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# ESE-2022

## (Preliminary Examination)

### Current Issues

(June - 2022)

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**19 All India 1<sup>st</sup> Ranks in ESE**

**62 All India 1<sup>st</sup> Ranks in GATE**

# Current Issues

(June - 2022)

## POLICY OF GOVERNANCE

### “RASHTRIYA PURUSKAR PORTAL”

#### Why in News?

The Union Government has launched the Rashtriya Puruskar Portal (<https://awards.gov.in>) for inviting nominations for various awards of the various Ministries, Departments and agencies.



#### KEY POINTS

- A common platform named as “RASHTRIYA PURUSKAR PORTAL” Launched by Central Government will bring together all Awards of Govt. on one Digital Platform to ensure Transparency and Public Partnership (Jan Bhagidari).
- Initially the Recommendations/Nominations are for following awards.
  - Padma Awards- Nomination open till 15/09/2022
  - Sardar Patel National Unity Award- Nomination open till 31/07/2022
  - Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award- Nomination open till 16/06/2022
  - Jeevan Raksha Padak series of Awards- Nomination open till 30/09/2022
  - Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Telecom Skill Excellence Award- Nomination open till 16/06/2022.

- This portal, provide information regarding all national awards to the public on a single digital platform including their eligibility criteria, selection procedure, and details of past awardees. Also, people will be able to make nominations for various awards on a single platform, which is simple and user-friendly.

## INDIAN NATIONAL CENTER FOR SPACE PROMOTION AND AUTHORIZATION (IN-SPACE)

### Why in News?

Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the headquarters of the Indian National Center for Space Promotion and Authorization (IN-SPACE) in Bopal Ahmadabad on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

- IN-SPACE will allow non-government private entities to use Department of Space related facilities.
- The project was approved by the Union Cabinet in June 2020.



### KEY POINTS

- PM termed this launch as Watch this Space Moment for Indian Space Agency.
- PM Modi on the same occasion in Gujarat inaugurated and lay the foundation stone of multiple development initiatives during the 'Gujarat Gaurav Abhiyan' in Navsari.
- The inauguration of seven projects, foundation stone laying for 12 projects and the ground-breaking ceremony of 14 projects was done by him.

- IN-SPACE act as a single contact point for the private players and a total 10 MoUs were Exchanged with the aim to promote private investment and innovation in space sector.

On the same occasion he also added global space agency valued at 400 billion dollars today and by 2040 it has the capacity to reach 1 trillion dollars industry India's participation is at only 2% . India will increase the share and this mission is biggest recognition of atmanirbhar bharat initiative.

## FLYING DRONE POLICY



### Why in News?

Under the cabinet meeting of jai ram thakur government on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022 State Drone Policy 2022 and Logistics Policy 2022 had been approved with the aim to use digital sky opportunities by connecting with institutions including National Education Policy 2020, the HP Industrial Investment Policy, the HP Startup/Innovation Scheme and the National Skill Qualification Framework.

### KEY POINTS

- Himachal Pradesh becomes the first state in the country to formulate a flying drone policy.
- The Policy focuses on the use Drone and Drone-enable Technology for creating Employment Opportunity and Economic Prosperity in the state.
- This policy was approved by the chief minister Jai Ram Thakur and the policy envisions creating a holistic drone ecosystem built upon the foundation of Governance and Reforms using Drones (GARUD)."

## NCPCR LAUNCHES “CISS APPLICATION”



### KEY POINTS

- NCPCR (National Commission for Protection of Child Rights) launches “CiSS Application” <https://ncpcr.gov.in/baalswaraj/login>, under Baal Swaraj portal to help rehabilitation of children in street situations(CiSS).
- The follows online tracking and digital real-time monitoring mechanism of children in need of care and protection.
- The portal has two functions- COVID care and CiSS. COVID Care link caters to the children who have lost either or both parents due to COVID-19 or otherwise post March 2020.
- The six stages framework for the rehabilitation of children is followed.
  1. First stage is the collection of the child’s details, which is accomplished through the portal.
  2. The second stage is Social Investigating Report (SIR) i.e. investigating the child’s background. This is done under the supervision of the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) by the District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) by conversing and counselling the child.
  3. The third stage is formulating an Individual Care Plan (ICP) for the child.
  4. The fourth stage is the order of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) based on the SIR submitted to the CWC.
  5. The fifth stage is allocating the schemes and benefits that the beneficiary can avail of.
  6. And in the sixth stage, a checklist is made for the evaluation of the progress i.e. (Follow Ups).
- The program embodies Article 51 (A) of the Constitution of India, as it provides a platform to the public and organizations catering to the welfare of the children to report any child in need of assistance.

## AGNIPATH RECRUITMENT SCHEME

### Why in News?

Recently, The Centre on, June 14, launched the AGNIPATH RECRUITMENT SCHEME for the armed forces. The scheme, targets youth in the armed forces, youth selected under the Agnipath scheme will be categorised as Agniveers and the youth selected will serve the armed forces for 4 years.



### KEY POINTS

- Initially for this year the recruitment of 46,000+ Agniveers to the Indian Army, Indian Navy and India Air Force eligible candidates can apply for this.
- Of the total agniveers annual recruits, only 25% will be allowed to continue for another 15 years under permanent commission.
- Upon the completion of the 4-years of service, a one-time 'Seva Nidhi' package of Rs 11.71 lakhs will be paid to the Agniveers that will include their accrued interest thereon.
- On the completion of 4 years of service, a one-time 'Seva Nidhi' package of Rs 11.71 lakh will be paid to Agniveers.
- They will also get life insurance coverage of Rs 48 lakh for 4 years in case of death of Agniveers, the payout of insurance cover will be over Rs. 1 crore which also includes pay for the unserved tenure.
- It is envisaged that the average age profile of the Indian armed forces would come down by 4-5 years by the implementation of this scheme.

## UDE DESH KA AAM NAAGRIK (UDAN) (LET THE COMMON MAN FLY)



### KEY POINTS

- This year marked as the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Central Government's scheme Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN) let the common man fly.
- This Scheme allows the "Ordinary Man" to commute between smaller cities in a short amount of time, rather than hours, at a low cost.
- The scheme was launched as a Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) under Ministry of Civil Aviation in 2016.
- The scheme also led to development of new Greenfield Airports such as Pakyong near Gangtok in Sikkim, Tezu in Arunachal Pradesh and Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh.
- The Ministry of Civil Aviation plans and commits to construct 100 new airports by 2024 in India with 1,000 new routes under UDAN RCS scheme by the year 2026.

Over 415 UDAN routes connect 66 underserved /unserved airports, including heliports and water aerodromes, and the scheme has helped over 92 lakh people and the Scheme is operational for 10 Years can be extended thereafter.

## SURAKSHA-MITRA PROJECT





## KEY POINTS

- The Suraksha-Mitra project, a vehicle monitoring system that sends distress messages in case of any accident, has become operational in Kerala.
- This project comes under the NIRBHAYA SCHEME, launched by the Motor Vehicle Department.
- This scheme envisages sending a distress message to the owners mobile phones in case of any untoward incidents while traveling.
- Owners will receive SMS alerts from the Vehicle Location Tracking Device (VLTD) attached to the vehicles, if the vehicle is involved in an accident or driver over-speeds the vehicle.
- The alerts would be sent immediately via SMS and e-mail to the relevant mobile number provided during the time of installing the device.

## “STARTUPS FOR RAILWAYS”



## KEY POINTS

- Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has launched “StartUps for Railways”, in Rail Bhavan, New Delhi on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022.
- The objective behind this policy is to leverage innovative technologies developed by Indian Startups to improve operational efficiency and Safety of Indian Railways.
- The policy will harness technological & operational benefits offered by next-gen innovators, the Indian Railways Innovation Policy aims at providing fund support upto Rs. 150 lakh.
- Indian Railways will also support the innovators in the form of a 50 per cent capital grant, assured market, scale and ecosystem Grant up to Rs. 1.5 Crore to innovator on equal sharing basis with provision of milestone-wise payment.



- The annual budget for the policy will be around Rs 40-50 crore and an additional fund for the divisional railway managers so that they can find on-field solutions to the problems at present 11 problems are identified to resolved.
- Intellectual property rights (IPR) will remains with the innovator.

### PILOT PROJECT NAMED AS ‘SUJAL’



### KEY POINTS

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched the water supply management initiative the pilot Project named as ‘Sujal’ initiative for Panchkula to monitor the water supply and control its flow in the region.
- Under the initiative, a device will be installed in every drinking water meter, tubewell and connections of Haryana shehri Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) that will store the water usage data online.
- With the usage of this device, the water supply will be monitored and the flow of water would also be controlled officers can sit in their office and watch the flow of waste water, stop it and save water.
- The technology used makes it easy to measure the flow of water to every house and at every commercial site under the HSVP.
- They would also know which connections and meters are inactive so that they can be turned off, All this information will be made available on a single dashboard so that all the concerned officials can keep an eye on the process.

## FIRST TRAIN UNDER 'BHARAT GAURAV' SCHEME



### KEY POINTS

- Indian Railways launch first train under 'Bharat Gaurav' scheme on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022.
- The first train under the Indian Railways Bharat Gaurav Scheme was flagged off, with the maiden service leaving Coimbatore North Railway station in Tamil Nadu on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022 for Sainagar Shirdi in Maharashtra on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022 around 1100 passengers boarded the maiden round trip service.
- South Star Rail is the registered service provider has paid Rs 1 crore as security deposit to Southern Railway for the rake with a composition of 20 coaches.
- The trains under the scheme have one first AC coach, three 2 Tier AC coaches and eight 3-tier coaches along with five sleeper class coaches.
- There will also be a doctor on board to attend any emergency along with private security engaged along with the Railway Police Force.

### What is Bharat Gaurav Scheme?

- This Scheme was launched in November 2021.
- Under Bharat Gaurav Scheme, any operator or service provider, or virtually anyone, can lease trains from Indian Railways to run on a **theme-based circuit** as a special tourism package. The tenure of the arrangement is a minimum of two years and maximum of the codal life of the coach.
- The operator has the freedom to decide the route, the halts, the services provided, and the tariff

## UDYAMI BHARAT' PROGRAMME



### KEY POINTS

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in 'UDYAMI BHARAT' Programme on 30th June 2022.

During the event he announced results of MSMEs Idea Hackathon 2022 and he distributed

- National MSMEs Awards 2022 and issues Digital Equity Certificates to 75 MSMEs in Self Reliant India (SRI) Fund.
- During the event Prime Minister had also launched following schemes:

#### 1. 'Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance' (RAMP) Scheme :

This scheme is launched with the Total outlay amount of around Rs 6,000 crore and the scheme aims to increase the coverage and implementation capacity of MSMEs in the states with the impact enhancement of existing MSME schemes.

This scheme complements the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan by encourage ideation, innovation incubating new business and entrepreneurship by developing quality standards, improving practices and processes, enhancing market access, deploying technological tools and Industry 4.0 to make MSMEs competitive and self-reliant.

#### 2. 'Capacity Building of First-Time MSME Exporters' (CBFTE) scheme:

Prime Minister launched the Capacity Building of First-Time MSMEs Exporters Scheme this aims to offer products and services of international standards for the global market and this will also focus on enhancing the participation of Indian MSMEs in the global value chain and help them realize their export potential irrespective of their product size which leads to ease the export process for first time exporters in terms of financial support, certification-related support and so on.

### 3. **New features of the 'Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme' (PMEGP):**

During Udyami bharat program new features of the 'Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme' (PMEGP) were also launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. And the new features include increase in the maximum project cost to Rs 50 lakh from Rs 25 lakh for the manufacturing sector and Rs 20 lakh from Rs 10 lakh in the service sector and the inclusion of applicants from aspirational districts and transgenders in the Special Category applicants for availing higher subsidies. Also, handholding support is being provided to applicants/entrepreneurs through the engagement of banking, technical & marketing experts.

## **INDIA'S 1ST BALIKA PANCHAYAT**



### **Why in News?**

Recently, India's first girl Panchayat balika panchayat started in several villages of Gujarat' Kutch district.

### **KEY POINTS**

- India's first girl Panchayat named as , "Balika Panchayat", started in several villages of Gujarat's Kutch district by Women and Child Development Welfare department of the Gujarat Government under the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign.
- It is started in Kunaria, Maskar, Motagwa, and Vadsar villages of the Kutch district and it aims to promote the social and political development of the girls and ensure active participation of girls in politics.

### **Balika Panchayat:**

In Balika panchayat, the member is nominated just like Gram panchayat and managed by the people of the age group 11-21 years and the main objective of balika panchayat is to promote the social and political development of the girl child and remove the evil practices from the society such as child marriage, and the dowry system.

## MUKHYAMANTRI MATRUSHAKTI YOJANA



### KEY POINTS

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2022 launched “Mukhyamantri Matrushakti Yojana”- A Nutrition Scheme for Pregnant and Lactating Mothers- In Vadodara.
- The Rs 800-crore MMY aims to provide nutritional food to pregnant and lactating women.
- The MMY scheme applies to women who are conceiving for first time and mothers who have given birth to their first child enrolled at AWCs along with pregnant and lactating mothers (up to 2 years) who are enrolled in the Health department software.
- Every month, all the identified beneficiaries will receive Poshan Kits(2kg Chana.1 kg Tuver Dal, and 1 Litre oil) along with other ICDS services.
- To enable this scheme Prime Minister also disbursed around Rs 120 crore towards “Poshan Sudha Yojana” which is now extended to all tribal beneficiaries in the state.

### Poshan Sudha Yojana:

- Under this scheme hot cooked meals is served to tribal women once a day at Anganwadi centres.
- And for pregnant women and lactating mothers full nutritious meal with iron and calcium tablets and educating them on health and nutrition are provided at Anganwadi centers.
- Along with launching these scheme he also unveiled 18 railway projects worth Rs 16,000-crore and laid the foundation stone for the permanent campus of the Central University of Gujarat and the new building of Bharatiya Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya.

## NIRYAT PORTAL



### KEY POINTS

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022 inaugurated Vanijya Bhawan and launched NIRYAT Portal.

#### NIRYAT Portal:

- NIRYAT Portal stands for National Import-Export Record for Yearly Analysis of Trade
- The main objective of this portal is to deal with the import and export analysis of India.
- Niryat Portal's primary mission is to act as a guide and mentor to the next generation of entrepreneurs entering the field of international trade.
- The new Vanijya Bhawan and NIRYAT portal will bring changes and significant benefits for those associated with trade, commerce and MSME sector.
- The Niryat portal is easy to use as users can login to the portal with their username and password and access the trade information of the country easily.

## GHAR KE UPAR SOLAR IS SUPER CAMPAIGN





## KEY POINTS

- On 4<sup>th</sup> June Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy Bhagwant Khuba launched Pan-India Rooftop Solar Awareness Campaign with a Vision of 100 GW Solar Rooftop Potential.
- The campaign aims at mobilizing local government, citizens and Municipalities to spread awareness of Solar Rooftop. The New and Renewable Energy Ministry is providing 40% of subsidy for households to install solar devices.
- NSEFI (National Solar Energy Federation of India) also launched a toll free Number to provide all the information interested people can get in touch with representatives and get answers to all their queries and get Rooftop Solar Installed.
- Rooftop Solar provides an opportunity to the common person to make his contribution towards Global Warming & Climate Change.
- In this scheme farmers will be given 30% subsidy each by centre and state to install solar pumps.
- Ministry is working towards achieving target of 500 GW of non-fossil by 2030 and rooftop solar will play major role and Tier-2 & Tier-3 cities offer maximum potential in achieving this target.

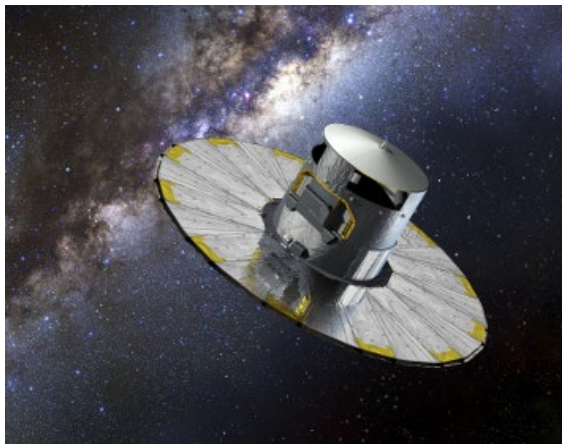


# INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

## EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY'S GAIA MISSION

### Why in News?

Recently, The new data released by the European Space Agency's Gaia mission has revealed the surprise phenomena of 'starquakes'—massive tsunami-like movements on the surface of stars.



### KEY POINTS

#### What are the Highlights of the Gaia Mission?

- Gaia stands for the Global Astrometric Interferometer for Astrophysics it is an astronomical observatory mission it is launched in 2013 and expected to operate until 2025.
- Gaia launched on a Soyuz-STB/Fregat-MT launch vehicle from the European Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana.
- The telescope has also created record-breaking data sets about asteroids in the solar system and binary stars in the Milky Way.
- This is the third dataset released by the European Space Agency's star-mapping Gaia probe, covering almost 1.8 billion stars in the Milky Way galaxy.
- The data has also revealed the largest chemical Map of entire Milky Way, showing the DNA of millions of stars.

## NEWLY APPOINTED NON-PERMANENT MEMBER OF UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC)

### Why in News?

Malta, Mozambique, Japan, Ecuador and Switzerland elected as Non- Permanent Member of United Nations Security Council ( UNSC) by United Nations General Assembly.

