustainability of the fintech entities themselves.
- India's digital lending market has grown quickly and facilitated \$2.2 billion in digital loans in 2021-22, with startups attracting foreign backers and giving traditional banks a run for their money in the credit business.

### **Monsoon begins withdrawal from Rajasthan**

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that the system had begun retreating from parts of southwest Rajasthan and Kutch.
- The “normal” or average date of withdrawal from southwest Rajasthan was September 17.
- The withdrawal of the monsoon was based on meteorological conditions such as an anti-cyclonic circulation (dry air that is the opposite of a cyclone), the absence of rain in the past five days and the water vapour imagery indicating dry weather conditions over the region.
- The monsoon withdrawal is a long-drawn process and extends into mid-October, though the IMD considers September 30 to be the final day of the season over India. The rain after that is categorised as “post-monsoon” rainfall.
- The September rainfall so far has been 11% more than usual, following a trend in recent years that is seeing excess rainfall in a month that marks the waning of the monsoon. Most of the rain, however, has been in the southern peninsula and central India, which have seen 29% and 33% more rain than what is usual for these regions in September.

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### **How Ambedkar Circuit is good tourism and good politics for the BJP**

- The modalities — such as the date of journey, ticket price, number of passengers —are still in the works.
- The government had first proposed the Ambedkar Circuit, or Panchteerth, in 2016.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said the Panchteerth would include Janma Bhoomi, Ambedkar's birthplace in Madhya Pradesh's Mhow; Shiksha Bhoomi, the place in London where he stayed while studying in the UK; Deeksha Bhoomi in Nagpur where he embraced Buddhism; Mahaparinirvan Bhoomi or the place of his demise in Delhi; and Chaitya Bhoomi, the place of his cremation, in Mumbai.
- The idea is to attract tourists beyond the Dalit community, who mostly visit these places as a pilgrimage. The journey will include meals, ground transportation, and entry to the sites.
- The government had identified 15 tourist circuits under the Swadesh Darshan scheme in 2014-15.
- In terms of train collaboration, the Ramayana, Buddhist, and North East Circuits are already active, while Ambedkar will be fourth.

### **Supreme Court to live-stream its Constitution Bench proceedings from September 27**

- A full court meeting is attended by all judges of the court. The meeting, presided over by Chief Justice of India (CJI) U U Lalit, was held on September 20, at which the decision was taken unanimously.
- Senior Advocate Indira Jaising had written to the judges of the court earlier this month seeking live streaming of proceedings in matters of public and constitutional importance.
- Back in the 'Swapnil Tripathi' judgment, in September 2018, the Supreme Court had ruled that live telecast of court proceedings

was part of the right to access justice under Article 21 of the Constitution.

- Several of the country's High Courts already live-stream their proceedings through their YouTube channels. Last month, the Supreme Court live-streamed its proceedings for the first time.

### **Approach to death penalty: Why Supreme Court has decided to settle differences among judgments**

- Section 235 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) requires a judge to hear the accused after conviction on the question of sentence, and then pass sentence on him according to law.
- In 1980, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of capital punishment in 'Bachan Singh v State of Punjab' on the condition that the punishment will be awarded in the "rarest of the rare" cases.
- Crucially, the ruling also stressed that a separate sentencing hearing would be held, where a judge would be persuaded on why the death sentence need not be awarded.
- This position was reiterated in several subsequent rulings of the court, including in 'Mithu v State of Punjab', a 1982 ruling by a five-judge Bench that struck down mandatory death sentence as it falls foul of the right of an accused to be heard before sentencing.
- However, there are conflicting rulings on when that separate hearing is supposed to take place.
- At least three smaller Bench rulings have held that while a separate sentencing hearing is inviolable, they can be allowed on the same day as the conviction.

### **Plastic surgeon booked for tying stray dog to car, dragging it along road in Rajasthan**

- The doctor faces charges under Section 428 (mischief by killing or maiming animal) of the Indian Penal Code and Section 11 (treating animals cruelly) of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960.
- If convicted under the PCA Act and found to be a first-time offender, he can be punished with a fine of Rs 10 to Rs 50. If it is

found that this is not his first such crime within the past three years, the maximum punishment would be a fine between Rs 25 and Rs 100, a jail term of three months, or both.

- The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 defines cruelty to animals — including acts of overburdening or overworking it, not providing the animal food, water and shelter, mutilating or killing an animal, etc.
- The Act has been criticised for being 'speciesist' (the assumption that humans are a superior species deserving more rights), for its quantum of punishment being negligible, for not defining 'cruelty' adequately, and for slapping a flat punishment without any gradation of crimes.

### **Cabinet approves second tranche of PLI scheme to boost manufacturing of solar modules**

- The national programme on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules aims to build an ecosystem for manufacturing of high efficiency solar PV modules in India reducing import dependence in the area of Renewable Energy.
- It will strengthen the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative and generate employment.
- The Tranche-2 scheme of High Efficiency Solar PV Modules has been approved with an outlay of 19,500 crore rupees for achieving manufacturing capacity of Giga Watt scale.
- The aim is to build an ecosystem for manufacturing of high efficiency solar PV modules.
- About 65 thousand Mega Watt per annum manufacturing capacity of fully and partially integrated solar PV modules will be installed.

### **Govt signs MoU with Bank of Baroda, HDFC Bank to expand reach of SPARSH initiative**

- SPARSH is a web-based system for processing the pension claims and crediting the pension directly into the bank accounts of defence pensioners without any external intermediary.
- It has been designed to give Defence Pensioners a transparent view of their pension account, through an online portal which



captures and maintains a complete history of events and entitlements of the pensioner – right from the date of commencement of pension to the date of cessation of pension due to the last eligible beneficiary.

- This system is administered by the Defence Accounts Department through the Principal Controller of Defence Accounts (Pensions), Prayagraj and caters to all the three Services and allied organization.
- The system on roll-out is initially catering to the new retirees and subsequently is being extended to cover the existing defence pensioners.

### **Gujarat: PM Modi to virtually inaugurate National Conference of Environment Ministers today**

- Taking forward the spirit of cooperative federalism, Conference is being convened to create further synergy amongst the Central and State Governments in formulating better policies on environmental issues.
- The two day Conference being organised on 23rd and 24th September will have six thematic sessions with topics focusing on
  - LiFE- Lifestyle for Environment;
  - Combating Climate Change (Updating State Action Plans on Climate Change for Mitigation of Emissions and Adaptation to Climate Impacts) ;
  - PARIVESH (Single Window System for Integrated Green Clearances) ;
  - Forestry Management ;
  - Prevention and Control of Pollution; Wildlife Management ;
  - Plastics and Waste Management.

### **Indian Navy launches 2 Diving Support Vessels in Visakhapatnam**

- The Diving Support Vessels (DSVs) are first of the kind, ships indigenously designed and built at HSL for the Indian Navy.
- The vessels are 118.4 metres long, 22.8 metres at the broadest point and will have a displacement of 9,350 tons.

- These ships would be deployed for deep sea diving operations. Additionally, with Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) embarked, the DSVs are designed to undertake submarine rescue operations, in case requirement exists.
- Furthermore, these ships will be capable of sustained patrolling, conducting Search & Rescue operations and carrying out Helicopter Operations at high seas.