The newly elected members will take up their new responsibilities on Jan. 1, 2023, and will serve till Dec. 31, 2024



### KEY POINTS

- Five permanent members China, France, Russia, the UK and the US as UNSC members for the year 2023.
- India's two-year term at the UNSC as non-permanent member will end in December 2022.
- Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique and Switzerland were elected to the UNSC as Non-Permanent Members for the 2023-24 will replace India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico and Norway.
- UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL is one of the six principal organ of United Nations established by the UN Charter in 1945 and its headquarter at New York.
- It is mainly responsible to work to maintain international peace and security.

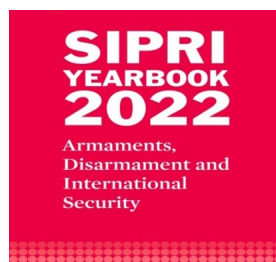
## INDUSTRY TRANSITION DIALOGUE BETWEEN INDIA AND SWEDEN



### KEY POINTS

- India and Sweden hosted the Industry Transition Dialogue in Stockholm, as a part of their joint initiative i.e. Leadership for Industry Transition (LeadIT) on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022.
- The LeadIT initiative lays specific focus on hard to abate sectors that are key stakeholders in the global climate action and require specific interventions.
- This high level of dialogue has contributed to the UN Conference ‘Stockholm+50’: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all –our responsibility, our opportunity’, took place on 2 and 3 June 2022 and set the agenda for COP27.

## SIPRI YEARBOOK 2022



### Why in News

Recently, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) launched SIPRI Yearbook 2022, which assesses the current state of armaments, disarmament and international security.

### KEY POINTS

- The yearbook provides an overview of developments in international security, weapons and technology, military expenditure, arms production and the arms trade, and armed conflicts and conflict management, along with efforts to control conventional, nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

- SIPRI provides data, analysis and recommendations, based on open sources, to policymakers, researchers, media and the interested public. SIPRI is regularly ranked among the most respected think tanks worldwide it is established in 1966 at Stockholm.
- The nine nuclear-armed states are —the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (North Korea).
- India has 160 nuclear warheads, China has 350 nuclear warheads, Russia and the USA together possess over 90% of all nuclear weapons. Russia has most Nuclear Weapons.

### 38th INDIA – INDONESIA COORDINATED PATROL (IND-INDO CORPAT)



#### KEY POINTS

- 38th India – Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) is being conducted in Andaman Sea and Straits of Malacca.
- The 38th CORPAT is the first post pandemic Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) and it includes a visit by the Indonesian Navy units to ANC at Port Blair from June 13 to 15, 2022 followed by a Sea Phase in the Andaman Sea and visit by IN Units to Sabang (Indonesia) from June 23 to 24, 2022.
- The two navies have been carrying out CORPATs along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) every year since 2002, with the aim of keeping this vital part of the Indian Ocean Region safe and secure for commercial shipping and international trade.

- During the three-day port call at Port Blair, the Indonesian warship participated in multiple activities including professional discussions, pre-sail conference and various sports fixtures.
- The CORPAT has helped both navies to better understand each other's operating procedures and enhance interoperability.
- Other Exercises between India and Indonesia are SAMUDRA SHAKTI and GARUDA SHAKTI a bilateral maritime exercise and a joint military exercise respectively.

## **UAE HAS ORDERED A SUSPENSION OF EXPORTS RE-EXPORTS OF INDIAN WHEAT FOR FOUR MONTHS**



### **KEY POINTS**

- UAE has ordered a suspension of Exports re-exports of Indian wheat for four months
- With this, Indian wheat cannot be routed to third countries via the UAE.
- The United Arab Emirates Ministry of Economy said the ban “applies to all wheat varieties namely hard, ordinary and soft wheat and wheat flour.”
- India and UAE in February signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Trade Agreement (CEPA) to cut all tariffs on each other's goods and aims to increase their annual trade to USD 100 billion within five years.

This "decision comes in view of the international developments that have affected trade flows, and in appreciation of the solid and strategic relations that bind the UAE and India, especially after the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between the two countries and the Indian government's approval to export wheat to the UAE for domestic consumption."

## DELHI GOVERNMENT BUILDS OXYGEN PRODUCTION FACILITY IN COLLABORATION WITH UNDP



### Why in News?

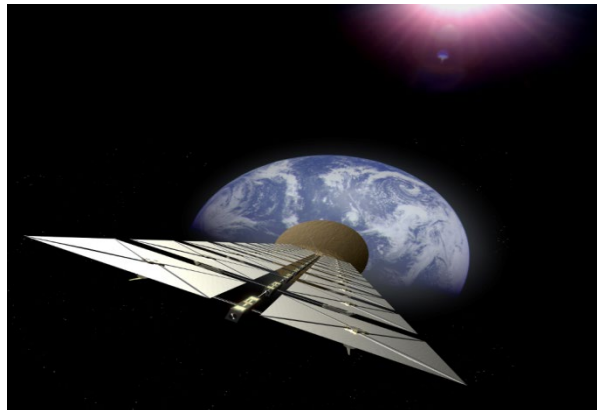
Delhi government in partnership with UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) set up oxygen generation plant at G B Pant Hospital in New Delhi.

### KEY POINTS

- The oxygen plant utilises pressure swing adsorption (PSA) technology to produce over one thousand liters of oxygen per minute. It will serve approximately 750 hospital beds, including those supported by ventilators and the Intensive Care Unit.
- The United Nations (UN) has said that more than 77 million people slipped into poverty in 2021 as governments struggled to service debts and secure early vaccine access.
- The UN report suggests that rich countries managed to avoid the worst economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic but poorer ones continue to deal with debilitating debt.
- The report said 20% of the countries will not be able to return to pre-2019 levels of GDP per capita by the end of 2023.
- The poorest countries pumped billions into servicing debts and were forced to cut spending on education and infrastructure.



## FIRST EVER SOLAR POWER PLANT IN SPACE



### KEY POINTS

- China plans to start building first-ever solar power plant in space.
- A satellite will be launched in 2028 to test wireless power transmission technology from space to the ground from an altitude of 400 kms.
- The satellite would convert solar energy to microwaves or lasers and direct the energy beams to various targets, including fixed locations on Earth and moving satellites.
- The Space Solar Power Station is likely to be a hotspot technology that will be used in the ongoing project of the expedition to Space for power generation. The power plant will have a capacity of 10 kilowatts.
- A similar plant is set up at Xidian University by university students and researchers. The tall structure, about 75 meters in height, constitutes five subsystems that look into the solar power arrays.
- The project is a component of OMEGA (Orb-Shape Membrane Energy Gathering Array), a plan for solar energy generation from space that was unveiled in 2014.



## 2023 MEETINGS OF G-20

### Why in News?

The 2023 Meeting of G-20 will be host by Jammu and Kashmir, forms five members coordination panel.



### KEY POINTS

- The 2023 Meeting of G-20 will be host by Jammu and Kashmir.
- This will be the first major international summit to be held in Jammu and Kashmir after the state's special status guaranteed under Article 370 of the Constitution was withdrawn and it was divided into two union territories in August 2019.
- Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal was appointed as India's Sherpa for the G20
- India assumes presidency of G-20 from Indonesia on 1st December 2022 and the Secretariat will be functional till November 2024.

### Highlights of G20

- India has been a member of the G-20 since its inception in 1999.
- G20 brings together 19 of the world's leading economies and the European Union, with its members accounting for more than 80% of global GDP, 75% of global trade and 60% of the global population it is an informal international organization.
- G-20 Member Nations are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom and United States.

## G7 SUMMIT



### KEY POINTS

- PM attended G7 held in Germany on 27 June.
- G7 consist of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the U.K. and the U.S.
- PM Narendra Modi was the senior most global leader holding country's top office at the G7 Summit and carried special gifts for all the leaders made under U.P. One District One Product Scheme.
- List of Gifts to Members from India:
  - Metal Marodi carving Matka from Moradabad- German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.
  - Black Pottery pieces from Nizamabad- Japan PM Fumio Kishida
  - Marble Inlay table top from Agra- Italian PM Mario Draghi
  - Gulabi Meenakari brooch and cufflink set- US President Joe Biden
  - Itr Bottles in Zardozi box – France's President Emmanuel Macron
  - Indian hand knitted silk carpet- Canada PM Justin Trudeau.

## 'ZULIJANAH'



## KEY POINTS

- Iran has launched a solid-fueled rocket into space named ‘Zulijannah’
- Zuljanah, a 25.5 meter-long rocket, is capable of carrying a satellite of 220 kilograms that will ultimately gather data in low-earth orbit and promote Iran’s space industry.
- Zuljanah is named for the horse of Imam Hussien, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad.
- Iran’s Defense Ministry: Ahmad Hosseini.

## WORLD’S LARGEST INNOVATION CAMPUS



## KEY POINTS

- Hyderabad-based business incubator organization, Technology Hub (T-Hub) is the world’s largest innovation campus for start-ups in Hyderabad.
- The organization aims to support over 20,000 start-ups across the country.
- The T-Hub’s Innovation Campus will empower the startup ecosystem and support entrepreneurs by providing them with access to 6Ms – Mentors, Market, Motivation, Manpower, Money, Methodologies and 2Ps – Partnership and Policy advisory.
- The event focused on the theme of ‘Trailblazing Telangana’ with sessions such as T-Hub Talks, Fireside Chats, Masterclass, Panel Discussions, etc.
- Chief Minister of Telangana, K. Chandrashekar Rao and T-Hub CEO Mahankali Srinivas Rao.

## SOCIAL ISSUES

### ‘KASHI YATRA’ PROJECT



### KEY POINTS

- The Karnataka government launched the ‘Kashi Yatra’ project offering a cash assistance of Rs 5,000 to each of the 30,000 pilgrims willing to take up a pilgrimage to Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.
  - The total outlay amount of project is 7 crores.
  - Any pilgrim taking up the government-sponsored “Kashi Yatra” would get the benefit only once in a life time.

### INDIA’S 1ST BALIKA PANCHAYAT



### KEY POINTS

- The country's first-ever girl Panchayat, "Balika Panchayat", which was started in several villages of Gujarat's Kutch district, aims to promote the social and political development of the girls.
- This is a unique initiative of the Women and Child Development Welfare department of the Gujarat Government under the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign.
- It started in Kunaria, Maski, Motaga, and Vadsar villages of the Kutch district.
- "Balika Panchayat" is managed by people in the 11-21 age groups.
- Its main objective is to promote the social and political development of the girl child and to remove the evil practices from the society such as child marriage, and the dowry system.

### ENNUM EZHUTHUM SCHEME



### KEY POINTS

- Tamil Nadu launches Ennum Ezhuthum Scheme.
- Ennum Ezhuthum Scheme aims at addressing the learning gap caused by the COVID-19 pandemic among primary school students and ensuring foundational literacy and numeracy.
- The programme would cover students of Classes 1 to 3 from government and government-aided schools across Tamil Nadu.
- Under the programme, the education department will distribute workbooks to students from Classes 1 to 3 to assess and bridge the learning gap.
- Children will be trained in three subjects - Tamil, English and Mathematics.
- "The scheme aims to make the classroom suitable for conducting lessons. Lessons have been designed in the format of dance, songs, storytelling and puppetry, among others.
- By 2025, all children within the age of 8 will have foundational literacy and numeracy.



## SHRESTHA SCHEME



### KEY POINTS

- SHRESTHA stands for Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas Scheme.
- The scheme 'SHRESHTA' aims at providing quality education and opportunity to students of SC Category for socio-economic upliftment and overall development of Scheduled Castes students.
- This scheme enable bright SC Students to have better future by getting high quality education, aid in controlling dropout rates of SC Students from class 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>.
- In next five years the ministry has decided to extend support to 24,899 meritorious SC students involving Rs 300 crore approximately, for providing them quality residential education from classes 9 to 12 in reputed private residential schools in aspirational districts identified by NITI Aayog.
- Under this scheme "provision for bridge course" will help students in adapting to the new school environment, This course will be provided for 3 months to students from state schools and rural areas.
- Approximately 3000 students will be selected through National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS). They will be admitted in Best Private Residential-CBSE affiliated School in classes 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, for completion of education till 12<sup>th</sup> standard. The best performing private residential-CBSE affiliated schools will be selected on the basis of specific parameters. Entire cost of school fee and hostel fee as well as food charges will be borne by the government.
- Maximum limits set to cover all these expenses are:
  - 9<sup>th</sup> class: 100000 Rs per Annum per Student
  - 10<sup>th</sup> class: 110000 Rs per Annum per Student
  - 11<sup>th</sup> class: 125000 Rs per Annum per Student
  - 12<sup>th</sup> class: 135000 Rs per Annum per Student

## INDIA'S NHA LAUNCHES ABDM PUBLIC DASHBOARD



### KEY POINTS

- The National Health Authority of India has put up a digital dashboard for its flagship scheme Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission launched ABDM dashboard.
- ABDM dashboard displays a real-time feed of registries made under its three core blocks: Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) numbers, Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR) and Health Facility Registry (HFR). The dashboard captures data related to the number of ABHA general.
- A total of 22.1 crore ABHAs (earlier known as health ID) have been created, over 16.6 thousand healthcare professionals have registered on the HPR, over 69.4 thousand health facilities have registered on the HFR, more than 1.8 lakh health records already linked by users, and the recently revamped ABHA app has crossed over 5.1 lakh downloads.



## AWARDS

### 2022 SKYTRAX WORLD AIRPORT AWARDS



#### Why in News?

Recently, Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru recognized as best in India, South Asia.

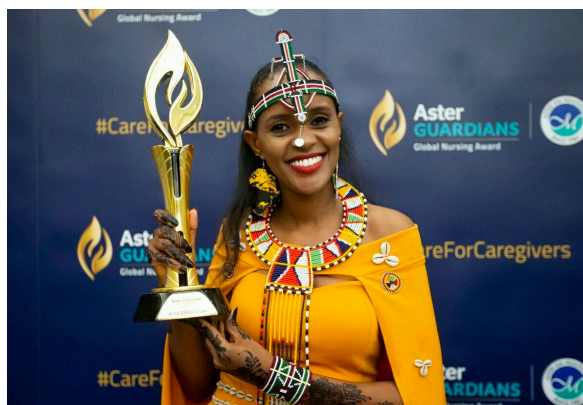
It is titled in the 2022 Skytrax World Airport Awards.

The awards ceremony was held at Passenger Terminal EXPO in France on June 16.

#### KEY POINTS

- Qatar's Hamad International Airport has been named the World's Best Airport.
- Delhi Airport at 37th rank, rising from 45th rank last year. Bengaluru Airport is at 61st position compared to 71st position in 2021. Hyderabad Airport has been ranked 63rd followed by Mumbai Airport at 65th position.
- Hamad International Airport has been named the World's Best Airport for the second year running.

### GLOBAL NURSING AWARD CEREMONY



## KEY POINTS

- Nurse from Kenya Anna Qabale Duba wins \$250,000 prize in first global nursing award ceremony held in Dubai.
- Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of Dubai Airports and chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group honored the winner of the Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award at award ceremony held at Atlantis The Palm, Dubai.
- It is one of the top awards with the highest prize money in the healthcare community worth USD 250,000. Under the Qabale Duba Foundation

## NATIONAL HIGHWAYS EXCELLENCE AWARDS (NHEA) 2021



## KEY POINTS

- Fourth cycle of “National Highways Excellence Awards (NHEA) 2021” organized by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) as a part of ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsa’
- 2022 theme of the awards was “Innovation and Excellence in Road Construction”.
- “The objective of giving awards is to appreciate and reward those who have done well in terms of constructing good highways.
- During the ceremony, awards were presented to the concessionaire/contractors working exceptionally well in the construction, operations & maintenance, innovation, greenery, tolling stages of highway development as well as in the arena of road safety for the 2021 award cycle.
- Around 122 nominations were received, out of which 89 were found to be valid. Out of this, 58 nominations were shortlisted. A total of 37 nominations were selected for Field Assessment and 13 nominations were selected for the awards.

### List of Winner of NHEA 2021

COMPANY NAME	AWARD
Welspun Enterprises Ltd (Delhi and U.P.)	Gold
Krishnagiri Walajahpet Tollway Pvt Ltd (Tamil Nadu)	Silver
BIPL - BVEPL JV (Arunachal Pradesh)	Gold
Walayar Vadakkancherry Expressways Pvt Ltd ( Kelara)	Silver
Godhra Expressways Pvt Ltd (Gujarat)	Silver
Farakka Raiganj Highway Ltd (West Bengal)	Combined Gold
Ashoka Buildcon Ltd (Karnataka)	Silver
Simhapuri Expressway Ltd (Andra Pradesh)	Silver
GR Infra projects Ltd (UP)	Special Award
Dineshchandra R Agrawal Infracon Pvt Ltd (A&N)	Gold
Dibang Infra Projects Ltd (Andra Pradesh)	Gold
Dhola Infra Projects Ltd (Arunachal Pradesh)	Silver
M/S Ceigall India Ltd ( Punjab)	Special Award

### KEMPE GOWDA INTERNATIONAL AWARD



### KEY POINTS

- Kempe Gowda International Award, instituted in honour of Kempe Gowda, founder of Bengaluru.

- Kempe Gowda International award would be presented to three achievers every year starting this year in the name of Kempe Gowda.
- Former Karnataka chief minister S M Krishna, Infosys founder and IT industry veteran N R Narayana Murthy, and former badminton player Prakash Padukone, have been selected for the 'Kempegowda International Award for this year.
- The award carries a purse ₹5 lakh and a plaque each. All three personalities chosen for the award this year have contributed to the growth of Bengaluru city.