### **Cabinet approves modifications in scheme for development of semiconductors and display manufacturing ecosystem**

- These modifications are:
  - Fiscal support of 50% of Project Cost on pari-passu basis for all technology nodes under Scheme for Setting up of Semiconductor Fabs in India.
  - Fiscal support of 50% of Project Cost on pari-passu basis under Scheme for Setting up of Display Fabs.
  - Fiscal support of 50% of Capital Expenditure on pari-passu basis under Scheme for Setting up of Compound Semiconductors / Silicon Photonics / Sensors Fab and Semiconductor ATMP / OSAT facilities in India.  
Additionally, target technologies under the Scheme will include Discrete Semiconductor Fabs.
- Under modified programme, a uniform fiscal support of 50% of Project Cost shall be provided across all technology nodes for setting up of Semiconductor Fabs.
- Given the niche technology and nature of compound semiconductors and advanced packaging, the modified programme shall also provide fiscal support of 50% of Capital Expenditure in pari-passu mode for setting up of compound semiconductors / silicon photonics / sensors / Discrete semiconductors fabs and ATMP/OSAT.

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### **International conference on “Exploring Consciousness- From Non- Locality to Non- Duality**

- The conference is organized by India Foundation and NIMHANS and supported by Ministry of Ayush.
- The conference will bring together some of the most eminent researchers and inventors in the areas of physics, biology, neuroscience, artificial intelligence, cybernetics, quantum computing and allied fields as well as scholars and spiritual teachers of the major Indic Spiritual and psychological disciplines and doctrines.
- The Minister also inaugurated the Centre of Excellence project in the Department of Integrative Medicine, NIMHANS, Bengaluru as part of “AYURSWASTHYA YOJANA”, a flagship programme under Ministry of Ayush.
- The Centre of Excellence (CoE) will strengthen competencies of Ayush professionals in Education technology, Research & innovation and others.
- Main objectives of the CoE project at NIMHANS is to conduct clinical trials in four neuro-psychiatric disorders to establish efficacy, safety and proposed mechanism of Integrated Yoga and Ayurveda treatment approaches.

### **NCC, UNEP sign MoU to tackle plastic pollution**

- MoU was signed to tackle the issue of plastic pollution and achieve the universal goal of clean water bodies through Puneet Sagar Abhiyan and Tide Turners Plastic Challenge programme.
- It is aimed to synergise efforts toward engaging youth for promoting clean water bodies.
- The NCC had launched Puneet Sagar Abhiyan on 1st December last year. The aim of the campaign is to clean sea shores from plastic and other waste material and create awareness about the importance of cleanliness.

- Since the launch of Puneet Sagar Abhiyan, over 100 tonnes of plastic waste have been collected from nearly 1,900 locations by more than 12 lakh NCC cadets, alumni and volunteers.

### **SC appoints ex-judge Justice L Nageswara Rao for amending constitution of IOA**

- A bench headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud said the ex-top court judge would ensure a fair and development-oriented approach for the future of the Olympics in the country.
- The apex court asked Justice Rao to prepare a road map for amending the constitution and holding elections by 15 December 2022.

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- The Apex Court also gave its permission to Rajeev Mehta, who is currently the secretary general of IOA, and Adille Sumariwalla, vice president of IOA, to participate in the forthcoming meeting with the International Olympic Committee scheduled to be held on 27th
- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) on 8th September issued a final warning to IOA to resolve its governance issues and hold elections by December, failing which the world sports body will ban India.
- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) is the body responsible for selecting athletes to represent India at the Olympic Games, Asian Games and other international athletic meets.

### **Meeting of I2U2 Sherpas on the sidelines of UN General Assembly in New York**

- The I2U2 Group is a grouping of India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States.

- The group held its inaugural summit on July 14, 2022, in which Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid, and UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan participated.
- As an outcome of the summit, the leaders announced that the UAE will invest \$2 billion "to develop a series of integrated food parks across India."
- The group also agreed to proceed with "a hybrid renewable energy project in India's Gujarat State consisting of 300 megawatts (MW) of wind and solar capacity complemented by a battery energy storage system."
- The group's first joint statement, released on July 14, 2022, states that the countries aim to cooperate on "joint investments and new initiatives in water, energy, transportation, space, health, and food security."

### **Vice President to inaugurate 3rd edition of Lok Manthan programme at Srimanta Sankardeva Kalakshetra in Guwahati**

- The theme of this year's biennale is Lokparampara (Lok traditions) - and how lok traditions have kept our cultural consciousness intact and strengthened our feeling of National Selfhood.
- Lokmanthan is an event where artists, intellectuals, and academicians are drawn from different parts of the country converge and brainstorm on the questions that haunt the society.
- Besides, the three-day event will have discussions, seminars, cultural events and exhibitions which showcase the rich diversity of the nation.

### **The Supreme Court verdict on Haryana gurdwaras, and what it means for the Sikh community**

- The verdict has cleared the way for the Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (HSGMC) to control all gurdwaras in the state.
- The gurdwaras covered by the Sikh Gurdwaras Act, 1925 are spread over Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Union

Territory of Chandigarh, and are administered by Amritsar-based Shiromani Gurdwara Management Prabandhak Committee (SGPC).

- Until the Haryana Act came into force, the gurdwaras in Haryana were governed by the provisions of the Sikh Gurdwaras Act, 1925.
- The Haryana Sikh Gurdwaras (Management Act) was brought in based on a nearly two-decade old demand by a section of the Sikh community in Haryana to have a separate committee to manage gurdwaras in the state instead of SGPC.
- Upholding the validity of the Haryana Sikh Gurdwaras (Management Act), 2014, the Supreme Court said that since the affairs of the Sikh minority in the state are to be managed by the Sikhs alone, it cannot be said to be violative of any of the fundamental rights conferred under Articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution.

### **What is the draft Telecom Bill, and what changes it aims to bring**

- Through the Indian Telecommunication Bill, 2022, the Centre aims to consolidate and amend the existing laws governing the provision, development, expansion and operation of telecommunication services, telecom networks and infrastructure, in addition to assignment of spectrum.
- The draft Bill consolidates three separate acts that govern the telecommunications sector — Indian Telegraph Act 1885, Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act 1933, and The Telegraph Wires, (Unlawful Protection) Act 1950.
- One of the key changes is inclusion of new-age over-the-top communication services like WhatsApp, Signal and Telegram in the definition of telecommunication services.
- As per the draft law, providers of telecommunication services will be covered under the licensing regime, and will be subjected to similar rules as other telecom operators.

### **Defence Ministry signs contract with BrahMos Aerospace for dual-role Surface to Surface BrahMos missiles**

- Induction of these dual-role capable Missiles is going to significantly enhance the operational capability of Indian Navy fleet assets.
- BAPL is a Joint Venture between India and Russia making a crucial contribution to augment the new generation of Surface-to-Surface Missiles with enhanced range and dual role capability for land as well as anti-ship attacks.
- This contract is going to give further boost to indigenous production of critical weapon system and ammunition with active participation of indigenous industry.

### **NASA spacecraft DART is set to crash into asteroid.**

- The impact should be just enough to nudge the asteroid into a slightly tighter orbit around its companion space rock — demonstrating that if a killer asteroid ever heads our way, we'd stand a fighting chance of diverting it.
- The asteroid with the bull's-eye on it is Dimorphos, about 7 million miles (9.6 million kilometers) from Earth.
- It is actually the puny sidekick of a 2,500-foot (780-meter) asteroid named Didymos, Greek for twin.
- Discovered in 1996, Didymos is spinning so fast that scientists believe it flung off material that eventually formed a moonlet. Dimorphos — roughly 525 feet (160 meters) across — orbits its parent body at a distance of less than a mile (1.2 kilometers).

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### **Rajiv Bahl, M Srinivas appointed heads of ICMR, AIIMS**

- Rajiv Bahl, currently at the World Health Organisation, Geneva, was appointed Director-General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- M. Srinivas, Dean, ESIC Medical College and Hospital, Sanathnagar, Hyderabad was appointed Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi.

- All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, also known as AIIMS Delhi, is a globally acclaimed public medical research university and hospital based in New Delhi, India. The institute is governed by the AIIMS Act, 1956 and operates autonomously under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research, is one of the oldest and largest medical research bodies in the world. The ICMR is funded by the Government of India through the Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

### **In Odisha's Nayagarh, a data-driven solution to child marriage**

- From birth registration date to Aadhaar number, from family details to skill training, information of 48,642 adolescent girls can be found in registers named Aliva.
- Nayagarh, with a population of 9,62,789, has a skewed sex ratio at 855. Child marriages the district are still considered a part of their social life.
- Observing that child marriages are solemnised in the age group of 14-19 and dropouts among girls' students continued to be high, the district administration launched the Aliva programme in January this year.
- Anganwadi workers had been asked to identify every adolescent girl in their jurisdiction and keep tabs on them. There are 1,584 registers available in 1,584 Anganwadi centres of the district.

### **Quad foreign ministers meet on the sidelines of UNGA**

- Foreign Ministers of the Quad group of countries – India, the U.S., Australia, and Japan – met on the fringes of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to sign a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) partnership into effect.
- The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD), commonly known as the Quad, is a strategic security dialogue between Australia, India, Japan, and the United States that is maintained by talks between member countries.



- In a joint statement in March 2021, "The Spirit of the Quad," the Quad members described "a shared vision for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific."

### **Dogra monarch Maharaja Hari Singh's birthday celebrated with fervour in Jammu**

- The Lieutenant-Governor's (L-G) administration earlier this week announced a holiday on the birth anniversary of the Maharaja, who signed the Instrument of Accession with India in 1947, and later shifted outside J&K in 1949.
- Maharaja Sir Hari Singh (1895 – 1961) was the last ruling Maharaja of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir.
- He signed the Instrument of Accession on 26 October 1947, joining the whole of his princely state to the Dominion of India.
- Pressure from Nehru and Sardar Patel Hari compelled Singh to appoint his son and heir, Yuvraj (Crown Prince) Karan Singh, as Prince Regent of Jammu and Kashmir in 1949, although he remained the titular Maharaja of the state until 1952 when the monarchy was abolished by Nehru's government.

### **Sign Language Day celebration at 3200 places across India**

- International Day of Sign Languages (IDSL) is celebrated annually across the world on 23 September. This year's theme was "Sign Language Unite Us."
- Objective of this day is to protect the linguistic identity and cultural diversity of all deaf people and other sign language users.
- ISLRTC launched the Indian Sign Language Dictionary (ISL Dictionary) in 2021 which is being used by deaf people, special teachers, parents of deaf children, linguists etc.
- To make this ISL dictionary easily accessible, ISLRTC along with Federal Institute of Science and Technology (FISAT), Kerala has developed an Indian Sign Language Dictionary APP known as 'Sign Learn'.

### **The case to decide on excommunication within Dawoodi Bohras**

- The Dawoodi Bohras are members of the Muslim community's Shia sect.
- Their leader is known as the Al-Dai-Al-Mutlaq. For over 400 years, the leader has been based out of India, including the current and the 53rd leader, His Holiness Dr Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin.
- Around 1 million members of the community are spread across the world.
- The leader of the community is recognised by the members as having the right to excommunicate its members. In practice, being excommunicated includes not being allowed to access a mosque belonging to the community or a burial dedicated to the community.

#### Bombay Prevention of Excommunication Act, 1949

- It was enacted to stop the practice of excommunication prevalent in certain communities, as it led to the deprivation of legitimate rights and privileges of its members and in “keeping with the spirit of changing times and in public interest”.
- The 51st leader of the community challenged the constitutional validity of the act in 1962, stating it violated fundamental rights guaranteed in Constitution under Article 25 and Article 26.
- The SC held in 1962 held that the power to excommunicate is an essential part of the community. Its objective is to enforce discipline and preserve the denomination, not to punish.

#### **Carbon dating, allowed by court in the Gyanvapi case, explained**

- Carbon dating is a widely-used method applied to establish the age of organic material, things that were once living. Living things have carbon in them in various forms. The dating method makes use of the fact that a particular isotope of carbon called C-14, with an atomic mass of 14, is radioactive, and decays at a rate that is well known.
- Carbon-14 is radioactive and reduces to one-half of itself in about 5,730 years. This is what is known as its ‘half-life’.

- Because plants and animals get their carbon from the atmosphere, they too acquire carbon-12 and carbon-14 isotopes in roughly the same proportion as is available in the atmosphere.
- So, after a plant or animal dies, the ratio of carbon-12 to carbon-14 in the body, or its remains, begins to change. This change can be measured and can be used to deduce the approximate time when the organism died.

### **What banking system liquidity going into 'deficit mode' means**

- Liquidity in the banking system refers to readily available cash that banks need to meet short-term business and financial needs.
- On a given day, if the banking system is a net borrower from the RBI under Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF), the system liquidity can be said to be in deficit and if the banking system is a net lender to the RBI, the system liquidity can be said to be in surplus.
- The LAF refers to the RBI's operations through which it injects or absorbs liquidity into or from the banking system.
- Economists say that there are various factors over the last few months that have led to the current situation. If an improvement in demand for credit has led to the same, the recent advance tax outflow, which is a quarterly phenomenon, has further aggravated the situation.
- Besides, there is the continuous intervention of the RBI to stem the fall in the rupee against the US dollar.

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### **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission crosses 1 crore digitally linked health records**

- Meanwhile, Mansukh Mandaviya will inaugurate "Arogya Manthan 2022" to celebrate four years of the implementation of Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) and one year of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) on September 25.
- The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) aims to develop the backbone necessary to support the integrated digital health infrastructure of the country. It will bridge the existing gap amongst different stakeholders of the Healthcare ecosystem through digital highways.
- On February 26, 2022, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the national rollout of the Central Sector Scheme, the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with a budget of Rs 1,600 crores for five years.
- The National Health Authority (NHA) will be the implementing agency of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

### **At DefExpo 2022, India-Africa defence dialogue on the anvil**

- A separate Indian Ocean Region plus (IOR+) conclave with participation of approximately 40 countries is also on the anvil, the Defence Ministry said.
- The Expo, earlier scheduled to be held in March, was postponed due to "logistical challenges" the Ministry had said.
- For DefExpo 2022, Indian companies, Indian subsidiaries of foreign Original Equipment Manufacturers, Division of company registered in India, exhibitor having joint venture with an Indian company will be considered as Indian participants.
- The theme of DefExpo 2022 is 'Path to Pride' and the aim is to showcase the might of the domestic defence industry, which is now powering 'Make in India, Make for the World' resolve of the Government and the nation at large.