## **GOLDEN ACHIEVEMENT AWARD BY ITF**



## **KEY POINTS**

- Indian tennis player Vijay Amritraj has been named the 2021 recipient of the Golden Achievement Award by the International Tennis Hall of Fame and International Tennis Federation.
- In recognition of his outstanding impact on tennis as a player, promoter, and humanitarian, Amritraj was honoured in London.
- The Golden Achievement Award is selected from a pool of nominations submitted by tennis federations and individuals from the around the world. The annual honouree is selected by the Golden Achievement Award Committee, which is comprised of tennis administrators.
- Amritraj is first recipient from India and he joins an esteemed list of tennis leaders who have received the honour, including Brian Tobin of Australia, Eiichi Kawatei of Japan, and Peachy Kellmeyer of the United States.

## PRIME MINISTER'S AWARD



## KEY POINTS

- The Prime Minister's Award for Outstanding Contribution towards the Development and Promotion of Yoga, one of the most coveted honours in the field of Yoga, has been announced for the year 2021.
- The recipient of this award are Shri Bhikkhu Sanghasena Leh, Ladakh and Shri Marcus Vinicius Rojo Rodrigues, Sao Paulo, Brazil, and two organisations, namely, The Divine Life Society, Rishikesh, Uttarakhand and the British Wheel of Yoga, United Kingdom.
- The awards for the Outstanding Contribution towards the Development and Promotion of Yogawas announced by the Prime Minister of India on the occasion of the 2nd International Day of Yoga celebrations at Chandigarh on 21st June, 2016.
- The winners will be felicitated with of a Trophy, Certificate and a Cash Award each. The value of each Cash Award would be Rs. 25.00 lakh.

## 68<sup>TH</sup> DADASAHEB PHALKE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS 2022



### KEY POINTS

- Asha Parekh received the award for her Outstanding Contribution To Film Industry.
- Pushpa: The Rise won the award for the Film of the Year.
- Shershaah was awarded the Best Film.
- Ranveer Singh as Best Actor.
- Kriti Sanon as Best Actress at the prestigious award.



## SPORTS

### MASCOT “THAMBI” OF 44TH FIDE CHESS OLYMPIAD 2022



#### KEY POINTS

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin Launched logo, Mascot “THAMBI” of 44th FIDE Chess Olympiad 2022.
- ‘Thambi’ in Tamil means younger brother.
- This international event will be held at Mamallapuram near Chennai from 28<sup>th</sup> July to 10<sup>th</sup> August 2022, 186 countries will be taking part in this event.
- Approximately 3879 participants from around 190 universities are participating across 20 disciplines vying for 257 gold medals.
- Two new disciplines namely Yogasana and Mallakhamb have been added for the first time in an effort to preserve and promote the century-old sporting disciplines of the country.
- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur said that the Khelo India University Games (KIUG) will help prepare international level sportspersons as it aims at providing a national level launchpad for University students to showcase their talent and catch the eyeballs of the team selectors for various sports.

### 9TH CATTOLICA CHESS FESTIVAL 2022





## KEY POINTS

- Rahul Srivatshav P of Telangana has become India's 74th Grandmaster, achieving the title after breaking the 2500 (Elo points) barrier in live FIDE ratings during the 9th Cattolica Chess Festival 2022 in Italy.
- The 9th Cattolica Chess Festival takes place June 4-11, 2022 in Cattolica, Italy.
- To become a GM, a player has to secure three GM norms and cross the live rating of 2500 Elo points.
- Bharath Subramaniya had become 73<sup>rd</sup> GM in January and Viswanathan Anand is the first GM from India in 1988.

## U23 ASIAN WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022



## KEY POINTS

- Tokyo Olympian Deepak Punia won a bronze medal after defeating Maksat Satybaldy in the 86kg freestyle weight category at the U23 Asian wrestling championships 2022 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- He overpowered Satybaldy of Kazakhstan to settle for the bronze. India won 25 medals in all in the U23 meet in the event, including 10 gold medals.

## ANIL KHANNA NAMED AS THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF IOA



### KEY POINTS

- Anil Khanna has been appointed the acting President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), and will replace Narinder Dhruv Batra.
- Veteran sports administrator Narinder Batra was ordered to stop functioning as Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president by the Delhi High Court “in a contempt proceeding”.

## ASIAN CYCLING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022



### KEY POINTS

- Ronaldo Singh became the first Indian cyclist to win a silver in a continental tournament in the senior category by finishing second in the sprint event on the concluding day of the Asian Track Championship.
- He gave a tough fight to Japan's experienced rider Kento Yamasaki but finished with a silver

## SUMMITS

### 19TH SHANGRI-LA DIALOGUE



#### KEY POINTS

- The 19th Shangri-La Dialogue, hosted by International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), opened in Singapore after a two-year Covid-19 pandemic induced hiatus.
- The Shangri-La Dialogue is Asia's premier defence summit.
- It's a unique meeting where ministers debate the region's most pressing security challenges, engage in important bilateral talks and come up with fresh approaches together.

### INDUSTRIAL DECARBONIZATION SUMMIT 2022



#### KEY POINTS

- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurates Industrial Decarbonization Summit 2022 in New Delhi.
- Industrial Decarbonization Summit 2022- Road Map for Carbon Neutrality by 2070.
- He said that we have to strengthen our economy and at the same time save the environment.
- He said our priority is green hydrogen, by using biomass we can make Bio-ethanol, Bio-LNG and Bio-CNG, The Pollution will decrease by using Ethanol and Methanol.

## 14<sup>TH</sup> BRICS SUMMIT



### KEY POINTS

- The summit is being hosted by China as the Chair for this year.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at a virtual summit of the five-nation grouping sponsored by China that the consequences of the Covid epidemic on the global economy are still apparent and mutual cooperation can make a useful contribution to the post-Covid economic recovery.
- The BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) brings together five of the largest developing countries of the world, representing 41 per cent of the global population, 24 per cent of the global GDP and 16 per cent of the global trade.

## 2022 NATO SUMMIT

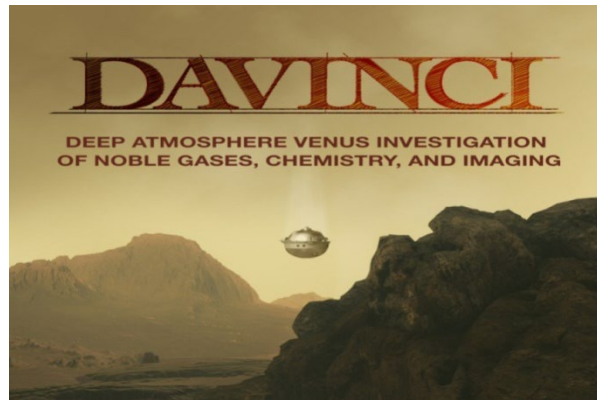


### KEY POINTS

- Japan to attend NATO summit for first time which is due to take place from June 28 to June 30 in Madrid, Spain.
- Japan "argues that security in Europe and the Indo-Pacific is inseparable, and that unilateral changes in the status quo by force are not allowed anywhere in the world."
- A NATO summit is a summit meeting that is regarded as a periodic opportunity for heads of state and heads of government of NATO member countries to evaluate and provide strategic direction for Alliance activities.

# SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## DAVINCI MISSION TO VENUS



### KEY POINTS

- NASA will Launched DAVINCI MISSION to Venus.
- DAVINCI: Deep Atmosphere Venus Investigation of Noble gases, Chemistry and Imaging Mission
- The Mission will fly by Venus and Explore its harsh Atmosphere in 2029 and enter the venusian atmosphere in June 2031.
- DAVINCI will be the first mission to Venus to incorporate science-driven fly-bys and an instrumented descent sphere into a unified architecture.
- It has been designed to act as a flying analytical chemistry laboratory and will analyse Venus' temperature, atmosphere and also click a few photos of its trip.
- It will also measure the amount of oxygen present near the surface of the planet. This will be made possible by Venus Oxygen Fugacity (VfOx), a small, button-sized sensor.
- A mission to Venus will help scientists understand the Earth better. Venus has very high temperature (471 degrees Celsius) with a carbon-rich atmosphere that traps the heat the same way greenhouse gases do on Earth.



## “HomoSEP”



### KEY POINTS

- IIT Madras develops robot to clean septic tanks without human intervention Named HOMOSEP.
- HOMOSEP can homogenize the hard sludge in septic tanks through custom-developed rotary blade mechanism and pump the tank slurry using an integrated suction mechanism.
- Sanitation workers will be able to operate the HOMOSEP on their own, after being provided with relevant training and appropriate guidance along with necessary safety measures.
- HOMOSEP has been developed by the team led by Prabhu Rajagopal of the Centre for Nondestructive Evaluation, IIT Madras, and the department of mechanical engineering.
- HOMOSEP stands for Homogenizer of Septic Tanks.
- At present a total of 10 robots are planned to be deployed across Tamil Nadu and some locations in Maharashtra and Gujarat is also identified for the same

## PARAM ANANTA SUPERCOMPUTER COMMISSIONED AT IIT, GANDHINAGAR





## KEY POINTS

- PARAM ANANTA Supercomputer established under Phase 2 of National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) to Facilitate Computational Research.
- It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- The new facility is set to provide computational power to the scientific community of IITGN as well as the academic institutions and industries in the vicinity of the institute. It will help them take their R&D efforts to a global scale.
- The logo of PARAM ANANTA symbolises the Sudarshan Chakra in the form of the sun along with data grid mountains merging in perspective with the limitless horizon.
- The 838 teraflops (TF) supercomputing system is powered with 7400 CPU cores, 52TB RAM, 1PiB of storage space, and an enormous power of GPU nodes along with the usual software stack required to run high-end simulations.

## INTERNATIONAL MIRROR TELESCOPE



## KEY POINTS

- International Liquid Mirror Telescope (ILMT) in Devasthal, Nainital is the only India's first and Asia's largest liquid-mirror telescope which is operational anywhere in the world.
- The ILMT as the name suggests, its mirror is made from a thin layer of liquid mercury that floats on 10 microns of compressed air and rotates every eight seconds. "By way of comparison, a human hair is approximately 70 microns thick.
- The rotation causes the liquid mercury to form a parabolic shape like a contact lens, which shape is what allows the telescope to focus light from deep space.

- Conventional telescope help in observing specific stellar sources for fixed hours in accordance with study requirement and time allotted by respective telescope time allotment committee where as ILTM help in capturing images of sky on all nights between two successive twilights.

## ENERGY SECTOR

### INDIA'S FIRST ETHANOL PLANT IN PURNIA



#### KEY POINTS

- In Bihar country's first ethanol plant was inaugurated in Purnea district.
- Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said ethanol production would help reduce the cost of petrol and generate fresh employment opportunities in the state.
- The rupees 105 crore plant set up by a private investor is the first one developed since the Union government approved the Bihar government's ethanol production and promotion policy-2021.
- The ethanol plant set up with the latest technology using zero waste discharge, has been built in 15 acres.
- It would buy 130 tonnes of rice husk and 150 tonnes of maize or rice from farmers every day.
- It is country's first grain-based ethanol plant.

## WORLD'S FIRST LIQUID NANO UREA PLANT IN GUJARAT



### KEY POINTS

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the World's first Nano Urea Liquid plant by IFFCO at Kalol, Gujarat in an effort to provide farmers with the means to boost productivity & help increase their income. A Giant Step towards Atmanirbhar Bharat & Atmanirbhar Krishi.
- The first IFFCO nano urea (liquid) production unit at Kalol has been made with an investment of Rs 175 crore. At present, it has the capacity to produce 1.5 lakh bottles of 500ml capacity of nano urea per day.
- Nano urea liquid has been found to be very effective in increasing the nutritional quality and productivity of the crop. It improves the quality of underground water.”

# ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECOLOGY

## BLUE DART SIGNS UNFCCC CLIMATE NEUTRAL NOW PLEDGE



### KEY POINTS

- Logistics services provider Blue Dart on June 2 signed the 'Climate Neutral Now' (CNN) pledge by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- An organization can become a participant by signing the Climate Neutral Now Pledge, following the three steps (Measure, Reduce, Contribute) and reporting on its actions and achievements annually.
- Measure (estimate) their greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduce them as much as possible
- Compensate those which cannot currently be avoided by using UNFCCC-recognized offsets, totally or partially.

### What is Climate Neutral Now?

- Climate Neutral Now is an initiative launched by UN Climate Change to encourage everyone in society to take action to help achieve a climate neutral world by mid-century.
- It was launched in 2015 based on a mandate to promote the voluntary use of carbon market mechanisms recognized under the Convention.
- The Climate Neutral Now Initiative encourages and supports organizations and other interested stakeholders to act now in order to achieve a climate neutral world by 2050 as enshrined in the Paris Agreement.

# REPORTS

## GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2022



### Why in News?

- Recently, Global Sustainable Development Report 2022 India ranked 121 out of 163 countries.
- India's major challenge, as per the report, is achieving 11 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Which has resulted in a decline in its ranking.

### KEY POINTS

- The Sustainable Development Report is the first worldwide study to assess where each country stands with regard to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Agenda 2030.
- It is published by a group of independent experts at the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).
- The 2022 SDG Index is topped by 3 Nordic countries: Finland, Denmark and Sweden and the top 10 countries are European Countries.



## WORLD INVESTMENT REPORT 2022



### Why in News?

Recently UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) Releases World Investment Report 2022.

- India jumped one position to 7th among the top recipients of foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2021 despite FDI inflows into the country declining.

### KEY POINTS

- The World Investment Report 2022 provides the latest trends and prospects for foreign direct investment.
- It documents the recovery of cross-border investment flows after the pandemic shock, looking at greenfield investment in industry, project finance in infrastructure, and international production activities of the largest multinationals.
- As per UNCTAD, India jumped one position to 7th among the top recipients of FDI in the last calendar year (2021) despite FDI inflows into the country declining.
- India was among the top 10 economies for FDI inflows in 2021, ranking at 7<sup>th</sup> after the US, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Canada and Brazil.

## NeSDA 2021 REPORT



## Why in News?

Recently, NeSDA (National e-governance service delivery assessment) 2021 Report: Kerala scores highest in national E-Governance Service Delivery Assessment.

## KEY POINTS

- The portals assessed were classified into one of two categories. State / UT / Central Ministry Portal, the designated portal of the respective government that provides a single window access to information and service links, is the first category.
- These portals were assessed on four parameters:
  - Accessibility
  - Content Availability
  - Ease of Use
  - Information Security & Privacy
- The second category comprises of the State / UT / Central Ministry Services Portals which focus on the digital delivery of services and provide service-related information.
- The Services Portals were assessed on an additional three parameters:
  - End-service Delivery
  - Integrated Service Delivery
  - Status & Request Tracking

To facilitate comparative assessment of the progress in e-services across the country, the assessment parameters have remained the same as in the 2019 study.

- Jammu and Kashmir, assessed for First time, ranked the highest among Union Territories.
- Among North-East and Hill States: Meghalaya and Nagaland are leading state.
- Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh had a compliance of more than 85 percent among the Remaining States category

## UNITED NATIONS- HABITAT'S WORLD CITIES REPORT



### Why in News?

Recently, The United Nations- Habitat's World cities Report release on 29th June 2022 said the global urban population is back on track to grow by another 2.2 billion people by 2050.

### KEY POINTS

- India's urban population is estimated to stand at 675 million in 2035.
- China's urban population in 2035 is projected at 1.05 billion and the India's urban population is the 2nd highest behind china.
- The United Nations Human Settlements Programme is the United Nations programme for human settlements and sustainable urban development.
- It was established in 1978 as an outcome of the First UN Conference on Human Settlements and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat I) held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976.
- UN-Habitat maintains its headquarters at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, Kenya.
- It is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.
- It is a member of the United Nations Development Group. The mandate of UN-Habitat derives from the Habitat Agenda, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1996.

## 2022 GLOBAL STARTUP ECOSYSTEM REPORT (GSER)



### KEY REPORT

- The 2022 Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER) by startup Genome was launched at London Tech Week on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022.
- The GSER is the world's most comprehensive, data-driven research on startups with 280+ entrepreneurial innovation ecosystems and 3 million startups analyzed.
- The report includes a ranking of the leading 140 ecosystems, continental insights, and founder focused articles from thought-leading experts.
- Kerala ranks top in Asia in global report Kerala has also been ranked at fourth position, in terms of Affordable Talent, Bangalore, Karnataka ranked 22<sup>nd</sup> , Delhi 26<sup>th</sup> and Mumbai 36<sup>th</sup> the report was introduced by JF Gauthier, he is founder and CEO of Startup Genome.

## WORLD AIR POWER INDEX 2022



### KEY POINTS

- World Directory of Modern Military Aircraft (WDMMA) released the World Air Powers Ranking of 2022.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) has been placed at the third position on the World Air Power Index in terms of the total fighting strength of the various air services of different nations of the world.
- The Indian air force is placed above the Chinese aviation based armed forces (PLAAF), the Japan air self defence forces (JASDF).