### **Anti-child-sexual-abuse drive**

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) conducted searches at 59 locations across 20 States and one Union Territory, as part of a pan-India drive against the circulation and sharing of child sexual abuse material.
- The operation code-named “Megh Chakra” was carried out following the inputs received from the Interpol’s Singapore special unit based on the information received from the authorities in New Zealand.
- Last November, the agency had launched a similar exercise code-named “Operation Carbon”, searching the premises of suspects in 13 States and one Union Territory.
- The previous operation was conducted at 76 locations. The persons named in the FIRs were booked under the relevant provisions of the IPC and the Information Technology Act, for allegedly being part of the syndicates that uploaded, circulated, sold and viewed such material.
- The CBI had later decided to send requests to several countries for sharing and gathering information under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLATs) on those involved in the racket.

### **US terminates Afghanistan’s designation as major non-NATO ally**

- In 2012, the United States named Afghanistan a major non-NATO (MNNA) ally, which cleared the way for the two countries to maintain a defence and economic relationship.
- The designation gave several facilities and concessions to Afghanistan in terms of defence and security-related assistance and equipment.
- The change in Afghanistan’s status follows Biden’s withdrawal of U.S. troops from the country last year, ending nearly 20 years of war.

### **Researchers have given new insights on the ‘coffee-ring effect’.**

- For about two decades now, the ‘coffee ring effect’ has been known as when a drop of spilt coffee dries up, the outermost

edge of the dried drop is a little darker than the centre, forming a darker 'ring'.

- This is caused by the outward drift of suspended coffee particles from the centre, causing a denser, darkened rim.
- Now, researchers from Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, have shown that after reaching the rim, as the drop dries, some of the particles undergo an inward drift too.
- This research has applications in agriculture, forensic science and even disease diagnosis. The present work has been published in the journal, Soft Matter.

### **BA.2.75 emerges as major sublineage in Maharashtra**

- Since the first case of SARS-CoV-2 in March 2020, India has witnessed three pandemic waves. Delta (B.1.617.2) and its sublineages caused the second wave, and Omicron (B.1.1.529) and its sublineages (BA.1 and BA.2) are driving the third wave.
- After the waning of the third wave, India saw a surge in COVID-19 cases from May 2022. On sequencing, these variants were characterised as BA.2 by Pangolin.
- However, the predominance of BA.2 after the waning of the third COVID wave was unexplainable. Subsequently, the Indian isolates of BA.2 were further classified into sub-lineages BA.2.74, BA.2.75 and BA.2.76.
- Since their designation, these new sub-lineages have already spread to over 40 countries.
- They have acquired additional mutations in their spike protein compared to BA.2. These added mutations, over and above those of the parental BA.2 variant, have raised concerns about their impact on viral pathogenicity, transmissibility, and immune evasion properties of the new variants.

### **Minister Shri G. Kishan Reddy launches Virtual Conference 'SymphoNE' to boost Tourism Sector in North East India.**

- SymphoNE is the start of a series of dialogues on North Eastern Region's Development Conference comprised of a broad range of Policy Thinkers, Stakeholders & Influencers with the aim to boost Tourism Sector in North Eastern Region.

- The Virtual Conference 'SymphoNE' being organized on 24th & 27th September 2022 by Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region on the occasion of World Tourism Day.
- This two day conference will aim to create a roadmap to showcase the unexplored beauty of North East India & boost the tourism Sector in North Eastern Region.
- SymphoNE aims to develop one-stop solution to eliminate all obstacles that are being faced by the tourists, and the tour operators while carrying out the operations for the visitors.

### **President Murmu presents National Service Scheme Awards for the year 2020-21**

- A total of forty-two awards were given today. Two universities, ten NSS units, their programme officers, and 30 NSS volunteers received the awards.
- The Department of Youth Affairs of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports confers every year the National Service Scheme Award. Awards are conferred to recognise and reward outstanding contributions towards voluntary community service with a view to further promoting NSS in the country.
- At present, NSS has about 40 lakh volunteers on its rolls spread over the country.

### **Ninth Session of Governing Body of the ITPGRFA concludes**

- The six-day GB9 session of ITPGRFA was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar in New Delhi on September 19, 2022.
- In a historical first, Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII) contributed Rs 20 lakhs (~USD 25,000) to the Benefit-Sharing Fund (BSF) as the first collective contribution from Indian seed sector, during the GB-9 meetings. The BSF is the funding mechanism of the Treaty used for support of capacity building, Conservation and sustainable use projects among the Contracting Parties of the Treaty.
- Dr Sunil Archak, ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, India, was appointed as Co-Chair, along with Dr Michael Ryan, Department of Agriculture, Canberra, Australia,

on the Working Group on 'Enhancement of the Multilateral System (MLS)'.

### **India to get its first flex-fuel car by Toyota tomorrow**

- A flex fuel, or flexible fuel, vehicle has an internal combustion engine (ICE), but unlike a regular petrol or diesel vehicle, this can run on more than one type of fuel, or even a mixture of fuels.
- The most common versions use a blend of petrol and ethanol or methanol, but these engines are also equipped to run on 100 per cent petrol or ethanol as well.
- This is made possible by equipping the engine with a fuel mix sensor and an engine control module (ECM) programming that senses and automatically adjusts for any ratio of designated fuels.
- The most important benefit is that the use of ethanol blending sharply lowers harmful pollutants such as carbon monoxide, sulphur, and carbon and nitrogen oxides. Another obvious benefit is that blending will help cutback on oil imports for fueling vehicles.
- But there are problems: a flex fuel car typically takes a small hit on fuel efficiency when using ethanol for motive power, ranging from between 4 per cent and 8 per cent.
- So, while fuel economy is generally lower with increased levels of ethanol (engines are optimised for petrol), on the flip side, many flex fuel vehicles have improved acceleration performance when operating on higher ethanol blends.

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### **Su-30 MKI**

- Having taken delivery of all Su-30MKI fighter aircraft and the deal for contracting 12 more Su-30s meant to replace those lost over the years deferred against the backdrop of the Ukraine war,



the Indian Air Force (IAF) is working to speed up the long-delayed upgrade of these frontline fighters.

- The Sukhoi Su-30MKI is a twinjet multirole air superiority fighter developed by Russia's Sukhoi and built under licence by India's Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the Indian Air Force (IAF). A variant of the Sukhoi Su-30, it is a heavy, all-weather, long-range fighter.
- The IAF is looking to add new weapons, avionics and sensors and engines on the Su-30MKIs to keep them contemporary for the next few decades.
- India had procured 272 Su-30s from Russia, a majority of which were assembled by HAL and around 11 jets were lost. The IAF has 12 Su-30 squadrons in service, and 40-50 aircraft are at HAL for overhaul repairs, officials said.

### **Election Commission to push for internal democracy within parties**

- Though the Representation of the People Act does not mandate internal elections, the EC's guidelines for parties applying for registration under the Act state that the applicant should submit a copy of the party constitution.
- "There should be a specific provision in the Constitution/rules and regulations/memorandum of the party regarding organisational elections at different levels and the periodicity of such elections and terms of office of the office-bearers of the party (sic)," the EC guidelines say.
- A top official said the EC would nudge parties to follow the internal democracy commitments. However, the Commission does not have the power to deregister parties that fail to comply with the rules. Though it has asked the Law Ministry for the power to deregister political parties in the past, the proposal has not been implemented so far.
- The focus on internal democracy of parties comes after the EC's extensive drive since May to de-list RUPPs that had not kept the Commission informed of change in address, PAN, names of office-bearers and other details.

### **Non-oil exports to UAE up 14% after trade deal**

- India's global non-petroleum exports during the same period grew by just 3% on a year-on-year basis, the Ministry said, seeking to emphasise the much higher growth in such exports to the UAE which were at \$5.92 billion compared to \$5.17 billion a year ago.
- Excluding petroleum-related imports, the imports from the UAE in the three months grew by 1% to \$5.61 billion.
- The sharpest jump in Indian exports to UAE was seen in sugar (up 237%), cereals (161%), vegetables (82%), inorganic chemicals (74%) and electrical machinery and equipment (67%).
- The Ministry said it expects Indian exports to increase further in the coming months with increasing use of the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) by exporters and a series of trade promotion events planned in the UAE.

### **ICC makes changes to Playing Conditions**

- The changes will come into effect on October 1.
- The ICC Chief Executives' Committee has ratified the recommendations from the Men's Cricket Committee, led by former Indian captain Sourav Ganguly.
- The practice of 'mankading'— a batter being run out by the bowler while backing up too far from the non-striking end — has been destigmatised. It has been moved from the section on Unfair Play to the one on Run Out.
- Hybrid pitches which are made of natural grass (predominantly) and artificial fibre could now be used for ODIs and T20Is, for both men and women if both the rival teams agree.
- Other changes include the banning of the use of saliva to polish the ball. The ban had already been in place, as a temporary measure, following the COVID-19 outbreak.

### **World's largest encyclopaedic sanskrit dictionary**

- The year of completion of this gigantic dictionary project, which commenced in 1948, remains unknown. But the final word

count is estimated to touch 20 lakh and would be the world's largest dictionary of Sanskrit.

- Linguist and Sanskrit Professor SM Katre, founder of India's oldest Department of Modern Linguistics in Deccan College, conceived this unique project in 1948 and served as the dictionary's first General Editor. It was later developed by Prof. AM Ghatage.
- The Project, KoshaSHRI, under which the website for online access of the Dictionary will be made, also consists of a customised software which is presently under testing and development.

### **Bathukamma, floral festival begins across state**

- This festival is celebrated for nine days during Durga Navratri in Telangana.
- 'Bathuku' means the life and Amma means the Mother. On a whole, it is a festival to worship the 'Life Giver', the universal energy - Goddess Shakti.
- Bathukamma is made up of seven concentric layers of flowers that are arranged in a pyramid shape. The arrangement signifies the mother goddess.
- As it is a festival of women, they dance around it singing Bathukamma Paatalu (i.e. songs praising Bathukamma).
- The Goddess is worshipped for the nine days and on the tenth day of the celebration, the goddess is immersed in the local waters after performing the rituals.

### **PM extends greetings to Jewish people around the world**

- Rosh HaShanah is the Jewish New Year. The biblical name for this holiday is Yom Teruah, literally "day of shouting or blasting."
- It is the first of the Jewish High Holy Days that occur in the late summer/early autumn of the Northern Hemisphere. The High Holy Days comprise of Rosh HaShanah Yom Kippur, Pesach, (Passover), and Sukkot.

- Rosh Hashanah customs include sounding the shofar, as prescribed in the Torah, following the prescription of the Hebrew Bible to "raise a noise" on Yom Teruah.

**MoHUA launched Swachh Toycathon, a unique competition to make toys from waste.**

- The competition will be open to individuals and groups to bring forth innovation in toy designs using dry waste.
- It will focus on efficient designs that can be replicated at a larger scale, and toys that comply with minimum safety standards.
- The competition will be hosted on MyGov's innovate India portal. Center for Creative Learning, IIT Gandhinagar is the knowledge partner for the initiative.
- It was introduced to promote the Indian toy industry including traditional handicrafts and handmade toys with the objective of establishing India as a global Toy hub.
- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade along with 14 Ministries of Central Government is currently implementing various aspects of the National Action Plan for Toys.

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**Govt commits Rs. 7,385 cr under Fund of Funds for Startup India Investment**

- These AIFs in turn have invested Rs. 11,206 crore in 720 startups. FFS has been playing a monumental role in mobilizing domestic capital in Indian startup ecosystem.
- FFS was announced with a corpus of Rs. 10,000 crore. The corpus is to be built up over 14th and 15th Finance Commission Cycles (FY 2016-2020 and FY 2021-2025) through budgetary support by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India.

- Under FFS, support is extended to SEBI registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), which in turn invest in startups.
- Furthermore, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) which is responsible for operationalising the Scheme has undertaken a series of reforms recently to expedite the drawdowns to enable AIFs assisted under FFS to avail accelerated drawdowns.

### **Foreign trade policy extended by six months amid global headwinds**

- The reason behind the development is currency volatility and global uncertainty. The ministry said, the geo-political situation is not suitable for long-term foreign trade policy.
- Earlier, the government had extended the due date for the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 to September 30, 2022. Currently, fears of a recession in major economies like the US and Europe have escalated a panic among investors.
- Foreign Trade Policy provides a framework for increasing exports of goods and services as well as generation of employment and increasing value addition in the country. It focuses to support both the manufacturing and services sectors, with a special emphasis on improving the ease of doing business.
- Earlier this month, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal held a meeting that focused on export target setting, the new Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) (2022-27), and the strategies and measures to take forward domestic manufacturing and exports.

### **Indigenously-developed aviation fuel AVGAS 100 LL launched**

- The launch event hosted by Indian Oil at Hindan Airforce Station witnessed participation by senior officials from Indian Airforce, senior officials from MoPNG and MoCA and officials from Flying Training Organizations (FTOs).
- At present AVGAS 100 LL is completely imported product. The domestic production of AVGAS 100 LL produced by Indian Oil at its Gujarat Refinery will make flying training more affordable in India.

- This product which fuels the aircraft operated by FTOs and Defense forces, is being imported for decades by India. Indian Oil's R&D, Refineries and Marketing teams have achieved this feat of indigenous production and have offered price advantage to the industry.
- AV GAS 100 LL produced by IndianOil's flagship refinery at Vadodara has been tested and certified by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the statutory body of the Government of India to regulate civil aviation in India.
- It is a higher-octane Aviation fuel meeting the product specifications with superior performance quality standards, as compared to imported grades.

### **Ministry of Rural Development developed "JALDOOT App"**

- Ministry of Rural Development has developed "JALDOOT App" that will be used across the country to capture the water level of selected wells in a village.
- The Jaldoot app will enable Gram Rojgar Sahayak (GRS) to measure the water level of selected wells twice a year (pre-monsoon and post-monsoon).
- In every village, adequate number of measurement locations (2-3) shall need to be selected. These will be representative of the ground water level in that village.
- The app will facilitate panchayats with robust data, which can be further used for better planning of works.
- The ground water data could be utilised as part of the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) and Mahatma Gandhi NREGA planning exercises. Further, the data can also be used for different kinds of research and other purposes.