## ECONOMIC SCENARIO

### 5th EDITION OF ENHANCED ACCESS AND SERVICE EXCELLENCE (EASE 5.0)



#### Why in News?

Recently, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched 5th Edition of Enhanced Access and Service Excellence (EASE 5.0) on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

#### KEY POINTS

- Enhanced Access and Service Excellence-EASE was developed throughout four editions from FY19 to FY22, The EASENext program's EASE 5.0 is a 'Common reforms agenda' was designed for Public Sector Banks
- Under EASE 5.0, Public Sector Banks will continue to invest in new-age capabilities and deepen the ongoing reforms to respond to evolving customer needs, changing competition and the technology environment.
- EASE 5.0 will focus on digital customer experience, and integrated and inclusive banking, with emphasis on supporting small businesses and agriculture.
- All Public Sector banks will also create a bank-specific three-year strategic roadmap. It will entail strategic initiatives beyond EASE 5.0. The initiatives will be across diverse themes — business growth, profitability, risk, customer service, operations, and capability building.

## JAN SAMARTH PORTAL



### Why in News?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a “national portal for credit-linked government schemes” called “Jan Samarth Portal” on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

### KEY POINTS

- This APP was launched under the 'Iconic Week Celebrations' of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi and the week (June 6-11) is being celebrated as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' (AKAM).
- During the celebration PM also inaugurated a Digital Exhibition which traces the journey of the two Ministries over the past Eight years and he released special series of Rs 1, Rs 2, Rs 5, Rs 10 and Rs 20 coins.
- These special series of coins have the theme of the logo of AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV and it is easily identifiable to visually impaired persons.

### What is Jan Samarth Portal?

- Jan Samarth Portal is a one-stop digital portal linking government credit schemes.
- It is a first of its kind platform which directly connects beneficiaries to lenders.
- The main purpose of the portal is to encourage inclusive growth and development of various sectors by guiding and providing them with the right type of government benefits through simple and easy digital processes.
- The portal ensures end-to-end coverage of all the linked schemes.
- Jan Samarth Portal linked 13 Credit Linked Government schemes on a single platform.



## 47<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF GST COUNCIL



### KEY POINTS

- The GST Council 47<sup>TH</sup> Meeting , chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, held on June 28 and 29 in Srinagar.
- The 47th GST Council meeting assumes significance as it is expected to discuss the report of the panel of state ministers on rate rationalisation and also the tax rate on casinos, race courses and online gaming.
- The Group of Ministers (GoM) discussed possible changes in tax slabs, the sources said, adding that the final report of the panel would take some more time.

## PERSONS IN NEWS

### DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY (NIA)



#### KEY POINTS

- Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) appointed former Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Dinkar Gupta as the Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).
- He is an 1987 batch IPS Officer of Panjab cadre, The ACC has approved his appointment till March 31, 2024.
- He was decorated with two police gallantry medals in 1992 and 1994. He was also decorated with the police medal for meritorious services by the president and the Presidents Police Medal for Distinguished Service 2010.
- In 1999 he was awarded the British Chevening Gurukul Scholarship by the British Council at London School of Economics, London.

### MISS INDIA WORLDWIDE 2022



## KEY POINTS

- Recently on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022 Khushi Patel, a biomedical student from the United Kingdom, has been declared the winner of the Miss India Worldwide 2022, the longest-running Indian pageant outside of India.
- Vaodehi Dongre from US was declared the first runner up and shrutika mane was adjudged the second runner up.
- This year pageant was held after a gap of three years with the last one being organized at the Leela Hotel in Mumbai in September 2019.
- This is the longest-running Indian beauty pageant outside of India.

## CHAIRMAN OF (CBDT) CENTRAL BOARD OF DIRECT TAXES



## KEY POINTS

- Indian Revenue Services Officer, a 1986 Batch Nitin Gupta appointed as Chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes and he is scheduled to retire in September 2023.
- The CBDT is headed by a Chairman and can have six Members in the Rank of Special Secretary.
- It is a Administrative body for Income Tax Department.
- At Present there are 5 members in board There are five members in the CBDT at present and 1985-batch IRS officer Anuja Sarangi is the senior most.

## DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NATIONAL INFORMATICS CENTER



### KEY POINTS

- Senior scientist Rajesh Gera has been appointed as the Director General, National Informatics center.
- The NIC, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) headquarter at New Delhi.
- It was established in 1976 with the objective to provide technology driven solutions to government.

## CMD ,MECON



### KEY POINTS

- Sanjay Kumar Verma appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of MECON Limited. Currently, he is serving as Director (Commercial) in the same organization.
- He is appointed by the selection committee named as Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB)
- MECON was established in 1959 as Central Engineering & Design Bureau (CEDB) by the Govt. of India, with a handful of Engineers (just 13 Engineers).
- The objective of MECON is to reduce our country's dependence on foreign consultants and build indigenous capability for design & consultancy of integrated steel plants.

## DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SASHASTRA SEEMA BAL (SSB)



### KEY POINTS

- Madhya Pradesh-cadre 1988 IPS officer SL Thaosen is appointed as Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) up to 30.11.2023.
- Thaosen, a 1988-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer was handed over the baton by officiating DG and ITBP chief Sanjay Arora at the headquarters of the force in R K Puram.

## SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA DIRECTOR GENERAL



### KEY POINTS

- Sports Authority of India Director General Sandip Pradhan was granted a tenure extension of more than two years in his present capacity by the Government of India till 2024.
- He is an Indian Revenue Services Officer of 1990 batch; his tenure was ending of 6<sup>th</sup> July before extension till 30 September 2024 it is his second extension granted by Appointment Committee of Cabinet.

## **DIRECTOR GENERAL OF BUREAU OF CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY (BCAS)**



### **KEY POINTS**

- Zulfiqar Hasan is appointed as Director General of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security.
- The appointment of Zulfiqar Hasan as BCAS chief has been done for the tenure upto his superannuation on 31-10-2024.
- Bureau of Civil Aviation Security works under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, India. It is a regulatory body for Civil Aviation Security in India and it is headed by the Director-General of Police.

## **CEO of NITI AAYOG**



### **KEY POINTS**

- Parameswaran Iyer, a 1981-batch IAS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre and a well-known sanitation specialist, has been appointed the chief executive officer of Niti Aayog on 30<sup>th</sup> June.
- Parameswaran Iyer's initial tenure will be for two years, according to a notification issued by the Department of Personnel and Training.
- At present, Mr. Iyer functions as the Programme Manager of 2030 Water Resources Group, a platform hosted by the World Bank for water conservation.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### WORLD MILK DAY



- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations adopted June 1 as World Milk Day in 2001. The day is marked to recognize milk as global food and to celebrate the dairy industry.
- Theme 2022 'Dairy Net Zero'.

### INTERNATIONAL SEX WORKERS DAY



- International Sex Workers' Day is observed on 2 June every year all around the world.
- This year's theme for International Sex Workers Day is "Demand Dignity: End Violence Against Sex Workers."
- This day first recognized in 1975 after a protest happened where 100 sex workers in France gathered at Lyon's Saint-Nizier Church and protested against the criminalization of their work and exploitative living conditions.

## WORLD BICYCLE DAY



### World Bicycle Day

- World Bicycle Day is observed each year on 3 June since 2018, United Nations General Assembly in April 2018 during 72<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session adopted this day.
- The theme for the year 2022 for World Bicycle Day is to celebrate the bicycle's originality, diversity and endurance being utilized for more than 200 years
- On the day this year in India, Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF INNOCENT CHILDREN VICTIMS OF AGGRESSION



- This day is celebrated on 4<sup>th</sup> June all around the world.
- First International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression was observed on August 19, 1982.
- The purpose of the day is to acknowledge the pain suffered by children throughout the world who are the victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse. This day affirms the UN's commitment to protect the rights of children.

## WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY



World Environment Day

- UN World Environment day is celebrated all around the world on 5<sup>th</sup> June.
- This year's theme is 'Only One Earth'
- This day is celebrated to spread awareness among people about environmental conservation and value of nature in our lives.
- First time world environment day is observed by UN General Assembly in 1974.

## WORLD FOOD SAFETY DAY



- This day is observed on 7<sup>th</sup> June each year.
- World Food Safety Day 2022 Theme, "Safer Food, Better Health".
- World Health Organisation (WHO) in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations decided to celebrate 7th June as the First food safety day since 7th June 2019.

## WORLD OCEANS DAY



- World Oceans Day 2022: It is observed on June 8 every year to spread awareness about the role of oceans on Earth.
- The theme for World Oceans Day 2022 is “Revitalization: Collective Action for the Ocean”.
- On 8 June 2009, this day was officially declared by the United Nations General Assembly as world ocean day.
- The concept of World Ocean Day was proposed at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.
- Officially World Ocean Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2008 to be celebrated worldwide annually on 8 June to resolve the problems of oceans and also to save ocean water.

## WORLD BRAIN TUMOUR DAY



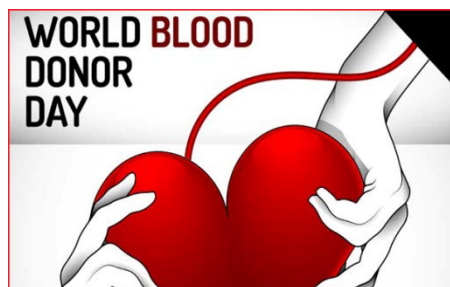
- This day is celebrated on 8<sup>th</sup> June all around the world to spread the awareness about brain tumors.
- The theme for World Brain Tumor Day 2022 is “Together We Are Stronger”.
- World Brain Tumor Day was first observed on June 8, 2000, by the German Brain Tumor Association (Deutsche Hirntumorhilfe e.V.), a non-profit organisation for serving and offering support to brain tumour patients.

## WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR



- This is observed on 12<sup>th</sup> June each year to spread awareness about the prevention of child labour.
- 2022 Theme: "Universal Social Protection to End Child Labour"
- The day was first observed in 2002 and is recognised by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

## WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY



- Every year countries around the world celebrate World Blood Donor Day (WBDD) on 14<sup>th</sup> June.
- For 2022, the World Blood Donor Day theme is “Donating blood is an act of solidarity. Join the effort and save lives” in order to draw attention to the roles that voluntary blood donations play in saving lives and enhancing solidarity within communities..
- Host country for this year is Mexico.

## GLOBAL WIND DAY



- This day is observed on 15<sup>th</sup> June
- Theme is celebrated to enjoy the benefits of Wind energy and providing education to the individuals about the power and potential of wind energy to change the world.
- The First Wind Day was commemorated in 2007 by the European Wind Energy Association (EWEA).
- In 2009 the EWEA collaborated with the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) and made it a global event.

## WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY



- The World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) happens each year on June 15th.
- It was officially recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2011.
- This year theme of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2022 “Combatting Elder Abuse”.



## WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT



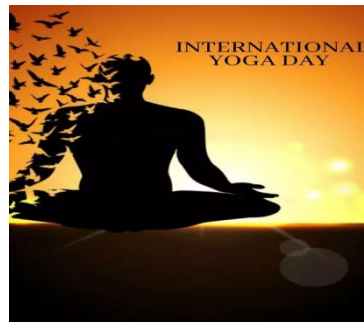
- The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed every year to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification and drought on 17<sup>th</sup> June.
- Theme for this year is “Rising up from drought together”.
- The global observance of the event took place in Madrid, Spain, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has announced.
- The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed June 17 as the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought in December 1994.

## WORLD REFUGEE DAY



- World Refugee Day is an international day designated by the United Nations to honour refugees around the globe it is celebrated on 20<sup>th</sup> June.
- Theme 2022 whoever, wherever, whenever, everyone has the right to seek safety.
- World Refugee Day, was adopted on December 4, 2000.

## INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY



- International Yoga Day 2022: It is celebrated on June 21 every year, this year marked as the 8th International Yoga Day.
- The first international yoga day was observed on 21st June 2015.
- The theme for 2022 is “Yoga for humanity”.

## INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC DAY



- International Olympic Day or World Olympic Day is observed every year on June 23
- For 2022, the theme is 'Together for a peaceful world.'
- On June 23, 1948, Canada, Switzerland, Portugal, Greece, Austria, the United Kingdom, Venezuela, Belgium and Uruguay observed the first Olympic Day.

## UNITED NATIONS PUBLIC SERVICE DAY



- On 20 December 2002, the General Assembly designated 23 June as UN Public Service Day.
- The theme for this year's event is "Building back better from COVID-19: Enhancing innovative partnerships to meet the Sustainable Development Goals."
- It also recognizes the work of public servants and encourages young people to pursue careers in the public sector.

## INTERNATIONAL WIDOW'S DAY



- The United Nations observes 23 June as International Widows Day since 2011, to draw attention to the voices and experiences of widows and to galvanize the unique support that they need.
- The day was established by The Loomba Foundation to raise awareness about the issue of widowhood.
- This year's theme is - "Sustainable Solutions for Widows Financial Independence"

## INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE & ILLICIT TRAFFICKING



- The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, or World Drug Day, is marked on 26 June every year.
- This year the theme is “Addressing drug challenges in health and humanitarian crises”.
- The motive is to fight off misinformation by sharing facts and by providing methods of treatment, prevention and care.
- On December 7, 1987, the United Nations General Assembly decided to observe June 26 as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

## WORLD ASTEROID DAY



- World Asteroid Day (also known as International Asteroid Day) is an annual UN-sanctioned global awareness campaign event observed on June 30.
- The theme of Asteroid Day 2022 is “small is beautiful.”
- In December 2016, the UN General Assembly adopted this day to be observe each year at the international level the anniversary of the Tunguska impact over Siberia, Russian Federation, on 30 June 1908.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PARLIAMENTARISM



- International Day of Parliamentarism is celebrated on 30<sup>th</sup> June Every Year since 1889.
- On 30<sup>th</sup> June 1889 the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was established.
- This year for International Day of Parliamentarism 2022 the theme of public engagement.
- The International Day of Parliamentarism is a time to review the progress that parliaments have made in achieving some key goals to be more representative and move with the times, including carrying out self-assessments, working to include more women and young MPs, and adapting to new technologies.

## Questions on Current Issues (JUNE – 2022)

01. Which of the following statements is/are NOT Correct regarding Government e-Marketplace (GeM)
1. GeM is a one stop government e-Market place where common user goods and services can be procured.
  2. Cooperative societies cannot register as buyers on the GeM.
- (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only                      (c) Both 1 and 2                      (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**01. Ans: (b)**

**Sol: Statement I is Correct:** Government e-Marketplace (GeM) is a one stop government e-Market place where common user goods and services can be procured. GeM is dynamic, self-sustaining and user friendly portal for making procurement by Government officers.

**Statement I is Incorrect:** The Ministry of Cooperation wanted the Cooperative Societies to be allowed to procure goods and services from GeM as it is already adequately developed as a one stop portal to facilitate online procurement of common use Goods and Services. It is transparent, efficient, has economy of scale and is speedy in procurement. In the above context, allowing Cooperative Societies to register on GeM as Buyers of Goods & Services required by them would help Cooperatives in getting competitive prices through an open and transparent process. Moreover, since the societies have more than 27 Crore members, procurement through GeM would not only economically benefit the common man, but it would also enhance the credibility of the cooperatives.

Hence the correct answer is Option (b).

02. Consider the following Statements
1. India's first liquid-mirror telescope has been commissioned atop a mountain in the Himalayan region in Uttarakhand.
  2. Uttarakhand government launched e-stamping facility, abolishes physical stamp papers.
  3. Bihar state government is set to conduct a caste-based census in the state.

**Select the Incorrect Statement**

- (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only                      (c) 1 and 2 only                      (d) 2 and 4 only

**02. Ans: (b)**

**Sol: Statement 1 Correct:** India's first liquid-mirror telescope, the International Liquid Mirror Telescope (ILMT) has been set up on the campus of the Devasthal Observatory of the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) in Nainital, Uttarakhand. The telescope will observe asteroids, supernovae, space debris and all other celestial objects from an altitude of 2,450 metres in the Himalayas. It is the first liquid-telescope globally to be designed exclusively for astronomical purposes.

**Statement 2 Not Correct:** Punjab government has recently launched e-stamping facility after abolishing physical stamp papers of all denominations. The move aims to bring efficiency and is expected to save Rs 35 crore annually. Stamp papers of any denomination can be obtained only through e-stamp from stamp vendor or from banks authorised by the state government. The facility has been started with the assistance of National e-Governance Services Limited.



**Statement 3 Correct:** Bihar state government is set to conduct a caste-based census in the state. The decision was taken at an all-party meeting chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. The exercise would be called Jaati Aadharit Ganana and the state government will publish the data related to the census through advertisements in newspapers. The aim of this exercise is to carry out developmental work for people who are deprived.

Hence the correct answer is Option (b).

03. PARAM ANANTA Supercomputer commissioned at which IIT?

- (a) Gandhinagar                      (b) Hyderabad                      (c) Madras                      (d) Delhi

**03. Ans: (a)**

**Sol:** Param Ananta, is a state of the art supercomputer at IIT Gandhinagar dedicated to the nation under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM). It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST), which was commissioned.

This indigenous software stack is developed by C-DAC and is a Make in India initiative. The Param Ananta Supercomputing Facility will greatly benefit IIT Gandhinagar's R&D activities in multidisciplinary domains of science and technology, including, but not limited to, artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), data science; computational fluid dynamics (CFD); bio-engineering for genome sequencing and DNA studies. Hence the correct answer is Option (a).

04. World Health Organization (WHO) has selected \_\_\_\_\_ for the World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) Award-2022?

- (a) Kerala                      (b) Jharkhand                      (c) Bihar                      (d) Gujarat

**04. Ans: (b)**

**Sol:** The World Health Organization (WHO) has chosen Jharkhand for the World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) Award-2022, in recognition of the state's efforts to reduce tobacco usage. The award will be presented to the State Tobacco Control Cell of the Health Department in New Delhi in honour of World No Tobacco Day.