### **Mukul Rohatgi declines Centre's offer to be next Attorney General of India**

- The Constitution of India places the post of the A-G on a special footing. The A-G is the Government of India's first law officer, and has the right of audience in all courts of the country.
- Article 76(2) of the Constitution says "it shall be the duty of the Attorney-General to give advice to the Government of India upon

such legal matters, and to perform such other duties of a legal character, as may from time to time be referred or assigned to him by the President”.

- The A-G is also supposed to “discharge the functions conferred on him by or under this Constitution or any other law for the time being in force”.
- Under Article 88, the “Attorney-General of India shall have the right to speak in, and otherwise to take part in the proceedings of, either House, any joint sitting of the Houses, and any committee of Parliament of which he may be named a member”.
- However, he “shall not by virtue of this article be entitled to vote” in the House.
- Under Article 76(1), the A-G is appointed by the President from among persons who are “qualified to be appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court”. Article 76(4) says “the Attorney-General shall hold office during the pleasure of the President, and shall receive such remuneration as the President may determine.”

## **Surjapuri and Bajjika dialects**

### **Surjapuri**

- Surjapuri is spoken mainly in Kishanganj and other parts of Seemanchal in northeastern Bihar, including the districts of Katihar, Purnia and Araria. The dialect, a mix of Bangla, Urdu, and Hindi, is also spoken in contiguous parts of West Bengal.
- The name Surjapuri comes from Surjapur pargana, which no longer exists. But there is a toll plaza called Surjapur between Purnia and Kishanganj.

### **Bajjika**

- Bajjika, one of five dialects spoken in Bihar, is a mix of Hindi and Maithili, and is spoken mainly in Vaishali, Muzaffarpur, and parts of Sitamarhi, Sheohar and Samastipur. Bajjika is not as well known as other dialects such as Bhojpuri and Maithili.

### **Cheetah mitras**

- One way the government is trying to smoothen the settling in of the cheetahs in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno national park is through the medium of "cheetah mitras" or 'cheetah friends'.
- Cheetah mitras have mainly been involved by the government to familiarise the local populations with the big cats and minimise potential conflicts. As the cheetahs have been brought to Kuno, the nearby villages might be unaware of the changes that can come about with the new animal being introduced.
- To make the local population understand more about the cheetah and its characteristics, forest officials have trained around 400 cheetah mitras from 51 villages, including school teachers, village headmen and patwaris
- Along with informing the villagers, keeping the big cats safe from poachers will be an important task. Hunting was why the Asiatic cheetah went extinct in India in 1952.

### **India's Push For Home-Grown Navigation System Jolts Mobile Firms**

- In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's drive for self-reliance, India has over the years expanded the use of its regional navigation satellite system called NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation).
- The Union government wants to reduce dependence on foreign systems, including the widely used U.S. Global Positioning System (GPS), and says NavIC provides more accurate domestic navigation and that its use would benefit the economy.
- China, the European Union, Japan and Russia have their own global or regional navigation systems to rival GPS. Operational since 2018, NavIC's uptake is minimal; it is mandated in public vehicle location trackers, for example.
- The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), with an operational name of NavIC, is an autonomous regional satellite navigation system that provides accurate real-time positioning and timing services.
- It covers India and a region extending 1,500 km around it, with plans for further extension.



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**Actress Asha Parekh will be honoured with Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year 2020.**

- Asha Parekh is a renowned film actress, director and producer and an accomplished Indian classical dancer. Ms. Parekh is also a winner of Padma Shri, which was awarded to her in 1992.
- She has also served as the head of Central Board for Film Certification from 1998-2001.
- The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is India's highest award in the field of cinema.
- It is presented annually at the National Film Awards ceremony by the Directorate of Film Festivals, an organisation set up by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- The recipient is honoured for their "outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema". The award comprises a Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus) medallion, a shawl, and a cash prize of ₹ 1,000,000.
- The award was introduced by the Government of India to commemorate Dadasaheb Phalke's contribution to Indian cinema, who is popularly known as and often regarded as "the father of Indian cinema".

**MoFPI jointly launches Convergence Portal between AIF, PMFME scheme & PMKSY**

- This launch will prove to be very important for the Food Processing Enterprises of the country.
- The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) - a medium to long-term debt financing facility started on 08 July 2020 for the creation of post-harvest management infrastructure and building of community farming assets. Benefits under the scheme include 3% interest subvention and credit guarantee support.
- Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) launched a centrally sponsored PPMFME scheme on June 29th, 2020 as a

part of “Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan” to enhance the competitiveness of individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized segment & promote the formalization of this sector.

- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojna is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries envisaged as a comprehensive package that will result in the creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.

### **Hurricane Ian makes landfall over western Cuba, with Florida in its sights**

- A hurricane is a type of storm called a tropical cyclone, which forms over tropical or subtropical waters.
- A tropical cyclone is a rotating low-pressure weather system that has organized thunderstorms but no fronts (a boundary separating two air masses of different densities).
- Tropical cyclones with maximum sustained surface winds of less than 39 miles per hour (mph) are called tropical depressions. Those with maximum sustained winds of 39 mph or higher are called tropical storms.
- When a storm's maximum sustained winds reach 74 mph, it is called a hurricane.
- Hurricanes originate in the Atlantic basin, which includes the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico, the eastern North Pacific Ocean, and, less frequently, the central North Pacific Ocean.
- "Hurricane Season" begins on June 1 and ends on November 30, although hurricanes can, and have, occurred outside of this time frame.

### **Centre bans PFI and its associates for 5 years**

- Union Home Ministry said the PFI and its associates and affiliates including Rehab India Foundation, Campus Front of India, All India Imams Council, National Confederation of Human Rights Organization, National Women's Front, and Rehab Foundation, Kerala have been involved in the violent

terrorist activities with an intent to create a reign of terror in the country.

- If there is no immediate curb of unlawful activities of the PFI and related fronts, they will use this opportunity to continue its subversive activities thereby disturbing public order and undermining the constitutional setup of the country.
- Recently, the National Investigation Agency, Enforcement Directorate, and State Police carried out a joint operation at premises linked to PFI in several states. Several PFI leaders and functionaries were arrested in the raids.

### **PM: Chandigarh airport to be named after Bhagat Singh**

- The decision has been taken just days before the iconic freedom fighter's birth anniversary, which falls on September 28. Born on September 28, 1907, in pre-partition Punjab's Banga, Bhagat Singh was a charismatic revolutionary freedom fighter.
- The massacre of Jallianwala Bagh deeply impacted Bhagat Singh. At a young age, he decided to dedicate his life to the country.
- He joined the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association. Bhagat Singh was also part of the Young Revolutionary Movement and supported the violent overthrow of the British Government in India.
- Bhagat Singh and his associates threw low-grade explosives in the Central Legislative Assembly. The intention behind the bombings was not to injure anyone but to get arrested so that they take their cause for India's freedom to the public.
- Bhagat Singh was executed by British Empire on March 23, 1931, along with his friends Rajguru and Sukhdev.

### **Successful Flight Tests of Very Short Range Air Defence**

- The test flight was conducted at the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha.
- The Very Short Range Air Defence System is a Man Portable Air Defence System, designed and developed by DRDO in collaboration with Indian industry partners.

- The missile is designed to neutralize low-altitude aerial threats at short ranges. The design of the missile including the launcher has been highly optimized to ensure easy portability.