The coveted award, which honoured the State Government's achievements in reducing tobacco usage, was given by the National Tobacco Control Program in Jharkhand.

The effective programmes and reach-out helplines for individuals who wished to stop tobacco are the reason for the decline of tobacco in Jharkhand. Simultaneously, tobacco usage in Jharkhand has decreased due to increased knowledge and limitations on tobacco use, such as the prohibition of smoking in public places and making it a criminal violation. Hence the correct answer is Option (b).

05. Consider the following statements regarding 'Gen Next Democracy Network'

1. The programme showcases the functioning of Indian democracy to youth from democratic countries
2. It is conducted by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

**Select the correct statement(s)**

- (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only                      (c) Both 1 and 2                      (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**05. Ans: (c)**

**Sol:** The Gen Next Democracy Network programme aims at defining India's democratic governance structure at various levels and provides an understanding of the success of India's democratic journey across the world. This programme will acquaint the young leaders of 75 democracies with India's culture, heritage and the "Idea of India" by showcasing India's contributions to addressing global issues through its democratic worldview.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) had organised the first batch of the Gen-Next Democracy Network Programme. It is conducted by The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). It is an autonomous organisation of the Government of India. The ICCR Headquarter is situated in New Delhi. Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) had organised the first batch of the Gen-Next Democracy Network Programme. Hence the correct answer is Option (c).

**06. 'NADI Conclave' which took place recently is related to**

- (a) Promoting AYUSH sector                      (b) Cultural exchange  
 (c) Building disaster resilient infrastructure                      (d) Regional co-operation in Bay of Bengal region

**06. Ans: (d)**

**Sol:** NADI, meaning river, is an initiative to articulate and activate a collective vision of sub-regional cooperation in the Bay of Bengal region and with South East Asia. It recognises the region south of Himalayas from Ganga and Brahmaputra to Mekong as a contiguity of river basins with common challenges that require close cooperation beyond their political borders.

NADI is also aimed at building confidence in the key role of India's north-eastern region taking forward strategic initiatives for energy and water security in the neighbourhood and in the Bay of Bengal region, leading towards a vibrant and secure Indo-Pacific. Hence the correct answer is Option (d).

**07. Which of the following statements is/are NOT Correct regarding the Astra Mk-1 missile?**

1. It is designed and developed by Defence Research and Development Organization.
  2. It is a beyond visual range (BVR) surface-to-air missile (AAM).
- (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only                      (c) Both 1 and 2                      (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**07. Ans: (b)**

**Sol: Statement 1 is Correct:** The missile is designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization. The missile is fully integrated on the Sukhoi 30 MKI I and will be integrated with other fighter aircraft in a phased manner, including Tejas and the Mig-29K of the Navy.

**Statement 2 is Incorrect:** The Astra Mk-1 is a beyond visual range (BVR), air-to-air missile (AAM). BVM missiles are capable of engaging beyond the range of 20 nautical miles or 37 kilometres. AAMs are fired from an airborne asset to destroy an airborne target. Hence the correct answer is Option (b).

08. Which of the following team has won the Men's Hockey Asia Cup 2022?

- (a) South Korea                      (b) Malaysia                      (c) India                      (d) China

**08. Ans: (a)**

**Sol:** South Korea dashed Malaysia's hopes of a maiden Hero Asia Cup trophy as they reigned supreme with a thrilling 2-1 final victory here at the GBK Sports Arena. India defeated Japan 1-0 to win bronze at the Men's Hockey Asia Cup 2022 in Jakarta, Indonesia. Hence the correct answer is Option (a).

09. Who will continue as United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) 'Goodwill Ambassador' for a record 20<sup>th</sup> year?

- (a) Sachin Tendulkar                      (b) Sania Mirza                      (c) Priyanka Chopra                      (d) Deepika Padukone

**09. Ans: (a)**

**Sol:** Sachin Tendulkar is continue as United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) 'Goodwill Ambassador' for a record 20th year, working for the welfare of underprivileged children. The iconic cricketer has been associated with UNICEF for a long for various causes. In his almost two-decade-long partnership with UNICEF, he has been vital in furthering the campaigns, especially the ones aimed at providing a better future for underprivileged children.

- UNICEF Headquarters: New York, New York, United States;
- UNICEF Head: Catherine M. Russell;
- UNICEF President: Tore Hattrem;
- UNICEF Founded: 11 December 1946.

10. Consider the following statements about 'Pacific Island Countries'.

1. The Pacific Island Countries are a cluster of 14 states which are located largely in the tropical zone of the Pacific Ocean between Asia, Australia and the Americas.
2. The islands are divided on the basis of physical and human geography into three distinct parts — Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia.

**Select the correct statements**

- (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only                      (c) Both 1 and 2                      (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**10. Ans: (c)**

**Sol:** The Pacific Island Countries are a cluster of 14 states which are located largely in the tropical zone of the Pacific Ocean between Asia, Australia and the Americas. They include Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

The islands are divided on the basis of physical and human geography into three distinct parts: Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia. The islands are very small in land area, and are spread wide across the vast equatorial swathe of the Pacific Ocean. Hence the correct answer is Option (c)

11. The 'Agri Land Price Index (ALPI)' is launched by which of the following Organization?
- (a) NITI Aayog (b) IIM Ahmedabad  
 (c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) (d) Food and Agriculture Organization

**11. Ans: (b)**

**Sol:** Agriculture land in Karnataka is the most expensive followed by Telangana, according to a new Agri Land Price Index (ALPI) launched for six states, including the two launched by the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A). The index is aimed at removing uncertainty in the agricultural land valuation. Hence the correct answer is Option (b)

12. Who has given in the Times Business Award 2022 for Eastern India's Leading READY-TO-EAT brand?
- (a) Diksha Rawat (b) Roshni Dixit (c) Vineta Suyal (d) Rashmi Sahoo

**12. Ans: (d)**

**Sol:** Director of Ruchi Foodline, Eastern India's leading food brand and Odisha's No.1 spices company, Rashmi Sahoo has been presented the Times Business Award 2022. She was given the award by renowned Bollywood actor and social activist Sonu Sood. The award was given in the category of Eastern India's Leading READY -TO-EAT brand. Hence the correct answer is Option (d)

13. Consider the following Statements

1. Turkey will now be officially known as Turkiye at the United Nations after it agreed to officially recognise the name change a request from the Turkish government.
2. Recep Tayyip Erdogan is the 12<sup>th</sup> and current president of Turkiye

**Select the Correct Statement**

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None

**13 Ans: (c)**

**Sol:** Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct. Turkey will now be officially known as Turkiye at the United Nations after it agreed to officially recognise the name change a request from the Turkish government. Recep Tayyip Erdogan is a Turkish politician serving as the 12<sup>th</sup> and current president of Turkey since 2014. He previously served as prime minister of Turkey from 2003 to 2014 and as mayor of Istanbul from 1994 to 1998. Ankara is Turkey's capital, while Istanbul is its largest city and financial centre. Republic of Turkiye. Hence the correct Answer is Option (c).

14. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the headquarters of the Indian National Center for Space Promotion and Authorization (IN-SPACe) in which of the following Indian state?
- (a) Telangana (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) New Delhi (d) Gujarat

**14. Ans: (d)**

**Sol:** The Indian National Center for Space Promotion and Authorization (IN-SPACe) was established in Ahmedabad by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Amit Shah, the Union Home Minister, was also present at the ceremony. After inaugurating the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) in Ahmedabad, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reviewed its headquarters.

IN-SPACE act as a single contact point for the private players and a total 10 MoUs were exchanged with the aim to promote private investment and innovation in space sector. Hence the correct answer is Option (d).

15. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) discover the country's largest gold deposits in which of the following Indian state?

(a) Chattisgarh                      (b) Jharkhand                      (c) Bihar                      (d) Telangana

**15. Ans: (c)**

**Sol:** A survey by the Geological Survey of India has stated that a gold reserve of around 222.88 million tonnes including 27.6 tonnes of mineral-rich ore are present in the Jamui district of Bihar.

The State Mines and Geology Department is in consultation with agencies engaged in the exploration, including GSI and the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), for the exploration of gold reserves in Jamui, Bihar. Hence the correct answer is Option (c)

16. India and which country hosted the Industry Transition Dialogue in Stockholm, as a part of a joint initiative?

(a) Denmark                      (b) Germany                      (c) Sweden                      (d) Finland

**16. Ans: (c)**

**Sol:** Industry Transition Dialogue was hosted by India and Sweden in Stockholm. Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav addressed the summit. The event was organised as a part of India and Sweden's joint initiative called Leadership for Industry Transition (LeadIT). The Minister said that the developed countries must take lead in the global transition towards net zero and low carbon industry transition. Hence the correct answer is Option (c)

17. Dr. S Somanath, the chairman of the ISRO, inaugurated ANANTH Technologies' spacecraft manufacturing unit at which state?

(a) Tamil Nadu                      (b) Kerala                      (c) Andhra Pradesh                      (d) Karnataka

**17. Ans: (d)**

**Sol:** Dr S Somanath, the chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), inaugurated ANANTH Technologies' spacecraft manufacturing unit at Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) Aerospace Park. The new state-of-the-art spacecraft manufacturing facility can conduct assembly integration and testing of four large spacecraft simultaneously. This is a first of its kind facility in India, adding that since its establishment in 1992, Ananth Technologies has contributed to the manufacturing of 89 satellites and 69 launch vehicles built/launched by ISRO.

- ISRO Founded: 15 August 1969;
- ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru;
- ISRO Chairman: S Somanath.

- 18: Which of the following statements is not correct regarding crypto or digital-assets regulations in India?
- (a) The government in the Union Budget 2022-23 has for the first time provided taxation on crypto assets.
  - (b) Income from the transfer of virtual digital assets or cryptocurrencies is taxable at 30 percent.
  - (c) 1% TDS (tax deducted at source) is also applicable on payments made on the transfer of digital assets.
  - (d) Crypto trading platforms are regulated by the RBI under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

**18. Ans: (d)**

**Sol:** Option (d) is Incorrect Statement. The Correct Statement is the suggestion of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to regulate crypto trading platforms by the RBI under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). Hence, statement (d) is incorrect.

19. Which of the following statements is correct regarding the provisions on Child artists in India?
- 1. No child shall be allowed to work for more than five hours in a day and for not more than three hours without rest.
  - 2. At least 20% of the income earned by the child should be directly deposited in a fixed deposit account in the name of the child.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only                      (c) Both 1 and 2                      (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**19. Ans: (c)**

**Sol:** The Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act (CALPRA) that prohibits engagement of children in all occupations. No child shall be allowed to work for more than five hours in a day and for not more than three hours without rest. At least 20% of the income earned by the child should be directly deposited in a fixed deposit account in the name of the child. Hence both the statements are correct and Option (c) is the correct answer.

20. "Footing the Bill" report recently released by which of the following Organization?

- (a) Food and Agriculture Organisation
- (b) The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- (c) Oxfam International
- (d) World Health Organisation

**20. Ans: (c)**

**Sol:** Recently, Oxfam International released a report titled "Footing the Bill". The report highlighted that the UN requires eight times more financial support than 20 years ago to be able to provide humanitarian aid to low-income countries during climate-related disasters. Hence Option (c) is the correct answer.

21. Consider the following statements

- 1. The Phillips curve is an economic concept developed by A. W. Phillips stating that inflation and unemployment have a stable and inverse relationship.
- 2. The Laffer Curve is an economic concept that states that inflation and unemployment have a stable and inverse relationship.



**Which of the above statements is/are Incorrect?**

- (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only                      (c) Both 1 and 2                      (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**21. Ans: (b)**

**Sol: Statement 1 is Correct:** The Phillips curve is an economic concept developed by A. W. Phillips stating that inflation and unemployment have a stable and inverse relationship.

**Statement 2 is Incorrect:** The Laffer Curve is a theory developed by supply-side economist Arthur Laffer to show the relationship between tax rates and the amount of tax revenue collected by governments. The curve is used to illustrate Laffer's argument that sometimes-cutting tax rates can increase total tax revenue.

**22. Which of the following statements is Correct regarding Anti-dumping duty?**

1. Anti-dumping measures are taken to ensure fair trade for domestic industries.
2. Anti-dumping duty is a customs duty on imports providing a protection against the dumping of goods at prices substantially lower than the normal value

- (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only                      (c) Both 1 and 2                      (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**22. Ans: (c)**

**Sol:** Anti-dumping measures are taken to ensure fair trade and provide a level playing field to the domestic industry. Anti-dumping duty is a customs duty on imports providing a protection against the dumping of goods at prices substantially lower than the normal value whereas countervailing duty is a customs duty on goods that have received government subsidies in the originating or exporting country. CVDs are meant to level the playing field between domestic producers of a product and foreign producers of the same product who can afford to sell it at a lower price because of the subsidy they receive from their government.

**23. Which of the following statements is/are NOT correct regarding Commonwealth of Nations?**

1. The Commonwealth of Nations is a political association of member states, almost all of which are former territories of the British Empire.
2. The current Commonwealth of Nations was formally constituted by the Balfour Declaration, which established the member states as "free and equal".
3. The head of the Commonwealth is currently Queen Elizabeth II, who is the longest-serving monarch in British history.

- (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only                      (c) 1, 3 only                      (d) 2, 3 only

**23. Ans: (b)**

**Sol:** The Commonwealth of Nations, simply referred to as the Commonwealth, is a political association of 54 member states, almost all of which are former territories of the British Empire. It was originally created as the British Commonwealth of Nations through the Balfour Declaration at the 1926 Imperial Conference, and formalised by the United Kingdom through the Statute of Westminster in 1931.

The current Commonwealth of Nations was formally constituted by the London Declaration in 1949, which modernised the community and established the member states as "free and equal". The head of the Commonwealth is currently Queen Elizabeth II. Queen Elizabeth II is the longest-serving monarch in British history and the year 2022 celebrates her 70th year on the throne.

24. Which of the following Statements is/are NOT Correct regarding World Environment Day?
1. World Environment Day is being celebrated annually on June 15.
  2. World Environment Day 2022 is hosted by Sweden.
  3. “Only One Earth” is the campaign slogan, with the focus on “Living Sustainably in Harmony with Nature”.
- (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only                      (c) 1 and 2 only                      (d) 2 and 3 only

24. **Ans: (a)**

**Sol: Statement 1 is Incorrect:** World Environment Day is the most renowned day for environmental action. Since 1974, it has been celebrated every year on 5<sup>th</sup> June and this day is celebrated to encourage awareness and environmental protection.

**Statement 2 is Correct:** Each year, World Environment Day is hosted by a different country in which official celebrations take place. The host country for 2022 is Sweden. To commemorate the 1972 UN Conference on Human Environment, Sweden and Kenya, with support from UNEP and partners, are organizing a high-level international meeting – “Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all our responsibility, our opportunity” in Stockholm on 2 and 3 June 2022.

**Statement 3 is Correct:** The World Environment Day 2022 global campaign or theme: ‘Only One Earth’ calls for transformative changes to policies and choices to enable cleaner, greener, and sustainable living in harmony with nature. It will focus on the need to live sustainably in harmony with nature, and our possibilities for shifting to a greener lifestyle through both policies and individual choices.

Hence the correct answer is Option (a).

25. Which of the following Statements is/are Correct regarding “SHRESTHA” scheme?
1. The SHRESHTHA scheme was launched by Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment.
  2. It was launched with the aim of providing quality education & opportunities to 3,000 students, who belongs to scheduled caste category.
- (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only                      (c) Both (1) and (2)                      (d) None of the above

25. **Ans: (c)**

**Sol:** Both the Statements are Correct. The SHRESHTHA scheme was launched by Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment.

- This scheme was launched for Scheduled Castes, as they have faced historical injustices in a hierarchical based society and education is the most powerful tool to empower them as a community. Scheme will provide a level playing field to the poor and meritorious SC students.
- It was launched with the aim of providing quality education & opportunities to 3,000 students, who belongs to scheduled caste category.
- It envisions high quality free residential education for meritorious SC students of class 9th to class 12th to meritorious students from SC communities.

26. Which state has won a coveted UN Award- WSIS prize at Geneva in Switzerland?  
 (a) Assam (b) Meghalaya (c) Sikkim (d) Tripura

**26. Ans: (b)**

**Sol:** The Meghalaya government key initiative of e-proposal system, part of Meghalaya Enterprise Architect has won a coveted UN Award- World Summit on the Information Society Forum (WSIS) prize at Geneva in Switzerland. Secretary General of ITU, Houlin Zhao presented the winner award to Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma in the WSIS Forum Prizes 2022, held at Geneva, Switzerland.

27. Which country is hosting the Bonn Climate Change Conference 2022?  
 (a) Egypt (b) Denmark (c) South Africa (d) Poland

**27. Ans: (a)**

**Sol:** The 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, more commonly referred to as COP27, will be the 27<sup>th</sup> United Nations Climate Change conference, to be held from 6 to 18 November 2022 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

28. Which of the following statements NOT correct regarding Suraksha-Mitra project?
1. The Suraksha-Mitra project, a vehicle monitoring system that sends distress messages in case of any accident, has become operational in Telangana.
  2. This project comes under the NIRBHAYA SCHEME, launched by the Motor Vehicle Department.
  3. This scheme envisages sending a distress message to the owner's mobile phones in case of any untoward incidents while traveling.
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) 1 and 2 only (d) 2 and 3 only

**28. Ans: (a)**

**Sol:** Statement 1 is Incorrect. The Correct Statement is that The Suraksha-Mitra project, a vehicle monitoring system that sends distress messages in case of any accident, has become operational in kerala. Statement 2 and 3 are correct. Hence the correct answer is Option (a).