### **Swedish defence firm Saab plans to manufacture Carl-Gustaf M4 weapon in India**

- The manufacturing would be done by a new fully SAAB-owned subsidiary, Saab FFV India Pvt. Ltd. This is the first time, SAAB will be setting up a manufacturing facility for this outside Sweden.
- The technology will be transferred to India. The first product will roll out in 2024.
- The Army has been using the iconic Carl-Gustaf since 1976 and currently operates the Mk2 and Mk3 versions.

### **In a first, Supreme Court live-streams Constitution Bench proceedings**

- Statistics show that more than eight lakh viewers watched the proceedings before the three Constitution Benches.
- Live-streaming has become a reality nearly four years after the court's Swapnil Tripathi judgment of 2018. The judgment had upheld the plea for live-streaming of its proceedings.
- The court had said live-streaming would “virtually” expand the court beyond the four walls of the courtroom. “Live-streaming of court proceedings has the potential of throwing up an option to the public to witness live court proceedings,” the court had said.

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### **Indian fertilizer companies sign MoU with Canpotex**

- Potash, which is source of Potassium, is used both for direct application as MOP as well as in combination with 'N' & 'P' nutrients in NPK fertilizers.

- India meets 100% of its Potash requirement through imports. The country imports approximately 40 LMT MOP annually.
- Canpotex is a joint venture between leading fertiliser players, Mosaic and Nutrien, and markets Potash being produced at Saskatchewan region in Canada.
- It is amongst the largest suppliers of Potash globally, exporting around 130 LMT of product annually to more than 40 countries and has been one of the suppliers to India.

### **Rs 600-crore redevelopment plan for Ujjain's Mahakaleshwar temple**

- Mahakal Maharaj Mandir Parisar Vistar Yojna is a plan for the expansion, beautification, and decongestion of the Mahakaleshwar temple and its adjoining area in Ujjain district.
- Under the plan, the Mahakaleshwar temple premises of around 2.82 hectares is being increased to 47 hectares, which will be developed in two phases by the Ujjain district administration. This will include the 17 hectares of Rudrasagar lake.
- The project is expected to increase annual footfall in the city from the current 1.50 crore to nearly three crore.

### **Mahakaleshwar Temple**

- Mahakaleshwar, which means the 'Lord of time', refers to Lord Shiva. As per Hindu mythology, the temple was constructed by Lord Brahma and is presently located alongside the holy river Kshipra.
- Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga in Ujjain is one of the 12 jyotirlingas considered the most sacred abodes of Shiva.
- The temple's Mahakal Lingam is believed to be Swayambhu (self-manifested) and unlike any other jyotirlingas in the country, the idol of Mahakaleshwar faces south.

### **Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports Shri Anurag Singh Thakur to launch nationwide month-long Clean India 2.0 Programme**

- The programme is being organised in all the villages across the country through the network of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan

(NYKS), affiliated Youth Clubs & National Service Scheme Affiliated Institutions.

- This month-long nationwide programme will be launched to collect waste material mainly single-use plastic and create awareness among people.
- One crore kilogram of waste material including plastic and e-waste will be collected and disposed off with the support and voluntary participation of citizens.
- Hotspots for waste collection will be Tourist Places, Educational Institutes, Bus Stand/Railway Stations and the vicinity, National Highways, Historical and heritage buildings, religious places & surroundings, Hospitals and Water Resource etc.

### **India, Netherlands formalize bilateral Fast-Track Mechanism between both countries**

- The Joint statement aims to facilitate a platform for the Dutch companies operating in India, for faster resolution of investment cases.
- It is expected that the mechanism will strengthen and assist bilateral efforts to increase mutual investment activities, and also support and develop business cooperation between companies in both countries.
- Commerce and Industry Ministry said, the Netherlands is the fourth largest foreign direct investor in India. The cumulative flow of FDI from the Netherlands to India reached around 42.3 billion US dollars between April 2000 and June 2022.

### **Senior advocate R Venkataramani has been appointed as the new Attorney General of India.**

- The Ministry of Law and Justice in a notification said, the President has appointed Mr Venkataramani as the new Attorney General for a period of three years.
- His appointment comes just days after senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi declined the government's offer to become the next AG.
- Mr Rohtagi had earlier served the post for three years and stepped down in June 2017. Mr Venugopal succeeded him and was appointed for a three-year term.

- Since 2020, Mr. Venugopal had been given two one-year extensions at his requests. However, in June, Mr. Venugopal requested the Law Ministry not to extend his tenure beyond three months because of his advanced age.

### **India is the first country with a cooling action plan**

- Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav has said that India is the first country with a cooling action plan based on energy efficiency and thermal comfort. He stated this while addressing the Ministerial Roundtable for Green Economy at the World Green Economy Summit at the World Trade Center in Dubai.
- reduce cooling demand across sectors by 20% to 25% by 2037-38,
- reduce refrigerant demand by 25% to 30% by 2037-38,
- Reduce cooling energy requirements by 25% to 40% by 2037-38,
- recognize “cooling and related areas” as a thrust area of research under national S&T Programme,
- training and certification of 100,000 servicing sector technicians by 2022-23, synergizing with Skill India Mission.
- Thermal comfort for all – provision for cooling for EWS and LIG housing,
- Sustainable cooling – low GHG emissions related to cooling,
- Doubling Farmers Income – better cold chain infrastructure – better value of produce to farmers, less wastage of produce,
- Robust R&D on alternative cooling technologies – to provide push to innovation in cooling sector.

### **10000-crore plan to modernise three major railway stations**

- With the redevelopment, expected to be completed in 2.5 to 3.5 years, passengers will be able to enjoy facilities such as food court, waiting lounge, playing area for children, place to shop local products, proper illumination and lifts/escalators/travelators, among other facilities.
- The stations, which will make use of green building techniques with solar energy, water conservation/recycling and improved

tree cover, will be integrated with other modes of transportation such as metro and bus.

- The government would be funding the redevelopment project so as to not put any extra monetary burden on passengers. Overall, the government is currently working on redevelopment of 199 stations, of which tenders have been issued for redevelopment of 47 stations.

### **Cabinet clears MoU with Bangladesh on river water withdrawal**

- The Union Cabinet chaired has given its ex-post facto approval for a MoU between the Government of India and Bangladesh on withdrawal of upto 153 cusecs of water each by India and Bangladesh from common border river Koshiyara.
- The Koshiyara River is a distributary river in Bangladesh and Assam, India.
- It forms on the India-Bangladesh border as a branch of the Barak River, when the Barak separates into the Koshiyara and Surma.
- The waters that eventually form the Koshiyara originate in the uplands of the state of Assam and pick up tributaries from Nagaland and Manipur.