29. Recently, India's first girl Panchayat named as "Balika panchayat" started in which Indian State?  
 (a) Tamil Nadu (b) Kerala (c) Gujarat (d) Rajasthan

**29. Ans: (c)**

**Sol:** India's first girl Panchayat named as, "Balika Panchayat", started in several villages of Gujarat's Kutch district by Women and Child Development Welfare department of the Gujarat Government under the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign.

In Balika panchayat, the member is nominated just like Gram panchayat and managed by the people of the age group 11-21 years and the main objective of balika panchayat is to promote the social and political development of the girl child and remove the evil practices from the society such as child marriage, and the dowry system.

30. Which of the following Statements is/are Correct regarding NIRYAT Portal?
1. NIRYAT Portal stands for National Import-Export Record for Yearly Analysis of Trade
  2. The main objective of this portal is to deal with the import and export analysis of India.
  3. Niryat Portal's primary mission is to act as a guide and mentor to the next generation of entrepreneurs entering the field of international trade.
- (a) 1 only                      (b) 1 and 2 only                      (c) 1 and 3 only                      (d) 1, 2, and 3

**30. Ans: (d)**

**Sol:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022 inaugurated Vanijya Bhawan and launched NIRYAT Portal. NIRYAT Portal stands for National Import-Export Record for Yearly Analysis of Trade.

- The main objective of this portal is to deal with the import and export analysis of India. Niryat Portal's primary mission is to act as a guide and mentor to the next generation of entrepreneurs entering the field of international trade.
- The new Vanijya Bhawan and NIRYAT portal will bring changes and significant benefits for those associated with trade, commerce and MSME sector.
- The Niryat portal is easy to use as users can login to the portal with their username and password and access the trade information of the country easily.

31. What is the name of the new national portal launched for credit-linked government schemes?

- (a) PM Atmanirbhar Portal                      (b) Bharat Samarth Portal  
 (c) Jan Samarth Portal                      (d) Jan Sandesh Portal

**31. Ans: (c)**

**Sol:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the national portal for credit-linked government schemes named 'Jan Samarth Portal'. Jan Samarth Portal is a one-stop digital portal linking government credit schemes, to connect beneficiaries to lenders. It provides people with the right government benefits through simple and easy digital processes.

32. What is India's rank on Environmental Performance Index 2022?

- (a) 170                      (b) 180                      (c) 120                      (d) 166

**32. Ans: (b)**

**Sol:** Recently, the World Economic Forum released the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2022, on June 6, 2022, ranking 180 countries in terms of climate change performance, environmental health and ecosystem vitality.

The Environmental Performance Index (EPI) is a biennial index, launched by the World Economic Forum in 2002 as the Environmental Sustainability Index in partnership with the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy and the Columbia University Center for International Earth Science Information Network. This index was first published in 2002 and designed to supplement the environmental targets set forth in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

India is ranked 180<sup>th</sup> among 180 countries in the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2022. India is ranked after Pakistan, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Myanmar, with a trifling score of 18.9.

33. Which of the following Statements is/are Correct regarding National Air Sport policy 2022?
1. The Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia launched the National Air Sport policy 2022 (NASP 2022).
  2. The vision of NASP 2022 is to make India one of the top sports nations by 2023. The policy ensures to provide safe, affordable, accessible, enjoyable, and sustainable air sports in India.
- (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only                      (c) Both (a) and (b)                      (d) Neither 1 Nor 2

**33. Ans: (c)**

**Sol:** Both Statements are Correct. The Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia launched the National Air Sport policy 2022 (NASP 2022). The vision of NASP 2022 is to make India one of the top sports nations by 2023. The policy ensures to provide safe, affordable, accessible, enjoyable, and sustainable air sports in India.

The policy will cover air sports such as aerobatics, aero-modelling, model rocketry, ballooning, drones, gliding and powered gliding, hang-gliding, parachuting, paragliding and para-motoring, powered aircraft and rotorcraft. The Air Sports Federation of India (ASFI) is the apex governing body for this initiative.

34. Recently, National Tribal Research Institute inaugurated in which of the following State in India?
- (a) New Delhi                      (b) Andhra Pradesh                      (c) Odisha                      (d) Telangana

**34. Ans: (a)**

**Sol:** Union Home and Cooperation Minister, Amit Shah has inaugurated the newly built National Tribal Research Institute (NTRI) in New Delhi. This institute is to promote and preserve the tribal heritage and culture and the nerve centre of tribal research issues and matters in academic, executive and legislative fields. The institute will collaborate and network with reputed research institutes, universities, and organisations as well as academic bodies and resource centres.

35. Which of the following Statements is/are Correct regarding United Nations Security Council (UNSC)?
1. Malta, Mozambique, Japan, Ecuador and Switzerland elected as Non- Permanent Member of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) by United Nations General Assembly.
  2. The newly elected members will take up their new responsibilities on Jan. 1, 2023, and will serve till Dec. 31, 2024
  3. India's two-year term at the UNSC as non-permanent member will end in December 2025.
- (a) 1 and 2                      (b) 2 and 3                      (c) 1 and 3                      (d) 1, 2, and 3

**35. Ans: (a)**

**Sol:** Malta, Mozambique, Japan, Ecuador and Switzerland elected as Non- Permanent Member of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) by United Nations General Assembly. The newly elected members will take up their new responsibilities on Jan. 1, 2023, and will serve till Dec. 31, 2024. India's two-year term at the UNSC as non-permanent member will end in December 2025.

36. Recently, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) launched which Yearbook?
- (a) SIPRI Yearbook 2022                      (b) Gandhi the Nation  
 (c) Economic wealth of India                      (d) None of the above

36. **Ans: (a)**

**Sol:** Recently, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) launched SIPRI Yearbook 2022, which assesses the current state of armaments, disarmament and international security.

The yearbook provides an overview of developments in international security, weapons and technology, military expenditure, arms production and the arms trade, and armed conflicts and conflict management, along with efforts to control conventional, nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

SIPRI provides data, analysis and recommendations, based on open sources, to policymakers, researchers, media and the interested public. SIPRI is regularly ranked among the most respected think tanks worldwide it is established in 1966 at Stockholm.

37. Which state has declared Blue Duke as the state butterfly on the occasion of World Environment Day?

- (a) Bihar (b) Sikkim (c) Assam (d) Arunachal Pradesh

37. **Ans: (b)**

**Sol:** Chief Minister P.S. Golay, during the World Environment Day celebrations, declared Blue Duke as the State Butterfly of Sikkim. The announcement was made at Saramsa Garden near Ranipool during the event organized by the Forest department. Blue Duke, a native butterfly species of Sikkim, edged past another contender Krishna Peacock to be announced as the State Butterfly of Sikkim. The two butterflies, among the 720-odd butterfly species, had been shortlisted for the State Butterfly nominations.

Blue Duke is found at an altitude below 1,500 metres in the Himalayas and is commonly found in places like Pakyong, Passingdong and Hee-Gyathang in Dzongu, Lingee in South Sikkim and Yangsum in West Sikkim and closer to the State capital in places like Tadong and Ranka.

38. Which space agency is set to launch a mission called "DAVINCI Mission"?

- (a) JAXA (b) ISRO (c) ESA (d) NASA

38. **Ans: (d)**

**Sol:** NASA is set to launch a mission called "DAVINCI Mission". DAVINCI stands for "Deep Atmosphere Venus Investigation of Noble gases, Chemistry and Imaging Mission". The mission will fly by Venus and explore its harsh atmosphere in 2029. It will be the first mission to study Venus by means of both flybys and descent. Spacecraft is likely to explore layered Venusian atmosphere. It will reach Venusian surface by June 2031. The mission would capture data about Venus, that scientists are trying to measure since early 1980s.

DAVINCI spacecraft will serve as a flying chemistry lab. It can measure different aspects of atmosphere and climate of Venus. Spacecraft will take the first descent images of its highlands. Instruments on the spacecraft will also be able to map Venusian surface as well as detect composition of mountainlike highlands of Venus'. This lab will paint a picture of layered Venus's atmosphere as well as the picture of how it interacts with surface in Alpha Regio Mountains.

39. Which state is set to introduce the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award to the State's sportspersons?

- (a) Uttarakhand (b) Rajasthan (c) Haryana (d) Uttar Pradesh



**39. Ans: (b)**

**Sol:** Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot announced that the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award will be introduced in the state for sportspersons. The Chief Minister also said the 'Rajiv Gandhi Rural Olympics' will start from August 2022 and over 27 lakh players of all ages will participate in it. He also inaugurated Rajasthan High Performance Sports and Rehabilitation Centre.

40. Which of the following Statements is/are NOT Correct regarding Agni-4 ballistic missile?

1. India has successfully executed a nuclear- capable Agni-4 ballistic missile from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
  2. Agni-4 missile has the range of around 4,000 kilometres.
- (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only                      (c) Both (1) and (2)                      (d) None of the above

**40. Ans: (a)**

**Sol:** India has successfully executed a nuclear- capable Agni-4 ballistic missile from APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha. The missile has the range of around 4,000 kilometres. The launch validated all operational parameters as also the reliability of the system. The successful test reaffirms India's policy of having a 'Credible Minimum Deterrence' Capability.

41. Maruti Suzuki Installs Asia's largest 20 MWp carport type Solar Plant at which state?

- (a) Haryana                      (b) Maharashtra                      (c) Rajasthan                      (d) Punjab

**41. Ans: (a)**

**Sol:** Maruti Suzuki India has installed a 20 MW solar carport at its Manesar, Haryana. The project is projected to provide the organisation with 28,000 MWh of electricity per year. According to the firm, the energy generated by this initiative will be similar to the energy required to create nearly 67,000 cars every year. This is Asia's largest solar carport, according to the business. The company's combined solar power generation capacity stands at 26.3 MWp. A solar carport is an overhead shade parking area shelter with solar panels.

42. Who has participated in the "Khaan Quest 2022" exercise in Mongolia?

- (a) Indian Air Force                      (b) Indian Navy                      (c) Indian Coast Guard                      (d) Indian Army

**42. Ans: (d)**

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

The exercise will also enable sharing of best practices between the Armed Forces of participating nations and will include field training exercises, combat discussions, lectures and demonstration. The military exercise will enhance the level of defence co-operation between Indian Army and participating countries especially with the Mongolian Armed Forces which will enhance bilateral relations between the two countries.

43. Who has topped the list of Forbes Real Time Billionaires from all over the world?

- (a) Elon Musk                      (b) Bill Gates                      (c) Mukesh Ambani                      (d) Jeff Bezos

**43. Ans: (a)**

**Sol:** Recently, Forbes Real Time Billionaires List was declared. It featured the list of the richest person around the world. The chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries Ltd. Elon Musk topped the Forbes Real Time Billionaires List. Mukesh Ambani and the chairperson of Adani Group, Gautam Adani are also in the list of top 10 richest persons in the world. In the “Bloomberg Billionaires Index”, Mukesh Ambani is in eighth spot, and Gautam Adani is in ninth position.

44. Which country is going to host the G20 summit in 2023?

- (a) China                      (b) Japan                      (c) India                      (d) USA

**44. Ans: (c)**

**Sol:** India (Jammu and Kashmir) will host the 2023 meetings of the G20, an influential group of the world’s major economies. J&K government has set up a five-member high-level committee for overall coordination of G20 meetings to be held in the Union Territory. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal was appointed as India’s Sherpa for the G20 in September 2021. According to the Ministry of External Affairs, India will hold the G-20 presidency from December 1, 2022, and convene the first G20 leaders’ summit in 2023.

India’s representation at G20 summits has been led by Prime Minister Modi since 2014. The G20 countries include Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United States and the United Kingdom.

45. Consider the following Statements

1. The National Health Authority of India has put up a digital dashboard for its flagship scheme Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission launched ABDM dashboard.
2. ABDM dashboard displays a real-time feed of registries made under its three core blocks

**Select the Correct Answer from the above Statements**

- (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only                      (c) Both (a) and (b)                      (d) None

**45. Ans: (c)**

**Sol:** The National Health Authority of India has put up a digital dashboard for its flagship scheme Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission launched ABDM dashboard.

ABDM dashboard displays a real-time feed of registries made under its three core blocks: Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) numbers, Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR) and Health Facility Registry (HFR). The dashboard captures data related to the number of ABHA general.

A total of 22.1 crore ABHAs (earlier known as health ID) have been created, over 16.6 thousand healthcare professionals have registered on the HPR, over 69.4 thousand health facilities have registered on the HFR, more than 1.8 lakh health records already linked by users, and the recently revamped ABHA app has crossed over 5.1 lakh downloads.

46. India set to launch 1st Human Space Mission Gaganyaan & 1st Human Ocean Mission in which year?

- (a) 2026 (b) 2023 (c) 2025 (d) 2024

46. **Ans: (b)**

**Sol:** Earth Science Minister Dr Jitendra Singh announced that India will launch the first Human Space Mission 'Gaganyaan' as well as the first Human Ocean Mission in the second half of 2023. Addressing the World Oceans Day celebrations in New Delhi, The Minister also said that the government will soon unveil the Blue Economic Policy and around 40 million people will be employed by ocean-based industries by 2030.

47. Which Union Ministry launched the 'Green Open Access Rules 2022'?

- (a) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy  
 (b) Ministry of Science and Technology  
 (c) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
 (d) Ministry of Power

47. **Ans: (d)**

**Sol:** The Union Ministry of Power has notified the Green Open Access Rules 2022 to accelerate India's renewable energy programmes. Under the new rules, consumers can demand green power from power distribution companies (Discoms). The green open access is allowed to all consumers and the limit of open access transaction has been reduced from 1 MW to 100 kW for green energy.

48. Which of the following statements is/are NOT correct regarding minimum support price (MSP)?

- Generally, the minimum support price (MSP) rates are announced before the beginning of the sowing season.
- Among all the crops for which MSP are provided, the maximum rate is provided for Sugar cane.
- Any increase in the MSP is approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister of India.

- (a) 2 only (b) 1, 2 (c) 1, 3 (d) 2, 3

48. **Ans: (a)**

**Sol:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister, approved the increase in MSPs for all 14 kharif (summer) crops for 2022-23 crop year. Announcing the MSP hike before the sowing of kharif crops will give farmers an indication about the price which they would get and help them in deciding which crops to grow. For the 2022-23 crop year, the MSP for common grade paddy has been increased to 2,040 per quintal, up from 1,940 the previous year. The support price for 'A' quality paddy has been increased from 1,960 to 2,060 per quintal.

49. Which state has become the first state in the country to formally acknowledge the public use of drones?

- (a) Tamil Nadu (b) Kerala (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Himachal Pradesh

49. **Ans: (d)**

**Sol:** The Himachal Pradesh government gave nod to a drone policy as it seeks to enable the use of drones and similar technology for different public services in the hill state.

- The ‘Himachal Pradesh Drone Policy 2022’ was approved by the chief minister Jai Ram Thakur.
- The policy envisions creating a holistic drone ecosystem built upon the foundation of Governance and Reforms Using Drones (GARUD). With this new drone policy, Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in the country to formally acknowledge the public use of drones.
- Himachal’s drone policy mainly focuses on creating drone-enabled technology, creation of manpower through the establishment of training schools, startup and innovation schemes, and more.
- The policy aims to propagate the use of drone-enabled technology in different sectors such as defence, transport, health, agriculture and more. Delivery of medicines, medical equipment, and other essential supplies will also commence with the help of drones in pandemic-affected and remote areas.

50. Which of the following Statements is/are Correct regarding EASE 5.0?

1. EASE 5.0 'Common reforms agenda' of EASENext program has been developed for Public Sector Banks
2. EASE 5.0 will prioritise digital customer experience and integrated and inclusive banking, focusing on small businesses and agriculture.

(a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only                      (c) Both (1) and (2)                      (d) Neither 1 Nor 2

**50 Ans: (c)**

**Sol:** Enhanced Access and Service Excellence-EASE on Wednesday has evolved over four annual editions from FY19 to FY22 and has catalyzed reforms in diverse areas in Public Sector Banks.

- EASE 5.0 'Common reforms agenda' of EASENext program has been developed for Public Sector Banks and was launched through video-conferencing by the Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman
- Under EASE 5.0, PSBs will continue to invest in new-age capabilities and deepen the ongoing reforms to respond to evolving customer needs, changing competition and the technology environment. EASE 5.0 will focus on digital customer experience, and integrated & inclusive banking, with emphasis on supporting small businesses and agriculture.

51. Which of the following Statements is/are Incorrect regarding Foreign Direct investment (FDI)?

1. India's rank moved one notch up to the seventh position among top recipients of foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2021, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
2. China remained the top recipient of foreign direct investment (FDI).
3. Among the top 10 host economies, only India saw a decline in its inflows.

(a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only                      (c) 3 only                      (d) 1, 2, and 3

**51. Ans: (b)**

**Sol:** The Statement 2 is Incorrect. The Correct Statement is: The United States (\$367 billion) remained the top recipient of FDI. Foreign direct investment (FDI) is an investment from a party in one country into a business or corporation in another country with the intention of establishing a lasting interest. With FDI,

foreign companies are directly involved with day-to-day operations in the other country. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is a permanent intergovernmental body established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1964. It is part of the UN Secretariat.

India jumped one position to 7th among the top recipients of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the last calendar year (2021) despite FDI inflows into the country declining, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

While the United States (\$367 billion) remained the top recipient of FDI, China (\$181 billion) and Hong Kong (\$141 billion) also retained second and third position, respectively. Among the top 10 host economies for FDI, only India saw a decline in its FDI inflows.

52. 'Scholarship for PMCARES Children' scheme was launched under which Ministry?

- (a) Ministry of Home Affairs (b) Ministry of Law and Justice  
 (c) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (d) Ministry of Women and Children

52. **Ans: (c)**

**Sol:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the 'Scholarship for PMCARES Children' under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, as a central sector scheme. Under the Scheme, Scholarship of Rs 20,000/- per child per annum will be provided, including monthly allowance of ₹1,000 and annual academic allowance of Rs. 8,000 to cover the entire school fees, cost of the books and uniform, shoes and other educational equipment. Hence the correct answer is Option (c).

53. Which country has released a new geological map of the moon?

- (a) China (b) Russia (c) India (d) USA

53. **Ans: (a)**

**Sol:** China has released the most detailed Geological map of the Moon, which has details of craters and structures not charted before. The United States Geological Survey had mapped and classified the entire lunar surface in collaboration with NASA in 2020. However, this map registers finer details than the US Map. The new comprehensive geological map of the moon released by China is to a scale of 1:2,500,000. It is the most detailed moon map to date.

54. Mauna Loa Atmospheric Baseline Observatory, recently seen in news is located in which country?

- (a) China (b) Japan (c) United States (d) Australia

54. **Ans: (c)**

**Sol:** Carbon dioxide measured at the Mauna Loa Atmospheric Baseline Observatory, Hawaii, run by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), peaked for 2022 at 421 parts per million in May. This has pushed the atmosphere further into territory not seen for millions of years, scientists from NOAA and Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

55. Which of the following statements is/are Correct regarding Green jobs?

1. Jobs involving renewable energy, conservation of resources, ensuring energy efficient means are categorised as ‘Green jobs’.
2. They are aimed at reducing the negative environmental impact of economic sectors and furthering the process of creating a low-carbon economy.
3. Skill Council for Green Jobs, a not-for-profit, industry-led initiative aims to help manufacturers and service providers in India’s green business sector to realise the potential of green jobs.

(a) 1, 2                      (b) 1, 3                      (c) 2, 3                      (d) 1, 2, 3

55. **Ans: (d)**

**Sol:** ‘Green jobs’ refer to a class of jobs that directly have a positive impact on the planet, and contribute to the overall environmental welfare. Jobs involving renewable energy, conservation of resources, ensuring energy efficient means are categorised under the same. In all, they’re aimed at reducing the negative environmental impact of economic sectors and furthering the process of creating a low-carbon economy.

The Skill Council for Green Jobs was launched by the Union government on October 1, 2015. Aligned to the National Skill Development Missions, it was set up to be a not-for-profit, independent, industry-led initiative. Promoted by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the council aims to help manufacturers and other service providers in India’s ‘green business’ sector to implement industry-led, collaborative skills push the country on the path to truly realising the real potential and significance of ‘green jobs’.

60. Which of the following statements is/are Incorrect regarding Global Environment Facility (GEF)?

1. The Global Environment Facility was established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit.
2. The World Bank serves as the GEF Trustee, administering the GEF Trust Fund.
3. GEF serves as financial mechanism for Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

(a) 1 only                      (b) 3 only                      (c) 2, 3                      (d) 1, 2, 3

60. **Ans: (b)**

**Sol: Global Environment Facility (GEF):**

- The Global Environment Facility was established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit to help tackle our planet’s most pressing environmental problems.
- It is an international partnership of 184 countries, international institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector that addresses global environmental issues.
- GEF funds are available to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to meet the objectives of the international environmental conventions and agreements.
- The World Bank serves as the GEF Trustee, administering the GEF Trust Fund.
- It is a FINANCIAL MECHANISM for five major international environmental conventions:
  - i. Minamata Convention on Mercury,
  - ii. Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs),
  - iii. United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD),
  - iv. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
  - v. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).



61. Which of the following statements is/are Correct Plastic Waste Management Rules?
1. Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 notified by the Centre called for a ban on single-use plastics (SUPs) by the end of 2022.
  2. According to the Plastic Waste Management Rules, all states and UTs are required to send annual data to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on plastic waste.
  3. With the present technology, not more than 75% of the plastics are recyclable.

(a) 1, 2                      (b) 2 only                      (c) 2, 3                      (d) 1, 3

**61. Ans: (b)**

**Sol:** The Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 notified by the Centre called for a ban on “non-recyclable and multi-layered” packaging by March 2018, and a ban on carry bags of thickness less than 50 microns (which is about the thickness of a strand of human hair). The Rules were amended in 2018, with changes that activists say favoured the plastic industry and allowed manufacturers an escape route. The 2016 Rules did not mention SUPs.

On World Environment Day in 2018, India pledged to phase out SUPs by 2022. The Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 notified by the Centre called for a ban on “non-recyclable and multi-layered” packaging by March 2018, and a ban on carry bags of thickness less than 50 microns (which is about the thickness of a strand of human hair). The Rules were amended in 2018, with changes that activists say favoured the plastic industry and allowed manufacturers an escape route. The 2016 Rules did not mention SUPs.

About 94% of plastics are recyclable. India recycles about 60%; the rest goes to landfills, the sea, and waste-to-energy plants. Most experts view recycling as an interim measure until plastic is completely phased out from daily use.

62. In which city the Indian National Center for Space Promotion and Authorization has been established by Prime Minister Narendra Modi?
- (a) Gurugram                      (b) Ahmedabad                      (c) Mumbai                      (d) Jaipur

**62. Ans: (b)**

**Sol:** The Indian National Center for Space Promotion and Authorization (IN-SPACe) was established in Ahmedabad by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Amit Shah, the Union Home Minister, was also present at the ceremony. After inaugurating the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) in Ahmedabad.

63. The Government of India has launched the Agneepath Military Recruitment Scheme, a 4-year tenure plan for the Defense Forces. Which department is implementing the scheme?
- (a) Department of Defense Production  
 (b) Department of Defense Research and Development  
 (c) Department of Military Affairs  
 (d) Ex-Servicemen Welfare Department

**63. Ans: (c)**

**Sol:** Agnepath Military Recruitment Scheme has been planned and is being implemented by the Department of Military Affairs. The government of India has announced the Agnipath scheme for the recruitment of the youth of India in the Indian Armed Forces. Through this scheme, the younger population of the country is encouraged to take the military as a career with a high pay scale. The Agnipath scheme allows the candidates to serve in Indian Armed Forces for four years. The selected candidates in the Agnipath scheme will be known as Agniveers.

Agnipath scheme was introduced by the government of India to introduce a new human resource management scheme for the Indian armed forces. It is believed that Agnipath's scheme will give a new image to the Indian armed forces with younger Agniveers on the frontline. Under the scheme, the Agniveers will be allowed to serve the Indian armed forces for 4 years. After the completion of 4 years of service 25% of the Agniveers will be selected for the permanent commission for further 15 years based on merit and Organisation needs. The rest will be released from the armed forces with a good amount of Seva Nidhi.

64. The 5G spectrum will be auctioned for how many years?

- (a) 25                      (b) 5                      (c) 20                      (d) 10

**64. Ans: (c)**

**Sol:** The Union Cabinet has approved a proposal of the Department of Telecommunications for the auction of 72 GHz of spectrum for a 20-year-period.

65. Which of the following statements is/are Correct regarding Oil Palm?

1. Malaysia, Indonesia and Nigeria are the leading producers of oil palm.
2. Oil palm requires very little rainfall and is mainly grown in dry areas.
3. Highly alkaline and waterlogged soils are not suitable for Oil Palm cultivation

- (a) 1 only                      (b) 1, 2                      (c) 1, 3                      (d) 2, 3

**65. Ans: (c)**

**Sol:** Oil Palm is known to be the highest edible oil yielding perennial crop. Malaysia, Indonesia and Nigeria are the leading producers of oil palm. Oil palm is a humid crop. Requires evenly distributed rainfall of 150mm/month or 2500-4000mm/annum. Rainfall distribution in India is not even and adequate. Hence grow oil palm under assured irrigation conditions by adopting recommended practices. Crop comes up well between 29-33 degree C max. and 22-24 degree C min. temperatures and with bright sunlight for at least 5 hrs. per day. Humidity of more than 80% is required to come up well.

Best-suited soils are moist, well-drained, deep, loamy alluvial soils, rich in organic matter with good water permeability. At least one-meter depth of soil is required. Avoid highly alkaline, highly saline, waterlogged and coastal sandy soils.

66. Which of the following Statements is/are Incorrect regarding Bharat Gaurav express trains?
1. Bharat Gaurav express trains are operated by private players, who have the right to use the rail infrastructure provided by the Indian Railways.
  2. The objective of the initiative is to showcase India's rich cultural heritage and historical places to the people of the country
  3. Bookings, fixing of tariff and maintenance would be handled by Indian Railways.
- (a) 2 only                      (b) 3 only                      (c) 1 and 3                      (d) 1 and 2

**66. Ans: (b)**

**Sol:** The 'Bharat Gaurav' train service from Coimbatore to Shirdi, a first of its kind in the country, was inaugurated at the Coimbatore North Railway Station. Bharat Gaurav express trains are operated by private players, who have the right to use the rail infrastructure provided by the Indian Railways. The objective of the initiative is to showcase India's rich cultural heritage and magnificent historical places to the people of the country and the world through these trains. The loco pilots and guards would be from the Indian Railways. Bookings, fixing of tariff and maintenance would be handled by the private company offering the service. "Not only private companies, but the governments of Karnataka and Odisha have also shown interest in operating such trains to promote tourism.

67. Which country has approved the proposal on the 'Way Finding Application' to be used at the United Nations Office?
- (a) UAE                      (b) India                      (c) USA                      (d) Russia

**67. Ans: (b)**

**Sol:** The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the proposal for signing of an agreement between the Government of India and the United Nations on a 'Way Finding Application' to be used in the Palais des Nations, United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG). The United Nations (UN) is an international organization founded in 1945. It is currently made up of 193 Member States. India is a founding member of the United Nations. The United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), consisting of five buildings and 21 floors, is housed at the historic Palais des Nations. Large number of delegates, members of civil society and general public visit UNOG to participate in various meetings and conventions.

The project of development of 'Way Finding Application' has been conceptualized as donation from the Government of India to UN on the occasion of its 75th anniversary in 2020. The estimated financial implication for development deployment and maintenance of the App is \$ 2 Million. The project consists of development deployment and maintenance of a software-based 'Way Finding Application' to facilitate navigation in the Palais des Nations premises of UNLG. The application will enable users to find their way from point to point within the 21 floors spread across five buildings of UNOG. The App will work on Android and iOS devices with an internet connection.

68. Which countries are the members of the formed 'I2U2 Grouping'?
- (a) India, Israel, USA and UAE (b) India, Iraq, USA and UAE  
 (c) India, Israel, USA and UK (d) India, Iraq, USA and UK

**68. Ans: (a)**

**Sol:** The leaders of the West Asian QUAD – India, Israel, the US and UAE will meet for the first ever virtual summit. The meeting has been called by the White House and will be addressed by the US President Joe Biden. US President Joe Biden is also making a visit to West Asia – Israel and Saudi Arabia. The White House has given a new acronym to identify the new grouping as I2U2: India, Israel and UAE and the US. Recently, UAE and Israel had signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), while India and the UAE too have signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

69. Which organization developed the nuclear-capable Prithvi-II missile?
- (a) DRDO (b) BHEL (c) ONGC (d) ISRO

**69. Ans: (a)**

**Sol:** India successfully test-fired its indigenously developed, nuclear-capable Prithvi-II missile from a test range off the Odisha coast. The missile was developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation of India. It has a range of around 250 km and can carry a one tonne payload. The test comes around 10 days after India tested its Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile Agni-IV, which can travel as far as 4,000 km.

70. What is the rank of India in the World Competitiveness Index 2022?
- (a) 37<sup>th</sup> rank (b) 40<sup>th</sup> rank (c) 42<sup>nd</sup> rank (d) 47<sup>th</sup> rank

**70. Ans: (a)**

**Sol:** India has seen the sharpest growth among the Asian economies, with a six-position jump from 43rd to 37th rank on the annual World Competitiveness Index 2022. The Index has been compiled by the Institute for Management Development (IMD). Meanwhile, the top-performing Asian economies are Singapore (3rd), Hong Kong (5th), Taiwan (7th), China (17th) and Australia (19th).

India is also a driving force in the global movement to fight climate change and Mr. Modi's pledge of net-zero by 2070 at the COP26 summit in November 2021, sits in harmony with its strength in environment-related technologies in the ranking. The top five attractive factors of India's economy for business are – a skilled workforce, cost competitiveness, dynamism of the economy, high educational level and open and positive attitudes.

71. Which of the following are covered under National Air Sports Policy 2022?
1. Aerobatics
  2. Ballooning
  3. Drones
  4. Gliding and powered gliding

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only (b) 1, 2 and 4 only (c) 1, 3 and 4 only (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

**71. Ans: (d)**

**Sol:** Recently, The Minister of Civil Aviation launched National Air Sport Policy 2022 (NASP 2022). NASP 2022 lays out the vision of making India as one of the top sports nations by 2030, by providing a safe, affordable, accessible, enjoyable and sustainable air sports ecosystem in India. It has been drafted based on the inputs received from policy makers, air sports practitioners and public at large.

The various aspects included in the policy are:

- Aerobatics
- Aero modeling and model rocketry
- Amateur-built and experimental aircraft
- Ballooning
- Drones
- Gliding and powered gliding
- Hang gliding and powered hang gliding
- Parachuting (including skydiving, BASE jumping, wing suits, etc.)
- Paragliding and para motoring (including powered parachute trikes etc.)
- Powered aircraft (including ultra-light, a microlight, light sports aircraft, etc.)
- Rotorcraft (including autogyro).

**72. Which of the following statements is/are NOT correct with respect to Government Securities (G-Secs)?**

1. G-Secs are called risk-free gilt-edged instruments.

2. State Government issues both treasury bills and bonds or dated securities

(a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only                      (c) Both 1 and 2                      (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**72. Ans: (b)**

**Sol:** Statement 1 is correct: G-secs practically carry no risk of default and, hence, are called risk free gilt-edged instruments. Gilt-edged securities are high-grade investment bonds offered by governments and large corporations as a means of borrowing funds.

Statement 2 is not correct: Such securities are of two types:

1. Treasury Bills: They are short term instruments. With original maturities of less than one year—presently issued in three tenors, namely, 91 days, 182 days and 364 day
2. Government bonds or dated securities: They are Long term instruments. With original maturity of one year or more.

In India, the Central Government issues both treasury bills and bonds or dated securities, while the State Governments issue only bonds or dated securities, which are called the State Development Loans (SDLs).

**73. Formosa Strait is located between which of the following Nations?**

(a) Taiwan and Philippines    (b) Japan and Russia                      (c) Korea and Japan                      (d) Taiwan and China

**73. Ans: (d)**

**Sol:** Taiwan Strait is a 110-mile-wide channel that separates mainland China from the island of Taiwan. Also known as the Formosa Strait or the Tai-hai (the Tai Sea). It forms part of the South China Sea. Its northern portion is linked to the East China Sea. The strait borders the southeastern part of China and runs along the eastern part of China's Fujian Province. Hence the correct answer is Option (d).

74. Which of the following Statements is/are Correct regarding Public Distribution System (PDS)?

1. It ensures the management of food scarcity through distribution free of cost.
2. It was established under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
3. It is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 2 only                      (b) 1 and 2 only                      (c) 3 only                      (d) 1, 2 and 3

74. **Ans: (c)**

**Sol: Statement 1 and 2 are not correct:** Public Distribution System is an Indian food security system for the management of food scarcity through distribution at affordable prices. It was established under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

**Statement 3 is correct:** It is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments. The Central Government, through the Food Corporation of India (FCI), purchases, stores, transports and allocates food grains to States. ○ The States identify eligible families, issue Ration Cards and supervise the functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) etc.

75. HomoSEP is a robot, developed by which IIT to clean septic tanks without human intervention?

- (a) IIT Delhi                      (b) IIT Madras                      (c) IIT Kanpur                      (d) IIT Bombay

75. **Ans: (b)**

**Sol:** The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has developed a robot that can clean septic tanks without the need for humans. Ten units are expected to be distributed across Tamil Nadu under the name “HomoSEP,” and researchers are in contact with sanitation workers to determine where they will be placed. A total of ten units are planned to be deployed across Tamil Nadu with the Researchers already in touch with Sanitation Workers to identify locations. Locations in Gujarat and Maharashtra are also being considered.

The HomoSEP can homogenise stubborn sludge in septic tanks using a custom-developed rotating blade mechanism and pump the tank slurry using an integrated suction mechanism, according to Rajagopa.

76. Where has Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the Industrial Decarbonisation Summit 2022?

- (a) Mumbai                      (b) Dehradun                      (c) New Delhi                      (d) Lucknow

76. **Ans: (c)**

**Sol:** Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the ‘Industrial Decarbonization Summit 2022’ in New Delhi. The focus is on the Road Map for Carbon Neutrality by 2070. The Minister emphasized on maintaining equilibrium between ecology, environment and development. He also spoke about the government's priority on green hydrogen, Bio-ethanol, Bio-LNG and Bio-CNG.