### **Cabinet extends PMGKAY scheme to benefit 80 crore beneficiaries**

- Under this welfare scheme, 5 kg of food grain per person per month is provided free of cost for all the beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) [Antodaya Anna Yojana & Priority Households] including those covered under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- Financial implication for the Government of India has been about 3.45 Lakh Crore upto Phase-VI of PMGKAY.
- With the additional expenditure of about Rs. 44,762 Crore for Phase-VII of this scheme, the overall expenditure of PMGKAY will be about Rs. 3.91 lakh crore for all the phases.
- So far, PMGKAY has been in operation for 25 months as under:
  - Phase I and II ( 8 months) : April'20 to Nov.'20
  - Phase-III to V (11 months) : May'21 to March'22
  - Phase-VI ( 6 months) : April'22 to Sept.'22



## **Lt General Anil Chauhan (retired) appointed next Chief of Defence Staff**

- Lt Gen Chauhan will also function as Secretary, Department of Military Affairs with effect from the date of his assumption of charge. In a career spanning over nearly 40 years, Lt Gen Anil Chauhan had held several command, staff and instrumental appointments and had extensive experience in counter-insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir and North-East India.
- The post of Chief of Defence Staff has been lying vacant since General Bipin Rawat's death in a helicopter crash on 8th December last year.
- The Chief of Defence Staff of the Indian Armed Forces (CDS) is the military head and permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) of the Indian Armed Forces.
- The Chief of Defence Staff is the highest-ranking uniformed officer on active duty in the Indian military and chief military adviser to the Minister of Defence. The Chief also heads the Department of Military Affairs.

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## **Supreme Court axes 51-year-old curb, single women get equal abortion rights**

- The judgment came in an appeal by a person who wanted to terminate her pregnancy before her term completed 24 weeks.
- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971 prohibits unmarried women who are between 20 and 24 weeks' pregnant to abort with the help of registered doctors.
- The Supreme Court held that the rights of reproductive autonomy, dignity and privacy give an unmarried woman the right of choice as to whether or not to bear a child on a similar footing as that of a married woman.

## **UNESCO publishes a list of 50 exclusive Indian heritage textile crafts**

- Toda embroidery and Sungadi from Tamil Nadu, Himroo from Hyderabad, and Bandha tie and dye from Sambalpur in Odisha were some of the textiles that made the cut.
- Some of the iconic handcrafted textiles documented from north India are Khes from Panipat, Chamba rumals from Himachal Pradesh, Thigma or wool tie and dye from Ladakh, and Awadh Jamdani from Varanasi.
- From the south, Ilkal and Lambadi or Banjara embroidery from Karnataka, Sikalnayakanpet Kalamkari from Thanjavur have been included.
- Kunbi weaves from Goa, Mashru weaves and Patola from Gujarat, Himroo from Maharashtra and Garad-Koirial from West Bengal also find a place among the 50 iconic textiles.

## **Doctors need not disclose the identities of minors seeking abortion: SC**

- A registered medical practitioner (RMP) is obliged under Section 19(1) of the POCSO Act to report to the police when a minor approaches him or her for an abortion.
- In many cases minors and their guardians opt to go to an unqualified doctor for abortion rather than risk being involved in criminal proceedings following a report under Section 19(1) of the POCSO Act.
- If there is an insistence on the disclosure of the name of the minor in the report under Section 19(1) of POCSO, minors may be less likely to seek out RMPs for safe termination of their pregnancies under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act.
- The court said it was necessary to harmonise the provisions of the MTP and POCSO laws to enable minors to approach an RMP for abortion without the fear of getting exposed.
- It would also protect the statutory obligation of the RMP to report the offence under the POCSO Act and the rights of privacy

and reproductive autonomy of the minor under Article 21 of the Constitution.

### **US announces \$810 mn in new funding for Pacific Islands at summit**

- The White House said \$600 million will be in the form of a 10-year package to clean up and develop dirty waters to support the tuna industry, while the United States will also expand climate and development aid and its diplomatic presence.
- Biden will also address the first-ever Washington summit of Pacific Island nations, including 12 heads of state or government, in hopes of using a personal touch to reconnect with a region that has been tied closely to the United States since the Second World War.
- With the U.S. until now often seen as taking the region for granted, China has asserted itself strongly in recent years through investment, police training and, most controversially, a security pact with the Solomon Islands.
- The Biden administration also announced that the United States would recognise Cook Islands and Niue, a self-governing territory whose foreign and defence policies and currency are linked to New Zealand. The step will allow the United States to increase its diplomatic footprint in the Cook Island and Niue, which have fewer than 20,000 inhabitants.

### **India climbs to 40th rank in Global Innovation Index of World Intellectual Property Organization**

- The World Intellectual Property Organization yesterday released the Global Innovation Index 2022 in which Switzerland has emerged as the world's most innovative economy for the 12th consecutive year.
- Switzerland leads globally in innovation outputs, and specifically in patents by origin, software spending, high-tech manufacturing, production, and export complexity. The second position was secured by the US followed by Sweden, the UK, and the Netherlands.

### **Government defers proposal to make 6 airbags mandatory in cars by one year to October 1, 2023**

- The decision has been taken considering the global supply chain constraints being faced by the auto industry and its impact on the macroeconomic scenario.
- The government had earlier planned to make six airbags mandatory in eight-seater vehicles for enhanced safety of occupants from October 1, 2022.

### **CBI launched Operation 'GARUDA' to dismantle drug networks**

- The CBI is doing this in close coordination with enforcement actions across international jurisdictions through INTERPOL and Narcotics Control Bureau with special focus on Indian Ocean Region.
- Operation GARUDA seeks to target drug networks with international footprints for action against handlers, operatives, production zones and support elements.
- During the Operation, searches, seizures and arrests were carried out across multiple states and UTs in the country. Apart from CBI and NCB, eight states and UT Police including Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Manipur have also participated in this Operation.

### **Conveyor belts in CCL mines to reduce carbon emission**

- CIL chairman reviewed the preparations for commissioning conveyor belts across several projects of its Ranchi-based subsidiary, Central Coalfields Limited (CCL).
- The CIL has introduced a concept, called 'first-mile connectivity', under which the traditional way of transporting coal from the silos and washeries to railway sidings will be replaced by large conveyor belts.

### **Behind the 'world's first CNG terminal' at Bhavnagar, Gujarat**

- This is a three-year-old project that is expected to infuse Rs 4,000 crore in developing the existing port infrastructure at Bhavnagar.

- Why is the Bhavnagar port important? The Bhavnagar port is in close vicinity to the Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR) and is expected to serve the industries that set up base in the region. It is already connected to the northern hinterland through a railway line that extends to the existing berths at the port.
- It is expected to be made operational by 2026. The proposed port terminal's capacity is 4.65 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA), of which the capacity of the CNG terminal will be 0.3 MTPA.

### **Vande Bharat train PM Modi inaugurated**

- PM Modi had also inaugurated the Vande Bharat when it was first launched in Delhi in 2019. Then, however, he had not taken a ride on it.
- The name may be the same, but this train, the third in the Vande Bharat series, is being dubbed 'Vande Bharat 2.0', because of certain upgrades it has received over its predecessors, the two existing trains running from Delhi to Varanasi and Katra.
- For starters, this train reaches a top speed of 160 km per hour in 129 seconds, around 16 seconds faster than its predecessor. This is because this train weighs around 392 tonnes, 38 tonnes lighter than the last one, and needs to run almost a km less to attain its top speed.
- It also has a better riding index (lower the better) of 3.26 at 180 km per hour, from the earlier 3.87. At a standard speed of 115 km per, its riding index is 3.26, better than 3.62 attained at the same speed by the earlier version.
- Riding index is a global benchmark for rolling stock calculated during trials by measuring vertical/lateral acceleration. In layman's terms, how comfortable and steady the passenger is while the train is in motion is roughly the idea behind a riding index.