77. What is the rank of India in the World in terms of total renewable additions in 2021?

- (a) 1 rank                      (b) 2 rank                      (c) 3 rank                      (d) 4 rank

**77. Ans: (3)**

**Sol:** India ranked third globally for total renewable power capacity additions in 2021 with 15.4 GW, behind only China (136 GW) and the US (43 GW). According to a report, despite the Covid-19 pandemic's promise of a global green recovery, this historic opportunity has been lost. The world is unlikely to be able to achieve important climate goals this decade, according to REN21's Renewables 2022 Global Status Report (GSR 2022). This is because the global clean energy transition is not taking place.

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78. Bhimanagouda Sanganagouda Patil has been sworn in as the Lokayukta of which state?

- (a) Punjab                      (b) Uttar Pradesh                      (c) Karnataka                      (d) Tamil Nadu

**78. Ans: (c)**

**Sol:** Former Karnataka High Court judge, Bhimanagouda Sanganagouda Patil was sworn in as the Lokayukta of Karnataka. Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot administered the oath of office to Justice Patil. Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah, ministers in the State Government and legislators attended the programme, and greeted Justice Patil.

Justice Patil, who served as the Upalokayukta of Karnataka, was elevated to the post of Lokayukta on June 14. The post of the head of the anti-corruption ombudsman in Karnataka was vacant after the end of the tenure of Justice P. Vishwanath Shetty in January 2022, served in the post for five years.

79. India is a signatory to which of the following Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) related conventions?

1. The Berne Convention which governs copyright,
2. The Budapest Treaty,
3. The Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 and 3 only                      (c) 1 and 3 only                      (d) 1, 2 and 3

**79. Ans: (d)**

**Sol:** Recently, the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) said in a report that India was one of the most challenging major economies as far as IP protection and enforcement is concerned. India is a signatory to several IPR related conventions including:

- The Berne Convention which governs copyright,
- The Budapest Treaty,
- The Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property
- The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) all of which govern various patent-related matters.

80. Which of the following Statements is/are Correct regarding India's Gig Economy?

1. A report titled "India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy" was released by NITI Aayog.
2. The study offers in-depth viewpoints and suggestions on the gig-platform economy in India.

(a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only                      (c) Both 1 and 2                      (d) Neither 1 Nor 2

**80. Ans: (c)**

**Sol:** A report titled “India’s Booming Gig and Platform Economy” was released by NITI Aayog. Suman Bery, vice chairman of NITI Aayog, Amitabh Kant, and Dr K Rajeswara Rao, special secretary, released the report. The study, which is a first of its kind, offers in-depth viewpoints and suggestions on the gig-platform economy in India. CEO Amitabh Kant emphasised the industry’s potential to generate jobs in light of India’s growing urbanisation, and widespread access to the internet, digital technology, and cellphones. The report offers a comprehensive methodical approach to calculating the sector’s current size and potential for employment creation. It examines the benefits and drawbacks of this developing industry, shows international best practices for social security programmes, and outlines plans for skill development and job creation for various worker categories in the industry.

81. Japan has participated in NATO Summit in Madrid for the first time in June 2022. Who is the present Secretary General of NATO?

(a) Gilbert Houngbo                      (b) Katalin Novak                      (c) Ian Fry                      (d) Jens Stoltenberg

**81. Ans: (d)**

**Sol:** Japanese Prime Minister, Fumio Kishida will attend this month’s NATO summit in Madrid, becoming the country’s first leader to join a top meeting of the transatlantic alliance. The June 28-30 gathering is seen as a crunch moment for the 30 North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies, four months into Russia’s war in Ukraine.

Japan, a key U.S. ally and not a NATO member, has delivered defensive supplies to Ukraine and imposed tough sanctions on Russia in tandem with the other Group of Seven countries. Sweden and Finland, which have applied to join NATO, are sending delegations to the summit, and South Korea’s new President Yoon Suk-yeol will also be the first leader from his country to attend.

- NATO Formation: 4 April 1949;
- NATO Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium;
- NATO Secretary General: Jens Stoltenberg;
- NATO Total Member: 30;
- NATO Last member of NATO: North Macedonia.

82. Which of the following Statements is/are Correct regarding West Nile Virus?

1. The West Nile Virus is a mosquito-borne, RNA virus.
2. It is a flavivirus related to the viruses that cause Japanese encephalitis, and yellow fever.
3. Birds are the reservoir host of the virus.

(a) 1, 2                      (b) 1, 3                      (c) 2, 3                      (d) All of the above

**82. Ans: (d)**

**Sol:** The West Nile Virus is a mosquito-borne, single-stranded RNA virus. It is a flavivirus related to the viruses that cause St. Louis encephalitis, Japanese encephalitis, and yellow fever. Culex species of mosquitoes act as the principal vectors for transmission. It is transmitted by infected mosquitoes between and among humans and animals, including birds, which are the reservoir host of the virus. “Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds, which circulate the virus in their blood for a few days. The virus eventually gets into the mosquito’s salivary glands. During later blood meals (when mosquitoes bite), the virus may be injected into humans and animals, where it can multiply and possibly cause illness.”

83. Which place set a new rainfall record of the highest single-day rainfall in June since 1966?

- (a) Cherrapunji (b) Sohra (c) Nongstoin (d) Mawsynram

**83. Ans: (d)**

**Sol:** Meghalaya's Mawsynram has set a new rainfall record of the highest single-day rainfall in June since 1966, breaking Cherrapunji's record as the wettest place on earth. Mawsynram experiences Orographic rainfall as it is located on the windward side of Garohill. Mawsynram lies in the funnel-shaped depression caused by the Khasi range in Meghalaya. The Bay of Bengal branch of monsoons is trapped in it and causes heavy rainfall.

84. Which institution released a report titled 'Payments Vision 2025'?

- (a) NITI Aayog (b) Reserve Bank of India (c) World Bank (d) NPCI

**84. Ans: (b)**

**Sol:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently released a document titled “Payments Vision 2025”, with guidelines on payments. The document also focussed on the architecture of digital finance. It includes regulations for BigTechs and fintechs in payments; guidelines on payments involving ‘Buy Now Pay Later’ (BNPL) services; introducing the central bank digital currency (CBDC); and linking credit cards and credit components of banking products to the Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

85. What is the theme of International Yoga Day 2022?

- (a) Yoga For Wellness (b) Yoga for Humanity  
(c) Yoga for Health (d) Yoga for Heart

**85. Ans: (b)**

**Sol:** International yoga day is celebrated on the 21st of June of every year. The first international yoga day was observed on 21st June 2015. It is celebrated on the 21st of June because it is said to be the longest day of the year in the Northern hemisphere and it shares special significance in many parts of the world. The initiative of international yoga day was proposed by the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi during his speech at the United Nations General Assembly on 27th September 2014.

The theme for 2022 is “Yoga for humanity“. This year’s theme of international yoga day will focus on the importance of yoga in serving better mental health in our life.

86. Consider the following organisations established in relation to privatisation reforms in space sector.
1. Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre was established as the commercial arm of ISRO.
  2. New Space India Limited (NSIL) was established as a channel through which non-governmental private enterprises can carry out space activities.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only                      (c) Both 1 and 2                      (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**86. Ans: (c)**

**Sol:** New Space India Limited (NSIL) is a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) of Government of India and commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). It was established on 6 March 2019 under the administrative control of Department of Space (DoS) and the Company Act 2013. Apart from building and launching satellites, the company will provide launch services, build customised launch vehicles, provide services of Earth observation and communication through satellites and also transfer technology to Indian industry.

As a sequel to the establishment of NSIL came the announcement of the creation of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre, in June 2020, a channel through which non-governmental private enterprises can carry out space activities.

87. 'Gaia Mission', which has been found in the news, is associated with which space agency?
- (a) SpaceX                      (b) NASA                      (c) European Space Agency (ESA)                      (d) ISRO

**87. Ans: (c)**

**Sol:** European Space Agency's Gaia mission has released a set of new data, which has revealed the phenomena of 'starquakes'. Starquakes are massive movements on the surface of stars similar to earthquake. The star-mapping Gaia probe has covered almost 1.8 billion stars in the Milky Way galaxy. The data has also revealed the largest chemical map of the entire Milky Way, showing the DNA of millions of stars.

88. Which country proposed to organise a joint border operation named 'Solidarity-2023' for SCO member countries?
- (a) Bangladesh                      (b) India                      (c) China                      (d) Nepal

**88. Ans: (c)**

**Sol:** India and other member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) supported an initiative of China to organise a joint border operation 'Solidarity-2023' for the border agencies of the member countries next year. India's Border Security Force (BSF) Director announced this at the conclusion of the eighth meeting of the heads of border authorities of the competent bodies of SCO member states, which was held in Delhi, under the chairmanship of India.

89. The Khuvsgul Lake National Park has been added to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves by UNESCO. This park is located in which of the following country?
- (a) India                      (b) Mongolia                      (c) Japan                      (d) Nepal

**89. Ans: (b)**

**Sol:** Khuvsgul Lake National Park of Mongolia has been added to the World Network of Biosphere Reserve of UNESCO. The decision was made during the 34th session of the International Co-ordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere Programme taking place in Paris, France. Khuvsgul Lake is located in the northern Mongolian province of Khuvsgul near the Russian border, holding nearly 70 per cent of Mongolia's fresh water, or 0.4 per cent of the world's total.

The World Network of Biosphere Reserves by UNESCO covers internationally designated protected areas called as biosphere reserves. These reserves are meant to demonstrate a balanced relationship between nature and people. They are created under Man and the Biosphere Programme. It comprises of dynamic and interactive network of sites. It works to foster harmonious integration of people and nature to attain sustainable development by means of participatory dialogue, poverty reduction, knowledge sharing, human well-being improvements, and respect for cultural values.

- UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945;
- UNESCO Headquarters: Paris, France;
- UNESCO Members: 193 countries;
- UNESCO Head: Audrey Azoulay.

90. The 'Operation Sankalp', is associated with which armed force?

- (a) Indian Navy (b) Indian Air Force (c) Indian Army (d) Indian Coast Guard

**90. Ans: (a)**

**Sol:** Indian Navy's stealth Frigate, INS Talwar is deployed for Operation Sankalp commemorating the 3rd continuous year of Indian Navy's presence in the Gulf for protection of India's Maritime Interests. After attacks on merchant ships in the Gulf of Oman in June 2019, and the deteriorating security situation in the Gulf region, Indian Navy had commenced Maritime Security Operations, code named 'Op SANKALP', in the Gulf Region to ensure safe passage of Indian Flag Vessels transiting through the Strait of Hormuz.

91. Who has been appointed as the next Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations at New York?

- (a) Ruchira Kamboj (b) Sangita Mehta (c) TS Tirumurti (d) Bhawana Bisht

**Sol: Ans: (a)**

**Sol:** Senior Diplomat Ruchira Kamboj, currently Indian ambassador to Bhutan, has been appointed as the next Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations at New York. She will succeed TS Tirumurti as the Indian ambassador to the United Nation.

92. Title IX, the law in United States that was recently in news is related to

- (a) Environmental Protection  
 (b) Old Age Pension  
 (c) Gender Equity  
 (d) Regulate the sale and possession of firearms

**92. Ans: (c)**

**Sol:** Title IX is the most commonly used name for the federal civil rights law in the United States of America that was passed as part (Title IX) of the Education Amendments of 1972. It prohibits sex-based discrimination in any school or any other education program that receives funding from the federal government. The United States is set to mark the 50th anniversary of the landmark law known as Title IX.

**93. UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize gives recognition to works done in which of the following fields?**

- (a) Biological Sciences
- (b) Environment Protection
- (c) Literature
- (d) Information and Communication Technology

**93. Ans: (d)**

**Sol:** UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize or the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in Education was established in 2005 with the help of the Kingdom of Bahrain. It gives recognition to the innovative use of ICT in the education sector.

- UNESCO's King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize was established in 2005 with the support of the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- UNESCO's King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa award "recognizes innovative approaches in leveraging new technologies to expand educational and lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- An international Jury selects two best projects annually. Each prize winner receives US\$ 25,000, a medal and a diploma during a ceremony at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris", which this year will be held on 24th June, 2022.

**94. Which wildlife sanctuary is the location of India's first-ever Dark Sky Reserve?**

- (a) Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary
- (b) Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary
- (c) Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary
- (d) Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary

**94. Ans: (a)**

**Sol:** A part of Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary in Ladakh is going to become a Dark Sky Reserve, which will help promote astronomy-tourism. Once this region is declared as the Hanle Dark Sky Reserve, efforts will be undertaken to protect the night sky from superfluous illumination and light pollution.

**95. The entire capacity of the launched GSAT-24 satellite has been leased out to which broadcast satellite service provider?**

- (a) Sun Direct
- (b) Airtel
- (c) Dish TV
- (d) Tata Play

**95. Ans: (d)**

**Sol:** New Space India Limited (NSIL) launched GSAT-24, following the space reforms leasing the entire satellite's capacity to Direct-to-Home (DTH) service provider Tata Play. This was the company's first "demand-driven" communication satellite mission. The satellite, developed by the Indian Space Research



Organization for NSIL, was successfully launched into geostationary orbit from Kourou in French Guiana by the Ariane 5 rocket (South America). GSAT-24 is a 4180 kg 24-Ku band communication satellite that provides pan-India coverage for DTH application requirements.

96. Snake Island recently seen in the news, it is located in which of the following seas?  
 ((a) South China Sea (b) Arabian Sea (c) Caspian Sea (d) Black Sea

96. **Ans: (d)**

**Sol:** Zmiinyi Island (Snake Island) is a roughly 16-hectare rocky island owned by Ukraine that lies about 300km west of Crimea, in the Black Sea. Ukraine has honoured 13 soldiers who were killed defending the island from Russian forces. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky has awarded each of the guards the posthumous title of "Hero of Ukraine".

97. Which of the following statements is/are NOT correct regarding Keibul Lamjao National Park?  
 1. It is located in the south western part of the Wular Lake.  
 2. It is the only floating park in the world.  
 (a) 1 Only (b) 2 Only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

97. **Ans: (a)**

**Sol:** Recently, Manipur government announced that a heritage park would come up near the Keibul Lamjao National Park in Bishnupur district, Manipur.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** The Park is located in the south western part of the Loktak Lake.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It is the only floating park in the world. This is the last natural habitat of the brow-antlered deer (Sangai), the dancing deer of Manipur. Other wildlife to be seen include: Hog Deer, Otter, a host of waterfowl and migratory birds, the latter usually sighted during November to March. Hence the correct answer is Option (a).

98. Which of the following statements is/are Correct regarding recently launched NIPUN scheme?  
 1. It covers all types of workers involved in informal sector like migrant workers, street vendors, domestic workers, etc.  
 2. It aims for international placements of concerned workers.  
 3. It will provide trainees with accidental insurance 'Kaushal Bima'.  
 (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

98. **Ans: (c)**

**Sol:** NIPUN (National Initiative for Promoting Upskilling of Nirman workers) scheme:

Recently, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has launched an innovative project for skill training of construction workers called 'NIPUN' i.e., National Initiative for Promoting Upskilling of Nirman workers. The project NIPUN is an initiative of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) under its flagship scheme of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM). The scheme will promote skilling in the construction sector where it has not spread horizontally across the industry.

The scheme objective is to train over 1 lakh construction workers, through fresh skilling and upskilling programmes and provides them with work opportunities in foreign countries also. The NIPUN Project will enable the construction workers to seek better job opportunities, increase their wages and even pursue overseas placements. It will provide trainees with ‘Kaushal Bima’, a three-year accidental insurance with coverage of INR 2 lakhs, digital skills. Hence the correct answer is Option (c).

99. Which of the following Statements is/are Correct

1. The United States has become India's largest trading partner in FY 2021-22, as per the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry's latest data.
  2. China has emerged as the top buyer of Indian broken rice in FY 2021-22.
- (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only                      (c) Both 1 and 2                      (d) Neither 1 nor 2

99. **Ans: (c)**

**Sol: Statement 1 is correct:** China emerged as the top buyer of Indian rice during the pandemic, importing 16.34 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) or 7.7 per cent of India's total rice export in financial year 2021-22. In 2021-22, India's total rice export (both basmati and non-basmati) was 212.10 LMT. Out of China's total rice import from India, nearly 97 percent was broken rice, which has seen a rise in demand from that country. India used to export broken rice mostly to African countries, earlier.

**Statement 2 is correct:** India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry latest data shows that the US has become India's largest trading partner, exceeding China with bilateral trade reaching USD 119.42 billion. India's major exports to the US include polished diamonds, pharmaceutical products, jewellery, light oil and petroleum, frozen shrimp, cosmetics and more. India's imports from the United States are mainly oil, liquefied natural gas, gold, coal, recycled products and scrap iron, large almonds, etc. **Hence the correct answer is Option (c).**

100. Consider the following Statements

1. Hamad International Airport has been named the World's Best Airport for the year 2022.
2. The Bengaluru airport had also won the Best Airport and Aviation Innovation Award at Wings India Awards earlier.

**Select the Correct Answer from the above Statements?**

- (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only                      (c) Both 1 and 2                      (d) Neither 1 nor 2

100. **Ans: (c)**

**Sol: Statement 1 is Correct:** Qatar's Hamad International Airport has been named the World's Best Airport for the second year running, announced at the 2022 World Airport Awards that were held at Passenger Terminal EXPO in Paris, France on 16 June 2022.

**Statement 2 is Correct:** The Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru was named the best regional airport in India and South Asia title in the 2022 Skytrax World Airport awards. The award is based on the feedback from the customers in a globally conducted survey about experience from check-in to arrivals, transfers, shopping, security, immigration and arrangements in the departures gates. The Bengaluru airport had also won the Best Airport and Aviation Innovation Award at Wings India Awards earlier.

Hence the correct answer is Option (c).